Newspaper Clips
September 15, 2010

Hindustan Times ND 15/09/2010 P1

4 UP colleges to have 70% Dalit quota

Vikas Pathak

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NEW DELHI: With an eye on the 2012 assembly polls, the Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh is starting four engineering colleges with 85 per cent reservation — 70 per cent for Scheduled Castes (including Dalits) and Tribes and 15 per cent for Other Backward Classes.

The remaining 15 per cent will be general category seats.

This surpasses the existing quota pattern in UP of 27 per cent for OBCs and 22 per cent for SC/STs. But the state feels 85 per cent quota is justified as these colleges have been created with funds from the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).

Planning Commission guidelines mandate budgetary expenditure for SC/STs by the Centre and states, under SCSP, in proportion to the population of these groups. The SCSP includes the state's budgetary allocation and additional central assistance.

The colleges at Banda, Bijnore, Ambedkar Nagar and Azamgarh will start classes from the coming session. They have been named after Dalit icon B.R. Ambedkar and BSP mentor Kanshi Ram.

"They will be cheaper than private engineering colleges," said a UP government official, adding: "The state-level engineering entrance examination under UP Technical University has 50 per cent reservation. Reserved category candidates who pass this will be given the option to take admission in these colleges rank-wise."

Hindustan Times ND 15/09/2010 P4

Students won't check out of hostels, for now

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Hundreds of Delhi University students staying in college hostels may not need to vacate rooms on Wednesday as was originally planned.

The Commonwealth Games guests are expected to arrive in the national Capital only from October 1.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has told DU colleges that they will need hostel rooms only two or three days before the end of the month

and not by September 15 as the UGC had earlier indicated to the university.

Several college hostels underwent renovation earlier this year to accommodate guests of officials and athletes participating in the Comonwealth Games starting in the Capital from October 3.

Many Delhi University colleges had not allowed students to rejoin hostels after the vacations.

But some colleges like St. Stephen's have allowed their students to stay in hostels and

> We expect several students still staying in their hostels to benefit from this. They will not have to vacate their rooms till the month-end.
>
> **SENIOR UGC OFFICIAL**

have told them that they can stay put till almost the end of this month, sources said.

"We expect several hundreds of students still staying in their

college hostels to benefit as they will not need to vacate their rooms till the end of this month," a senior UGC official told *Hindustan Times.*

Indraprastha College, a girls college, has also offered rooms in the new hostel building it has built for the varsity students asked to vacate their rooms for the Commonwelath Games, the official said.

The university will remain closed during the Games — which continue till October 14 — and most residential outstation students are expected to

go back to their homes and are unlikely to have to struggle for accommodation during that period, the official argued.

The UGC's latest communication to the colleges comes after the Delhi government, UGC and the Games organizers faced flak for evicting students from their hostels to meet accommodation requirements for the Games.

Approximately 2,700 hostel rooms across DU and Jamia Millia Islamia will be used to house guests of Games participants.

Hindustan Times ND
15/09/2010   P5

Cops blame DU for delay in case probe

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NEW DELHI: Five months after radiation leak at Asia's largest scrapyard in Mayapuri killed a person and left seven critically ill, Delhi Police have temporarily suspended investigations into the case.

They said they are yet to receive a report from the University of Delhi (DU).

A radioactive 'gamma irradiator', negligently auctioned from a DU laboratory, was dumped in the scrapyard, exposing the victims to the harmful rays.

A three-member panel from DU was supposed to submit a fact-finding report. Based on that report, the Delhi Police was to conduct further investigations and make arrests.

"So far, we have not received the report and have sent them several reminders. As it is a technical issue and involves a DU laboratory, we thought it was better to go ahead with the investigations once we had their internal report," said Sharad Aggarwal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West).

DU Vice-Chancellor Deepak Pental said they have to submit the report, which is in its final stages, to the executive council. "It will be ready in about ten days and we would be able to say anything only after that."

The auction of the gamma irradiator was sanctioned by a ten-member DU panel without following the requisite guidelines.

DU had initiated a separate inquiry into the case to find out under what circumstances were the 'gamma irradiator' auctioned. "We have questioned all the ten members of the panel in the past and all of them have feigned ignorance about the lethal radioactive substance," said a senior police officer.
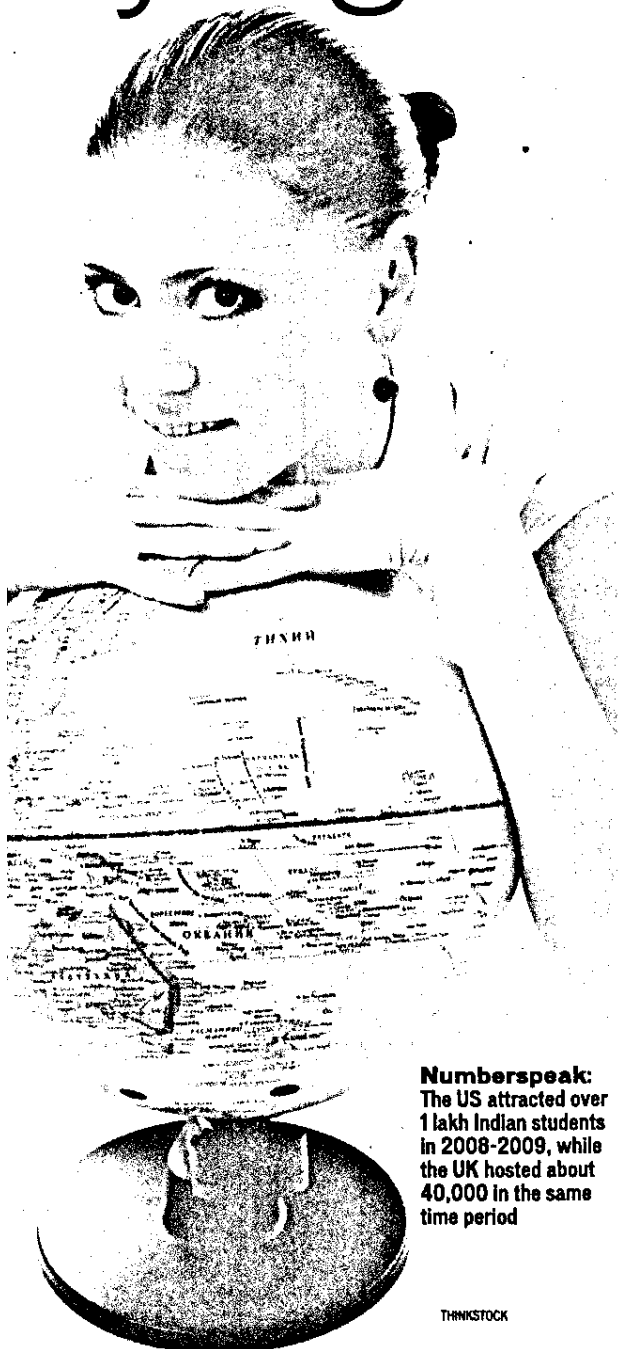
The panel comprised eight academic and two non-academic members.

The police registered a case of death due to negligence at Mayapuri police station after a 35-year-old worker, Rajendra Yadav, died on May 10.

The presence of radioactive material was first discovered on April 9 when scrapdealer Deepak Jain was admitted to Indraprastha Apollo Hospital with symptoms of "decaying skin" and "corroded nails".

Where are you flying off to?

There were 57,200 student visas issued this year by the UK as compared to the USA's 32,000, but the latter might still emerge as the top favourite among Indians, says **Ayesha Banerjee**

This created quite a buzz in the education circles. Was the UK replacing the US in the Indian student's heart? Data for 2010 on fresh visas for entry into colleges showed 32,000 student visas being issued by the US as against 57,200 by the UK (in 2009, the US issued 34,000 visas against the UK's 27,000). A November 2009 Open Doors report (published annually by the Institute of International Education with support from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, however, had listed India as the leading sending country to the US, with an encouraging 9 per cent increase (for colleges/universities).

Though visa issuances are a key trend indicator, says Peggy Blumenthal, chief operating officer of the Institute of International Education (IIE), "students may apply for visas to more than one country, and visa approvals for fall semester continue through September, so it is too soon to know how UK and US enrollment totals will compare."

Adam J Grotsky, executive director United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF), attributes the changes in the visa issuance numbers to "occasional peaks and troughs due to local factors that influence decisions to study in other countries". The buoyant Indian economy has certainly been a factor in persuading Indian students who might otherwise have considered graduate education in the US, to postpone their plans. The number of students going for undergraduate studies has been rising for some years now, albeit from a lower base, Grotsky adds.

Going by the 2008-09 enrollment figures for graduate degree programmes, says Blumenthal, "We do know that most of the over 1,00,000 Indian students studying in the United States as of 2008-09 were enrolled in multiple-year graduate degree programmes, while the UK hosted about 40,000 Indians students during the same time period. Recent surveys by the IIE and EducationUSA staff in India show that America remains the clear destination of choice for the vast majority of Indian students."

Blumenthal, like Grotsky,

Numberspeak:
The US attracted over 1 lakh Indian students in 2008-2009, while the UK hosted about 40,000 in the same time period

THINKSTOCK

United States of America   No. of Indian students: **1,03,260**

USA — Washington D.C.

Destination 'top favourite'

India remains the top sending country to the US, with a 9 per cent rise in numbers in 2008-09. That comes as no surprise, given the quality, choices, and flexibility of US education
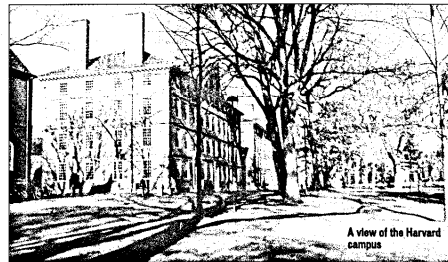
HT Horizons Correspondent

The United States as a study destination – or even otherwise – needs no introduction. It's a choice of hundreds of thousands of international students the world over. As of 2009, 1,03,260 Indian students were enrolled in US institutions, according to the US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF). This is 15.4 per cent of the total 6,71,616 international students in the US, as per the IIE Open Doors report. These are enrolment figures and not the number of new Indian students in 2009.

Why the US

According to the USIEF, the quality, choices, value and flexibility are some of the factors that make students choose the US over other countries. "The strict and rigorous accreditation systems ensure outstanding facilities, resources and faculty," says Shevanti Narayan, regional officer, Kolkata, USIEF, who was earlier at its Delhi office.

"A student can design his or her own programme, collaborate and network with other departments. An international student in the US has the opportunity to be exposed to a diverse student body and a multi-cultural society. Most importantly, there is a worldwide recognition of US degrees, equipping the student to take up a job in any country of his/her choice," she says, adding that the education system equips students better for their careers. "The long-term career prospects of a student are enhanced as the method of teaching is designed to apply theoretical knowledge and develop self-confidence, independent thinking and cross-cultural communication skills," she says.

A large number of scholarships, fellowships and assistantships are also available to

aspiring international students.

"Most universities in the US have an office for international students and services, which can provide a variety of services from campus orientation to assistance in resume preparation," says Narayan. Personal and career counselling services are also available.

"A US education helps the student emerge stronger in leadership, innovation, creativity, communication skills, networking and in realising their potential," said Narayan.

Programmes popular among Indian students

According to the USIEF, business and management, and engineering continue to be the top fields of study. Other popular disciplines include life sciences, computer science, economics, and health sciences. In recent years, there has been a growing demand for career-oriented areas such as environmental science/ studies, biotechnology, media and communication, art and design studies and law, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. USIEF reports an interest in US undergraduate studies and transfer admissions. However, this has not yet translated into sizeable numbers.

Session commences

Entry dates vary from one institution to another and from one department to another. The standard intake is for the fall session, which starts in August/September. Optional entry can be in January/ February (spring). Occasionally, there are some programmes for which candidates are admitted in the winter quarter (November/ December) and in summer (May/June).

When to apply

For the fall 2011 session, apply anytime from November 2010 to March 2011, depending on deadlines at individual departments and university.

How to apply and to/ through whom

Send your application along with required documents, such as academic credentials, writing samples, recommendation letters, professional resume, if applicable, and interest essay to the selected institutions. Prospective UG students may apply to 10-to-12 institutions and Master's aspirants from eight-to-10 and doctoral candidates between six and eight. Note that the number of universities that an aspirant applies to varies as per his/her field of study or specialisation.

Deadlines for UG and PG programmes

For the fall semester, application deadlines are usually from November of the preceding year to February 1 of the year in which entry is sought. For spring admissions, application deadlines range from July to October of the previous calendar year.

What is required as part of the application

US universities usually provide a checklist of all the documents required with appli-

cations. Include a cover note detailing the enclosures and order. If a specific, necessary document is not attached, explain why it is not there and by what date you will dispatch it.

General requirements include a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. For UG aspirants, SAT General is more or less mandatory. Selective schools and programmes require SAT subject tests scores, which are also useful while applying for financial aid. Graduate aspirants are required to take the GRE General (Graduate Record Examinations) and GRE Subject Tests, and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for B-schools. For the fall entry, take the tests anytime from May to October of the previous year.

Annual tuition fees

One typically requires $16,000 for a nine-month academic year. The tuition and fees range between $10,000 and $70,000 per academic year.

Accommodation options

Students have several accommodation choices to live on or near the campus. "The international programmes office generally sends the information," said Narayan. Apartments, renting rooms in a home, home stays, and dormitories are some of the options.

"Living on campus is usually the best for most international students at least for a semester or the first year. Most undergraduates have to do so in any case because there is at least a one-year on-campus residency requirement," she pointed out.

The food

"Moving to the US is a big cultural experience and food is a big part of it," says Manali Desai, an MBA candidate at Wharton. "There are plenty of options to eat out and explore various cuisines. You have to be open to explore new experiences. However, it is expensive to eat out and most students cook on their own." You can

easily fetch Indian food ingredients and other staples such as *roti, daal* and rice in most towns around universities. "All in all, it is a great learning process where one learns to adjust to new food or cooks by themselves and understand the value of home-cooked food," says Desai.

Scholarships/ financial support

Colleges and universities offer fellowships, scholarships and tuition fee waivers. Besides, assistantships and internships are available. The USIEF facilitates the administration of the Fulbright fellowship programme for students, researchers, lecturers, teachers and professionals. More details are available at *www.usief.org.in.*

Part-time jobs policy

International students are allowed to work for 20 hours a week on campus.

Student visa

Visas can be issued up to 120 days before the scheduled date of departure. To make sure that you have your visa before the first day of classes, apply as soon as possible and provide enough lead time to wait for processing, as well as for the interview.

Job opportunities in the US after graduation

Non-immigrant students completing degree programmes can go for Optional Practical Training (OPT) for 12 months. The US raised the length of OPT from 12 to 29 months for qualified F-1 non-immigrant students in the field of science, technology, engineering and maths.

A higher qualification gives you more mileage in the job market.

"An advanced degree provides with additional credentials to leverage advancement in a particular field," said Narayan. "Or, it could allow switching occupations and even careers. A Master's degree in a specific field usually gives access to advanced career opportunities in that field, although many graduate-degree holders make good use of their new credentials into positions in related fields or even some fields that are quite different from the degree itself. Certainly a professional degree is more specifically targeted towards advancement along a particular career track."

