Newspaper Clips
September 11, 2014

Smriti to meet 39 V-Cs, role of alumni tops agenda

RUHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE focus of Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani's two-day meet with Vice-Chancellors of 39 central universities this week will be to bring in greater professionalism in the management of these universities including outlining the role of alumni in their development and management, on the lines of IITs and IIMs.

Mobilising external sources of funding through corporate social responsibility initiatives and making communication between the universities simpler and more efficient through a web portal will also be discussed at the meet, scheduled to be held in Chandigarh between September 12 and 13.

The NIC is already working on such a portal.

According to sources, the HRD ministry has felt the need to stress on a strong alumni network for central universities after observing their benefits in the IITs and IIMs. Therefore, the meet will discuss ways to strengthen alumni networks, institutionalise a structure for it and create an exhaustive database of them. Possibilities of fleshing out a common strategy for all central universities will also be explored and suggestions will be sought from the V-Cs, sources said.

Another key area of discussion will be "internationalisation strategy" for the universities with respect to academic collaborations, faculty and students. According to the officials, HRD ministry will take stock of how many foreign students seek admissions in these universities and will seek V-Cs' suggestions on how to increase their numbers. Setting up special hostels for international students is being explored as an important solution. The universities will also be asked to lay out their strategy for scaling up their research efforts and will be asked to ensure that more research papers get published.

Other issues on the agenda include mandatory accreditation with the NAAC, developing a national ranking framework, a single Act for central universities based on the AM Pathan committee report, online learning strategies, teacher vacancies as well as integration of skill development and vocational education with higher education.

UGC chairman Ved Prakash will also attend the two-day meet.

Her ministry keen on utilising alumni

Asian Age, ND 11/09/2014   p-3

INCOMPLETE CAMPUS

Central varsities may be penalised

NITIN MAHAJAN
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 10

With over two-thirds of Central Universities, IITs, IIMs and other Central institutes, established during the UPA regime, functioning from rented buildings, the Union human resource development ministry is contemplating to impose financial penalty on them if they do not complete their campus buildings within the stipulated time.

It is understood that a majority of these higher education institutes are likely to be given a time period of three years to finish all infrastructure work on the campuses after which a financial penalty may be imposed on them.

Sources said that the proposal was mooted after a review by the HRD ministry found that a majority of new Central institutes, created almost five years ago during the UPA tenure, were operating from temporary campuses.

Sources said that the move to establish a deadline for these institutes is expected to improve the pace of infrastructure creation in the higher education sector which has been earmarked as the focus area by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It is understood that more than two-thirds of all Central universities, IITs, IIMs and other premier higher education institutes, established during the UPA regime, are currently operating from temporary campuses.

Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani has taken a serious view of the situation and has asked officials to make a policy to aid timely completion of these buildings.

At her recent meeting with the vice-chancellors of these universities the HRD minister is also understood to have pressed on them the need to complete the requisite infrastructure on time.

Sources said that unless these Central educational institutes begin operations from permanent campuses the government will not be able to provide them with world-class infrastructure and educational facilities, hampering the growth of the students in higher education.

Deccan Herald, ND 11/09/2014   P-7

IIT entrance: 63 pc successful students self taught

Madras Zone exception to trend with 37.5 opting for coaching

NEW DELHI: Defying popular perception that going to coaching centres is the best way to clear the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced), an overwhelming 63 per cent students who succeeded in their dream to study at the IITs have done it by preparing without taking any outside assistance.

A report by IIT Kharagpur, which conducted this year's JEE-Advanced, revealed that more than 50 per cent of IIT aspirants from almost all the zones have cleared the tests by preparing on their own.

Out of 1,582 students who had cleared the test from the Guwahati zone of the IITs, 998 (63.08 per cent) have done so by individual preparation.

Among the 6,528 students qualified from the Bombay zone, 3,509 (53.75 per cent) have shunned the "other mode" of preparation, which apparently included attending classes in coaching institutes.

Similarly, 2,568 (56.05 per cent) out of 4,582 who cleared the test from the Delhi zone have done it all by themselves, as did 1,865 (60.14 per cent) out of 3,101 in Kharagpur zone and 1,469 (56.35 per cent) out of 2,607 in Roorkee zone.

The Madras zone remained an exception to this trend, with a mere 2,152 (37.57 per cent) out of 5,728 successful students telling the IITs that they had chosen the "other modes" over self preparation.

The statistics showed students from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) virtually dominated the tests, with 14,955 (55.08 per cent) successful students out of 27,152 belonging to CBSE affiliated schools.

It also revealed that the number of girls qualifying to pursue technical courses at the premier institutions remained low this year with just 11.08 per cent success rate.

