Newspaper Clips

September 27, 2014

HT.COM 27.09.2014 P-12

■ IIT Delhi to start its overseas campus in Mauritius FILE PHOTO

IIT's Mauritius campus starts from November

Press Trust of India

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi will start its overseas campus in Mauritius from November.

IIT-Delhi is setting-up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in the island nation. The new institute is being established in collaboration with Mauritius Research Council.

"IITRA will start operation from November this year. It will provide full-time and part-time PhD degrees in disciplines like electrical, electronics and computer science," said IIT-D Professor S M Ishtiaque.

"The main objective of this institute is to set up IIT like technology education institute in Mauritius and encourage research culture in the island nation" he said.

IITRA would be looking to attract foreign researchers and students to Mauritius and build research infrastructure.

"We have already begun the recruitment process to hire faculty members and as many as 210 applications have been received.

IITRA WOULD BE ATTRACTING FOREIGN RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS TO MAURITIUS FROM NOVEMBER TO BUILD RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

"Besides, we have received 380 applications from students," Ishtiaque said.

To begin with, the institute would be offering degrees in Master of Science and PhD. Later, after about five years, plans are on the anvil to start undergraduate programmes as well.

When asked whether IIT is planning to establish similar institute in any other country, Ishtiaque said: "We have got offers from Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, New York and Qatar."

With an expansion as big as this IIT seems keen on creating a well wired network not just in India but overseas as well.

Hindustan ND 27.09.2014 P-04

विभिन्न कंपनियां इनोवेशन और इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर के साथ-साथ सीधे भी छात्रों से संपर्क कर रही हैं

अच्छे आइडिया पर कंपनियां लगा रहीं पैसा

विज्ञान
हम कहां हैं - 2

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, आईआईटी दिल्ली और आईजीडीटीयू जैसे शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के इनोवेशन को देखकर विभिन्न कंपनियां भी छात्रों की ओर रुख कर रही हैं। ये संस्थान कंपनियों के लिए प्रयोगशाला के रूप में उभर रहे हैं। बेहतर विचार पर न सिर्फ संस्थान बल्कि कंपनियां भी पैसा लगा रही हैं।

विभिन्न क्षेत्र की कंपनियां इनोवेशन व इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर के माध्यम के साथ-साथ सीधे छात्रों से भी संपर्क कर रही हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रो. पीवीएम राव ने बताया कि संस्थान के छात्रों का हुनर देख कई कंपनियों साझा कार्यक्रम के तहत छात्रों से विचार मांग रही हैं। हाल में आईसीआईसीआई कंपनी ने कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की। जहां बैंकिंग साल्यूशन के क्षेत्र में बेहतर योगदान देने के लिए छात्रों से विचार मांगे जाते हैं। इसके अलावा कई कंपनियों ने हाल में ओपन हाउस में प्रदर्शित किए गए विभिन्न प्रोजेक्ट की मार्केटिंग का जिम्मा भी संभाला। इतना ही नहीं, आईआईटी रुड़की और गुवाहाटी के 150 से अधिक छात्रों ने महिन्द्रा और मारुति को ऐसी तकनीक दी जिसके जरिये गाड़ियां कम पेट्रोल खर्च करती हैं।

बता दें कि देशभर के तमाम आईआईटी संस्थानों में 200 से अधिक कंपनियां अपने उत्पाद को बेहतर बनाने के लिए छात्रों के आइडिए जान रही है। आईबीएम जैसी कंपनियों ने लैब भी स्थापित किए हैं। इसके अलावा डीयू और देश की पहली टेक्निकल महिला इंजीनियरिंग यूनिवर्सिटी आईजीडीटीयू में नोकिया मोबाइल जैसी कंपनियां इनोवेशन के लिए साझा कार्यक्रम चला रही हैं। कंप्यूटर साइंस के छात्रों के साथ विभिन्न विचार पर काम किया जा रहा है।