Top US universities

QS World University Rankings '10	Institution
2	Harvard University, www.harvard.edu
3	Yale University, www.yale.edu
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, web.mit.edu
8	University of Chicago, www.uchicago.edu
9	California Institute of Technology, www.caltech.edu
10	Princeton University, www.princeton.edu
11	Columbia University, www.columbia.edu
12	University of Pennsylvania, www.upenn.edu
13	Stanford University, www.stanford.edu
14	Duke University, www.duke.edu

SOURCE: QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS RESULTS 2010, WWW.TOPUNIVERSITIES.COM

A view of the Harvard campus

Freedom of choice is yours as the US offers you a variety of programmes. Featured here, the Statue of Liberty

THINKSTOCK

pay up

1 LOAF OF BREAD	$2 to $3
1 KG APPLES	$3 to $4
1 KG POTATOES	$2 to $3
1 LITRE MILK	$3 to $5
1 CUP OF COFFEE at a café	$3 to $5
1 CINEMA TICKET	$10 to $20
1 THEATRE TICKET	$20 to $100
1 TICKET TO THE MUSEUM	$5 to $25

Five steps to your US visa

Once you've received an official Certificate of Eligibility issued by your school (Form I-20 for the F-1 student visa), follow these steps while applying for the student visa

STEP 1
■ Pay application and VFS fees at selected branches of HDFC Bank

STEP 2
■ Pay the $200 SEVIS fee (*www.fmjfee.com*)

STEP 3
■ Schedule an appointment and complete application forms at *http://www.vfs-usa.co.in.* Click on 'Apply for a new Non-Immigrant Visa'. Follow the process and enter Barcode Sticker Code on visa receipt when asked. After successfully logging in, four items are visible, complete them and take out the prints for the same:
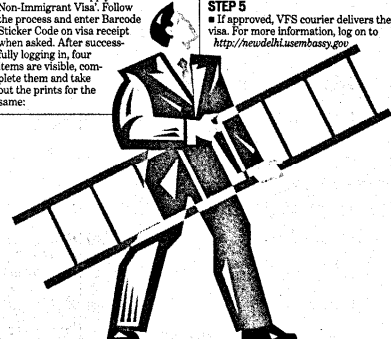
1) DS-160
4) SEVIS Information

STEP 4
■ Appear for your interview at the appointed time.
Bring the printed Appointment Letter, the Visa Application Forms, the SEVIS payment receipt, a recent photograph, and the original bank fee receipt and barcode stickers.

STEP 5
■ If approved, VFS courier delivers the visa. For more information, log on to *http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov*

Hindustan Times, ND p-9
15-Sep-10 Horizon

Taking educational consultancy to a new level

Megamind consultants are a leading overseas education consultancy based in New Delhi. At Megamind,the main objective is to guide students to pursue their education in foreign Colleges and Universities of academic excellence.They represent more than 100 Universities/Colleges across the globe and our professional service covers admission counseling, identifying universities and programs guidance for scholarships, Visa counseling, education loan, IELTS, travel and accommodation. The core activity lies in assisting students to make the right choice with regard to pursuing education in foreign institutions. They provide guidance regarding education in various countries such as UK, Canada, New Zealand and Singapore. Their partner institutions offer full range of programs for international students from undergraduate to postgraduate studies providing qualification in every discipline. They host various pre-departure sessions and destination preview program which helps the student to know about the education system, lifestyle, and work opportunities of that respective country. They also organize various in-house informative seminars and arrange institution representatives to offer on the spot admission to deserving students. They pride ourselves for providing friendly, personalized services with highest possible standards of professionalism, confidentiality, integrity and dedication to clients. We are an authorized IELTS facilitation centre for IDP and British Council. They also provide in-house IELTS training to our students.

Hindustan Times ND 15/09/2010   P8

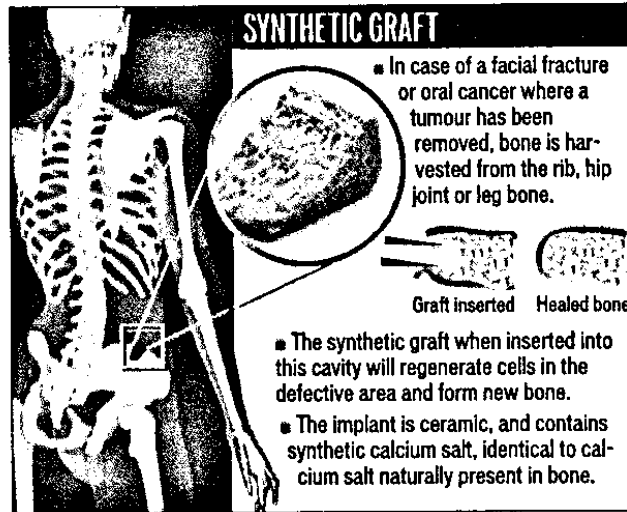# IIT-B develops synthetic bone implant

Snehal Rebello
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MUMBAI: Soon, a bone ailment will not require a series of complex surgical procedures where bone from another body part is harvested.

After a six-year ongoing study, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IITB) has developed a synthetic bone implant that can regenerate cells in the area to form new bone, which heals faster.

Combining disciplines of material science and biology, trials using the graft have been conducted on rabbits.

Four-week trials on the animals showed that while the control group showed an improvement in performance in four weeks, the treatment group showed improvement in two weeks for the same level of performance.

The team will now conduct 120-day animal trials; ethical clearance for which is expected to come through within a month.

Following this, the process to conduct human trials will

start. The team has applied for a patent.

Though applicable to all bones, their work has special focus on the jaw, skull, hands and legs.

"In case of a facial fracture

or oral cancer where the tumour has been removed, we harvest the bone from the rib, hip joint or leg bone or source tissues from the bone bank. But, it causes a lot of trauma for the patient with chances of disease transmission," said Dr Vivek Soni, maxillofacial surgeon and dean of Dr DY Patil Dental College.

"So, this synthetic graft with such a worldwide application will be very welcome."

SYNTHETIC GRAFT

● In case of a facial fracture or oral cancer where a tumour has been removed, bone is harvested from the rib, hip joint or leg bone.

Graft inserted   Healed bone

● The synthetic graft when inserted into this cavity will regenerate cells in the defective area and form new bone.

● The implant is ceramic, and contains synthetic calcium salt, identical to calcium salt naturally present in bone.

In case of a facial fracture or oral cancer, we harvest the bone from the rib, hip joint or leg bone ... But, it causes a lot of trauma for the patient.
Dr VIVEK SONI, surgeon

Hindustan Times, ND 15-Sep-10 p-9 horizon

Opening new doors for reliable foreign education

t could stand for responsible, respected, reliable and reputed, but CUAC is actually the short form for the Canadian University Application Centre. The strong positive words are not an exaggeration. The CUAC is the most credible and successful name in India promoting access to Canada's world class public universities. This October, the CUAC will hold its third annual Education Fair in Delhi. Representatives from five Canadian universities will travel to India to meet with students and parents. The University of Windsor, University of Victoria, University of Guelph, Saint Mary's University and Algoma University - will all be touring north India in late October. The Delhi Fair is set for Sunday, October 24th at the Intercontinental Hotel Nehru Place.

"We have an overwhelming positive response to this opportunity we present for excellent Indian students," says CUAC Director Mel Broitman. "The Canadian High Commission supports our work to promote the quality of Canada's public universities, and to let Indian schools and colleges know that Canada is keen to have good students continue their education abroad in Canada."

A Canadian degree is also a fast track for those who want to work and settle in Canada. Current Canadian law grants up to a three-year work permit for those who complete their Canadian degrees. Applying and receiving Permanent Residence status with a combina-

tion of a Canadian degree and work experience is almost a certainty, and can take be completed within one year from graduation.

CUAC universities have hundreds of degrees to offer at the Bachelors and Masters levels. Engineering, Sciences and Business are the most popular among Indian students, but anyone who wants an Arts programs have the full selection. "Attending a CUAC university is the same as going to the best universities in the world," says Broitman. "World-class quality is about teaching and resources." More than 3,000 PhD professors fill out the faculty of CUAC classrooms, and research facilities stretch well beyond billions of dollars. The CUAC is not for everyone. Since the standard of education is high, the requirements are for good students. Class 12 graduates need to be above 70 per cent and Masters Applicants must have first division Bachelor marks.

Hindustan Times, ND 15-Sep-10 P-9 Horizon

Studying abroad made easy

With the competition rising and admissions to engineering, medical and management institutions becoming almost impossible in India, students are looking at studying abroad options more keenly. However, applying to universities abroad is a grueling task. It requires time and patience. Manya Education Private Limited, a pioneer in admissions counseling services in India, offers a step-by-step package to a student applying to a foreign university. The expert faculty aids the student in preparation for SAT, GRE and

GMAT through a network of centers in the metros. After researching many colleges and programmes in depth, the admission counselors shortlist the universities/colleges according to the student's profile, his scores, personality and preferences. The application to each of the universities is then assigned to a trained editor who strategizes and helps the student to carve out a strong application. The services also include interview preparation and advising the student on his visa application.

Hindustan Times, ND 15-Sep-10   p-10 Horizon

Australia   No. of Indian students: 78,000

Studying Down Under

Australia   Canberra

Australia has been an important education destination for Indian students even though student security issues did put pressure on student numbers last year

HT Horizons Correspondent

Samvit Yenamandra, a mechanical engineering student from RV College of Engineering, Bangalore, applied for a transfer to Deakin University in Australia, Geelong. And, he has never regretted his decision. "Deakin was recommended to me by my principal as he was trying to initiate a twinning programme between the two institutions," he says, adding that studying abroad gives you exposure to the outside world and helps you acquire skills that make you compete in the real world. However, one needs to be cautious until one becomes familiar with a new country.

Besides US and UK, Australia has been an important education destination for Indian students even though student security issues did put pressure on student numbers last year. A recent report

in *The Age* newspaper said that the number of Indians granted student visas in Australia during the last financial year has fallen to 29,721, less than half of the number in 2008-09.

Why Australia?

However, Australia remains one of the popular destinations because the Australian education system is similar in structure to the Indian education system and provides a high standard of teaching, state-of-the-art facilities and a strong research focus. Australian qualifications and institutions are globally recognised (in India they are recognised by the Association of Indian Universities).

Courses popular among Indian students

There were 78,000 Indian student enrollments in Australia as at June 2010, which demon-

strates the continuing popularity of Australia as a valued study destination. Of these, 19,000 were undertaking higher education studies (including 12,000 Masters by Coursework and 5,500 Bachelors and 550 Doctoral). The most preferred courses for Indian students are management and commerce, society and culture, information technology, engineering and related technologies.

The session

Most of the Australian institutions have two intakes in a year. The first is in February and the second is in July. Increasingly many institutions have started having multiple intakes. Most of this information one can get from the university handbooks. Whichever semester one wishes to join, one needs to start preparing for it minimum 5 - 6 months before. One should apply well in advance so that one has

enough time to get a student visa. The student visa processing time is currently 12 weeks.

Tests, exams students need to clear

The main entrance exams that students need to clear to join up at Australian universities include:

GMAT: required at certain universities for entrance to their MBA degree. Details available at www.gmac.com

SAT/ GRE: not required for admission to Australian institutions for any course

UMAT/ ISAT: required for entry to MBBS degree. Details available at www.acer.edu.au

IELTS: IELTS is a mandatory requirement for a student visa for Australia. TOEFL is not accepted for getting a student visa. Please check the English proficiency requirements for the institutions separately. They might require a higher IELTS score as compared to the requirement for a student visa.

In case a student falls short of the required score, the students can still apply for a student visa provided they seek admission in an ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) course in Australia before undertaking the main academic course.

This course will help the student to reach the desired English language proficiency required for undertaking the main academic course. The test cost is ₹7200.
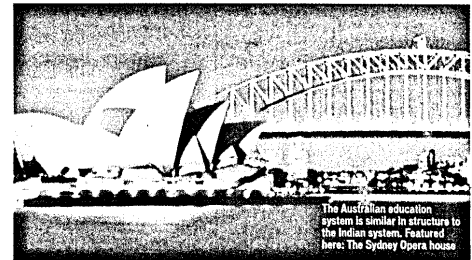
Scholarships/financial support

The Endeavour Awards is the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship programme providing opportu-

nities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions including India to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia.

It comprises Endeavour Study, Endeavour Research and Endeavour Professional awards. Students, scholars and professionals from around the world can use an award to undertake short or long term study, research or professional development in Australia.

The Executive Awards are for high achieving personnel working in professional fields (such as business, industry, research and development, education or government) in India or Australia to work in an associated fields (such as a business organisation, research centre, university or a government agency) in each others countries. The awards are for one to four months for the award recipient to develop or upgrade their professional skills and knowledge. The awards focus on building skills and knowledge through a host work environment rather than through formal enrolment in a study programme at a host institution.

The Endeavour Research Fellowships are aimed at high achieving scholars from India and to further develop knowledge and skills in the field of research. The Endeavour Postgraduate Awards provide financial support for high achieving international students to undertake a postgraduate qualification either by coursework or research in their chosen field of study in Australia for up to three years to undertake a postgraduate qualification at a Masters or PhD level either by coursework or research in

any field of study in Australia.

The Prime Minister's Australia Asia Awards are scholarships for the 'best and brightest' university students from Australia and Asia. They provide a unique opportunity for postgraduates and undergraduates to undertake not only international study and research, but also internships. The Australian Government has committed A$14.9 million over four years to establish this scholarship programme.

Jobs policy

International students coming to Australia are required to show that they have sufficient funds to meet their course, living and travel

expenses for the duration of their stay as part of their visa application.

In addition, international student visa holders are granted permission to work up to 20 hours per week

while their course is in session (excluding any work undertaken as a registered component of their course of study or training) and unrestricted hours during holiday periods.

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pay up

BREAD	$2.05 per loaf	
LUNCH-DINNER	$252+ per month ($9+ per day)	
TRANSPORT	$100+ per month	
TOOTHBRUSH	$2.50+	
NOODLES	$1.20 per packet	
SOAP	$0.50+	

The Australian education system is similar in structure to the Indian system. Featured here: The Sydney Opera house

THINKSTOCK

Steps to your Australian visa

The requirements for an Australian student visa are relatively simple:

STEP 1 An Offer of Acceptance or a confirmation of enrolment- before a student can apply for a student visa, a valid letter of offer from a CRICOS registered Australian	institute is required: visit www.cricos.dest.gov.au **STEP 2** For detailed information, please refer to www.immi.gov.au

Top Australian universities

QS World University Rankings '10	University
20	Australian National University (ANU)
37	University of Sydney
38	University of Melbourne
43*	University of Queensland
46	University of New South Wales (UNSW)
61	Monash University
89	University of Western Australia (UWA)

Minority varsity plan in land, fund troubles

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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LOOKING FOR BAIL OUT

- Minority affairs ministry plan was to set up three minority universities aimed at improving higher education access to Muslims.
- The ministry has now asked the HRD to help implement the plan.
- But the HRD ministry is already stretched for funds with its higher education allocation for the XIth Five Year Plan distributed over the dozens of old and new institutions.

NEW DELHI: A combination of land disputes and fund constraints is threatening to delay and potentially derail an ambitious minority affairs ministry plan to set up three minority universities that were aimed at improving higher education access to traditionally deprived Muslims.

Salman Khurshid's ministry has asked the HRD ministry to help implement the project after the plan to start the varsities on Wakf land ran into trouble, senior government officials have told *HT*.

But the HRD ministry is already stretched for funds with its higher education allocation for the XIth Five Year Plan distributed over the dozens of old and new institutions.

In the absence of funds, the HRD ministry is now mulling setting up centres of the Aligarh Muslim University instead of independent and new universities, a ministry official confirmed when approached.

"With the minority affairs ministry asking us to take over the project, there is a thought that it may make more sense to set up centres of the AMU instead," the source said.

AMU is already setting up three centres in Murshidabad, Mallapuram and Kishanganj. AMU degrees are likely to carry greater credibility than degrees offered by brand new universities.

Under the minority affairs ministry proposal, first mooted over two years back, the government would set up minority varsities in Rajasthan, Bihar and north Karnataka.

