Newspaper Clips
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Mail Today ND 27/09/2015   P-20,21

MERIT TO DIE FOR

FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

Why are there so many suicides in IITs? We talk to students and professors to find out the reasons — and the way out

By Sangeeth Sebastian

FOR A successful Australia-based businessman and a B.Tech graduate from IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras, Ram Krishnaswamy has a rather unusual interest: during his spare time he chronicles death, suicides to be precise.

His blog, Suicides at IITs, has kept a tab on all the suicides that have happened at the various IITs across the country since 1981, including that of Nagendra Kumar Reddy, a second-year M.Tech student at IIT Madras who killed himself on Monday night. This year alone (till September) Krishnaswamy has counted six suicides at the IITs.

The worst year so far has been 2014, which reported a total of 14 suicides. If you think his interest is morbid, then it would be worthwhile to know why his blog, essentially a compilation of newspaper reports, motivational videos and links to various online support groups, has gained so much traction (the blog has received over 1.5 lakh hits) among students, aspirants and well wishers within a few years of its launch.

"A lot of students have shared their problems with me on a personal level," says Krishnaswamy who started his blog in 2011. The issues are numerous. Some hate the prison-like hostel atmosphere, while others struggle with the medium of instruction and evaluation, both of which are in English. Some students complain of harassment by faculty members, while others say that their teachers are substandard. Then there are students who go into the IITs through reservation and find it difficult to cope with their studies. A good number of them are also forced to do engineering by their parents.
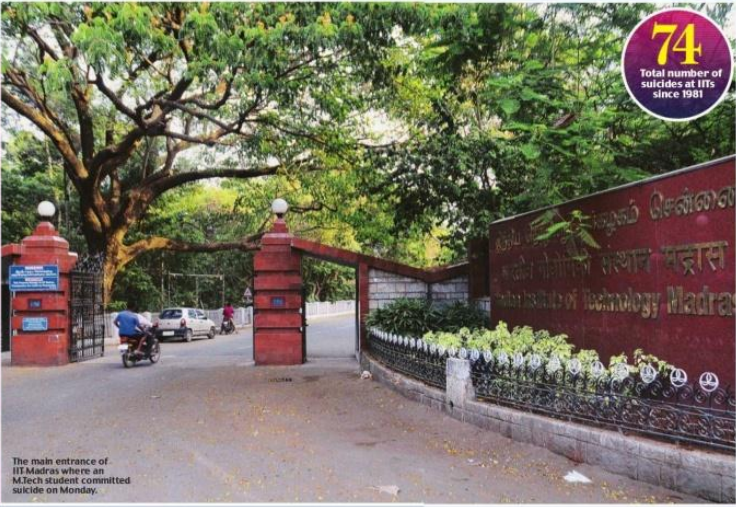
GOING EXTRA MILE

"Instead of sweeping all these problems under the carpet, the IITs have to address these issues," says Krishnaswamy who alleges that efforts to create an online support group for students requiring counselling and psychiatric help by some senior IITians in 2005 had to be abandoned due to lack of enthusiasm from the IITs. "IITs do not have qualified counsellors who can handle students suffering from depression," says Krishnaswamy.

The allegation is stoutly denied by A.K. Gosain, professor and former head of the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Delhi. "Every IIT has a mechanism in place to deal with such students. They have psychiatrists on board and have faculty members as student advisers," he says. "Besides, at IIT-Delhi, 95 per cent of the faculty members stay on campus. So we are always accessible to them to share their problems," adds Gosain.

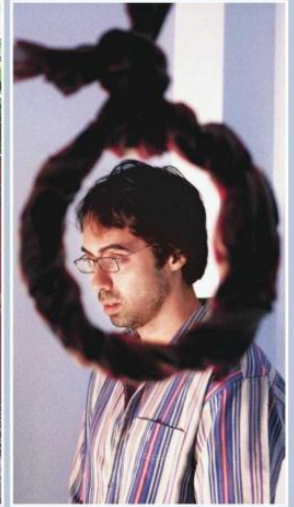According to Nagendra Kumar, professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and former chief warden, IIT Roorkee, modern-day distractions such as smart phones and social media have added to the intensity of pressure which an IIT student experiences today. "It is a race among the best at the IITs. So there is always pressure to excel in studies," says Kumar. But in the end everything boils down to time-management. "A student who spends a disproportionate amount of time chatting instead of studying will only be adding to his pressure," says Kumar. A view also shared by Gosain. "Nowadays students can save the time they spend searching for books and journals in a library at the click of a mouse, but then they also have the opportunity to waste a lot of time online through various other distractions," he says.