Similarly, a mere 9.77 per cent students from the rural areas succeeded in the tests. At 2,654, their numbers were dwarfed by the massive 24,498 from the urban centres.

This year's JEE (Advanced) was conducted under seven zonal IITs across 364 centres. The tests were held on May 25 in 98 cities and one centre in Dubai.

IIT-Kharagpur was the convenor of the test in which over 1.19 lakh candidates appeared.
DH News Service

Dainik Jagran ND 11/09/2014   P-16

आइआइटी में फिर छाए राजस्थान, यूपी, बिहार

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी) में राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के छात्रों का दबदबा इस बार भी कायम रहा है। आइआइटी में दाखिले के लिए इस वर्ष हुई जेईई (एडवांस) परीक्षा में सफलता प्राप्त करने वालों में आंध्र प्रदेश के बाद राजस्थान दूसरे और उत्तर प्रदेश तीसरे नंबर पर है। चौथे स्थान पर महाराष्ट्र के छात्र रहे। प्रतिष्ठित परीक्षा में कामयाबी हासिल करने वाले छात्रों की संख्या के मामले में दिल्ली और बिहार लगभग बराबरी पर हैं।

इस बार प्रवेश परीक्षा का संयोजन करने वाले आइआइटी, खड़गपुर की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक हर साल की तरह परीक्षा में सीबीएसई बोर्ड से पढ़ाई करने वाले छात्र सबसे ज्यादा कामयाब रहे। इस वर्ष जेईई परीक्षा सात जोनल आइआइटी के तहत 364 केंद्रों पर आयोजित की गई थी। परीक्षा में बैठे 1,19,581 छात्रों में 27,151 सफल हुए। कामयाब छात्रों की संख्या में पिछले साल के मुकाबले बढ़ोतरी के मामले में केरल और बिहार सबसे आगे रहे। इस साल केरल से 61 फीसद ज्यादा छात्रों ने यह परीक्षा पास की,

◆ जेईई एडवांस में कामयाब रहे छात्रों में 34 फीसद इन्हीं तीन राज्यों से

राज्य	उत्तीर्ण छात्र
आंध्र प्रदेश	4,975
राजस्थान	4,292
यूपी	3,314
महाराष्ट्र	2,313
दिल्ली	1,796
बिहार	1,735

जबकि बिहार में यह बढ़ोतरी लगभग 50 फीसद रही। बिहार की राजधानी पटना सबसे ज्यादा सफल उम्मीदवारों वाले शीर्ष पांच शहरों में भी शामिल है। इस लिहाज से जयपुर पहले और दिल्ली दूसरे नंबर पर है। हैदराबाद और विजयवाड़ा क्रमशः तीसरे व चौथे नंबर पर रहे।

IIT entrance: 63 pc successful students self taught

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/430275/iit-entrance-63-pc-successful.html

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IISc develops molecular "sniffer dog" to detect explosives

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/iisc-develops-molecular-sniffer-dog-to-detect-explosives/article6395093.ece

The sniffer dog might finally have its day. Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) have created a highly sensitive fluorescent polymer that scouts out a class of commonly used explosives.

TNT and other nitroaromatic compounds, which are used in a cocktail of chemicals in landmines and plastic explosive devices, release vapours that 'quench' the polymers, reducing their glow, according to a team from IISc.'s Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.

"The team has developed two types of fluorescent polymers — supramolecular polymers and porous metallic-organic polymer — that are electron-rich and pick up vapour from TNT and other nitroaromatic explosives much like a molecular 'sniffer dog'," says P.S. Mukherjee, associate professor at the department and co-author of a paper on the experiment published in the latest edition of Chemistry: A European Journal.

"While the drop in fluorescence is not visible to the naked eye, it is visually sensed and interpreted by a high resolution spectrometer," Dr. Mukherjee explained.

Nitroaromatic compounds are replacing conventional metal-based weapons in the explosives industry, the research paper says, adding that the compounds are available commercially. Besides their explosive nature, the chemicals contaminate groundwater after military operations and an efficient method to detect them at low concentrations is now needed. "The next step for the teamnow is to develop similar systems to detect other forms of explosives such as RDX and ammonium nitrate."

Oz steepest for foreign studies, India cheapest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Australia has once again emerged as the most expensive overseas education destination for students followed by Singapore and India the cheapest in a study conducted by a global bank. Last year, Singapore ranked sixth on the list.

The survey across 15 countries says while an international student in an Australian university spends $42,093 a year, including university fees and living cost, in India the total cost works out to just $5,642.

India was included in the study only this year, which has not taken into account the cost of education at Ivy League colleges.