संभावनाओं के बीच हैं कई चुनौतियां

वक्त के साथ शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में काफी बदलाव आया है। अब न सिर्फ आईआईटी संस्थान बल्कि हर विश्वविद्यालय डिग्री देने के साथ-साथ शोध की दिशा में भी काम कर रहे हैं। हमारे छात्रों में हुनर है। यही वजह है कि देसी-विदेशी कंपनियां यहां रुख कर रही है, लेकिन मुझे लगता है बेहतर करने की संभावनाओं के बीच कई चुनौतियां भी हैं। बिना आधारभूत ढांचे के कोई भी विश्वविद्यालय शोध को बढ़ावा नहीं दे सकता। प्रयोग के लिए लैब जरूरी है। चुनौती इस बात की भी है कि कहीं विचार सिर्फ किताबों व पीपीटी फॉर्मेट के रूप में ही न सिमट जाए। मुझे लगता है कि शोध व्यक्तिगत व सामूहिक दोनों तरीके से संभव है। इसका उदाहरण स्नैपडील, फ्लिपकार्ट, क्विकर जैसी ऑनलाइन बाजार कंपनियां हैं। ये कंपनियां आईआईटी से पढ़े छात्रों ने अपने दम पर बनाई। उस समय इनोवेशन सेंटर की प्रक्रिया शुरुआती दौर में थी। इसके अभाव में भी छात्रों ने कंपनियां बनाईं।

– प्रो. पीवीएम राव, मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग (दिल्ली आईआईटी)

शोध के लिए खोले गए हैं पांच सबसे बड़े इनोवेशन सेंटर

हाल ही में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने शोध को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सबसे बड़े इनोवेशन सेंटर खोले हैं। इनकी संख्या पांच है – आईआईटी दिल्ली, आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी गुवाहाटी, आईआईएससी बेंगलुरु और दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय। ये इनोवेशन सेंटर विश्वविद्यालय के इनोवेशन व इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर से अलग और कई मायनों में खास हैं। इनके संचालन का जिम्मा संस्थानों को दिया गया है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में 10 लाख रुपये एक प्रोजेक्ट के लिए, तो वहीं आईआईटी विभाग प्रोजेक्ट के अनुसार न्यूनतम एक लाख रुपये तक की राशि सहयोग के तौर पर देता है। विभिन्न कंपनियां इन इनोवेशन सेंटरों के जरिये छात्रों से जुड़ी रही हैं। कारोबार स्थापित करने के लिए इन इनोवेशनसेंटर के जरिये एक करोड़ रुपये तक की राशि देने का भी प्रावधान है।

IIT Delhi Alumni Association hosted I2SES 2014

Friday, September 26, 2014
http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=31353

Report by India Education Bureau, New Delhi: IIT Delhi Alumni Association in collaboration with Foundation of Innovation and Technology Transfer, IIT Delhi and Knowledge Resource Development and Welfare Group, a nationally recognised NGO hosted an 'International Innovation Sustainability and Entrepreneurship Summit' (I2SES), on 26th September 2014 at the IIT Delhi campus.

"The aim was to fetch student innovators, entrepreneurs, senior bureaucrats, scientists at national level, university heads and corporate leaders on the same podium", said Mr. Ashok Kumar who is the current president of the association.

The discussion revolved around how entrepreneurship can only be achieved through innovation. The Indian Economy is is growing and India needs young budding Entrepreneurs. One needs to be constantly innovative to sustain in this highly competitive world. India is a youth centric country and India needs job for 10 million people in next 10 years. It is only young innovate entrepreneurs who can create these jobs.

Sarthy, an initiative by IIT Delhi students, headed by Mr Prateek Sharma, aims at creating one to one mentoring and relationship between positive role models(IITians) and youth (Aspiring engineers)

The summit featured latest innovations, and the particular best ones were awarded. Dr R K Shevgaonkar (Director, IITD) and Dr Anil Wali (MD, FITT) graced the event with their presence .Industry leader illuminated vital subject knowledge and several initiatives showcased in the summit, if deemed nationally beneficial, it will be incorporated in the coming years, stated Ms.Aparna Saroagi who convened the event.