Nevertheless, both Gosain and Kumar emphasise the importance of going beyond academics to lighten the pressure off students through various social and cultural activities. At IIT-Delhi, for instance, in order to ensure better interaction among students from various specialisations, 800 undergraduate students who enter its portals annually are divided into 40 groups, irrespective of their streams, and are then exposed to various community and social issues through weekly discussions and field visits under the guidance of a faculty member. Similarly, all students who enter IIT Roorkee have to become a member of any of the three voluntary bodies such as the National Sports Organisation, the National Service Scheme or the National Cadet Corps.

Yet, even with all such ice-breaking initiatives students can be increasingly reticent when it comes to sharing their problems with others. "Once I got a call saying that a student has locked himself up in his room for several days and was unwilling to step out even for food. I had to do a lot of talking to convince him that I am his well-wisher and was there to help him, before he eventually agreed to share his problem," recalls Kumar who won this year's IIT Roorkee award for the most outstanding teacher on Teachers' Day. "Students look up to their teachers not just for academic knowledge, but also for that little extra sensitivity," he says.

It is this extra sensitivity that is attracting students to share their problems and repose trust in former IITians like Krishnaswamy sitting thousands of miles away and whom they haven't ever met. "Whenever I get a distress mail, I do my best to pull them out of their depression by sharing my own experience at IIT Madras," says Krishnaswamy. "I tell them never to give up or give in under pressure."

Even after all ice-breaking initiatives students can be increasingly reticent when it comes to sharing their problems

The main entrance of IIT Madras where an M.Tech student committed suicide on Monday.

Students at IIT Roorkee campus.

PRESSURE HUBS
Suicides at IIT from 1981 to 2015 (Till September)

20	IIT KANPUR
13	IIT KHARAGPUR
12	IIT MADRAS
10	IIT BOMBAY
6	IIT DELHI
5	IIT ROORKEE
5	IIT GUWAHATI
1	IIT GANDHINAGAR
2	IIT HYDERABAD

74 Total number of suicides at IITs since 1981

YEAR-WISE SUICIDE COUNT AT IITs

1981-1	2009-8
1987-1	2010-6
1999-1	2011-10
2003-1	2012-3
2004-1	2013-5
2005-4	2014-14
2006-5	2015-6*
2007-3	
2008-5	*(Till September)*

Source: Suicides at IITs

IIT-KANPUR GEARS UP TO STOP SUICIDE CASES

By Piyush Srivastava

IT IS a distinction which IIT-Kanpur would be happy to do away with: leading an IIT tally for the maximum number of suicides in the country. The institute is now pulling all stops to reduce such incidents on its campus. From informal meetings and workshops to clear academic doubts to sessions on interpersonal skills and relationship building, the initiatives are on in full swing.

"We now have a counselling team comprising senior faculty members, professionals and qualified counsellors. They stay on the campus and are easily accessible to the students," informs A.R. Harish, Dean, Students' Welfare, IIT-Kanpur.

"In addition to this, we have a team of student volunteers who approach freshers on the opening day and strike a rapport with them. We also provide emotional support to students through various activities, including meditation and relationship building exercises," says Harish.

Meanwhile, students at IIT-Kanpur attribute a variety of reasons for the stress. A third-year student, who did not want to be named, blames the management for its high expectations from students as the key reason.

"IIT-Kanpur students are regarded as brighter than those from other IITs, so the management expects nothing short of excellence from all the students, from the first day itself," says the student.

Omendra Bharat, a social worker and an IIT-Kanpur alumnus, attributes it to the institute's grading system and lack of stress busters to relieve academic pressure. "The grading system is quite tough here. This is one of the most important reasons behind stress," says Bharat. "Most of the suicides take place during semester examinations. Unlike other IITs, students also have no entertainment avenues here to bust stress," adds he.

Most suicides take place during semester exams

Among the recent suicides at the institute are the ones committed by Mehtab Ahmad, a B.Tech second-semester student who hanged himself in his hostel room in the year 2011, and Madhuri Shale, a final-year civil engineering student who hanged herself in 2010 allegedly due to stress from accumulating supplementary papers.

The institute is now pulling all stops to reduce such incidents.

Hindustan Times ND 27/09/2015
P-13

Swamy well past age limit to be JNU V-C: Irani

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: Union HRD minister Smriti Irani said on Saturday that BJP leader Subramanian Swamy was past the age limit required for the post of JNU vice-chancellor, putting to rest a raging debate over the issue.

"I also wish to make it clear that my ministry doesn't recommend name for the post of V-C, he is recommended by the search and select committee. In any case I think there is an age bar for the post and Swamyji has crossed the age bar," Irani said at the Hindustan Shikhar Samagam here on Saturday.