K P Singh, an overseas studies counsellor, said, "Singapore's dollar is growing at a faster rate and therefore education there is becoming increasingly expensive. The dollar rate has grown almost three times in the past three years."

The study, for which surveyors spoke to over 4,500 parents across countries, also examined their attitudes and behaviour towards children's education. Around 62% of the Indian parents said the US provides the best quality of education followed by the UK and Australia.

STUDY THIS

Survey findings of education cost for overseas students

Country	University fees	Cost of living	Cost per year	Cost rank	Quality of education rank
Australia	$24,081	$18,012	$42,093	1	3
Singapore	$18,937	$20,292	$39,229	2	6
US	$24,914	$11,651	$36,564	3	1
UK	$21,365	$13,680	$35,045	4	2
Hong Kong	$13,444	$18,696	$32,140	5	7
China	$3,844	$6,886	$10,729	13	5
India	$581	$5,062	$5,642	15	8

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>
> **K P SINGH**
> OVERSEAS STUDIES COUNSELLOR

While Australia has retained its top position second year in a row, this year, the second most expensive place is Singapore. In the survey carried out last year, the US, the UK, the UAE and Canada stood at the second, third, fourth and fifth positions.

The study, this year, also ranked the quality of education offered in these 15 nations and US emerged as the most preferred destination in terms of quality among parents. India, however, ranks eighth in terms of quality of education provided with only 5% of the respondents putting it up in their top three choices.

The research was conducted by the HSBC Bank. Data was collected on the basis of average tuition cost for international students in top 10 largest institutions in each country. Cost of living has been calculated taking into consideration inflation.

All these nations do offer scholarships for overseas students, but they are very limited and do not exceed 10-15% of the total number of international students studying there, said Singh.

Times of India, ND 11/09/2014   p-21

China plans to build first space station by 2022

Beijing: China expects to establish its first space station by around 2022, building upon the experience of an experimental module already in orbit, the country's state media said on Wednesday.

China's leaders have set a priority on advancing its space programme, with President Xi Jinping calling for the country to establish itself as a space power.

In China's manned space mission last year, three astronauts spent 15 days in orbit and docked with an experimental space laboratory, the Tiangong (Heavenly Palace) 1.

Yang Liwei, deputy head of China's Manned Space Agency and also the country's first man in space, said the follow-up Tiangong 2 was likely to be launched in about 2016. Then, in around 2018, the core of the space station would be launched with completion set for four years later, the official Xinhua news agency cited Yang as saying. REUTERS

COSMIC MISSION: A replica of the European Space Agency's space plane IXV is displayed at the European Space Research and Technology Centre in the Netherlands. The plane will be launched in November

Nasa laser probe to map Earth's forests in 3D

Washington: Nasa is developing a laser-based probe for the International Space Station that will study the Earth's forests in 3D, helping to fill in missing information about their role in the carbon cycle.

Called the Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation lidar, the instrument will be the first to systematically probe depths of the forests from space. The system is one of two instrument proposals recently selected for Nasa's Earth Venture Instrument programme and is being led by the University of Maryland, College Park. PTI

Times of India, ND 11/09/2014   P-20

Apple Watch scripts a new chapter in wearable technology

Smart watches could go viral

The launch of Apple Watch pushes the needle forward in a technology segment that promises huge growth in the near future. There is no denying the fact that after smartphones, wearable tech is the next big thing. Be it smart glasses, bracelets, clothes or watches, technology that consumers can wear represents the next stage in the evolution of the human-machine interface. In this regard, smart watches not only offer a range of benefits but also revive a dying romance with the watch.

True, currently smart watches are mostly an extension of the smartphone. Nonetheless they are high on the cool factor, exemplifying a unique blend of accessory and technology. Apart from helping consumers send and receive messages, browse emails, and post on social networking sites, smart watches can also monitor one's heartbeat, serve as a pedometer, measure one's daily calorie intake and facilitate cashless payments. Add to this the fact that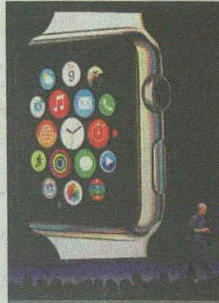 smart watch producers are now encouraging developers to create apps specifically for the wrist, and it is easy to see that the possibilities are endless. In the near future a smart watch could enable you to remotely start your car or serve as a breath analyser to check if you are good to

■ **TIMES VIEW** ■

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drive after a night out at the local pub.

The argument that smart watches engender privacy issues is specious. While it is correct that wearable tech devices by their very nature would need access to a cloud to function optimally, this is not a prerequisite. Just as in smartphones, smart watches will also have privacy settings that allow consumers to decide what information they would like to share with the cloud or remote servers. Taken together, smart watches are stylish, fun and practical.