Speakers include:-
-Dr. AK Balyan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Petronet LNG Limited
-Mr Pankaj Phatarphod, Managing Director and Country Head, RBS Business Services Ltd.
- Dr. Anil Wali, MD, FITT, IIT Delhi
- Dr. Prabhat Ranjan, Executive Director, TIFAC, Delhi
- Prof. Sushil, DMS, IIT Delhi
- Sh. Harsh Gupta, Former Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh
-Prof Varun Arya, Director, Aravali Institute of Management
- Prof. VK Jain, Vice Chancellor, Doon University, Uttarakhand
- Mr. Jimmy Kansal, Deputy Director, SASE, DRDO, Chandigarh
- Mr. PavanDuggal, practicing Advocate, Supreme Court of India
- Mr. AshwagoshaGanju, Director, Snow Avalanche Study & Establishment, DRDO, Chandigarh
- Dr. TapanSahoo, Vice President, Maruti Suzuki, India

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 10 scientists

New Delhi, Sept 26:

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/shanti-swarup-bhatnagar-awards-for-10-scientists/article6450071.ece

The Government on Friday announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards-2014 for 10 scientists in recognition of their work.

The scientists who will get a cash prize of □ 5 lakh, a citation and a plaque are Roop Malik (biological sciences) of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, Kavirayani Ramakrishna Prasad (chemical sciences), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, Souvik Maiti of Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, Sachchida Nand Tripathi, (earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences) IIT-Kanpur, S Venkata Mohan (engineering sciences), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, Soumen Chakrabarti, IIT-Mumbai, Kaushal Kumar Verma (mathematical sciences), IISc, Bangalore, Anurag Agrawal (medical sciences), Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi, Pratap Raychaudhuri (physical sciences) TIFR, Mumbai, and Sadiqali Abbas Rangwala of Raman Research Institute, Bangalore.

The annual awards, named after the founder of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), were announced on the occasion of the foundation day ceremony of the council.

The 2103 awards for scientific and technological innovation for rural development was conferred upon CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Directorate of Rice Research, ICAR, Hyderabad, for development and deployment of an improved Samba Mahsuri rice variety, a bacterial blight-resistant, high-yielding fine grain variety, an official release said.

CSIR's Diamond Jubilee Technology Award 2014 was given to Avra Laboratories Pvt. Limited, Hyderabad for development and commercialisation of "Irinotecan – a unique drug for colorectal cancer".

(This article was published on September 26, 2014)

Hindu ND 27/09/2014
P-4

Entrepreneur summit held at IIT-Delhi

NEW DELHI: The alumni association of the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, in collaboration with the Foundation of Innovation and Technology Transfer, and the Knowledge Resource Development and Welfare Group, hosted an "International Innovation Sustainability and Entrepreneurship Summit," on Friday.

The summit also featured latest innovations by the faculty and students.

Navodaya Times ND 27/09/2014 P-7

आई.जी. ने लिखी यू.पी.एस.सी. कैंडिडेट के लिए किताब

नई दिल्ली, 26 सितम्बर (ब्यूरो): आई.आई.टी. दिल्ली से बी.टैक की डिग्री रखने वाले और बी.एस.एफ. के पंजाब फ्रंटियर में आई.जी. अशोक कुमार ने यू.पी.एस.सी. कैंडिडेट की समझ बढ़ाने के लिए आंतरिक सुरक्षा के मुद्दे पर किताब लिखी है। किताब लिखने में उनका साथ दिया है दिल्ली अंडमान निकोबार आइलैंड पुलिस सर्विस के विपुल ने।