Swamy had tweeted recently that the "media is on fire that I have been offered the JNU VC post. No formal offer nor will there be if the Govt can't meet my pre-conditions." He, however, did not clear what the preconditions were.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union

▪ HRD minister Smriti Irani

(JNUSU) had threatened to "resist any attempts with all its mights" to saffronise the campus and termed the BJP leader as a "regressive figure".

Irani also spoke about the Congress allegations about saffronisation of education and that she had visited the RSS headquarters to give a presentation on her ministry to the Sangh top brass. "I don't think the news about my presentation to RSS is correct. And as far as the allegation on saffronisation goes, I think such allegations would keep on coming whenever a BJP government is there," she said.

Business Standard ND 27/09/2015   P-01

After 5 years, CAT registrations see a rise

BS REPORTERS
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 26 September

After a gap of five years, demand for management education is seeing a revival, with registrations for the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2015 rising 15.6 per cent to 218,664 candidates from 189,000 last year.

After touching a high of 242,000 in 2009, CAT registrations had been declining. In 2010 and 2011, these stood at around 205,000 each, followed by 214,000 in 2012, and 195,000 in 2013.

CAT scores are used by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), along with 103 other business schools, to admit students to

The rise is attributed to efforts by IIMs to reach out to more candidates

management courses. For this year, the IIMs extended the registration deadline for CAT from September 20 to September 25.

According to data available, in the last five days of the registration process, IIM-Ahmedabad recorded the sale of 35,632 registration forms, against 183,032 till September 20.

While CAT registration centres did not comment on the reasons for the rise in registrations, sources attributed this to greater efforts by IIMs to reach out to more candidates. The increase in the number of cities where the examination will be held this year comes amid efforts to have registration centres in remote places.

This year, CAT will be conducted at 650 examination centres across 136 cities. A new section, reading comprehension, has been added and the exam duration has increased by 10 minutes. Also, students will now be allowed to use an on-screen calculator.

The exam is scheduled to be held on November 29 and the results will be declared in the second week of January.

Navbharat Times ND 27/09/2015   P-19

11 वैज्ञानिकों को भटनागर अवॉर्ड

■ प्रस, नई दिल्ली : 2015 के लिए 11 वैज्ञानिकों को शांतिस्वरूप भटनागर अवॉर्ड के लिए चुना गया है। कानपुर आईआईटी के योगेश्वर मोरेश्वर जोशी के अलावा मुंबई के तीन वैज्ञानिकों का नाम भी लिस्ट में शामिल है। इस अवॉर्ड को भारत का नोबेल पुरस्कार भी कहा जाता है। शनिवार को सीएसआईआर के स्थापना दिवस पर इन पुरस्कारों का ऐलान किया गया। इस मौके पर छह वैज्ञानिकों को यंग साइंटिस्ट्स अवॉर्ड से सम्मानित किया गया।

NIT-R in crisis as chairperson-director row worsens

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/NIT-R-in-crisis-as-chairperson-director-row-worsens/articleshow/49112795.cms

BHUBANESWAR: An on-going tussle between chairperson of the Board of Governors (BOG) of National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (NITR) and its director worsened on Friday deepening the administrative crisis in the premier engineering institution.

NIT director Sunil Sarangi rejected a direction of BOG chairperson Vasantha Ramaswamy to reinstate suspended registrar S K Upadhyay. Sarangi had suspended Upadhyay on September 20 for alleged insubordination and given the charge to a deputy registrar while he was on tour. He took the additional charge himself from Thursday. "The BOG's direction can't be executed because the order is not based on reasoning. Being the principal executive officer of the institute, I can't violate the law," Sarangi told TOI.

Sarangi said the revocation of suspension can be done only by the BOG when it meets. "Though the chairperson can take power of the board in an emergency situation, revocation of suspension is not an emergency," he said.

Pune-based Ramaswamy, when contacted over phone, said her letter is self-explanatory and she had quoted the relevant sections of the NIT Act why the registrar should be reinstated forthwith. "Now it is up to him (the director). I don't want to explain it further," she said.

"I hold the suspension order passed by the director prima facie not warranted and I hereby revoke the suspension order issued by the director with immediate effect. The BOG will be informed of the action taken by me for confirmation and ratification. I direct that the registrar shall resume his office as such," Ramaswamy wrote in a letter dated September 24 to Sarangi (Copy available with TOI). She highlighted that the suspension decision was taken in haste without prior approval from either the BOG or the chairperson.

After his suspension, Upadhyay has given a representation to the Ramaswamy the same day stating that he was suspended because he declined to obey the director's order to send a letter to the BOG chairperson that all the BOG orders after the 44th BOG meeting were withdrawn, which was not possible.

NIT insiders are in a fix on whether the BOG chairperson's order or the director's would be valid in such a scenario.