All watches are old hat

Marketers of smart watches that interact with your smartphones claim these are cool products just because they are wearable and allow technology junkies to access information and make transactions on their

■ **COUNTERVIEW** ■

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wrist. But foisting a smartphone on an archaic device like a watch is no big innovation. At best such a reinvented and expensive watch may perhaps serve as an exclusive piece of jewellery for the high net worth jet set or a fashion statement. But it will in no way trigger a new trajectory for other wearable devices like smart glasses and smart bracelets or set off a mass market frenzy.

Actually many such watches have been introduced since the turn of the millennium; they have all failed to make much headway and remained niche products fancied by geeks. Packing a lot of apps and sensors like emails, SMS, social networks, calendars, pedometers, heart rate and blood flow monitors already available on smartphones on a moribund watch is not going to set the bean counters ringing. Basically the fancied advantages of smart watches proclaimed by marketing dandies are pure hyperbole.

Then there are other issues like the danger of hackers gaining access to the sensitive information on the smart watch, transmitting information to the cloud. Security and privacy concerns of wearable devices remain a worry that can materialise into a major liability. Malware can hijack sensors and jeopardise the privacy of not only direct users but also of those who interact with them, as smart watches are even more vulnerable than smartphones. To see a real revolution in use of wearable devices we need to wait some more, at least till the advent of flexible electronics and their extensive use in areas like healthcare and sports.
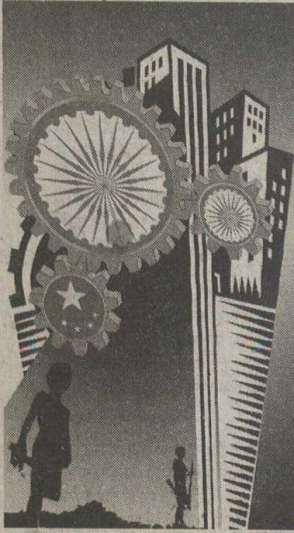
आदर्श जनसंख्या का नया रोडमैप जरूरी

विश्लेषण

डॉ जयंतीलाल भंडारी

इन दिनों दुनिया के जनसांख्यिकीय विशेषज्ञ यह कहते दिखाई दे रहे हैं कि चीन की जनसांख्यिकीय चिंताओं के मद्देनजर भारत को आदर्श जनसंख्या की नई रणनीति बनानी चाहिए। जनसंख्या विशेषज्ञों का मत है कि भारत में जहां जनसंख्या विस्फोट को रोकना जरूरी है, वहीं जनसंख्या में ऐसी कमी से भी बचना होगा कि भविष्य में विकास की प्रक्रिया और संसाधनों का विदोहन मुश्किल हो जाए।

गौरतलब है कि दुनिया की सर्वाधिक आबादी वाला देश चीन अब अपने यहां लागू कठोर परिवार नियोजन नीति में पहली बार ढील देने को राजी हो गया है। करीब 136 करोड़ जनसंख्या वाले चीन में बढ़ते बुजुर्गों की संख्या को देखते हुए चीन ने दूसरे बच्चे के जन्म के लिए मंजूरी दे दी है। हाल में छह सितम्बर को बीजिंग नगर निगम में स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन के आयुक्त ने कहा कि चीन की राजधानी में अभी तक 21,249 दंपतियों ने बच्चे के जन्म के लिए आवेदन किए हैं, जिनमें से 19,363 को दूसरे बच्चे को इजाजत दे दी गई है।जिन्हें दूसरे बच्चे की इजाजत दी गई है उनमें करीब 56 फीसद महिलाएं 31 से 35 के बीच की हैं, वहीं 537 महिलाएं 40 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की हैं। चीन ने अधिकतर प्रांतों में दंपतियों को इस स्थिति में दूसरे बच्चे की इजाजत दी है कि माता-पिता में से कोई एक अपने अभिभावकों की इकलौती संतान हो। उल्लेखनीय है कि चीन ने पिछले वर्ष अपनी वर्ष 1979 में लागू की गई 'एक दंपति एक संतान' नीति में ढील देने का निर्णय लिया था। चीन में बढ़ती जनसंख्या को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कठोर जनसंख्या नीति बनाई गई थी। इसके तहत चीन में दूसरा बच्चा पैदा होने पर भारी जुर्माना लगता रहा है। चीन में 2012 में 3.3 अरब डॉलर की आय जुर्माने से प्राप्त हुई।