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा की चुनौती नाम से मैक ग्रा हिल से प्रकाशित किताब में अशोक कुमार ने अपने निज़ी अनुभवों को भी शामिल किया है, ताकि वर्तमान माहौल को बेहतर तरीके से समझा जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि किताब में हिस्ट्री और मौजूदा स्टेट्स दोनों को शामिल किया गया है। कई बार उन्होंने खुद आंतरिक सुरक्षा का कैसे सामना किया, इसे भी छात्र समझ सकते हैं। प्रकाशक के नोएडा स्थिति ऑफिस में किताब का शुक्रवार को विमोचन किया गया। लेखक ने कहा कि हाल के दिनों में आंतरिक सुरक्षा एक सबसे बड़े मुद्दे के रूप में उभरा है। इसे समग्रता में देखने और दूर करने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि आंतरिक सुरक्षा का मसला राजनीतिक, इकोनॉमिक और सामाजिक सिरों को भी छूता है। सब एक दूसरे से जुड़े हुए हैं।

Times of India ND 27/09/2014 P-14

SC asks UGC to re-verify red-flagged univs

'Finish Process In 3 Months'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said the University Grants Commission (UGC) had no option but to physically verify 41 deemed universities that were red-flagged by the Tandon Committee five years ago for deficiencies in infrastructure and faculty.

Seven of the 41 deemed universities agreed to fresh physical verification after clearance wasn't given from scrutiny of photographs and videos.

The SC asked the UGC to complete the verification in three months and point out deficiencies, if any.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Ruling puts commission in a tight spot

Akshaya.Mukul@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court's order to carry out physical verification of 41 deemed universities has created a piquant situation for the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In case, physical verification report of the UGC differs from its recent review report that recommended closure of seven out of 41 deemed universities, the Commission will have a lot of explaining to do about the manner and method it adopted. Any variation in the report will also come as a shot in the arm for the seven deemed universities that have been demanding physical verification.

Having got a breather of physical verification, a few deemed universities are also likely to approach the apex court and demand that the same be done for the 126 deemed universities. The reason being that the Tandon Committee of 2009 did not visit any of the deemed universities before categorising them into three: Group A consisting of 38 good deemed universities; Group B of 44 deemed universities that could function after few corrective measures and Group C of 44 (three have moved out from this group) that were found unfit.

It is also not clear what stand the HRD ministry would take on the UGC review committee report. The ministry will have to soon file an affidavit stating its stand on the UGC report. But it did not foresee the events of the past few days and definitely did not anticipate the SC ordering a physical review. After the apex court order, the ministry's choice is limited. It could ask the court to monitor the composition of the committees for physical verification. The ministry's stand since 2009 has been that physical verification is not the most suitable method since all deemed universities were created after physical verification by the UGC.

In many cases there have been allegations of corruption against members who went for verification. The ministry could reiterate this stand and seek SC's intervention in the creation of these committees.

Pioneer ND 27/09/2014 P-12

'Traffic signal' spotted in NASA's Mars photo

PTI ■ LONDON

A British space enthusiast claims to have spotted a 'traffic signal' in a photo of the red planet taken by NASA's Curiosity Mars rover.

The extraterrestrial "signal" was spotted by Joe Smith, 45, in an image shot from the six-foot-high left hand side mast cam on the Curiosity Rover last Thursday. Smith, from Bristol, noticed a chunk of rock in the corner of the picture which looks bizarrely like a traffic signal.

"I have been following the images from NASA since the start and I flick through them

on the NASA website every day," Smith was quoted as saying by the *Western Daily Press*.

"I saw this one and I thought 'hang on, that looks a bit strange'. I think it looks like a traffic light.