The tug of war between Sarangi and Ramaswamy started in January after dismissal of a probationary employee by the institute (director). At Ramaswamy's behest, the BOG passed a resolution restoring him. However, the Union ministry of human resources development set aside the restoration. Ever since, the BOG boss and the director are opposed to each other's decisions.

More students to take IIT-JEE exam?

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/More-students-to-take-IIT-JEE-exam/articleshow/49130873.cms

KOLKATA: The JEE Apex Board (JAB) has proposed to increase the number of candidates appearing in the IIT-JEE (advanced) examination from 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh from 2016. They have also asked the IIT Council, where all the directors of IITs are members and which is chaired by HRD minister Smriti Irani, to take a call on merging the existing two-tier admission system into one, exclusively for the IIT aspirants.

In a meeting at IIT-Guwahati on Sunday, it was decided to propose a change in the number of candidates appearing in IIT-JEE (advanced). "Till this year, the top 1.5 lakh students from JEE (main) could sit for IIT-JEE (advanced) and around 10,000 ranks were awarded to fill up seats in the IITs across the country," said a member of JAB.

He added, "The number of seats available at the IITs has increased considerably as new IITs have also come into existence. But, over the past three years, only 1.5 lakh students could make it to the IIT-JEE (advanced) examination which is conducted by the IITs. We wanted to ensure that more students could take the competitive examination as seats have remained vacant even this year." JAB also felt that more counselling rounds could be held if additional ranks are offered.

In 2016, eighteen IITs will take students from IIT-JEE (advanced) examination. Till 2015, three rounds of counselling were done by the IITs. This year, at IIT-Kharagpur, around 30 seats remained empty across all the faculties. Taking into account all the IITs, the number is around 200. "The vacant seats include even those where students had paid the fees and taken admission but did not turn up," a senior IIT official said.

The proposal to scrap the two-phase IIT entrance examination, comprising JEE (main) and IIT-JEE (advanced), and hold only one entrance test for all the IITs has been referred to the IIT Council. The meeting of the council is slated to be held in October following the JAB meeting where both the proposals will be considered and debated.

"The HRD ministry is keen to hold a single entry admission test for all the engineering colleges. The IITs want their own entrance examination which will be conducted by each IIT in rotation from each of the seven zones. The two-tier admission system may remain in place till 2016. From 2017 onwards a change is likely in the admission process to the country's premier institution. The final call will be taken by the IIT Council subsequently," said the JAB member.

According to some IIT faculty members, the higher-education institutes find the two-step entrance examination cumbersome. "The nature of examination where 10,000 students are selected and the nature of examination from which few lakh students are selected can't be the same. There has to be a difference between the admission test conducted for the IITs and other engineering colleges. All IIT aspirants have to mandatorily appear in JEE (main) examination from where the shortlisting is done for IIT-JEE (advanced). We want an examination exclusively for the IITs," said a senior IIT faculty member.

"At the moment, cumbersome process leads to a waste of time that could be a reason why some IIT seats remain vacant. It also puts a lot of stress on candidates who have to hold their concentration for over a month from appearing in JEE Main to holding the IIT-JEE Advanced", he added.

IIT admission became a two-phase affair in 2013 at the prodding of the HRD ministry. The ministry wanted to bring admissions to all engineering colleges under one roof and decided to hold a common entrance test for NITs and IITs. But when IIT-Kanpur threatened to quit the common entrance system and hold its own admission test on its own, MHRD allowed the IITs to hold a second test (IIT-advanced).

Hindustan Times ND 28/09/2015   P-11

Govt forms panel for revamp of civil services examination

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NEW DELHI: The format of the civil services examination could be up for a change, again.

A year after it started rolling back changes made to the civil service examination reforms, the NDA government on Sunday announced a committee had been set up to take a fresh look at the examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The panel, headed by former education secretary BS Baswan, will revisit the entire gamut of issues relating to the examination, right from its pattern and syllabus to the eligibility criteria of aspirants, minister of state Jitendra Singh announced on Sunday.

Sources told HT that the seven-member panel had been tasked to submit its report by early next year.

The panel also includes former water resources secretary BN Navalawala, former UGC chairman Hari Pratap Gautam, AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe, former director of Shimla-based Indian Institute of Advanced Study Prof Peter Ronald DeSouza and IIM Banglaore's Prof. B Mahadevan.

The exam is conducted annually in three stages — preliminary, main and interview — to select candidates for the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others.

The existing exam pattern is largely based on the format approved by the government in 1979.

Former PM Manmohan Singh had tried to introduce some changes, including lowering the maximum age of candidates, but could not see it through. Later, his government introduced the civil services aptitude test recommended by Prof YK Alagh in 2001 but the changes were practically reversed by the NDA government.