वस्तुतः अब चीन के इतिहास की प्रमुख घातक भूलों में 1979 में अपनाई गई एक दंपति एक बच्चे की नीति भी शामिल हो गई है। कहा जा रहा है कि चार दशक पहले चीन द्वारा प्रगति के लिए छलांगे लगाकर बढ़ती आबादी को कानूनी तरीके से नियंत्रित करना उपयुक्त कदम था। जनसंख्या वृद्धि पर कठोर प्रतिबंध लगाते समय भविष्य में श्रमिकों की कमी संबंधी मुद्दा नजर अंदाज हो गया था। यद्यपि चीन में जनसंख्या

घटने से कई आर्थिक-सामाजिक मुश्किलों में कमी आई। भारी विकास हुआ। लेकिन अब चीन की अर्थव्यवस्था में घटते हुए श्रमबल से उत्पादन और विकास दर घटने का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया है। चीन के नेशनल ब्यूरो ऑफ स्टेटिस्टिक्स ने कहा कि 2012 में पहली बार चीन की 15 से 59 वर्ष की कार्यशील आबादी में 35 लाख श्रमिकों की कमी आई है। इस समय चीन की कार्यशील आबादी 94.4 करोड़ है, वह 2020 में घटकर 92.9 करोड़ रह जाएगी। फिर

2030 में वह 87.7 करोड़ तथा 2040 तक 82.3 करोड़ रह जाएगी। चीन को जहां विकास के लिए काम करने वाले अधिक लोगों की जरूरत है, वहीं श्रमबल में कमी से होने वाली हानि की वह अनुभव कर रहा है। अब चीन में एक बच्चे की नीति में शिथिलता दिए जाने के बावजूद अर्थव्यवस्था पर इसका नुकसानदेह प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

एक ऐसे समय में जब चीन जनसंख्या

- ऐसे समय में जब चीन जनसंख्या और विकास के मॉडल में अपनी भूल संशोधित कर रहा है, तब भारत को विकास के मद्देनजर आदर्श जनसंख्या की नई रणनीति पर ध्यान देना चाहिए

- हमें देश में आदर्श जनसंख्या की स्थिति का ऐसा नया रोडमैप बनाना होगा जिसमें एक ओर कारगर प्रयासों से जनसंख्या को विकास की अनुकूलतम स्थिति तक नियंत्रित किया जाए, वहीं दूसरी ओर भविष्य में श्रम बल की सहज उपलब्धता को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए

और विकास के मॉडल में अपनी भूल संशोधित कर रहा है, तब भारत को विकास के मद्देनजर आदर्श जनसंख्या की नई रणनीति पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस नई रणनीति के तहत छलांग लगाकर बढ़ती जनसंख्या के नियंत्रण पर ध्यान देना होगा। वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना के मुताबिक भारत की जनसंख्या 121 करोड़ हो गई है। पिछले एक दशक में देश की आबादी में 17.7 फीसद की वृद्धि हुई है। भारत की जनसंख्या अमेरिका, इंडोनेशिया, ब्राजील, पाकिस्तान और

बांग्लादेश की कुल जनसंख्या से भी ज्यादा है। यह बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या ऐसे आदर्श स्तर पर नियंत्रित होनी चाहिए जिससे देश में श्रमबल की कोई कमी न आ पाए। आदर्श जनसंख्या की नई रणनीति के तहत देश के करोड़ों युवाओं को मानव संसाधन बनाए जाने और कौशल प्रशिक्षित किए जाने के प्रयास भी शामिल किए जाने चाहिए। यद्यपि भारत दुनिया का पहला देश है जिसने अपनी जनसंख्या नीति बनाई थी, लेकिन जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर आशा के अनुरूप नियंत्रित नहीं हो पाई है और भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा वैश्विक जनसंख्या पर प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट में चीन को पछाड़कर वर्ष 2028 तक दुनिया में सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाला देश बनते हुए रेखांकित किया गया है। ऐसे में निश्चित रूप से विश्व की सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या की स्थिति में भारत की धरती भीड़ भरी होगी और जनसंख्या विस्फोट जैसी स्थिति भारत में कदम-कदम पर आर्थिक-सामाजिक खतरों के रूप में दिखाई देगी। वैश्विक जनसंख्या विशेषज्ञ कह रहे हैं कि एक ओर भारत में कारगर तरीके से जनसंख्या नियंत्रण के प्रयासों से प्रगति और खुशहाली की स्थिति बन सकती है, वहीं दूसरी ओर भारत 'हम दो हमारे दो' की नीति अपनाकर भविष्य में भी श्रमबल चिंताओं से दूर रहकर विकास की डगर पर लगातार आगे बढ़ सकता है।