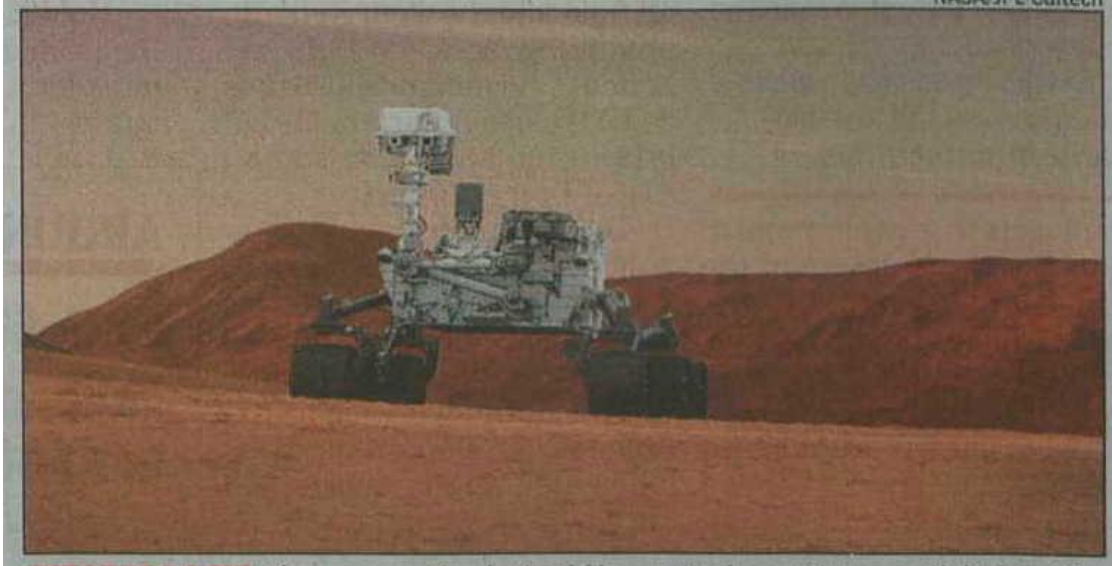
"It is hard to tell how big it would be without any point of reference, but I would estimate it was about 12 inches. I posted it on the internet and people said they thought it looked like a set of traffic lights too - although some people did say it looked like a totem pole," Smith said.

In the past, many strange-looking objects have been spotted in the images of Mars captured by Curiosity as well as Opportunity rover. The objects which resembled a jelly doughnut, a rat and a thigh bone were later found to be rocks.

Times of India ND 27/09/2014 P-21

Man spots 'traffic signal' in Mars photo

NASA/JPL-Caltech



'BIZARRE ROCK': The space enthusiast said he spotted an extraterrestrial 'signal' in an image shot from the Curiosity Rover last Thursday

London: A British space enthusiast claims to have spotted a 'traffic signal' in a photo of the red planet taken by Nasa's Curiosity Mars rover. The extraterrestrial "signal" was spotted by Joe Smith, 45, in an image shot from the six-foot-high left hand side mast cam on the Curiosity Rover last Thursday.

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Times of India ND
27/09/2014 P-21

Earth's water is older than the Sun: Study

Washington: A significant fraction of our Solar System's water is older than the Sun, which indicates that abundant, organic-rich interstellar ices should probably be found in all young planetary systems, astronomers say.

Water was crucial to the rise of life on Earth and is also important to evaluating the possibility of life on other planets. Identifying the original source of Earth's water is key to understanding how life-fostering environments come into being and how likely they are to be found elsewhere. New work from a team including Carnegie Institution for Science's Conel Alexander found that much of our Solar System's water likely originated as ices that formed in interstellar space.

Water is found throughout our Solar System, on icy comets and moons, and in the shadowed basins of Mercury. Water has been found included in mineral samples from meteorites, the Moon, and Mars, experts said. Comets and asteroids in particular, being primitive objects, provide a natural "time capsule" of the conditions during the early days of our Solar System. PTI

Hindustan Times ND
27/09/2014 P-10

River-friendly rituals to protect Ganga: Uma

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: River-friendly religious practices and efficient pyres along ghats are part of some of the short-term measures the Modi government will initiate to clean up the Ganga, water resources minister Uma Bharti has said.

The minister said the focus was to make "new efforts based on past foundations" built towards cleaning the sacred river. Bharti added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked her to quicken the pace of restoring the Ganga. "He has said 'adopt shortcuts but flawless shortcuts'," she said.