Economic Times ND 28/09/2015   P-08

INVESTMENT TECH-NIQUE Some of the largest global technology cos, including the likes of Google and Microsoft, have promised to put their backing behind the Digital India initiative. They have announced plans to improve internet penetration, entrepreneurship

Silicon Valley Presses the 'Enter' Key on India

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JOHN T CHAMBERS (CISCO) Training & facility expansion

SATYA NADELLA (MICROSOFT) Cloud services

PAUL E JACOBS (QUALCOMM) Investment fund

SUNDAR PICHAI (GOOGLE) Focus on Indian languages

San Jose: Search giant Google and software maker Microsoft were among some of the largest technology giants that pledged their support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India initiative on Sunday, announcing plans to improve internet penetration and entrepreneurship in the country.

"We are working on many connectivity projects, including bringing connectivity to railway stations in India," said Google CEO Sundar Pichai. The company plans to launch WiFi hot spots at 500 Indian railway stations.

Google will also make it possible for people to type in more than 10 Indic languages on the Android operating system, "including the Prime Minister's mother tongue Gujarati," Pichai said at the event attended by tech industry royalty.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella announced that the company plans to join others to enable broadband internet using television white-space technology.

"We have plans to partner with the government of India, state governments, telecommunications companies and local ISPs (internet service providers) to take this technology to 500,000 villages in India," said Nadella.

Networking major Cisco's executive chairman John Chambers pledged support on behalf of the industry.

"The USIBC (US-India Business Council) and Silicon Valley will be there for you," he said. "I think the US and India will be very strong together." Chambers has just been elected USIBC chairman.

Chip maker Qualcomm announced a $150 million fund to invest in Indian startups.

The company, which has been funding startups in the country since 2007, will encourage product design from India, said executive chairman Paul E Jacobs. "We really want to see a local ecosystem for product design," he said.

Modi also met Apple chief executive Tim Cook to discuss the Make in India initiative, apart from Tesla's Elon Musk.

The Silicon Valley visit comes at a time when Modi's advent as prime minister has served to boost investor confidence.

"The past few days, I met many investors who have never even been to India. All of them said that in the last year, the perception in India has gone up dramatically and they are looking at India very seriously," said Rohit Bansal, cofounder of ecommerce company Snapdeal.

(The correspondent is in the US at the invitation of Facebook)

Economic Times ND 28/09/2015   P-07

ET IN THE CLASSROOM

India to Launch Its First Astronomical Mission

On Monday morning, India will launch a satellite called the Astrosat, a multipurpose space telescope. The country's astronomical community is excited about the launch, as it gives them a new tool to probe some of the mysteries of the universe. Here is a brief introduction to the satellite and what to expect.

WHAT IS THE ASTROSAT?

The Astrosat is a satellite costing ₹178 crore and been in the making for about 15 years. It will be launched at 10 am on board a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), the workhorse of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The satellite is a space astronomical observatory weighing 1.5 tonne and orbiting close to the equator at an altitude of about 650 km.

WHAT CAN THE ASTROSAT DO?

Astronomers around the world will always welcome new telescopes. One up in space is even more welcome as it can work without interference from the earth's atmosphere. The Astrosat's excellent x-ray detection capabilities are especially welcome, as there are some gaps in the capabilities of other x-ray telescopes. The Astrosat's ability to look at objects in different wavelengths at the same time is an invaluable addition to astronomer's capabilities to observe space. Specifically, it can spot variations in the intensity of x-ray sources, always an indication of change. It can spot transients, short intense bursts of radiation that can hint at new phenomenon. It can also look at galaxies, oscillations of black holes.

WHY IS ITS LAUNCH SO IMPORTANT?

The Astrosat is India's first astronomical space mission, and puts India in a small club of nations with observatories in space. The Astrosat, however, is different in scope from any other orbiting telescope. It can look at faraway objects using a variety of media – visible light, ultraviolet and x-ray – at the same time, as ISRO combined several different kinds of payloads into one satellite. While it opens up new windows for all astronomers, it is especially important for Indian astronomers. Since they have been part of Astrosat design, they know its capabilities well and can perform experiments accordingly. They have special privileges too. The satellite is also a marvel of engineering. The instruments have been built in India by small teams from scratch, and with no prior experience.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN ON MONDAY AND BEYOND?

The satellite will be launched at 10 am, barring bad weather high in the atmosphere or other unforeseen events. The Astrosat will be in a transfer orbit soon, and will be brought to its parking place near the equator within a week. It will take a few more weeks before all the instruments are switched on. After that astronomers will be free to use its instruments. Chances are that astronomers will discover something not long after that. The satellite is built to perform for five years, but its engineers expect a longer life.