निश्चित रूप से भारत की बढ़ी हुई आबादी मानव संसाधन के परिप्रेक्ष्य में आर्थिक वरदान सिद्ध हो सकती है। भारत की जनसंख्या में करीब पचास प्रतिशत से ज्यादा उन लोगों का है जिनकी उम्र पच्चीस साल से कम है। भारतीय युवाओं के लिए आर्थिक उम्मीदों को साकार करने के लिए जरूरी होगा कि देश में शिक्षा का परिदृश्य बदले और युवाओं को मानव संसाधन बनाया जाए। नई जनसंख्या रणनीति के तहत हमें इस चिंता पर भी ध्यान देना होगा कि देश के करोड़ों युवा यह सोचकर भी डिप्रेशन का शिकार हो रहे हैं कि उन्हें रोजगार तब मिलेगा, जब वे. रोजगार की जरूरत के अनुरूप मानव संसाधन (ह्यूमन रिसोर्स) के रूप में तैयार होंगे। लेकिन उनके पास मानव संसाधन के रूप में तैयार होने के संसाधन और क्षमताएं नहीं हैं। स्थिति यह है कि देश में सरकारी क्षेत्र में गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षण

संस्थाओं की कमी है। निजी क्षेत्र में जो अच्छे संस्थान हैं, वहां पढ़ाई महंगी है। भारी भरकम फीस का भुगतान करना कमजोर वर्ग के युवाओं के लिए मुश्किल है। यद्यपि देश के विभिन्न आईआईएम, आईआईटी और प्रमुख बिजनेस स्कूलों के छात्रों को तो ऊंचे-ऊंचे वेतन वाले पैकेज मिल रहे हैं लेकिन ज्यादातर कॉलेजों के अधिसंख्य छात्रों के समक्ष प्लेसमेंट संबंधी निराशाएं हैं। ऐसे में हमें इस सचाई पर भी ध्यान देना होगा कि अब भी देश में कुछ ही प्रतिभाशाली युवाओं की मुट्ठियों में चमकीले रोजगार हैं और ज्यादातर युवा रोजगार रहित हैं। प्रसिद्ध रोजगार सर्वेक्षण संस्था मैककिंसे का नया अध्ययन बता रहा है कि भारत में स्किल गैप के कारण 25 फीसद ग्रेजुएट ही अच्छा करियर प्राप्त कर पाते हैं। यद्यपि देश में औद्योगिक एवं व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थाओं की कमी नहीं है, लेकिन गुणवत्ता एवं रोजगार की नई जरूरतों के हिसाब से हमारे श्रम प्रशिक्षण संस्थान कारगर नहीं हैं।

नई आदर्श जनसंख्या नीति के तहत नई पीढ़ी को मानव संसाधन बनाने के लिए हमें कुछ महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाने होंगे। कम योग्य युवाओं के लिए हमें प्रशिक्षण एवं सेवा क्षेत्र में अवसर खोजने होंगे और उन्हें रोजगारोन्मुखी पाठ्यक्रमों से शिक्षित-प्रशिक्षित करना होगा। गांवों में काफी संख्या में जो गरीब, अशिक्षित और अर्द्धशिक्षित लोग हैं, उन्हें अर्थपूर्ण रोजगार देने के लिए कौशल प्रशिक्षण से सुसज्जित करके निम्न तकनीक विनिर्माण में लगाना होगा। ऊंची डिग्रियों की पढ़ाई करने वाले छात्रों को अब कॉलेज में पढ़ाई के साथ-साथ कम्युनिकेशन स्किल्स, वर्बल एबिलिटी, एनालिटिकल स्किल्स, जनरल अवेयरनेस और अच्छी, अंग्रेजी जैसी पेशेवर कुशलताएं भी विकसित करनी जरूरी हैं। यदि हम चाहते हैं कि देश उपयुक्त श्रमबल से आर्थिक व औद्योगिक विकास की नई इबारत लिखे, तो हमें देश में आदर्श जनसंख्या की स्थिति का ऐसा नया रोडमैप बनाना होगा जिसमें एक ओर कारगर प्रयासों से जनसंख्या को विकास की अनुकूलतम स्थिति तक नियंत्रित किया जाए, वहीं दूसरी ओर भविष्य में श्रम बल की सहज उपलब्धता को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए।

(लेखक आर्थिक मामलों के जानकार हैं)

IIT: Deshpande releases Irani's letter

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/iit-deshpande-releases-iranis-letter/article6398229.ece

Reacting to Bharatiya Janata Party State president Pralhad Joshi's statements slamming the State government for losing the possibility of having an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the State, Minister for Higher Education R.V. Deshpande on Wednesday released the copy of the letter written to him by the Union Minister for Human Resource Smriti Irani on September 4 on the matter.