Minority institutions are guarded by the Constitution and Supreme Court judgments from government interference on administrative matters.
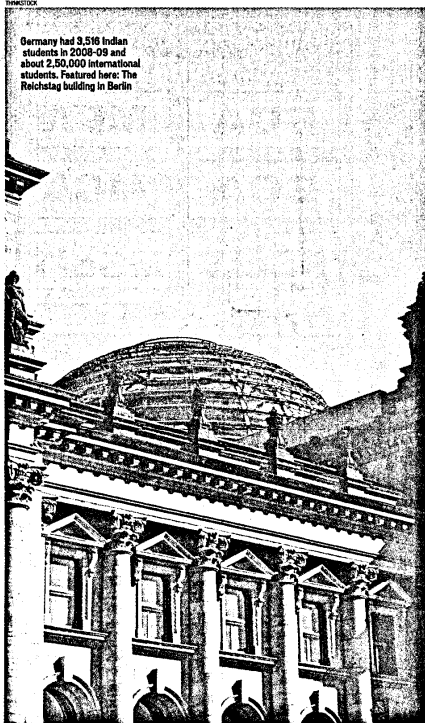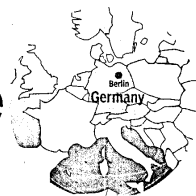
The proposal was a crucial component of the UPA's plans to help uplift the educational standards of Muslims. The Justice Rajinder Sachar panel appointed by the PM had through its report revealed that less than four per cent of Muslims are graduates or diploma holders, as opposed to a national average of seven per cent.

But the plan has been dogged by lack of clarity over funding from the start, sources said.

Central government universities are funded through the UGC. But the UGC and the HRD ministry had no funds allocated for this project by the time it was drafted.

Germany **No. of Indian students: 3,516**

Banking on the hi-tech advantage

Germany had 3,516 Indian students in 2008-09 and about 2,50,000 international students. Featured here: The Reichstag building in Berlin

Head here for the engineering programmes and excellent research facilities

HT Horizons Correspondent

Germany is one the major study abroad destinations for thousands of international students. It had 3,516 Indian students in 2008-09 and about 2,50,000 international students. Why so? World-class engineering to begin with, which is one of the reasons students and researchers from around the world flock to Germany. Other features of this study destination include:
■ International study programmes and excellent research opportunities. There are 355 officially recognised institutions of higher education in Germany which offer more than 13,500 degree programmes.
■ Studying in Germany means being part of an international, highly-qualified academic community.
■ Germany's higher education institutes enjoy an excellent reputation.
■ Most universities in the country are state-funded and thus the fee is subsidised.
■ Germany is an international player with an interdisciplinary approach.

Popular programmes

Engineering, chemistry, biosciences, business administration and nano-science are popular with Indian students.

Session commences
Winter semester starts in October (major intake) and summer semester in April.

When to apply
Start searching for options by January-February and apply by May for winter semester.

How to apply
Apply online through a consortium of 122 universities, known as Uni-assist (*www.uni-assist.de*) or directly to the university.

Deadlines for courses
For Indians who mostly wish to pursue international degree programmes (delivered throughout or partly in English), application deadlines are from March to May of the year enrollment is sought.

Application checklist
Applicants need to submit their university application form along with authenticated copies of:
■ Educational certificates
■ CV (required, at times)
■ TOEFL/IELTS score

■ A copy of your passport
■ SAT/ GRE/ GMAT score
■ Statement of Purpose, college essay or professional interest essay (some institutes require it)
■ Work experience certificates (if required)

Tuition fees for UG and PG
Fees range from €200 to €600 (₹12,000 to ₹36,000) a semester in state-funded institutions (90 per cent of German universities are government-run).

Accommodation options
For hostel accommodation, you pay €200 to €300 a month. Depending on the city you live in, you are likely to pay between €185 and €345 per month for accommodation. You can opt for private accommodation and shared apartments (WG) are cheap.

The food
"In terms of food, interestingly I have never felt away from India here," says Vikas Shabadi, pursuing a fast-track PhD programme at the Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt. "If you wish to cook at home, you can find everything you need to cook typical 'Indian *khana*' here. There are also many Indian stores around where you can get things like spices, wheat flour, pickles and everything else you need."

Financial support
Universities have a limited number of scholarships, offered only to outstanding enrolees. About 15-to-20 per cent of Indian students in Germany receive funding every year.
  The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, *www.daaddelhi.org*) scholar-

Four steps to your German visa

Once you have an admission letter from a university, apply for the visa

STEP 1
■ Book an appointment for an interview at the German Embassy through the helpline number 0120-6641070. The appointment has to be scheduled with VFS Global Services, which manages the German Application Centres.

STEP 2
■ Fill the application forms (two) and prepare all the required documents, given on *http://www.new-delhi.diplo.de/Vertretung/ newdelhi/en/01/Visa__Req uirements/UB__Resident_ _Permit.html*

STEP 3
■ With all necessary documents in place, call from the embassy come for the interview.

STEP 4
■ Once your visa has been approved by the embassy, submit your passport and required documents for securing a visa at the embassy/VFS Delhi centre. More details are given on *new-delhi.diplo.de*.

STEP 4
■ Track your passport online or through the SMS service. And wait for a decision on the application.

pay up

LOAF OF BREAD	Euro 1.50	
VEGETABLES (like potato)	Euro 1	
1 LITRE OF MILK	Euro .50-1	
TICKET TO A MUSEUM	Euro 2-8	
ONE CUP OF COFFEE	Euro 2.50	
ONE KG OF APPLES	Euro 2	

Top German universities

QS World University Rankings '10	University
51	Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, www.uni-heidelberg.de
58	Technische Universität München, www.tum.de
66	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, www.uni-muenchen.de
70	Freie Universität Berlin, http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/
97	Universität Freiburg, www.uni-freiburg.de

ship database contains extensive information.

Part-time jobs policy
Without a work permit, students are allowed to work off-campus for up to 90 full days or 180 half days (four hours a day) a year. Many federal states, however, allow students do jobs only during their summer break and not at other times.

Job opportunities
After graduating from a German university, a student can stay on in the country for up to one year to seek a job in line with his/her education. On finding suitable employment, a "residence permit for the purpose of employment" is required to take the job up. Legal preconditions on residence must be met.
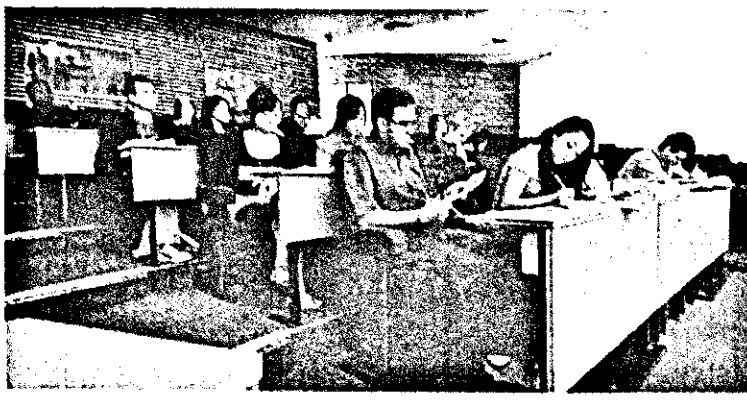
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news brief

US varsities draw more applications for executive MBA

As per the figures revealed by GMAC (Graduate Management Admission Council), 59 per cent of executive MBA (EMBA) programmes have reported an increase in the number of applications, reversing a three-year decline. This was one of the programmes reporting highest increase in volume among all MBA programmes. The other interesting findings of the survey are as follows:
■ Nearly two-thirds of US full time MBA programmes (65 per cent) indicated that the largest number of foreign applications they received was submitted by Indian citizens
■ In GMAT testing year 2010, graduate management programmes in the United States received the majority of international score reports from test takers from Asia-Pacific region
■ 43 percent of the part-time programmes in the survey reported a year-on-year increase in applications volume, the same as in 2009
■ In testing year 2010, India was the top foreign country that sent score reports to Canadian graduate management programmes
■ 59 per cent of these programmes saw more applications in 2010 as compared to last year
■ Asia-Pacific region continues to be the leading source of international applicants to the United States.

Hindustan Times ND
15/09/2010   P25

Indians Number 2 cybercrime victims

Salil Mekaad

■ salil.mekaad@hindustantimes.com

BANGALORE: Indians are most victimised by hackers and cyber-criminals after the Chinese, says a report released by Symantec, the makers of Norton security software.

But Indian web surfers might also be safer from the cyber criminals because of their lying habits. The report finds India as the third least honest nation on the net after China and Brazil.

Over 76 per cent of Indian web surfers have fallen victim to cyber crimes including computer viruses, online credit card frauds and identity theft, making India the most victimised nations after China, where as much as 83 per cent of users have been attacked by online criminals, says the report.

Symantec's Regional Consumer Product Marketing Manager David Hall said cyber criminals can use viruses and Trojans (that give remote computer access) to gather personal

VIRTUAL TOP 5?

The least honest nations on the Internet

1. China	58%	
2. Brazil	56%	
3. India	55%	
4. Germany	51%	
5. Italy	48%	

information such as mothers' maiden names and data on birth, driving licences, credit cards and passwords.

"These identities are known to be sold as complete package in the cyber world for prices as low as US$ 10," Hall said.

The study on the human impact of cyber crimes across 14 nations showed that only 8 per cent Indians think that they would become victim of a cyber attack. Once victimized, solving a cyber crime would take around 44 days and cost Rs 5,262 in India, in comparison to 28 days and US $334 (Rs. 15,700) elsewhere in the world.

Hindustan Times ND
15/09/2010   P25

TCS TO BUILD ₹1,000-CR TRAINING CAMPUS

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government on Tuesday handed over 86 acres of land to IT major Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) to build a ₹1,000 crore billion training and development centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

The new campus, which will be completed in three years, will house 10,000 professionals and offer company's high-end curriculum to those who are joining at entry level. This will be the largest training centre of the TCS.

"The 10,000-seat campus will set the global benchmark for corporate learning institutions in terms of the physical infrastructure available as well as the holistic professional and personal development programs that will be available," said N. Chandrasekaran, CEO, TCS.
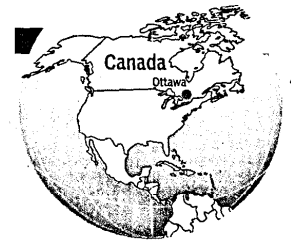
The new campus will be a big boost to the Technocity.

Canada

No. of Indian students: 10,000

Quality at your service

Canada
Ottawa

Just north of the US is a land that promises one of the world's best education experiences
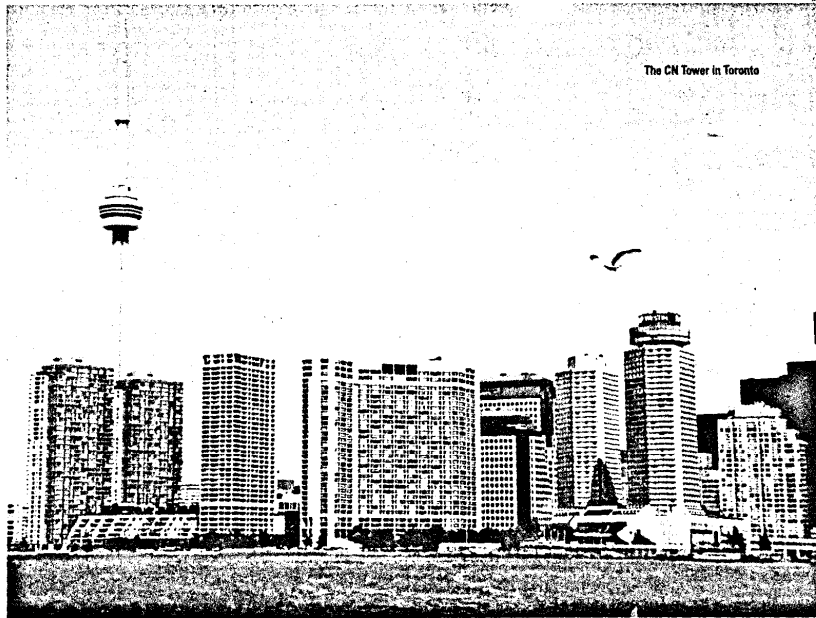
HT Horizons Correspondent

Why Canada? For several reasons, including the fact that the country has one of the world's best education systems offering options for high-tech research across all levels of study.
■ A wide array of study programmes and the co-operative education programme. Most universities offer the co-op programme in various areas, particularly in engineering. This offers students an excellent opportunity to gain practical experience from industry during their enrolment period. For more details, visit www.educationau-incanada.ca
■ Value for money (vis-à-vis cost of education and living).
■ Various policies and schemes to draw students and researchers.

You have the option of permanent immigration. Canada created an immigration programme called the Canadian Experience Class, specifically for international graduates. This programme is meant to help those with Canadian degrees and/or work experience in a skilled trade or profession or technical occupation in Canada to immigrate permanently. For more details, visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website, www.cic.gc.ca.
■ Sizeable Indian population and friendly people.

■ Beautiful country, considered safe, with a good quality of life.

The Indian student intake in 2009 was a little over 6200. It is estimated that the total number of Indian students in Canada is about 10,000. As for the previous year, according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 3244 Indian students went to Canada, while their total population there that year was 7314. In all, the country has 130,000 international students, according to official data.

Popular programmes
These include engineering (computer, electrical, mechanical etc), business (MBA and BBA), computer science and information technology, animation, arts (psychology, political science, international relations, sociology, gender studies etc).

Session commences
The university and college session begins in September. Some institutions have January intakes as well.

When to apply
Deadlines vary, but in general you should apply at least eight months before your desired programme commences. Check with individual institutions where you wish to study.

How to apply
Most institutions and provinces now have an online application form. Application forms for most institutions can be downloaded directly from their websites. Some provinces have a common application form. For Ontario, the central point is the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (www.ouac.on.ca) while for Alberta, it's the Alberta Learning Information Service (http://alis.alberta.ca). British Columbia has the Post-Secondary Application Service of BC (www.pas.bc.ca).

Deadlines - UG and PG
For the fall (September) session, which has the biggest intake, the deadlines can be as early as December to March.

Popular courses like engineering and business get filled up quickly. If seats are available, colleges will accept applications till April-May.

Application documents
Every Canadian institution has its own policy on entry requirements. Therefore, shortlist your target university and contact it for details.
Generally, the following are required.
■ Completed application form
■ Mark sheets [Class X, XI and XII (pre-Boards) in case of UG aspirants or college/university results for Master's or doctorate contenders] attested by your school/institute. If your school gives you grades for XII, include these as well.

■ TOEFL or IELTS score (if the test has not yet been taken, indicate its date). Some institutions prefer to receive test scores directly from TOEFL or IELTS.
Most Canadian universities and colleges do not require the SAT score.
■ GMAT scores (for MBA studies, if applicable)
■ Statement of Purpose (SoP) or study plan
■ Recommendation letters
■ Full portfolio (for creative subjects like animation, performing arts and fashion)

Annual tuition fees
The annual tuition and student fee for colleges and universities is somewhere around C$8,000 to C$18,000.
Visit www.educationau-incanada.ca for more details, including study costs.

Accommodation options
Available in most institutions. Room and dining costs may be around C$5,000 to C$10,000 a year. Private accommodation is generally cheaper.
The monthly rent for a one-room apartment can be C$500 to C$1100, depending on the city, according to www.studyincanada.com. You may roughly need between C$15,000 and C$30,000 for your tuition and living expenses. Contact your chosen college/university for more details.

The food
Being multi-cultural, Canadian cities present many palatable gastronomic options. You can find many restaurants dishing out Indian/sub-continental fare. Says Amit V. Tacker, a Carleton University alumnus, "In my time, (there was) not much availability of Indian food and culture but now the Indian community is much more widespread and visible..."

Scholarships
A number of universities offer entrance scholarships based on candidate's Class XII marks. Graduate students have several options, such as scholarships, bursaries, teaching or research assistantships, grants and fellowships. For more details, visit www.scholarships.gc.ca.

Part-time jobs
An international student is allowed to work on campus (without a work permit), and off campus for up to 20 hours a week during terms and full time in scheduled breaks, provided s/he maintains "satisfactory academic results", according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada. For more details, log on to www.cic.gc.ca.