TEXT: HARI PULAKKAT

Times Of India ND 28/09/2015   P-06

India set to enter elite club with space observatory launch today

Chennai: The countdown for the launch of Indian rocket carrying ASTROSAT, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory that will help in understanding the universe, and six other foreign satellites was progressing smoothly on Sunday, a senior official of the Indian space agency ISRO said.

"The countdown is progressing without any hitch. The fuelling of the rocket's second stage (engine) has started and would be completed late on Sunday. The rocket is set to blast off at 10 am," a senior official at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) not wanting to be quoted said over the phone from Sriharikota.

The successful launch of the around Rs 180-crore and 1,513-kg ASTROSAT and placing it in orbit at an altitude of 650 km above the earth on Monday morning would make India a member of the select group of nations having its own space observatory after the US, Japan, Russia and Europe.

However, it will not be right to call ASTROSAT as India's 'Hubble'. The Hubble owned and launched by the US in 1990 is 10 times heavier than the ASTROSAT and is said to cost $2.5 billion.

While the Hubble space

The PSLV will carry ASTROSAT and six foreign satellites to space

telescope is still working, India's ASTROSAT's life span is five years.

The 44.4 metre-tall 320-tonne polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV-XL) version is a four-stage rocket with six strap-on motors for additional thrust during the initial phase of the flight.

The first and third stages are powered by solid fuel while the second and fourth stages are powered by liquid fuel which will be filled during the countdown.

Apart from fuelling up the engines, all the systems would be checked and re-checked during the countdown.

The 50-hour countdown for the rocket launch began at 8 am on Saturday at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, around 70 km from here.

The rocket with seven satellites cumulatively weighing 1,631 kg will blast off on Monday at 10 am from the first launch pad of the rocket port.

For the third time an Indian rocket will be launching seven satellites in a single mission. In 2008, ISRO had launched 10 satellites in one go, including India's Cartosate-2A satellite.

Just over 22 minutes into the flight, the rocket will eject ASTROSAT.

Soon after, six other satellites will be put into orbit and the whole mission will come to an end in just over 25 minutes.

ASTROSAT, with a life span of five years, will observe the universe through optical, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray components of the electromagnetic spectrum, whereas most other scientific satellites are capable of observing through a narrow wavelength band, the agency said. IANS

Navodaya Times ND 28.09.2015 P-07

अब इग्नू में ऑनलाइन परीक्षा दे सकेंगे छात्र

नई दिल्ली, 27 सितम्बर (ब्यूरो): इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (इग्नू) में छात्र घर बैठे परीक्षा दे सकते हैं। इसके लिए इग्नू ऑनलाइन परीक्षा करवाने के विकल्प पर काम कर रहा है। इसके लिए इग्नू ने एक प्रस्ताव एचआरडी व यूजीसी को सौंपा है। मालूम हो कि इग्नू ने इसी वर्ष से दोबारा ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रक्रिया भी शुरू की है।

इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (इग्नू) 28 लाख छात्रों को सुविधा देने के लिए ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के विकल्प पर विचार कर रहा है। इसके लिए इग्नू ने एचआरडी एवं यूजीसी को एक प्रस्ताव सौंपा है। ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के विचार पर इग्नू के कुलपति नागेश्वर राव ने बताया कि इग्नू ने इस संबध में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और यूजीसी को प्रस्ताव सौंपा है। सरकार प्रस्ताव का अध्ययन कर रही है और तौर तरीकों पर काम किया जा रहा है। राव ने बताया कि इस साल से दोबार शुरू हुई ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रकिया में इग्नू को जबरदस्त प्रतिक्रिया मिली है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्तमान में इग्नू

■ इग्नू ने एचआरडी व यूजीसी को सौंपा प्रस्ताव

पंजीकरण, एडमिट कार्ड जारी करने समेत समूची प्रक्रिया को ऑनलाइन अंजाम दे रहे है, लेकिन परीक्षा अब भी पारंपरिक तरीके से ही आयोजित की जाती है जहां छात्रों को अपने संबंधित अध्ययन केंद्रों पर जाना पड़ता है। परीक्षा केंद्रों के विकल्प के लिए इग्नू ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के लिए कोशिश कर रहा है।

कुलपति ने कहा, जब हम विश्व के अन्य देशों में दूरस्थ शिक्षा पद्धति को देखते हैं जहां विश्वविद्यालयों ने ऑनलाइन परीक्षा को अपनाया है तो हमें यह बात ध्यान में रखनी पड़ती है कि वहां छात्रों की संख्या कम तथा चार से 10 हजार के बीच होती है, लेकिन हमारे मामले में संख्या काफी ज्यादा है और हम यह भी देखते हैं कि लोग पूरे देश में फैले हैं जो विभिन्न पृष्ठभूमियों से हैं।

कुछ गृहिणियां हैं, कुछ गरीब हैं, कुछ कामकाजी हैं, कुछ दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं, इसलिए हमें संभावनाएं देखनी होगी।

Seeking the best
for the next generation

Going abroad for higher studies has always been popular among UHNIs, but the trend has accelerated in the past few decades

BY NIDHI SINHA
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Having a say: *Amruda Nair and her siblings chose their educational institutes in keeping with their academic interests.*

Amruda Nair, joint managing director and chief executive officer of the hotel chain Aiana Hotels and Resorts, was around 21 years old when she first went to Europe to study at CHN University, now known as Stenden University, in Holland.