In the letter, Ms. Irani stated that there was no proposal, at present, to set up an IIT in Karnataka. Ms. Irani assured giving due consideration to Mr. Deshpande's proposal in case further expansion of the IIT system was taken up in the future.

In another letter dated September 10, Mr. Deshpande informed Mr. Joshi about Ms. Irani's reply to his letter requesting establishing an IIT in the State, and forwarded a copy of her letter to Mr. Joshi.

UGC serious about HRD centres: Vice-chairman

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/UGC-serious-about-HRD-centres-Vice-chairman/articleshow/42126581.cms

CHANDIGARH: On the second day of the two-day directors' meet organized by Panjab University (PU), University Grants Commission vice-chairman HA Devaraj assured 58 participating directors of Academic Staff Colleges (ASC) from across the country that UGC was serious about elevating ASCs to Human Resource Development Centres. "The commission wants to elevate ASCs and the HRD centres will receive full cooperation from UGC to ensure their smooth functioning," Devaraj said.

On behalf of the delegates, director, UGC-ASC at the University of Hyderabad, Narasimhulu said, "The cooperation will be reciprocated and all the ASCs will work passionately to fulfill the challenge of access, equity and excellence in higher education."

New UGC guidelines propose changing the nomenclature of Academic Staff College to Human Resource Development Centre. While staff colleges function according to the guidelines set 27 years ago when they were established in 1987, HRD centres aim to integrate new concepts to deal with challenges from private institutes.

Director, National Foundation for Communal Harmony Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar and director of National Council Teacher Education, Santosh Panda also addressed the directors on Wednesday. Sajjanhar emphasized on introduction of discourses on communal harmony as an essential input in higher education teachers training programme. Panda presented a novel module for training programme of teacher educators.

Excl: IIT Bombay's incubator SINE appoints Ajeet Khurana as CEO

http://techcircle.vccircle.com/2014/09/10/excl-iit-bombays-incubator-sine-appoints-ajeet-khurana-as-ceo/

Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), a startup incubator run by IIT Bombay, has appointed Ajeet Khurana as its CEO. He replaces Sushanto Mitra, who had quit as CEO of SINE in September 2012 to join Hyderabad Angels.

"Over the next three years, we aim to accommodate at least 50 startups each in a single batch, besides roping in more mentors, advisors and investors," Khurana told Techcircle.in.

Khurana is an entrepreneur-turned angel investor. A University of Texas alumnus, Khurana had earlier founded Corpus Collosum Learning Pvt Ltd and KITS (Khurana Information and Training Systems Pvt Ltd). He had previously worked with various incubators, accelerators, startup events, entrepreneur clubs and social media platforms, besides National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN).

As angel investor, Khurana invests $10,000 each in eight startups every year. His key investment areas include education, e-commerce, software, internet & internet-enabled services and mobile. His portfolio companies include Rolocule Games, United Mobile Apps, Karmic Lifesciences and Carve Niche Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Khurana informed that he will discontinue his angel investment activities.

Why IITs produce more entrepreneurs than US Ivy Leagues

A league apart: U.S. Vice President Joe Biden with students at IIT Mumbai.AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool

http://qz.com/262730/why-iits-produce-more-entrepreneurs-than-ivy-league-institutions-like-harvard-or-yale/

If you need one more reason to justify why it's so incredibly difficult to get into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), then consider this—IITs are among the world's most entrepreneurial undergraduate universities, even ahead of storied Ivy League institutions such as Princeton, Yale and Cornell.

IITs are ranked fourth (just ahead of Harvard) in a new ranking of the top 50 universities that have produced venture capital (VC)-backed founders. The study, compiled by PitchBook Data, a US-based private equity and VC research firm, took into account funding data between 2009 to July 2014, and sifted through educational backgrounds of over 13,000 founders globally.

TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES
(1/09 TO 7/14)

			founders	companies	capital raised ($M)
1		Stanford	378	309	$3,519
2		UC Berkeley	336	284	$2,412
3		MIT	300	250	$2,417
4		Indian Institute of Technology	264	205	$3,150
5		Harvard	253	229	$3,235
6		University of Pennsylvania	244	221	$2,194
7		Cornell	212	190	$1,971
8		University of Michigan	176	158	$1,159
9		Tel Aviv University	169	141	$1,253
10		University of Texas	150	137	$1,298

DATA: PITCHBOOK

Compared to their peers in US, Europe, and even China, Indian universities and colleges have never impressed academically. In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013-2014—that takes into account teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook—IIT- Delhi, IIT-Kanpur, IIT- Kharagpur and IIT- Roorkee, are ranked between 351-400.

That's where the PitchBook ranking methodology differs. The primary ranking criteria is the number of startups founded, followed by the number of entrepreneurs and total capital raised. In the study, the IITs had a total of 264 entrepreneurs, who have founded 205 companies and cumulatively raised $3.15 billion.