Job opportunities
Canada's Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allows international students completing eligible programmes to work there for up to three years across Canada. The permit cannot be valid for more than the duration of your study programme. Further details on http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp.

The CN Tower in Toronto

pay up

GROCERIES FOR ONE PERSON (per month)	C$200-300
A DOZEN EGGS	C$2-3
A BAG OF RICE (2 KG)	C$2-6
LOCAL BUS TICKET	C$2.25
AVERAGE RESTAURANT MEAL	C$10-25 per person

Top US universities

QS World University Rankings '10	Institution
19	McGill University, www.mcgill.ca
29	University of Toronto, www.utoronto
44	University of British Columbia, www.ubc.ca
78	University of Alberta, www.ualberta.ca

SOURCE: QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2010, WWW.TOPUNIVERSITIES.COM

TCS plans learning hub for Rs 1,000 cr

10,000-seat centre in Kerala to train fresh recruits
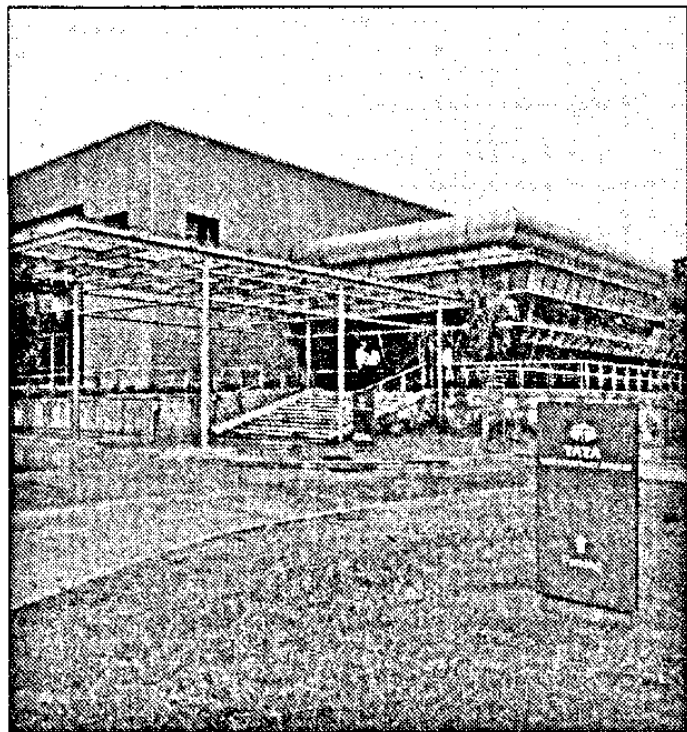
S SHYAMALA

Chennai

INDIA'S largest software company Tata Consultancy Services announced on Tuesday that it would build a 10,000-seat training centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The company will invest close to Rs 1,000 crore on the facility to train fresh recruits.

"We are expanding our presence significantly in Kerala where our primary training centre has been located since 1997," N Chandrasekaran, CEO and MD of TCS, said in a statement. The learning and development centre will be located on 82 acres in the Technopark region. Construction will commence in 2011-12 and is expected to be completed in 36 months.

The new campus will become the learning hub for TCS and will be connected with all of its other satellite training facilities across the globe. The company had 1.63 lakh employees as of March 31, 2010 located across 140 offices in 42 countries.

About 17,500 trainees

CENTRAL HUB: The construction of the new campus will commence in 2011-12 and is expected to be completed in 36 months

completed the Initial Learning Programme last financial year and 9,151 new technology and process certifications were given as part of its Continuous Learning Programme.

TCS purchased fixed assets for about Rs 1,044.79 crore in 2010 as against Rs 1,147 crore in 2009. The firm added 12-lakh sq ft across Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Noida during the year. Number of seats available in India as at March 31, 2010 was 1.09 lakh as against 1.01 lakh as at March 31, 2009.

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Isro to launch 8 spacecraft annually

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai

ISRO is gearing up to launch eight spacecraft annually to increase revenue and meet global technology demand, a top official of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre said on Tuesday.

"Right now, we have four launches including GSLVs and PSLVs per year. The process is on to launch eight spacecraft a year to meet global demand," VSSC director PS Veeraraghavan said.

On steps taken by Isro to double the number of launches, he said, "We need to increase throughout in getting various subsystems from industries and then increase internal work."

Big plans

- Right now, Isro has four launches including GSLVs and PSLVs every year

- India earns about Rs 1,000 crore through commercial satellite launches

- Isro is also planning to set up the third launch pad for human space mission

On the commercial aspect, he said India earns about Rs 1,000 crore through commercial satellite launches. Through Indian remote sensing satellite and through other satellite launches, we are getting revenue of Rs 1,000 crore per year. This is growing at the rate of 20 to 30 per cent every year, Veeraraghavan said.

Noting hat India has become sixth in the world in space technology, he said Isro proposed to launch a GSLV and PSLV rocket simultaneously this December within a one week span. Schedule launch is going to be in December. At present, the rocket is being assembled. PSLV will carry three satellites and GSLV will carry INSAT 5C, he said.

On Chandrayaan-2 mission, he said it would be launched by GLSV instead of PSLV. He also said that Isro has planned to set up its third launch pad for human space mission.

FTII likely to become a deemed university soon

MICHAEL GONSALVES

Pune

THE Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is likely to become a deemed university shortly. At present, the Pune-based institute, under the ministry of information and broadcasting, confers only diplomas.

"We have applied to the Association of Indian Universities to declare our two and three-year post-graduate courses equivalent to masters degrees," Pankaj Rag, IAS and director of FTII, told Financial Chronicle. The institute has also asked its one-year post-graduate courses to be recognised as post-graduate diploma courses, he added. "We hope to become a university shortly," Rag said.

"FTII imparts world class training and attracts students from all over the world," FTII professor and dean Iftekhar Ahmed, said.

Students who wanted to pursue PhDs were constrained to spend two more years at other universities to obtain masters' degree, he added. "A university status will boost research and innovation at FTII which in turn will spurt growth in film and TV industry in the country," Ahmed said.

FTII officials said that the government had declared it as a "centre of excellence" and various committees such as the Khosla Committee, Parliamentary Committee, Government Estimate Committee since 70s through 90s have recommended it to be converted at par with IITs. "FTII's production facilities are at par with international film and television schools and it is time it got an equivalent status," Samar Nakhate, former professor and dean at FTTI, said.

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Harvard dropout Gates pitches *Superman* film on awful schools

BLOOMBERG
New York

BILL GATES knows the importance of education, even if he did drop out of Harvard University to start Microsoft. That's why he's promoting *Waiting for Superman*, Oscar-winner Davis Guggenheim's new documentary on the sorry state of US public schools.

Speaking at a conference at the Toronto International Film Festival, where the movie was shown, Gates said US schools aren't producing enough skilled workers for high-tech companies like Microsoft. "It's harder to find these people in the US than you would expect,"

said Gates, who also appears in the film. "If you look at the computer science department in top colleges, the majority of students are not US born. That says something about our education system."
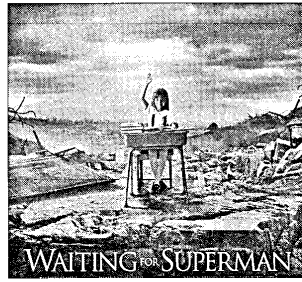
Gates said the US must improve the system to compete in the global economy.

Gates, whose charitable foundation plans to spend $3 billion on education over the next five to seven years, was joined at the press conference by director Davis Guggenheim, producer Lesley Chilcott, education reformer Geoffrey Canada and musician John Legend.

Guggenheim, who won an Oscar for the Al Gore

"IF you look at the computer departments in top colleges, the majority of students are not US born"

Bill Gates
Chairman, Microsoft

EDUCATION MESS: *Waiting for Superman* is Davis Guggenheim's new documentary on the sorry state of US public schools

global warming documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, said the decline in US schools has reached a crisis stage. According to the filmmakers, 1.2 million US students drop out of high school each year and teenagers rank toward the bottom in math and science among 30 developed nations.

Guggenheim said, "Erosion of education has been going on for a long time. Incremental changes can no longer do it. We have to make fundamental changes."

Waiting for Superman tells the story through the eyes of five schoolchildren and their families. Four live in poor inner-city neighbourhoods, while the other

comes from an affluent areas. But they all face enormous challenges in getting decent education.

Canada says teachers' unions are a major roadblock to education reform. Under the system, it's almost impossible to fire any teacher with tenure. Just spending more money won't solve the problem. Over the past 30 years, the amount spent annually on each public school student has more than doubled. During the same period, however, reading and math scores have barely changed.

Gates said even if major changes were made in the system today, it would take years to see the results.

HC relief for students denied promotion by IP varsity

New Delhi: In a relief to over a hundred students pursuing technical and professional courses, the Delhi high court on Tuesday asked Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) to promote them to academic year 2010-2011.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw allowed a petition filed by 107 students against the

university after they were denied promotion to second year, stating that the amendment in the Indraprastha Vishwa Vidyalay Act will have no retrospective effect.

The university did not promote about 3,500 students from various courses like BTech, MBA, MCA and others on the ground that the criteria for promotion under In-

draprastha Vishwa Vidyalay Act for next academic year was amended by the board of management in August last year and the new criteria would be applicable only on the batches of 2009-10 and next year onwards.

Alleging the decision of the management was communicated neither to their colleges nor to them, the students from

various colleges under the university in the National Capital Territory Region (NCR) had approached HC. Their lawyer submitted that the students were suddenly denied promotion to academic year 2010-2011 in July this year.

According to the petitioners, earlier, students had the liberty to carry back all papers in which they had failed to next

year and the only criteria at the time of completion of the final year was that they have to have minimum number of credits. But now, a student will be promoted to next academic year if he/she secures 50 per cent of the total credit of the ensuing year and 90 per cent of the total credit of all previous academic years, the students said. TNN

Ohio offshoring ban not welcome, says Sharma

New Delhi: India on Tuesday said that several actions taken by US with regard to offshore outsourcing and other trade issues are "not welcome at all". "Indian IT industry has made a notable contribution which is acknowledged globally, even in the US. It is Indian entities which are responsible for creating jobs, even now when there are big job losses," commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma told reporters here.

Hoping that the scheduled India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting on September

21 would be "constructive", Sharma said the many actions taken by the US that adversely impact the economic engagement "are not welcome". Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has banned offshore outsourcing by government departments. Earlier, the US increased professional visa fees significantly to fund a $600 million programme to secure its border with Mexico.

Sharma and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk will co-chair the TPF, which is the principal trade dialogue between the US and India. He

said that data suggests that Indian IT companies have created over 2.5 lakh jobs in the US in the last three years.

"We hope that there will be a constructive and appropriate approach, because both the countries are strategic partners," he added. He said the protectionist measures being resorted to by several developed countries after the 2008 economic meltdown would be counterproductive. Sharma said lessons should be learnt from a similar mistake in the form of the Smoot Hawley Act of 1930. AGENCIES
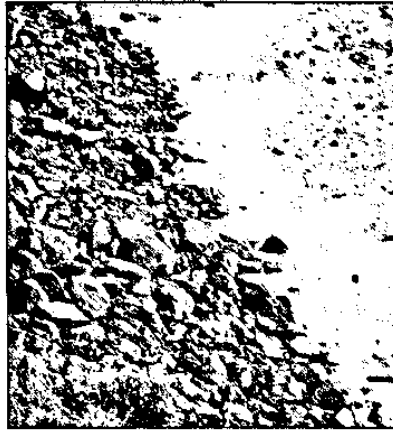
'Oil spills frequent, yet Mumbai port all at sea on handling crisis: Experts

Viju B and Simit Bhagat | TNN

Mumbai: Environmentalists have asked the government to find ways to curb the impact of oil spill that has been systemically destroying the beaches of Alibaug and Mumbai. "The Mumbai Port Trust, in spite of its responsibilities under International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and Maritime Pollution (MARPOL), does not seem to have any disaster management plan in place to provide quick response to oil spills and that oil remains indefinitely in the coastal waters of Mumbai," Sumaira Abdulali of Awaaz foundation said.

"It is apparent that such oil spills are a regular occurrence over several years, that there is every likelihood of their entry into the food chain and that the effects are long

DISASTER IN THE MAKING

lasting," she said.

TOI on Monday described how an oil spill from MSC Chitra that occurred last week has polluted the Colaba coast. "Oil is a complex mixture containing substances like benzene, heavy metals, arsenic, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons — all known to cause human health problems such as cancer, birth defects or miscarriages," Abdulali said.

Meanwhile, soil samples tested by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) have revealed high levels of contamination from the oil spill affected Awas Beach and INS Kunjali site in Navy Nagar.

"The latest samples have revealed that the soil at Awas Beach contained 60,000 mg/kg of total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH), while the international permissible limit is 1000 mg/kg. On the other hand, at INS Kunjali in Navy Nagar, the oil contamination on zero day was 3,81,000 mg/kg," said the TERI report.

Scientists said that the oil contamination due to the recent spill at both the locations is much higher than permissible limits.

Times of India ND 15/09/2010

p-9

FMS goes online, integrates two MBA courses

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Those aspiring to take admission in various programmes at Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Delhi University, in 2010-11 will now be able to register themselves online. Among the other major changes brought about in the admission process, the institute has also decided to integrate the two-year full-time MBA in management of services (MBA-MS) with its flagship MBA (full-time) programme — the new degree will now be known as MBA (FT).

Now, an entrance test will be held for part-time healthcare administration programme. Moreover, the dates for the entrance tests have been advanced by over a month. New test centres have also been added and these include Varanasi, Roorkee and Baroda.

The total intake for MBA (full-time) will be 226 — 15 seats less than the cumulative intake for both the courses in the 2010 admissions. There were 166 seats in MBA (full-time) and 75 seats in MBA (MS) in 2010 admissions. According to dean of FMS, K Mamkoottam, "The decision was taken by the academic council. Though it appears that there are 15 seats less this time, actually the 'supernumerary seats' (for foreign students) were included in the total number of seats last year, which is not the case this time. So this time, besides the 226 seats there are 5% seats for foreign students."

Getting into the three-year MBA (part-time) healthcare administration programme will become tougher as the B-school plans to conduct entrance test for the course from this year. Till last year, selection was done based on interviews. FMS is also selecting PhD scholars on the basis of entrance test.

The date for entrance test for MBA (full-time) and PhD is December 5, 2010, while the entrance for part-time programmes will be held on January 23, 2011.

TESTING TIMES

▶ Last date for online registration for all programmes | **October 15, 2010**

▶ Date for entrance exam for MBA (full-time) & PhD | **December 5, 2010**

▶ Date of exam for MBA (part-time) & MBA (health care administration) | **January 23, 2011**

HOW TO REGISTER

▶ Visit FMS website *http://www.fms.edu*

▶ Fill in required information on online registration page

▶ Choose mode of payment after you confirm your registration information

▶ Payment through online internet payment gateway or through demand draft

▶ After payment or filling up details of DD, a page (in admit card format) will appear stating candidate's name, registration number, address, space for photograph and signature

▶ Send the completed form, along with demand draft and caste/category certificate (if applicable), to Administrative Officer, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, Pin-110007

Earlier, the entrance tests for full-time programmes were held in January. "We have advanced the dates by over a month so as to synchronize them with major competitive exams conducted by other B-schools as well as CAT. January is not the best time for exams primarily because of the weather condition in north India. The month also falls in the festive season in many parts of the country," said Mamkoottam.

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Times of India ND 15/09/2010

p-13

India may soon have DNA database to crack crime

Priya M Menon | TNN

Chennai: The FBI has a DNA Index system. The UK has a similar database. And if Parliament passes the DNA Profiling Bill, 2007, India will soon join the league, creating a national DNA database that will help police arrest serial offenders and give a boost to forensic investigation.