Bharti said the roadmap drawn up has been divided into short-term, medium-term and long term goals. "The sadhus and saints have said they will accept any technology which ensures the contents used in cremations are not dumped in the river. To clear the new technology, we have formed a technical committee comprising Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Secretary Central Pollution Control Board and a senior professor of IIT-Kanpur," she said.

Mail Today ND 27/09/2014 P-7

Religious waste first target of Ganga mission


PTI

Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Uma Bharti

By **Akash Vashishtha**
in New Delhi

THE CENTRE'S three-phase programme to revive the Ganga will initially focus on ridding the river of waste materials generated in religious ceremonies and preventing the discharge of industrial effluents and chemicals from entering its waters.

The programme, which comprises short, medium and long-term strategies, will be based on the Ganga River Basin Management Plan being prepared by a consortium of seven IITs.

The short-term phase that is expected to last from 6-18 months, in line with the government's ambition of an *'aviral'* (uninterrupted) and *'nirmal'* (pure, free from pollution) flow, will include measures to rid the river of wastes generated in religious ceremonies and prevent industrial discharges from entering the river waters.

A committee of additional secretaries of the Environment and Water Resources Ministries and experts from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and IITs has been constituted to recommend the minimum flows required for a healthy river ecosystem. Also, an expert group of NEERI has been entrusted to observe changes in the quality and regime of Ganga.

In view of massive and unscientific mining in the Ganga, another committee set up by the Environment Ministry will look at ways to revise existing guidelines for sand mining.

The Dehradun-based Forest Research Institute (FRI) will submit a plan for afforestation along the banks of the river while the National Medicinal Plants Board will devise a plan to plant medicinal plants. Besides, a dolphin action plan and a conservation plan for fisheries have been conceived for the revival of aquatic life. The Eco-Task Force of the Territorial Army has been consulted for the process.

As part of the medium-term strategy, to be implemented in 18 months to three years, the government will create sewerage infrastructure for 118 towns, strive for zero liquid discharge and implement sanitation measures in 1,649 gram panchayats.

The long-term plan, to be implemented in 3-12 years, is aimed at revamping urban development in cities along the river.

"Ganga has been witnessing its deterioration for 29 years. Give us just 29 months and we will give you the results. There is so much to be done that it cannot be achieved in some days or months, so we have planned our strategies period-wise," Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Uma Bharti said.

REVIVAL PLAN

- **Short-term plan: Make the river free of waste materials, intercept canals, industrial discharge and fertilisers.**
- **A committee to revise existing guidelines on sand mining.**
- **FRI to submit its plan of afforestation along Ganga banks.**
- **Medium term strategy: Sewerage infrastructure for 118 towns and sanitation measures in 1,649 gram panchayats.**
- **Long term plan: To revamp urban development and planning of cities facing the river.**

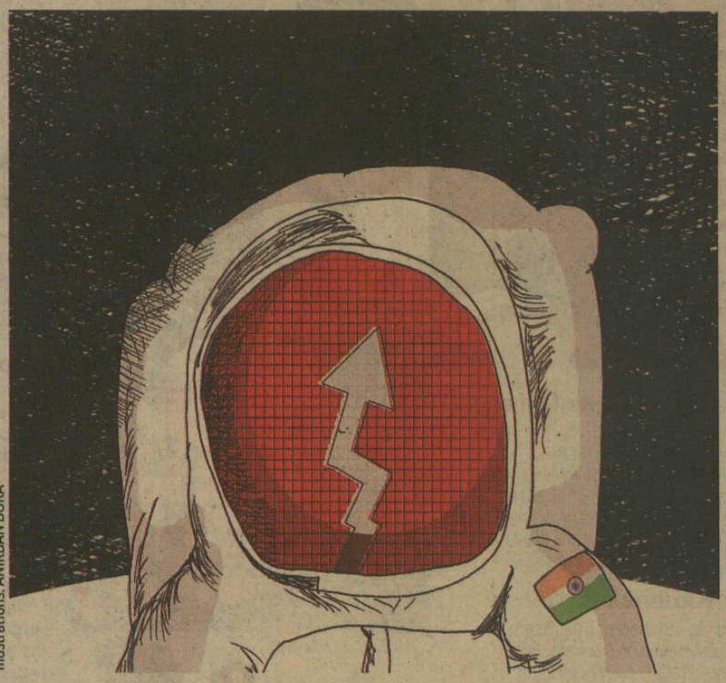
Economic Times ND 27/09/2014 P-10

Reach For the Stars

When the Mars Orbiter Mission was declared a success, the Prime Minister said it would inspire thousands of youngsters to aspire to become space scientists. Let's hope he is right