In terms of total capital raised, they are just behind Stanford ($3.51 billion) and Harvard ($3.23 billion). Stanford, situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, tops the list. The others in the Top 10 include the usual suspects, like the University of California, Berkeley, MIT, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell. Given Israel's tech powerhouse status, the only other non-US college is Tel Aviv University, which comes in at number 9.

One big reason why the IITs have pipped their globally well-known peers is because the report views all 16 IITs as one university. "The study does not exactly compare apples to apples by clubbing all IITs together, helping them rank higher purely by virtue of the fact that they collectively cast a wider net than any other university mentioned," says Sangeet Paul Choudary, an IIT-Kanpur and IIM- Bangalore alumnus and director of Singapore-based Platform Thinking Labs, a senior executive advisory firm.

So, does the matter of size take anything away from the fact that the IITians are a potent force in the world of entrepreneurship? Clearly not. "Less than 2 percent of the applicants get selected, and less than 0.1 percent make it to a top rated branch like computer science or electrical engineering, which is where most of tech-related entrepreneurship and VC activity takes place," adds Choudary.

Last year, IITs came in at number 10, when only companies that were founded in the US were taken into account. They have jumped six places this year as companies founded in India are also taken into account. These include e-commerce superstars such as Flipkart and Snapdeal. This reflects the fact that Indian startups now have the maturity to attract large amounts of capital.

The reasons IIT undergrads are so successful in securing institutional investment are not hard to gauge. They have one of the toughest entrances exams in the world and possess a close alumni network. Their top tech talent has been emigrating to the US for over three decades, they have a globally recognised brand name, and their students are entrepreneurial and risk-takers.

The difficulty of the joint entrance exam (JEE), which replaced the IIT-JEE in 2013, ensures only the cream get in. This means that only the brightest of the 1.4 million who took the test in 2014 snagged the 10,000-odd seats available.

"JEE picks some of the best who are willing to work hard on one specific problem—JEE itself—for many years. We are looking at a special segment that aligns with entrepreneurship. In addition the folks from IIT frequently come from middle class families and are keen to succeed," says Ashish Gupta, managing director of India-based VC firm, Helion Advisors.

33.2 percent of all companies founded by immigrants in the US had an Indian co-founder, according to a study by Kauffman Foundation, with Indians founding more technology and engineering firms than the next nine immigrant groups combined.

IITian founders include the likes of Vinod Khosla (Sun Microsystems), Bharat Desai (Syntel) and Gururaj Deshpande (Sycamore Networks). Some have become VC investors themselves, including Khosla (SKS Microfinance and Square) and Mayfield's Naveen Chadha (Akamai, Makemytrip and Persistent Systems).

Andy White, lead research analyst for PitchBook, says one reason India has become a hot-bed of entrepreneurship is international companies moving jobs to India. "Large corporations such as Microsoft and Google hire a larger number of employees from India. After building a resume at one of these major companies, employees are connected enough to make a foray into the world of startups," says White.

Sharad Sharma, co-founder of iSPIRT, a think-tank that champions the causes of startups, thinks the strong IIT alumni network is key. "This helps the entrepreneur be better prepared for VC fund raising. I think the better preparation makes a big difference."

IIM-L director given extension till 'further orders'

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

IIM-L director Dr Devi Singh has been given an extension till 'further orders', but the period of the extension has not been specified.

Jamshed J Irani, chairman, board of governors, IIM-L confirmed that Singh was given extension. He said, "A duly constituted selection committee has selected a new director and the appointment letter from the HRD ministry is awaited."

Devi Singh's term as director had ended on March 9 this year. He was given an extension of six months because the appointment of a new director could not be done then due to the General Election and the model code of conduct. The six-month extension period also ended on September 8.

Since then, there was a lot of speculation and curiosity among the faculty as to who will succeed Singh. Normally, the HRD ministry or chairman board of governors, IIM-L issues a letter to the faculty in advance stating the name of the new director. But this time there was complete silence on that front.

If sources are to be believed, the selection process for the new director is over. The MHRD, in consultation with the PMO, is yet to generate an appointment letter for the new director.

In June 2003, when Preetam Singh's term got over, the charge was given to senior faculty and dean Prof S Chakraborty who remained in office till August, a little over two months.

When Devi Singh's first term ended on August 24, 2008, the charge was given to prof PC Purwar. He held office till Singh was re-appointed for a second term on March 9, 2009. When Singh's term ended this March, he was given six months' extension as the selection process could not be carried out due to polls.

The official website of JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur has already announced Prof Devi Singh as its V-C designate.