"The bill, drafted and sent to all ministries and departments for their feedback, has been modified. The final version has been sent to the law ministry, which has sent it to the legal department for final drafting," says Dr J Gowrishankar, head of Laboratory of Bacterial Genetics and director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), which has been piloting the bill. "We are hoping it will be submitted to the cabinet in a few weeks."

Six regional laboratories — to be established in Kolkata, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Pune and

SET TO JOIN ELITE LEAGUE

Guwahati — will facilitate the exchange and comparison of forensic DNA profiles created from evidence gathered from crime investigations and convicts. The move to create the database is part of the 11th Plan and has a financial outlay of Rs 42.6 crore.

The role of the database would be to compile profiles of convicts, undertrials and suspects as well as from material obtained from crime scenes. "At present, India does not have a law that empowers the government to collect and store DNA profiles of convicts," says V K Kashyap, di-

rector of Directorate of Forensic Science, New Delhi. The DNA Profiling Bill, drafted by the department of biotechnology, will bridge this gap.

DNA profiles of those convicted for crimes like murder, sexual assault and burglaries can be prepared, says Kashyap. "In crimes like murder and sexual assault, there is a tendency on the part of the criminal to repeat offences if not convicted," he says.

"Once the DNA profile of a criminal is created, then the next time a similar crime occurs, you can run it through the database and get a match," he says. This would also help increase the rate of conviction.

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), found in almost every cell in the body, contains genetic information that helps determine physical characteristics. Forensic scientists analyse biological matter like blood, saliva and semen found at crime scenes to establish the identity of the victim or offender.

Women And The Workplace

Educated women are one of the chief engines of the dynamic economies of India and China

Sylvia Ann Hewlett and
Vishakha N Desai

New York: Even as Western Europe and the US struggle to emerge from the global recession, China and India are surging ahead. China is projected to become the world's largest economy within the next decade; India could leapfrog Japan into third place in individual country GDP rankings as early as 2012. One of the chief engines of these explosive economies: educated women.

Educated women are pouring into the professional workforce in China and India, with profound implications for national and multinational corporations. Yet even as employers rely on this growing cadre of "white-collar" women, many have little understanding of the complicated career dynamics of this rich tranche of talent. Misconceptions abound, from cultural cartoons to western wannabes.

Both the ambitions of female talent in the top two emerging markets and the challenges they encounter are complex, fundamentally different from their western counterparts and significantly nuanced, according to a recent study from the New York-based Centre for Work-Life Policy (published in the Harvard Business Review). To begin with, despite many similarities, accomplished women in China and India are not interchangeable.

Chinese and Indian women demonstrate stratospheric levels of aspiration – 76 per cent and 86 per cent respectively aspire to a top job, double that of their counterparts in the US. But while 85 per cent of Indian women consider themselves "very ambitious," only 65 per cent of Chinese feel the same. This may be partially due to the fact the concept of female ambition is seen through a negative prism in China.

Furthermore, while women of both nationalities demonstrate impressive levels of loyalty to their employers, 85 per cent of Indian women say they are willing to "go the extra mile", compared to 76 per cent of Chinese. Lastly, while ambition holds up throughout an Indian woman's career lifespan, it inexorably sinks in her

> As highly qualified women in emerging markets struggle to balance the demands of career, children and culture, employers have an unprecedented opportunity to help them fully realise their potential

Chinese counterpart.

The first broad-based generation to assume the right to a career confronts entrenched social mores that both sustain and sabotage them as they create new roles. Communism's egalitarian legacy left the expectation that Chinese women would work, regardless of marital or maternal status. In contrast, more than half of Indian women experience pressure from their spouses and in-laws to quit working when they get married. Even after having a first child, only 35 per cent of

You've come a long way, ladies

Chinese women were pressured to "drop out", while 52 per cent of Indian women were criticised for continuing their career.

Childcare issues drag down the career dreams of Indian and Chinese women to a far lesser degree than their western sisters. Working mothers in China and India are able to think big thanks to a robust matrix of hands-on extended family, inexpensive domestic help and an increasingly wide range of daycare options.

Eldercare, however, has the potential to derail a career. The vast majority – 94 per cent of women in India and 95 per cent in China – are responsible for their parents and in-laws, with more than half contributing up to 20 per cent of their salaries. Filial piety is so deeply rooted that "daughterly" guilt often exceeds "maternal" guilt.

"Daughterly guilt" is even more pronounced in China than in India (88 per cent versus 70 per

cent) where women confront the one-two punch of communism's one-child policy and the tradition of a wife caring for her husband's parents. With demographers projecting a leap in the percentage of the population aged over 60 across these regions, this burden is a ticking time bomb.

Extreme jobs are the norm for educated women in both countries, with an average workweek significantly longer than the standard 40 hours. But Chinese women routinely notch up more than 70 hours per week, while Indian women rarely break 60 hours.

Over a third of women encounter bias in the workplace, where entrenched "old boys" networks form nearly insurmountable barriers. However, more Indian women than Chinese – 45 per cent compared to 36 per cent – feel they have been treated unfairly because of their gender, another legacy of communism. For more than half of Indian

women, the combination of family "pulls" and workplace "pushes" smothers their initial enthusiasm: 55 per cent have considered scaling back their ambition or quitting their jobs altogether, compared with 48 per cent of Chinese women.

Cultural constraints limit women's mobility and hamstring their career potential. Because of societal disapproval of women travelling alone – nearly 75 per cent in both countries report difficulties – Indian and Chinese women often eschew customer/client-facing roles which involve frequent business trips, even though these roles are the fast track to professional success. Furthermore, more than 50 per cent of Indian women feel unsafe on their daily commute, causing them to skip the after-hours functions where career-boosting contacts are made.

As highly qualified women in these critical emerging markets struggle to balance the demands of career, children and culture, employers have an unprecedented opportunity to help them fully realise their potential. To do so, companies will have to gain a deeper understanding of the ambitions and needs of their top female talent, and alter their policies accordingly. But the lessons learned in attracting, sustaining and retaining the best and brightest women can only enhance and strengthen an organisation's operations worldwide. Helping these talented women grow is the surest route to continued growth, now and in the future.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett is president, Centre for Work-Life Policy; Vishakha N Desai is president, Asia Society.

Financial Express ND 15/09/2010   p-1

Cognizant looks to buy Genpact

■ Due diligence under way; could turn new IT No. 2

Goutam Das

Bangalore, Sep 14: IT services firm Cognizant Technology Solutions is on the prowl and the country's largest BPO could be on its radar. According to industry sources, the company has been doing due diligence of BPO leader Genpact to acquire a controlling stake for close to a month. If Cognizant ends up acquiring Genpact, it would be one of the largest technology deals in India, redefining the pecking order in India's IT industry. The Cognizant-Genpact combine could possibly knock off Infosys Technologies from its No.2 position in the industry, or come within striking distance.

"Cognizant is carrying out its due diligence of Genpact. The process started a few weeks ago," sources aware of the development told *FE*. "Investors in Genpact may be looking for a 30% premium over its market value," they said.

BPO constitutes about 5% of Cognizant's revenues and the firm is aggressively looking to plug the gap in its services portfolio. Genpact was in talks with Infosys as well, but the conservative blue chip had reservations on the high valuations as well as the impact on its margins, sources said. Genpact's margins are way below Infy's cor-

DEAL STREET

	Cognizant	Genpact	Infosys
Revenue in 2009	$3.28 bn	$1.12bn	$4.8 bn
2010 guidance	$4.46 bn	$1.31 bn	$5.81 bn
Operating margin	19%	14%	30%
Net margin	16%	11%	27%

■ Investors in Genpact may be looking for a 30% premium over its market value; Analysts expect Cognizant to pick up 51% stake	■ Cognizant has $1.40 billion in cash; however, a more cash-rich Infosys had earlier dropped plans to buy Genpact over valuation concerns	■ General Atlantic and Oak Hill Capital hold 41% stake in Genpact, while Wells Fargo holds 5.71%. GE holds less than 10% shares

porate average.

Listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Genpact had revenues of $1.12 billion in 2009 and has a market capitalisation of $3.50 billion. Cognizant, listed on Nasdaq, had revenues of $3.28 billion in 2009 and has issued guidance for $4.46 billion this year. When added to the upper end of Genpact's forecast of 17% growth in 2010, the combination would yield $5.77 billion in top line. This would be within striking distance of Infosys' projected revenues of $5.81 billion in FY11.

However, industry analysts are unsure unsure how Cognizant could finance the expensive purchase or how much stake it would eye. The firm has $1.40 billion in cash. When contacted, both Cognizant and Genpact said they don't comment on mar-

ket speculation.

Genpact was founded in 1997 as an India-based captive business process services operation for General Electric Capital Corporation. It began operating as an independent company in 2004, and debuted on NYSE in 2007. GE's shareholding in the company has now declined to 19.95 million shares or 9.14% after the firm divested its shares in a secondary offering completed in March this year. General Atlantic and Oak Hill Capital hold 89.57 million shares or 41%, while Wells Fargo holds 12.46 million shares or 5.71%.

An analyst said Cognizant could be eying 51% stake to begin with. "It would be a perfect acquisition. Both firms are process-driven.

Cognizant looks to buy Genpact

While Cognizant desperately needs BPO capability, there may not be a future for standalone BPOs in the future," he said. BPO is fast becoming a differentiator and an entry point to cross-selling other IT services.

The sector has seen a gush of interest after the recession as enterprises across the world rushed to save costs. CEOs in the IT industry believe BPOs will create much more impact on their businesses than in the past, since driving real

cost transformation implies improving business processes. Genpact offers services such as finance and accounting, collections and customer service, insurance services, supply chain and procurement, analytics, enterprise application services and IT infrastructure services. The possible marriage with Genpact would give Cognizant unprecedented scale and volumes. Genpact had 42,500 employees with operations in thirteen countries; it manages over 3,000 processes for

more than 400 customers. Cognizant had a total headcount of 88,700 at the end of the second quarter of 2010. "If the merger goes through, it could shake up Infosys," an executive from a top-tier firm said. "The firm has $3 billion in the bank but is too risk averse," he added. Sources said that Wipro was not interested in Genpact because of its low margins and also because it would have been a too "me-too" business. Wipro already has a substantial presence in BPO.

TCS to set up new learning campus

fe Bureau

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 14: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced a new learning and development campus at the upcoming Technocity in Thiruvananthanpuram. This is after Kerala government offered 82 acre on a 99 year old lease to the company.

This would make TCS the single largest land holder (on lease) among all the IT players in Kerala. As per the lease terms, the company is to pay Rs 25,000 per year per acre to the state government as rent.

"Civil work will get going next year and the campus would be complete in 36 months," N Chandrasekharan, CEO & MD, TCS said, after receiving the permit papers from chief minister VS Achuthanandan.

The new Rs 1000-crore campus will house up to 10,000 professionals. It will offer TCS's curriculum to those who join the company after a college education, according to him.

The new campus is envisaged as the learning hub of the

N Chandrasekharan, CEO & MD, TCS

organisation and will be connected with other satellite training facilities across the globe, the statement said.

"The 10,000-seat campus will set the global benchmark for corporate learning institutions in terms of physical infrastructure available. It will also run holistic professional and personal development programmes," Chandrasekaran said.

TCS training centre had been located in Thiruvananthapuram since 1997. However, it is the first time since then that the company is expanding its presence in Kerala. Kerala IT has been in demand for training sessions which combines weekend getaways to scenic holiday spots.

SELECTIONS FROM
The Economist

Financial Express ND 15/09/2010   P-18

Education | United States

Schools of hard knocks

Facing heavy-handed government regulation, America's for-profit colleges are reforming themselves

"EGREGIOUS, outrageous, violated everything we stand for": Don Graham's denunciation of recent activities by some employees of his own firm is stark. On August 4th a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found evidence of deceptive recruitment tactics by 15 of America's leading for-profit colleges, including one operated by Kaplan, which accounts for the bulk of the profits of Graham's Washington Post Company. Some of the colleges, which also included the giant University of Phoenix, insisted that the incidents—which ranged from misleading potential students about tuition costs and likely post-graduation salaries to encouraging them to file fraudulent loan applications—were isolated. But the mood is turning against them.

For-profit colleges, which range from beauty schools to institutions that resemble traditional universities, were already under attack. In June Steve Eisman, a hedge-fund manager who made a lot of money during the financial crisis by shorting bank shares, told Congress that the for-profit education business was as destructive as the subprime mortgage industry. Congress already seems eager to add to regulations that the government plans to introduce in November.

The markets sense weakness in the industry. Shares in Apollo Group, which owns the University of Phoenix, are worth half what they were at the start of 2009. The Washington Post Company has lost nearly one-third of

its value since April. Shares in Corinthian Colleges have fallen 70% in the same spell.

Yet for-profit higher education is one of the greatest success stories in American business. Since 1976, when it was founded by John Sperling, a history teacher at San Jose State University who was frustrated in his efforts to provide courses for students with full-time jobs, the University of Phoenix has grown into an institution with over 450,000 students. Many of them study online, although the university also has more than 200

campuses across America. It is now America's second-largest university system. Kaplan, best known for its test-preparation courses, is a 75-campus organisation with 112,000 students learning everything from law to nursing.

In the academic year 2008-09 America's for-profit colleges enrolled 3.2m students, 23% more than the year before and 59% more than in 2004-05. Cuts at public and non-profit colleges boosted the for-profit sector's share of students to 12%. Total revenues of the 3,000 or so for-profit colleges have soared to

over $29 billion from under $10 billion a decade ago, calculates Jeffrey Silber of BMO Capital Markets.

According to critics such as Eisman, this is a bubble like the sub-prime mortgage crisis, with a "churn 'em and burn 'em", commission-driven approach to student recruitment and a ready supply of government-provided debt. On this last point, at least, he is right.
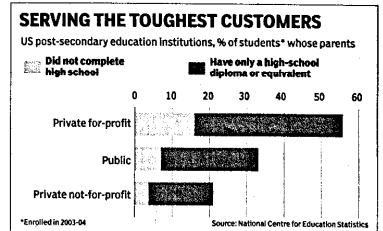
Packing them in

The American government has an unusual model of financing higher education, in which it

lends to students who decide at which educational institution they spend the money. In most other countries, the government subsidises educational institutions directly. "In the United States, for-profit colleges are competing for students directly with public and non-profit colleges; everywhere else, they are filling niches ignored by the traditional colleges," points out Doug Becker, the boss of Laureate, a global for-profit outfit.

The recent GAO report offers anecdotal support for Eisman's view that much of the recruitment of students is predatory. Also troubling was another report that found for-profit college students defaulted on their loans at a far higher rate than students at public or non-profit colleges. This the government took as evidence that many students found their courses less useful than they had expected, so dropped out or stopped paying. Among the new rules expected on November 1st is a "gainful employment" requirement that would make a course eligible for government loans only if enough current or past students are repaying their loans.

The gainful-employment rule has been the focus of sustained attack by the for-profit colleges. According to data in a recent government report, even courses offered by many of the leading colleges would fail the gainful-employment test as currently proposed. Default rates of more than 50% are not uncommon—on the face of it, a shocking number. But the government definition of default is wrong, argue the for-profit colleges, not least because it counts as defaulters students who have joined a temporary interest-only payment scheme offered by the government to help ease the transition from student to worker. Graham says the vast majority of Kaplan's students are

meeting their loan obligations.