For the granddaughter of C.P. Krishnan Nair, founder of The Leela Group, the experience was new but much-awaited. Her sister, Aishwarya, two years younger than Amruda, went to Cambridge for high school when she was just 16, and it was just a matter of time before Amruda joined her in Europe in 2004.

Moreover, most of her friends and acquaintances went to study abroad. "Everything from the food to the language was a fun, learning experience for me. My favourite part was riding my bike to school even through rain and snow," said the 32-year-old daughter of the chairman of The Leela Group, Vivek Nair.

Two years later, in 2006, when she moved to Cornell School of Hotel Administration in New York for her master's degree, it was "like coming full circle for my family" as both her parents had studied there and she had grown up hearing stories about it.

Going abroad for higher studies has been popular among ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) since colonial times. But the trend has caught on at a much faster pace in the past few decades owing to globalization and the resulting growth in the number of UHNIs, which includes not just inheritors, but entrepreneurs and professionals as well.

Bigger pool

According to the Kotak Wealth Management's report, *Top of the Pyramid*, the number of high net worth households (HNHs) grew to 137,100 in FY15 from around 117,000 last year, a growth of 17% over one year and a 22% compounded growth over five years. The emergence of a larger pool of HNIs has increased the number of educational aspirants.

"We expect the number of ultra HNHs to increase to 348,000 by FY20, driven by new HNHs from emerging sectors such as e-commerce and new avenues for high-return investments," the report stated.

For established business families, it is, of course, a natural progression, like in Nair's case. "Globalization has created opportunities for Indians to do business outside India which requires promoter family members to have adequate exposure to business opportunities and understanding of the challenges abroad," said Kavil Ramachandran, executive director, Thomas Schmidheiny Centre for Family Enterprise at the Indian School of Business (ISB).

An increasing number of first-generation entrepreneurs are joining this burgeoning pool, so are professionals holding global positions. And this set is seeing the merit in sending their children abroad, be it the experience they get, networks they develop, skill sets they acquire, or a step-up they are looking for in terms of social mobility.

"There is a whole set of entrepreneurs who may have gone to IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) themselves, but want to send their children to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). In that sense, the spike is due to a combination of social mobility and abilities," said Murali Balaraman, partner, advisory services, EY, which collaborated with Kotak Wealth for the above-mentioned report.

Then, there is a clear attitudinal and generational shift. "A lot of children are helping expose parents to the changing landscape of education and the opportunities it can provide," said Balaraman.

Professionals, on the other hand, see it as a means of enrichment. For Narayan Hariharan, senior vice-president, Jet Airways (India) Ltd, whose parents migrated from Kerala to Mumbai in the 1940s, education is the only inheritance. "A great premium is placed on ensuring academic excellence in our society," said Hariharan,
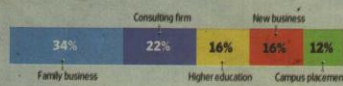
58, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in Buddhist studies from Mumbai University.

As per a recent *Value of Education* survey that HSBC conducted, 88% of all Indian parents want to send their children overseas for higher education. "This trend is not limited to HNIs; even middle-class parents are keen to do so," said S. Ramakrishnan, head, retail banking and wealth management, HSBC India.

The world is their oyster

The benefits are quite apparent. There is enormous exposure not just in terms of quality education, new skill sets, emerging trends and technology, but also in terms of adapting to new cultures and languages.

Nair believes her work experience during her internships abroad played a big role in exposing her to international practices. "I have recently set up a joint venture to start a global hotel management company in Qatar and I am certain that the early exposure I had while living abroad and working with multi-cultural groups gave me the adaptive qualities I need to function efficiently," she said.

Hariharan's elder daughter, Sowmya, completed her law degree from Pune—ILS Law College—and went on to do her Master's from the National University of Singapore. She now works for a law firm in India.

"International exposure with top legal firms and business houses helped my daughter understand how business is done in South-East Asia. The cultural context of dealing with different groups helped build values of working with a multi-cultural workforce," said Hariharan.