Silk Stalkings

Reshmi R Dasgupta



Illustrations: ANIRBAN BORA

Valentina Tereshcova became the first woman cosmonaut (as the Soviets called their astronauts) two years before I was even born. But having read about her aged 10, I was inspired to follow in her footsteps. It may have had something to do with the fact that my favourite TV serials as a child in the US were Star Trek and Lost in Space, by then already on the re-run circuit.

When I returned to India, however, my hopes were dashed because I found our space travel was not about phasers and warp speeds but about physics and maths. The latter was anathema to me and so I had to reluctantly decide that rocket science was not for me. Even so, I was thrilled to meet Tereshcova as a teenager years later.

When the Mars Orbiter Mission was declared a success, the Prime Minister said it would inspire thousands of youngsters to aspire to become space scientists. I fervently hope he is right. Some carp that India is in fact reinventing the wheel with this project as the US already accomplished that decades ago. Is that reason for India not to?

One of the most memorable moments for many Indians was the time when our very own astronaut Rakesh Sharma went into space and beamed down a cheesy "Sarey Jahan se accha" comment. So what if he was the nth person in space? Every Indian felt proud to see an Indian in space. Like we felt proud of the late Kalpana Chawla.

The role of pride and inspiration as catalysts for progress cannot be underestimated. Proving that "we can do it" - especially with home-grown scientists, not foreigners or "foreign-returnees" - is what it takes for the young and impressionable to dare to dream, and reach for the stars even from some remote hamlet.

India's youngsters fall into two broad camps. One lot are pushed by parents into set goals - doctor, engineer, lawyer, management - based largely on pecuniary considerations. The reasons are not always the parents own financial situations, as well-off middle class parents are as likely to do so as working class ones.

It's due to the fact that dreaming is seen as a luxury rather than a crucial input for progress that is not merely measured in a country's GDP and personal income tax returns, but in the willingness to push the boundaries of endeavour. The Indian child has the ability but often sorely lacks the backing to dare, to experiment, to try.

Then there are the Indian kids who have no financial pressure to enter the job market but show no inclination to do anything in particular. They drift from subject to subject, searching for something to click and make them "happy". If given a purpose, they quite often rise to the occasion, but motivation - and passion - is lacking.

And that can be traced back to lack of inspiration. Nothing is exciting enough to push them beyond their comfort zones. More so because via the internet they know that everything that needs to be invented, experimented, or probed is already being done somewhere else in the world. So why try in India?

Proving we can do it, especially with our own scientists is what it takes for the young and impressionable to dare to dream, reach for the stars even in remote hamlets

The unimaginative and rote-oriented education system across India also drives away dreams pretty conclusively. Some think that curriculum changes will be the catalyst to fire India into a new trajectory. But without something to ignite their imagination and speak to their questing minds, our youngsters are woefully ill-equipped to even start dreaming.

The Mars mission success is a great chance to get young minds to reach for the stars....Since I refuse to get infected by the cynicism of both age and my profession, I am as excited and proud as the PM is about that 15 kg indigenously made satellite. Only my appreciation will not make a difference to anyone, but I sincerely hope the PM's may.

Smriti advises VCs to bolster research

TNN | Sep 27, 2014, 03.53 AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Smriti-advises-VCs-to-bolster-research/articleshow/43574275.cms

AHMEDABAD: Union HRD minister Smriti Irani met vice chancellors of universities in Gujarat at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar on Friday. She discussed the challenges universities face in higher education with them.