Default rates at for-profit colleges are higher, they point out, because they educate a large proportion of students from poor backgrounds, whose parents did not go to university. "If you are going to take a chance on a part of the population that is poorer and has no tradition of going to school, your dropout and default rates are going to be higher," says Greg Cappelli, a co-CEO of Apollo Group. Compare a for-profit college with a public or non-profit institution with similar student backgrounds, and the default rates are similar. The danger is that the gainful-employment rule will simply reduce access to higher education for poorer people.
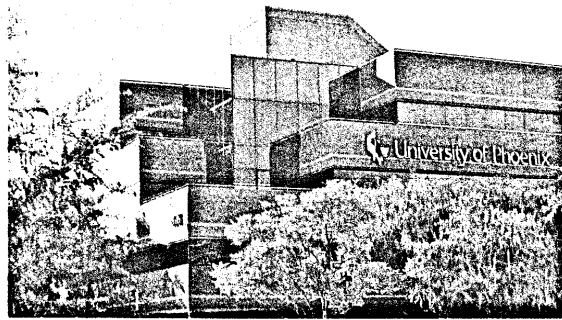
Cappelli insists he is not against more regulation of this already heavily regulated industry, as long as it is done right. That means focusing on the needs of students, not the tax status of the college at which they enrol. The recruitment tactics condemned in the GAO report can probably be found at public and non-profit institutions, too, he says. Likewise courses that offer poor value for money and students with too much debt. New rules should apply equally to higher education institutions of every kind, he says.

A belated house-cleaning

Meanwhile for-profit colleges have started hiring "mystery shoppers" to test their sales practices. The University of Phoenix is working to disconnect recruiters' pay from the number of students recruited. It is also encouraging students to take on less debt. To reduce the number of dropouts, it is offering students a three-week "orientation" during which they can quit without charge. Kaplan plans to go further, regulators permitting, by offering students a full refund if they drop out during their first term. Graham would like such a refund to be made mandatory, to drive the "bad actors" out of the industry.

The leading for-profit colleges hope to survive by putting their own houses in order and by calling for new regulations that apply to higher education as a whole. And they make another, broader, claim. When the full cost of loans and subsidies is added up they are significantly cheaper for the taxpayer, per graduate, than public and non-profit institutions. Given the Obama administration's ambitious plans to expand higher education, a rush to impose more burdensome regulations may not be such a good idea.

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SERVING THE TOUGHEST CUSTOMERS
US post-secondary education institutions, % of students* whose parents

- Did not complete high school
- Have only a high-school diploma or equivalent

*Enrolled in 2003-04   Source: National Centre for Education Statistics

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The University of Phoenix, part of Apollo Group, in Phoenix, Arizona   BLOOMBERG
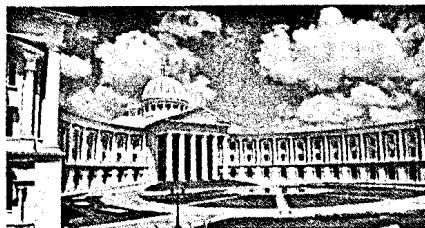

Business Standard, ND 15-Sep-10 p-1

TCS to invest ₹1,000 crore in Kerala training campus

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 14 September

India's largest IT services provider, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is investing ₹1,000 crore to set up a training campus in Kerala housing 10,000 professionals. Construction will commence in 2011-12 and be completed in three years. TCS is the second IT firm to set up such a facility after Bangalore-based Infosys Technologies inaugurated its campus in Mysore last year.

The TCS campus, set in 82 acres in Thiruvananthapuram, will have classrooms, auditoria, computer laboratories, a library, cafeterias, accommodation facilities as well as recreational and shopping areas. The firm has had a 2,000-seat primary training centre in the city since 1997.

The TCS campus will be on the lines of the Infosys facility *(pictured above)* in Mysore. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

"The 10,000-seat campus will set a global benchmark for corporate learning institutions in terms of physical infrastructure, as well as professional and personal development programmes," said N Chandrasekaran, CEO and MD, TCS.

TCS currently trains all its

campus hires at its seven satellite training centres, in Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Chennai, Montevideo (Uruguay), Cincinnati (US) and China. The campus spends around 2 per cent of its annual revenues on training.

Turn to Page 16

TCS to invest...

THE HEADCOUNT at TCS touched 160,429 at the end of FY10. Of this, it hired 8,429 trainees (campus hires). For FY11, the firm plans to hire around 40,000 employees (an increase of 10,000 over its earlier projection). According to the firm's June 30 announcement, 14,425 offers were made in Q4 FY10, taking its total offers to 20,050.

India's second-largest IT services firm, Infosys, plans

to train close to 8,000 freshers for FY11. Its training centre in Mysore can handle 14,000 employees at any given time. Spread over 337 acres, Infosys spent over ₹2,000 crore to set up the centre, of which ₹1,700 crore was on education- and training-related infrastructure.

For Indian IT services, training is a crucial element as they hire graduates and engineers fresh out of college in large numbers. The industry has invested heavily in manpower development, with an average training period of three to four months for fresh recruits (involving a spend of up to 40 per cent of a fresh recruit's salary) and additional training over the entire employee lifecycle.

Almost 62 per cent of all engineering graduates require education or training to be eligible for any job in the IT and IT-enabled services sector, said a study by Aspiring Minds — an assessment technology provider. The study further noted that IT product firms feel that only 4.22 per cent of graduates are fit for employment. Similarly, IT services companies said just 17.84 per cent are employable. The total time spent on train-

ing constitutes over 5 per cent of employee man hours in a year, said the Nasscom Leadership Review 2010. The average training spent on a new recruit costs over $3,300 (around ₹1.5 lakh), said the review.

A Nasscom-Evalueserve analysis shows that, on average, IT-ITeS companies spend $1.2 billion on training. About 40 per cent is spent on new employees. Analysis also indicates that training spends per employee are among the highest in the organised service sector. For example, the top five Tier-1 vendors spent nearly $450 million (around ₹2,080 crore) to train around 130,000 engineers hired in 2008-09.

Business Standard, ND 15-Sep-10   p-6

Growth fails to cure India's unemployment problem: UN

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 14 September

While the country's growth rate has been registering impressive numbers, problems related to employment still persist in India, according to the UN Trade and Development Report 2010.

The massive growth in modern services such as information technology (IT), communication and financial services was not reflected in the growth of employment.

"This reflects an increase in labour productivity, which makes India's growth trajectory in services more positive in terms of productivity, though less positive in terms of unemployment and underemployment in a labour-surplus economy," the report stated.
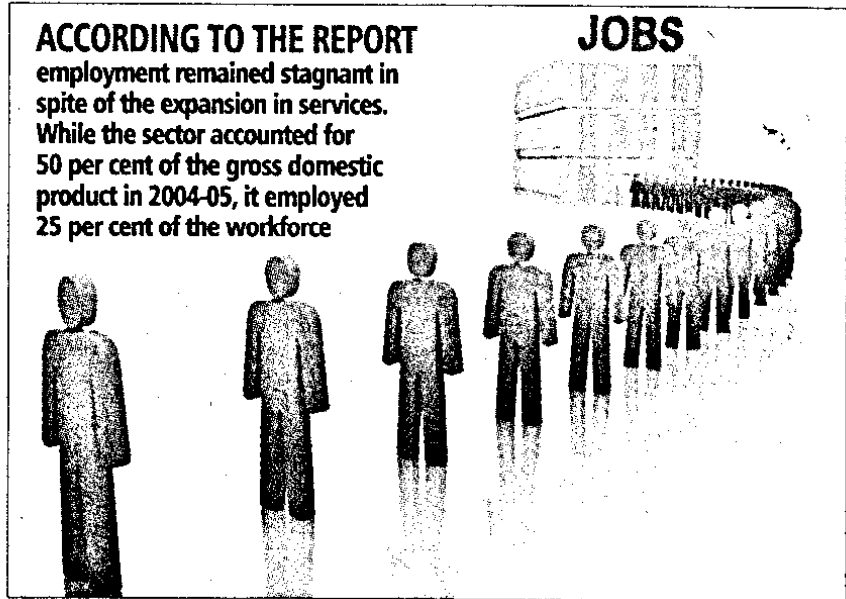
The growth in India's IT and ITeS services was also accentuated due to export of services having positive effects in the country's balance of payments. The report also said while services sector dominated the growth trajectory of the country, only half of it consisted of the modern services.

"It is, therefore, necessary that productivity and incomes grow not only in the modern but also in the traditional sectors. This can be achieved by establishing linkages between the two sectors, including the latter in supply chains, increasing the prices of agricultural products and using tax revenue perceived in the modern sector for redistribution policies," the UN said.

Despite the expansion in services, employment remained stagnant, the report said. While the sector accounted for 50 per cent of the gross domestic product in 2004-05, it employed 25 per cent of the work force.

Also, employment in this sector has only increased by 22 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2004-05. "Real wages in India have not followed productivity gains," it said.

Similarly, the manufacturing sector also failed to expand in terms of gen-

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT
employment remained stagnant in spite of the expansion in services. While the sector accounted for 50 per cent of the gross domestic product in 2004-05, it employed 25 per cent of the workforce

JOBS

Global recovery is taking on pre-crisis patterns: Unctad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 14 September

The global recovery is taking on pre-crisis patterns and premature exit from fiscal expansion could lead to a double-dip recession or, even worse, a deflationary spiral, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) warned today.

"With fiscal austerity spreading throughout Europe and the G-20 consensus on common crisis responses crumbling, the risk of a double-dip recession, or a deflationary spiral, aris-

erating employment, even though the sector grew significantly. Formal employment in this vertical, on the contrary, declined from 9.3 per cent to 7.5 per cent of the total employment.

es," said Unctad.

The rebound from the crisis will not endure if it continues to be based on temporary factors and if the shortcomings that caused the crisis, like unregulated financial systems, income inequality and global imbalances, persist, Unctad said in the Trade and Development Report 2010.

"The pattern of the recovery is very similar to that of the imbalanced global demand growth during the build-up to the crisis... The situation is far from addressing the issue which stood at the heart of the crisis of 2008," it said.

One of the primary reasons for lack of real growth in employment was because consumption in rural areas failed to pick up compared to the urban areas, the report added.

Business Standard, ND
15-Sep-10   p-6

CAT aspirants can log on to practice test soon

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 14 September

Students aspiring to take the Common Admission Test (CAT) this year may be able to familiarise themselves with the computer-based format as Prometric, the US-based software firm conducting the exam, will release a practice test paper soon.
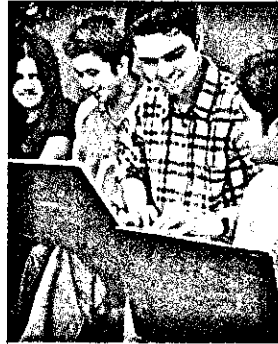
The test, jointly worked out by Prometric and the Indian Institutes of Management, will have two parts — a tutorial and the actual test.

"A practice test will be available on www.catiim.in website at least a month before the start of the testing window to familiarise candidates with the navigation and functionality of the CAT. There will be a tutorial followed by 12 sample questions. The sample questions in the practice test are not representative of the content or difficulty level of the actual test," said Prometric India MD Soumitra Roy.

Roy added the test would be released on the website in two weeks. The tutorial will explain navigation around the screen that has the question number, on-screen timer, and buttons like 'next', 'previous', 'mark', 'review' and 'quit test'.

As for the sample questions, every question will have four options — A, B, C and D. Candidates will read the question on the screen and click on the circle next to their selected answer. They can change their answer simply by clicking on any other circle.

Three points are awarded for each correct answer and one point is deducted for each

PROMETRIC INDIA MD SOUMITRA ROY said the practice test would be released on the CAT website in two weeks

wrong answer, so candidates may choose not to answer a question if they are not sure.

"There is no penalty for unanswered questions. If they've already selected an answer but later decide that they would prefer not to answer that question, all they need to do is click on the clicked circle again. Candidates have 15 minutes for this practice test and they can return and try the practice test as many times as they want," Roy explained.

Candidates will have to sign a non-disclosure agreement to take the test, to not disclose the type of questions. Disciplinary action maybe entailing a lawsuit could be taken for doing so.

CAT 2009, held for the first time under the online format, was marred by technical glitches leading to rescheduling of the examinations.

National Innovation Council aims to set up $1-billion fund

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi, 14 September

The newly constituted National Innovation Council (NIC) headed by Sam Pitroda aims to have a $1-billion (around ₹4,600 crore) fund to promote new ideas for inclusive development and innovation in the country.

"Our objective is to setup a $1-billion fund for the NIC but how big it will be depends on how the market reacts and how much money we are able to raise. We want to see if we can set up a large fund," Pitroda, advisor to the PM, told *Business Standard*.

A week ago, the Council had announced the setting up of a fund with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore to encourage innovation. The government will contribute 10-20 per cent to the fund with the rest coming from other sources like private funds, institutions and foundations.

Last month, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had approved the establishment of the Council with a mandate to prepare a road map for the Decade of Innovation (2010-2020) by

Advisor to the Prime Minister, Public Information Infrastructure & Information, Sam Pitroda addresses the opening session of a three-day India-US Innovation Exchange Forum in New Delhi on Tuesday. PHOTO: PTI

evolving an Indian model of innovation, focusing on inclusive growth and creating an appropriate ecosystem.

Going ahead, innovation councils will be set up at the state and sectoral levels and Pitroda said that five states, including Orissa and Karnataka, have already shown interest in setting up their own innovation councils. The NIC will also have innovation centres in universities and innovation clusters to create regional hubs.

It will delineate appropriate policy initiatives within the government to spur innovation. It will also promote setting up of Sectoral Innovation Councils and State Innovation Councils.

"We are thinking of how to structure the fund, its man-agement structure, hiring lawyers and investment bankers for it. We will need seed capital, private placement memorandum, executive committee, deal structures and a lot of things," said Pitroda.

The NIC has also collaborated with industry chambers CII and Ficci to identify 20 industrial clusters in the country like Indore, Bhopal, Gandhinagar and Kanpur, among others, to provide guidelines for innovation.

"Those clusters will be selected where there is a minimum critical mass of industries of some kind and then we will give them an innovation toolkit. The toolkit will be a set of guidelines on how to innovate. Moreover, we are also selecting 20 universities, besides the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) where we can do seed innovation," he said.

Prof Sanjay Dhande, IIT Kanpur director, who is a member of the Council, is in the process of identifying the universities which will then be given the innovation toolkit to be able to connect with industry.

Indian Express ND 15/09/2010 p9

Multiple failures: Indian varsities lag across disciplines, rank criteria

QS World University Rankings released last week show Indian institutions fare poorly in criteria like foreign students and faculty, and ratio of faculty to students

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

I IT BOMBAY, India's only representative in the top 200 of the prestigious QS World University Rankings slipping 24 notches is, it turns out, just the tip of the iceberg. The detailed breakdown of the London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings — the most reputed annual global rankings of academic institutions — published Monday shows how Indian institutions have slipped across disciplines and ranking criteria.

The Indian Express reported on Friday that four Chinese universities figure in the list of the world's best 50 educational institutions, with the University of Cambridge claiming top spot. IIT Bombay, the best among Indian institutions, was at No. 187, down from No. 163 in 2009.

A study of the detailed rankings shows that Indian institutes in the top 500 list have an overall score of 30-48, against an average of 75-100 that the top 50 varsities have. The IITs, which have scored in the academic reputation and employer reputation categories, have taken a serious beating in criteria like faculty-student ratio, citations per faculty, international students and international faculty. IIT Bombay has scored 2 in international students, 3 in international faculty, 33 in citations per faculty and 39 in faculty-student ratio.

In the Arts & Humanities section, featuring the top 300 institutes, the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University is down 51 places from No. 70 in 2009 to No. 121 this year. In the Social Sciences & Management section, JNU is down 55 places to No. 128. The University of Calcutta has slipped 100 notches to No. 283.

In academic criteria, Cambridge has scored 100, Peking University 76.4; Delhi University merely 31.2.

National Research Professor Goverdhan Mehta said the QS rankings have "many flaws", and moving a few places down should not be treated with undue concern. "There is a perception that universities in S-E Asia are enhancing their profile, and we should do our bit to get some of our universities into global reckoning. India needs 'world class' universities, say one or two among the top 20. We can do it in 15-20 years if the vision and mission are clearly articulated and supported," Mehta said.