Coming into their own

A majority of UHNI children return to join their family businesses. For

instance, Kumar Mangalam Birla, who pursued his MBA from London Business School, took over as chairman of the Aditya Birla Group in 1995 at the age of 28 after the sudden death of his father, Aditya Birla.

According to the Kotak Wealth report, to cater to specific needs of children of global entrepreneurs and inheritors, many global business schools have started tailor-made programmes for running family-managed businesses.

"It primarily depends on their family background. Those from business families normally return to join the families. Children of HNI professionals tend to be entrepreneurs or professionals," said ISB's Ramachandran.

But there is no set rule. While many still join the family business, others prefer to start their own venture. The varied exposure gives them the opportunity to pursue careers of their choice.

Rahul Anand, who went to Harvard Business School, chose to set up his start-up hopscotch.com after working for six years in his family business, Skanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd.

Rishabh Mariwala, son of Marico Ltd founder Harsh Mariwala, started his independent soap-making venture, Soap Opera N More, five years ago. He graduated from Frank G. Zarb School of Business, Hofstra University, New York.

Nair and her siblings chose their educational institutes in keeping with their academic interests. Her brother, Aushim, chose to go to Les Roches International School of Hotel Management in Switzerland, while her sister, Aishwarya, completed a four-year food degree at The Culinary Institute of America. She is now a food and beverage consultant. Nair worked as a hotel consultant in Singapore and then joined the family business, before she set up Aiana Hotels.

Vivina Vishwanathan contributed to this story.

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

All around development and emphasis that peers place on foreign education are key drivers.

Reason	On a scale of 10
All-round development	7.25
Status among peers	7.15
Security and control	6.94
Quality of education	6.68
Family tradition	5.42

CAREER OPTIONS

Children of entrepreneurs and inheritors tend to choose family businesses, while those of professionals choose consulting firms

Consulting firm		New business	
34%	22%	16%	16%	12%
Family business		Higher education		Campus placement

TOP FIVE REGIONS PREFERRED FOR EDUCATION

- US
- UK
- Singapore
- Europe
- Canada

26% of UHNIs choose the US as the most preferred country for foreign education.

PEC pushes for IIT upgrade

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/PEC-pushes-for-IIT-upgrade/articleshow/49133759.cms

CHANDIGARH: The call to upgrade PEC University of Technology as an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is once again gaining momentum, with an increased push from the UT administration. A number of meetings are being held between PEC and UT officials to nudge the ministry of human resource and development (MHRD) into upgrading PEC as a centrally-funded institute - either an IIT or a National Institute of Technology (NIT).

Interestingly, the 12th five-year plan also makes a mention of upgrading several institutions into central institutions. PEC and Chandigarh College of Architecture (CCA) are amongst the higher education Institutes (HIEs) from UTs that have been named as those with potential for an upgrade.

Confirming that a meeting was recently held with UT adviser Vijay Kumar Dev to pursue the matter with the MHRD, which has received the proposal through UT, PEC director Manoj K Arora said PEC had all the ingredients to be converted to a central-level institute. "PEC is one of the oldest institutes in the region. Had it become an IIT, it would have been amongst the earliest IITs in the country," he told TOI.

"While Chandigarh is geographically well-placed and would cater to students of the region and neighbouring states, it is a fact that students prefer PEC to lower-ranked IITs. In a way, we are already working like an IIT," Arora added.

The PEC director and senior officials from the institute met the adviser on September 24 to discuss the matter and redraft a proposal. Arora said if PEC is upgraded to an IIT, grants and infrastructure will improve and PEC can be made a 'smart campus' in the real sense. "This was also discussed with the adviser and we are working toward making this happen," he said.

PEC deputy director Sanjeev Sofat said that the upgrading PEC would give it financial and administrative autonomy. "It will be good for the institute as well as its students. Just like the Bengal Engineering College was converted into an IIT, we would gain national importance against the current status of a deemed university," he added.

>>PROS and CONS

>What works in favour of PEC

Already listed to be upgraded in the 12th five-year plan

Geographic location: Caters to students from Himachal, J&K, Haryana and Punjab - many of whom prefer PEC over lower-ranked IITs

Working on IITs' academic model

>What works against?

>Other IITs in the region: If PEC gets upgraded to an IIT, it would be third one in the region after IIT Ropar and IIT Mandi, making it one of the highest concentrations of these nationally-governed institutes.

>'Deemed-to-be-university' tag, which places institutions under private varsities

>>12th five-year plan

12th five-year plan mentions developing central Institutions as quality-leading Institutions and upgrading of several institutions into central institutions. Higher education institutes that have been listed in the plan as exhibiting potential in the UTs that come under the central government (through the ministry of home affairs) include the PEC University of Technology and Chandigarh College of Architecture.