More than 20 VCs from government and private universities of the state made presentations individually before Irani and listed their problems, prime among which was shortage of staff.

Vice chancellor of Gujarat University MN Patel said: "Governor O P Kohli suggested that teachers who have been recruited on ad hoc or contractual basis be regularized. This, he said, would help deal with staff shortage effectively."According to sources, the minister said that she shall recommend that all governors across India call for such brainstorming sessions with VCs in their respective states.

Irani directed bureaucrats of the state education department to minimize intervention in daily administration of colleges and universities and advised academics to stop worrying about rankings by private agencies. The minister asked all VCs to focus on improving academic and administrative standards.

In ISRO, only 2% from IIT, NIT; Can Mangalyaan stop India's brain drain?

http://news.oneindia.in/india/in-isro-only-2-from-iit-nit-will-mangalyaan-stop-india-brain-drain-1529770.html

Bangalore, Sept 26: Here is something very surprising - Science and technology institutes like Indian Institute of Technology and National Institute of Technology have contributed only 2% of the total workforce in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) ! According to a TOI report, an RTI application showed that only 2% employees of Indian Space Research Institute (Isro) are graduates from prestigious IITs or NITs. "But this is not a trend that affects only Isro," the report quotes V Adimurthy, senior advisor of interplanetary mission at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. "Other sectors like roadways and railways too don't attract them," says the IIT-Kanpur alumnus". Why are the students from these esteemed institutes looking for opportunities beyond ISRO and other government ventures? Many graduates from these institutes fly abroad for more lucrative job opportunites and better standard of living. However, there is some positive change happening. Isro's Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IISST), Thiruvananthapuram, has been getting toppers as applicants since its launch in 2007. Many experts feel that the space agency should collaborate with educational institutions to initiate and attract the best of talent from other campuses, says the TOI report. Mangalyaan's success might stop the brain drain to some extend, the report says. " You need passion to work in Isro. That's why people who join the organisation seldom leave it for another job", the report quotes former Isro chairman U R Rao.

Modi offered honorary doctorate by US university

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/modi-offered-honorary-doctorate-by-us-university/1/392678.html

Southern University System of Louisiana in the United States has decided to offer Prime Minister Narendra Modi an honorary doctorate for his work in inclusive growth.

On Thursday, the university board met in the Baton Rouge campus and approved the conferment of the PhD to the Indian Prime Minister.

"Our academic community became particularly aware of the sterling achievements of Gujarat under Mr. Modi's leadership including his emphasis on 'Inclusive Growth for All' during a Research Colloquium presentation by Dr Pankaj Phadnis on August 30, 2013, at the College of Business on our Baton Rouge campus," said Ronald Mason Jr, president of Southern University System, in a release.

Baton Rogue is the capital of Louisiana State located about 150 km from New Orleans.

The Governor of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal, who is an Indian-American, was born in Baton Rogue.

According to Dr Phadnis, the degree is in recognition of Modi's contribution towards social transformation, especially for empowering women and minorities in Gujarat.

Talking to IndiaToday.in, Dr Phadnis said: "Technically, the American university has offered the doctorate degree to PM. It's up to Mr Modi to accept it or not."

In 2002, South African freedom icon Nelson Mandela was also conferred upon the same degree. A public policy school at the university is also named after Mandela.

A statement issued by the university said it was impressed by Modi's agenda of inclusive growth in Gujarat.

It also considered the work done by Modi is the first 100 days as Prime Minister.

Modi's declaration of a 10-year moratorium on caste and communal violence in the country and $20-billion commitment towards 'Digital India' initiative were also lauded by the university.

The university has also invited Modi to be the Commencement Speaker for Fall 2015 Commencement (to be held on December 11, 2015) and for inauguration of the Global Headquarters of the Center for ICT Enabled Social Transformation to be named after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System is the only HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) system in the United States and consists of two universities, a community college, a law centre, an agricultural research and an extension centre.