REPORT CARD

2010 RANK	2009 RANK	INSTITUTION	OVERALL SCORE	ACADEMIC SCORE	EMPLOYER REPUTATION SCORE	FACULTY STUDENT RATIO	CITATIONS PER FACULTY
1	2	Cambridge	100	100	100	100	93
2	1	Harvard	99.2	100	100	97	100
3	3	Yale	98.7	100	100	100	98
4	4	UCL	98.5	99	93	99	91
5	9	MIT	98.2	100	100	100	100
6	5	Oxford	98.2	100	100	100	84
10	8	Princeton Univ.	96	100	88	82	100
23	24	Univ of Hong Kong	87.3	96	74	94	55
47	52	Peking Univ.	76.4	100	90	95	23
187	163	IIT Bombay	48.8	62	87	39	33
202	181	IIT Delhi	47.4	55	78	41	41
249	237	IIT Kanpur	42	43	58	40	51
262	284	IIT Madras	40.9	45	67	36	41
311	335	IIT Kharagpur	36.1	30	52	42	48
366	350	NUST, Islamabad	31.6	29	31	77	1
371	291	Delhi Univ.	31.2	54	68	2	7
401-450	451-500	IIT Roorkee	–	–	43	26	6
451-500	451-500	Mumbai Univ.	–	–	1	27	–

FACULTY WISE RANKS: QS RATINGS

2010 RANK	2009 RANK	INSTITUTION	SCORE	CITATION PER PAPER
1	2	Oxford	100	0.2
2	3	Cambridge	97.9	1
24	16	Peking Univ	48.4	0.1
121	70	JNU	24.7	0.5
181	132	DU	20.7	0.3
262	242	IIT Bombay	16	0.6
1	1	MIT	100	3.3
2	3	Stanford	83.3	3.5
33	31	Peking Univ	41	1
47	30	IIT Bombay	35	1.8
52	35	IIT Delhi	32.9	1.8
63	60	IIT Kanpur	29.7	1.6
68	65	IIT Madras	28.7	1.8
90	75	IIT Kharagpur	24.6	1.8
211	179	IIT Roorkee	15	1.7
1	1	Harvard	100	13.5
2	2	Cambridge	92.4	11.4
21	19	Peking Univ	47.8	3.4
171	220	JNU	16.5	4.4
222	152	IIT Delhi	14.2	4.7
242	275	IIT Madras	13.4	2.1

Mint ND 15/09/2010   p-9

NEW PRODUCTS

Acer plans to launch e-readers, tablet PCs in India

BY SURABHI AGARWAL
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NEW DELHI

After diversifying into smartphones, **Acer India Pvt. Ltd**, primarily a seller of desktop and notebook computers, is gearing to launch mobile Internet devices (MIDs), tablet personal computers (PCs) and e-readers in the country by the first quarter of 2011.

The proposed launches are part of Acer's global roll-outs of these devices.

S. Rajendran, chief marketing officer, Acer India, said his firm is currently testing the devices. "We feel there is a lot of potential in the space between netbooks and smart-phones, especially with 3G round the corner," he said.

Third-generation, or 3G, mobile services that allow faster Internet access on wireless devices are expected to be rolled out between January and March.

Analysts say the success of such advanced devices in India has been limited both because of their high prices and the niche markets they cater to.

According to technology research firm IDC, the market for tablet PCs in India is below 1,000 units a quarter and the average price for these is about ₹96,000. Acer rivals **Dell Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co.** and **Toshiba Corp.** have already launched tablet PCs in the country.

Netbooks are smaller versions of notebooks and are optimized for tasks such as Web browsing and email. Tablet PCs are smaller versions of netbooks but with powerful processors and touch features.

"It (tablet PCs) is still a very niche category in the country, because of which manufacturers demand a premium on it," said Sumanta Mukherjee, lead analyst, computing products research, IDC India.

IDC India doesn't track the MID space as the category is still a non-starter in the country. HCL **Infosystems Ltd** has been toying with the idea of launching a cheap MID in the country for a few years now, but is yet to launch one.

Acer's new devices are likely to compete with products such as **Amazon.com Inc.'s** e-reader Kindle and **Apple Inc.'s** iPad. Rajendran said Acer's table PCs will "be more competitively priced than the iPad".

Globally, there is a lot of interest around Acer's plans to launch MIDs and tablet PCs as many believe the company will price its products competitively as it did with its notebook and desktop computers.

Taiwan-based **Acer Inc.** walked past Dell to become the world's secondlargest seller of PCs last year.

Technology website Digiti- mes.com reported on Wednesday quoting component makers that Acer is set to launch three tablet PC models featuring **Google Inc.'s** Android 3.0 operating platform in the first quarter of 2011.

Speculation about Acer's entry into MIDs has been rife since the company filed a patent application in December 2007 for "ornamental design for a mobile Internet device".

In India, Acer is also in talks with telecom operators for bundling 3G-enabled netbooks with their services. Acer's market share in personal computers in the country has increased from around 7% in 2008 to 11.5%, making it the third-largest seller of PCs in India, followed by Dell and HP, IDC's data for the April-June quarter show.

Mint ND 15/09/2010   p-2

IIMs plan mock CAT before the real thing

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will run online practice exams for nearly a month before the common admission test (CAT) after the first such test, conducted last year, encountered significant glitches.

The IIMs and their US-based partner Prometric Inc., which conducts the tests, are uploading several preparatory videos on their dedicated website and on YouTube.

There are nearly 3,000 seats available in the next academic year in 10 IIMs located at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Indore, Lucknow, Kozhikode, Shillong, Ranchi, Rohtak and Raipur. CAT will be conducted in 33 cities starting late October.

"We have learnt the lessons from last year and this year we are focusing a lot on mock tests. Within the next two weeks, we will upload CAT practice test for aspirants," said Soumitra Roy, managing director of Prometric India. "It will be similar to the real CAT test in pattern, but not identical."

There will be also a tutorial section on how to navigate CAT that has been designed along with the IIMs, he added.

When CAT went online last year, thousands of aspirants were hit by lack of practice, little knowledge about the navigational buttons and technical glitches. Nearly 17,000 students retook the test resulting in bad publicity and protests by students; this also delayed the declaration of results by at least three weeks.

"We are guaranteeing that we will test all the candidates within the testing window. The practice test that we are offering will prepare students to face the entrance with much ease," Roy said. "As we have already said, the testing window this year has been increased to 20 days instead of 10 days last year. We will also accommodate students rescheduling exam dates in case of (an) emergency situation."

The IIMs and Prometric are training around 3,000 people for the smooth conduct of the test that begins on 27 October and ends on 24 November—with 20 test days, accounting for holidays such as Diwali

IIMs plan mock CAT before the real thing

that fall in-between.

The demonstrations will help those appearing for the exam to be better prepared.

"The beginning of online CAT (last year) was a bad experience. We are pre-empting everything that could go wrong during the real-time entrance," said Himanshu Rai, convenor of CAT-2010. "The demo test that we will put up will help students know how the CAT screen will look like—how they can navigate, how to review their answers."

Rai, a professor of IIM-Lucknow which is overseeing CAT this year, said students should not dwell on last year's experience. "The second leg of last year's test was fine. We are trying to give as much information as possible to aspirants so that they are ready to face the test without any doubt about the format," he said.

Those planning to take the test welcomed the practice sessions.

"A demo test will help aspirants simply because we cannot take chances. This will familiarize students like me to know what the test will look like and how to navigate it," said Sunil Mishra, an IIM aspirant from Bhubaneswar.

IIM authorities said all relevant information, including how to register and mark answers, will be provided through the videos, seven of which have already been uploaded. The demo test will only be available on the CAT and Prometric websites.

Roy of Prometric said a student can repeat the demo test any number of times. An aspirant can even take the tutorial at the time of the exam, which takes 2 hours and 15 minutes, he said.

Prometric, which says it has put contingency plans in place, will take control of the 247 test labs for 45 days, including the test window.

"We and our partners will completely sanitize the labs to avoid technical glitches," Roy said. "We will run tests to see how it's progressing."

In the last two weeks, over 130,000 students have registered for the exam. Registrations will continue till 30 September. Last year, 242,000 registered for the exam.

Learning curve: *CAT aspirants in Mumbai last year. The 10 IIMs and their US-based partner Prometric, which conducts the online tests, are uploading preparatory videos on their website and on YouTube.*

10 lakh techies will help execute schemes in villages

Devesh Kumar

NEW DELHI

THE Centre has approved a proposal for recruitment of 10 lakh technically-qualified personnel for execution of rural development programmes of gram panchayats.

A brainchild of rural development minister C P Joshi, who also holds the reins of the panchayati raj ministry, the move is expected to strengthen panchayati raj institutions, while creating a back-up machinery for various rural development programmes.

One of the biggest problems the government faces in implementing the UPA government's show-piece rural development programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act (MGNREGA), and other schemes aimed at uplifting the rural sector, is absence of technically-educated staff at the gram panchayat level to monitor their progress.

"Panchayats do not have the wherewithal to maintain records, measure the work done under various schemes, keep a tab on payments, supervise and do their social audit," said a senior rural development ministry official.

The draft scheme prepared by the panchayati raj ministry in consultation with the rural development ministry envisages the development of Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras, to be constructed across the country under the Bharat Nirman programme, as a village-level knowledge resource centre. These kendras have been notified as permissible activity under MGNREGA, and will be ICT-enabled.

Each gram panchayat will now be allowed to build a core staff, comprising at least four personnel. The team will, according to the draft scheme, be led by a programme manager, and will comprise specialists such as engineers, accountants and MIS technicians. Community mobilisation will also be one of their concerns.

The personnel, according to the rural development ministry official, will be recruited by the state service selection boards, and preference would be accorded to locals. "There will be clearly laid down qualification and job-charts. These will be tenurial appointments, and will be renewable on the basis of performance. They will be governed by service rules, and there will be avenues for promotion," the rural development ministry official pointed out.

The staff, according to the official, will be paid adequate remuneration. The initial funding is expected to come from within the 6% administrative expenses permissible at present under MGNREGA, but the states will later on be asked to take care of this aspect.

There are altogether 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country. The scheme, which will discussed with state panchayati raj and rural development ministers and secretaries on September 22, will be rolled out in the first phase in panchayats with a population of more than 5000. The population norm, however, will be waived off in the case of villages falling under Maoist-affected districts.

Centralised monitoring system to track all communication traffic in the works

Joji Thomas Philip & Rohini Singh
NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet is set to clear a centralised monitoring system that can track all communication traffic in the country, providing a one-stop solution to many of the country's internal security concerns.

The ministries of defence, law, finance, home, telecommunications and IT have moved a Cabinet note seeking nod for the system. Currently, several agencies under various ministries monitor communication flow using contrasting processing systems, technology platforms and clearance levels.

Planning for a centralised monitoring system (CMS) to strengthen the country's internal security apparatus begun in 2007, but the project was put on fast track after the the Mumbai attacks, where terrorists received orders via VoIP (internet telephony) phones.

Last month, as first reported by ET, these ministries had jointly begun testing the CMS system to monitor wireless and fixed line, satellite, internet, e-mails and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) calls — and gather intelligence inputs.

CABINET CALL

> **Union Cabinet set to clear a centralised monitoring system, providing a one-stop solution to many of the country's internal security concerns**

> **Currently, several agencies under various ministries monitor communication flow, using contrasting processing systems, technology platforms and clearance levels**

> **CMS will be an autonomous body headed by a chief executive, according to the Cabinet note**

But this platform cannot be implemented across the country without Cabinet approval. Besides, existing laws will also have to be amended to allow centralised tapping provision.

The Cabinet note also says that CMS will be an autonomous body headed by a chief executive, and adds that a small group of top officials, which include the cabinet secretary, home secretary, national security advisor and representative from the defence ministry, will jointly oversee the functioning of this monitoring system.

The CMS is modelled on similar setups in several Western countries. For instance, in the US, the national security agency monitors all communication traffic while in the UK, this is undertaken by the government communications

headquarters. The CMS is also considered as India's equivalent UK's upcoming interception modernisation programme (IMP) — a massive expansion of its current communications surveillance facilities for the internet age.

"In the existing system secrecy can be easily compromised due to manual intervention at many stages while in CMS these functions will be performed on secured electronic link and there will be minimum manual intervention," junior telecoms minister Gurudas Kamat had told Parliament last year.

This system will also integrate the regional and national data bases of the police departments, intelligence agencies and the country's defence establishment for real time interception and monitoring. Documents related to CMS that have been viewed by ET say that the salient features this setup include the facility to set up filters and alert creation on target numbers, the scope to carry out call data records analysis and data mining to identify call details and location details of target numbers and also ensure that communications can be monitored and intercepted without any manual intervention from telecom and internet companies.

TCS plans mega campus at Kerala Technocity

Joe A Scaria
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

TCS will set up a training and development centre, slated to be the largest of its kind in the country, at the upcoming Technocity here. This would be an expansion for TCS in Thiruvananthapuram, where the company has had a training centre since 1997.

Kerala chief minister V S Achuthanandan on Tuesday handed over the official sanction allotting 82 acres at Technocity to TCS CEO N Chandrasekharan. The TCS campus will have a capacity to house 10,000 professionals. Mr Achuthanandan said the TCS venture would not only provide a large number of direct and indirect employment to IT professionals, but also facilitate development of related social, educational and healthcare infrastructure.

Mr Chandrasekharan said the 10,000-seat campus would set a global benchmark in terms of physical infrastructure available as well as in providing holistic professional and personal development programmes. Technopark CEO Mervin Alexander said TCS was Kerala IT's anchor client and that when the new facility is completed the company would have invested close to ₹1,000 crore, boosting the prospects of Technocity, too.

Mid-tier IT cos brace for M&As

Rajas Kelkar & N Shivapriya
BANGALORE

MID-sized Indian outsourcing providers face tough choices over the next few quarters as the business environment has become significantly more challenging after the financial meltdown. A majority of them are yet to see a recovery though their larger counterparts are seeing a comeback in demand. If the trend continues, they may have to choose between being acquired and losing their relevance in an increasingly competitive market.

There are signs that a few mid-sized providers are already recognising this and choosing to sell out to a larger player. Last week, the promoters of Kale Consultants, a mid-sized outsourcing services firm, exited their holdings after 24 years by selling to European back office provider Accelya. The promoters of another Bangalore-based IT firm, Sonata Software, are also reported to be exploring an exit.

"Mid-tier IT companies will have to think transformational deals to become large," said P N Sudarshan, senior director at Deloitte Touche, a global consulting firm. He said mere organic growth will not help these companies anymore. "You may see mid-tier companies buying bigger sized companies outside India to achieve scale or selling out to MNCs," he said.

Consolidation among mid-sized IT firms has been long-anticipated but delayed because of a mismatch in the valuation expectations of the promoters (and in some cases private equity firms holding substantial stake in the firm) and potential buyers. "Indian promoters have been unwilling to give up control said a technology analyst.

"In fact, few of the more than 300 mid-size firms are growing in double digits and are profitable like their tier one counterparts. During the past 12 to 15 months, overall IT services and business process outsourcing (BPO) exports from India grew by approximately 5%. Most of this growth came from top providers like Cognizant and HCL, although a handful of mid-size firms like Persistent Systems and Syntel also did well. Many other mid-size firms such as Hexaware Technologies, Mastek, and Patni witnessed a tough year and shrank in revenue," said Sudin Apte, principal analyst, Forrester Research. Tech Mahindra, the largest among the mid-size players, saw only a marginal growth revenue in the June 2010 quarter.

Patni Computer's chief marketing and strategy officer Sunil Chitale said it would acquire companies for access (into a new segment, or geography) or scale (to grow and existing vertical/ service line). However, he said most mid-tier IT services had many service overlaps to consider an acquisition or merger. "Most mid-tier IT services companies are too large in terms of size and valuations and have many service overlaps to consider buying each other out or merging. As a result, companies would rather grow by filling strategic gaps in their portfolio through niche, smaller acquisitions. In case of Patni, we will continue to pursue our innovation led strategy around micro-verticals and global presence," he said.

Given this, most mid-size players do not expect to see an India-to-India transaction. For instance, Zensar Technologies said it has handed out a mandate to a US-based investment bank to identify a target in US. The company is looking at a deal size of $ 100 million.

Some feel valuations outside India are reasonable for Indian companies to go for a deal.

Business Line ND 15/09/2010   P-9

Mumbai's quest for a second airport

Hardly the place to land

RAHUL WADKE

▶ *Locating the airport at Panvel will be ecologically harmful as it would require destroying mangroves and changing the course of two rivers.*

If you are on National Highway 4B towards Panvel, to your left is a vast expanse of land criss-crossed by rivers and swamps. This land means different things to different people.

For Mumbai residents, it is the proposed site for a second international airport. For the *babus* and *mantris* in Mantralaya, Mumbai, it is an opportunity to decongest the current airport, adding a new one to Mumbai's infrastructure portfolio.

But at Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi, the site is where mangroves could be destroyed and the course of two rivers changed, if the proposed airport comes up.

Bottomline: Mumbai needs a second airport, and fast. But the Maharashtra Government needs ecologically innovative strategies to make it happen. And this includes: putting together a team to design an international airport with minimal impact on the environment; getting global experts in environment engineering and hydrology to suggest environmentally-benign methods to modify the rivers' course and mitigate mangrove destruction and, finally, recruiting a project leader like Mr E. Sreedharan of the Delhi Metro.

The present design envisages a total project area of 2,054 hectares. Of which, about 1,615 hectares is for the airport zone and the rest for off-site infrastructure such as diversion and training of rivers, approach road, commuter railway line, interchanges and utility lines.

All aeronautical activities will be in 1,200 hectares of the airport zone, while the remaining area of about 415 hectares is for non-aeronautical uses like hotel, transit lodge, warehousing, banking, shopping and exhibition centre, leisure and entertainment areas and water-front development.

NO ALTERNATIVES

For the Maharashtra Government, locating a site close to Mumbai and aeronautically viable has taken over 15 years. Rejecting over 16 sites, it zeroed in on Panvel, closely followed by Rewas-Mandwa near Alibaug.

But the Environment Impact Analysis by IIT-Bombay said the Rewas site was accessible only through a circuitous route, resulting in journey-time of about three hours from Mumbai — double the international norm for travel between city and the airport.

To make the site accessible within 90 minutes would require a trans-harbour link from Sewri to Nhava. And large additional investments by the State and Centre would be required to establish this link, without which the airport-plan was of no use.

The Panvel site too is fraught with problems — the Ulwe and Ghadi Rivers meander through it before entering the Panvel creek. The airport would require changing their course, flattening a hill, 80-meters high and removing 142 hectares of mangroves dotting that area.

Panvel residents fear their town would get flooded if the course of the rivers was re-engineered. The mangroves, which are a protection against Tsunami, will vanish. And geologists caution that the Panvel flexure (a geological formation below the ground) could be seismically active.

The Maharashtra Government is stuck between a rock and a hard place — a delay would mean accidents at the existing Sahar and Santa Cruz terminals and a go-ahead could leave Panvel-town marooned. Faced with this predicament, only an illusionist like David Blaine, it seems, can make the airport appear in an instant.

Take-off not on the radar

SHUBHRA TANDON

▶ *No breakthrough is visible as yet on a project delayed by over three years due to land acquisition issues.*

Fact: About 650 flights take off and land every day at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA). When modernised completely in 2013, it will support about 750 flights a day. Two years and 100 more flights, and the airport will be at its brink in terms of the number of flights it can handle. That explains the urgency for Mumbai's second airport.

The master-plan envisages an integrated passenger terminal at the Sahar international airport handling 40 million domestic and international passengers annually.

In 2009-10, CSIA had already handled over 25 million passengers. Again, a head-room of just three years before the airport touches the maximum mark on the number of passengers it can handle.

But CSIA's developers — Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd (MIAL) — seem to have foreseen this situation. When taking over operations in January 2006, MIAL (a joint-venture company between a GVK-led consortium and the Airports Authority of India) conducted a feasibility study to build an independent parallel runway. Their finding: the option is not feasible because of paucity of land.

LESS LAND

Landlocked as it is, the airport has to make do with the available area. CSIA has less than 2,000 acres of land available for development, of which, 276 acres is occupied by slums. Freeing the land and relocating 85,000 hutments and about 10 lakh people is under way, but that will take over four years to complete. Besides, work began only in late-2008.

So CSIA is left with much less land to modernise than, say, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, which has over 5,000 acres for expansion. Delhi's airport project too was a brown-field project given for modernisation by the Government, at around the same time as Mumbai's.

Making a bad situation worse, the tendering process for Mumbai's second airport, wherever it will come up, has also not begun.

Bottomline: it is September and no breakthrough is visible on a project delayed by over three years, due to land acquisition issues.

Even if the Government were to decide on Navi Mumbai, much work needs to be done — removal of 400 acres of mangroves, diversion of rivers, and so on — before airport construction can begin. And perhaps by the time the project reaches master-plan stage, air-traffic would have outgrown capacity.

Take Bangalore's airport experience, for instance. The blueprint for the new Bengaluru International Airport, inaugurated in 2008, had to be revised to club its first and second phases, to ultimately handle 10-12 million passengers.

The new airport, designed for 8 million passengers, had to be upgraded when the city's old airport touched this mark in 2006-07.

Swanky airports have come up in Bangalore and Hyderabad. And Delhi IGI airport, with its recently inaugurated Terminal 3, can handle 34 million passengers (beating London's Heathrow and Singapore's Changi), has space for three more terminals. In contrast, the Government has refused permission to airlines wanting to operate out of Mumbai due to lack of space.

This being the ground situation, passengers can only hope for a miracle for the city's second international airport to be ready in time to meet growing traffic.

'Outsourcing ban won't affect ties: White House tech chief

agencies

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT: A move by the American Ohio state to ban outsourcing projects to emerging markets like India and the shrill political rhetoric in the US on the subject ahead of the November Congressional polls will have no impact on the ties between the two countries, President Barack Obama's chief technology officer said here today.

"In a democracy you will have voices that say things here and there. But you must look to the core. What is actually happening on the ground... and in that area there is nothing but growth," said Mr Aneesh Chopra, the White House chief technology officer, when asked about the Ohio state's Bill to ban outsourcing of its IT projects and similar actions being mulled by others.

"I am confident these issues will be resolved because good people will sit around the table and think them through," Mr Chopra told reporters on the sidelines of a CII conference.

The Ohio state government's action and President Obama's increasing pitch against outsourcing has created anxiety in Indian IT circles.

President Obama had said last week that his administration will offer tax benefits only to firms that create jobs in the country, a move that may hit Indian IT firms in a big way. The move was criticised by commerce minister Mr Anand Sharma, among others, who termed the 'action as "regressive" and warned that protectionist tendencies would deepen recession.

Mr Chopra, who is leading a high-level technology delegation and met government functionaries including the Unique Identity Authority Chairman Mr Nandan Nilekani, said President Obama's comments were being mis-read. "I don't believe that it is a accurate reflection of the President's comments," said Mr Chopra.

"Government investments in technology are modest in the scale of the overall economy. Maybe its an important thing to understand for everybody. The United States economy is very much market based, so whether a government chooses to do X or Y in its particular requirements, these are modest," he added.

India today said that several actions taken by the USA with regard to offshore outsourcing and other trade issues are "not welcome at all". "Indian IT industry has made a notable contribution which is acknowledged globally, even in the USA. It is Indian entities which are responsible for creating jobs, even now when there are big job losses," commerce and industry minister Mr Anand Sharma told reporters here.

TCS to set up learning campus in Kerala

statesman news service

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT: Leading IT services provider Tata Consultancy Services today announced that the company would set up a new learning and development campus in the southern city of Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), in Kerala.

The new campus would house up to 10,000 professionals when fully completed and will offer TCS' leading-edge learning curriculum to those who join the company from colleges, it said.

Set up over an area of 82 acres in the Technopark region of the southern city, TCS will invest Rs 1,000 crore on the project, which will become the company's training centre once completed.

Construction will commence in 2011-12 and is expected to be completed in 36 months from the date of commencement. This new campus will be learning hub of the organisation and will be connected with all other satellite training facilities across the globe.

"The 10,000-seat campus will set the global benchmark for corporate learning institutions in terms of the physical infrastructure available as well as the holistic professional and personal development programmes that will be available," said Mr N Chandrasekaran, CEO & MD, TCS. "We are delighted to expand our presence significantly in this city, where current primary training centre has been located since 1997," he added.

Hindu, ND 15/09/2010 P-16

Indian job market bound to rise with growth in IT

Shanthi Kannan

CHENNAI: The Indian job market is bound to grow with the growth of information technology, says Ben Noteboom, Chairman, Randstad Group.

Mr. Noteboom felt that India would be a bigger bet for major recruitment solution companies across the globe. Today, the Eastern part of the world was the focus of the economy. With the advent of IT, Indian job seekers were bound to get employment across the world.

Randstad Group's latest survey indicated that job projections from industries such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare and life sciences were bound to grow and it had also predicated that recruitment was happening in the hospitality sector too. Since the U.S. was still the major contributor of jobs for Indian companies, outsourcing and the jobs related to that would grow in the future, he added.

In an interaction with *The Hindu* group of publications on Tuesday, Mr. Noteboom said

though the U.S. job market saw a dip due to the recent economic slowdown, the Indian or Chinese markets did not see any dip. The recent hiring trend in the U.S. market had made it clear that the U.S. market would not see a second dip in the near future, as the blue collar jobs were on the rise, he added.

He said by 2050, nearly 32 million jobs would be created across the globe. But this would not be sufficient to meet the world economic growth. He also pointed out that more jobs

would be created in countries with growing young population such as India and China, compared to a couple of Western countries. E. Balaji, Director and President, Mafoi Randstad, said Internet would take a lead role in the recruitment solution. It would pave way for social networking mode of recruitment and similarly web-based application would become a part of the recruitment solution. Randstad specialises in solutions in the field of flexible work and human resources (HR) services.

Ben Noteboom

Political & Business Daily ND 15/09/2010   p-9

Ohio ban on offshore outsourcing not welcome: Govt
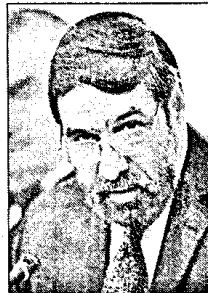
PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, SEPT 14

INDIA today said that several actions taken by the US with regard to offshore outsourcing and other trade issues are "not welcome at all".

"Indian IT industry has made a notable contribution which is acknowledged globally, even in the US. It is Indian entities which are responsible for creating jobs, even now when there are big job

losses," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma told reporters here.

Hoping that the scheduled India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting on September 21 would be "constructive", Sharma said the many actions taken by the US that adversely impact the economic engagement "are not welcome".

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has banned offshore outsourcing by government departments.

Earlier, the US increased professional visa fees sig-

"Indian IT industry has made a notable contribution which is acknowledged globally, even in the US. It is Indian entities which are responsible for creating jobs, even now when there are big job losses"

nificantly to fund a $600 million programme to

secure its border with Mexico.

Sharma and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk will co-chair the TPF, which is the principal trade dialogue between the US and India.

He said that data suggests that Indian IT companies have created over 2.5 lakh jobs in the US in the last three years.

"We hope that there will be a constructive and appropriate approach, because both the countries are strategic partners," he

added.

He said the protectionist measures being resorted to by several developed countries after the 2008 economic meltdown would be counterproductive. Sharma said lessons should be learnt from a similar mistake in the form of the Smoot Hawley Act of 1930.

It is widely believed that because of that protectionist move by the US, the global recession during the 1930s changed into a depression.

Pioneer ND 15-Sep-10 P-10

Ohio ban on offshore outsourcing not at all welcome: Sharma

TIMSY JAIPURIA ■ NEW DELHI

Reaffirming that India will not give in to the protectionist actions taken by the US with regard to offshore outsourcing and other trade issues are, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma on Tuesday said that that these actions are "not welcome at all".
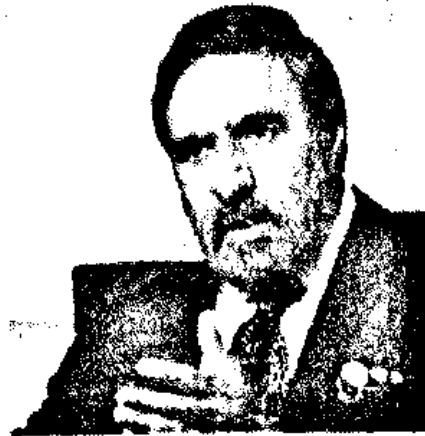
"Indian IT industry has made a notable contribution which is acknowledged globally, even in the US. It is Indian entities which are responsible for creating jobs, even now when there are big job losses," Sharma added.

With all eyes now focusing on the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting on September 21, Sharma is hoping that the meet will be "constructive" and the adverse actions impacting the economic engagement between the two "are not welcome".

He said that data suggests that Indian IT companies have created over 2.5 lakh jobs in the US in the last three years.

"We hope that there will be a constructive and appropriate approach, because both the countries are strategic partners," he added.

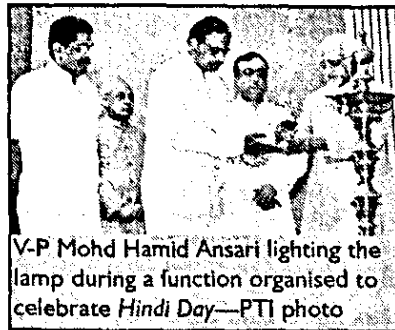He said the protectionist measures being resorted to by several developed countries after the 2008 economic melt-down would be counterproductive.

Meanwhile, Sharma also iterated that there are "lessons that should be learnt from a similar mistake in the form of the Smoot Hawley Act of 1930" and put the current situation in context with the belief that "because of that protectionist move by the US, the global recession during the 1930s changed into a depression."

Thus, the Indian Government seems to be well prepared to come out with a solution after the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meet considering that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has banned offshore outsourcing by government departments and earlier, the US increased professional visa fees significantly to fund a $600 million programme to secure its border with Mexico.

'Promote Hindi words in science and technology'

V-P Mohd Hamid Ansari lighting the lamp during a function organised to celebrate Hindi Day—PTI photo

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, SEPT 14

THERE is an urgent need to promote Hindi words in science and technology sector by developing related softwares, Vice-President M Hamid Ansari said today.

Speaking on the occasion of 'Hindi Day', he said scientists should be encouraged to contribute articles in the national language.

"There is an imminent need to develop and promote Hindi words in science and technology. Lot is being done already but more has to be done systematically in this direction," he said at a function organised by the Home Ministry to mark the Day today.

After giving away Indira Gandhi Raj Bhasha Awards and Official Languages Awards at the function, he also stressed on the need for developing softwares to ensure balance between Hindi language and science and technology sector.

The Vice-President noted that a large number of foreign students were learning

and making positive contribution in Hindi language thus strengthening its space at the global platform.

Home Minister P Chidambaram too echoed similar sentiments and suggested that there is a need to ensure usage of Hindi language in a simple and understandable forms so that it reaches to the masses by taking advantage of the rapid development taking place in the IT sector.

Amid loud applause from the audience as he spoke his inaugural address in Hindi language, Chidambaram also stressed on the need to develop the websites of all the Government departments in Hindi.

Terming Hindi as a symbol of nationalism, Minister of State for Home Ajay Maken said, "Its usage represents unity in diversity of the country and I feel that we can multiply our productivity in all sector when instead of English, we are able to use computers in Hindi and other vernacular languages."

Among those who were conferred Indira Gandhi National Language Awards include Railways, Food and Public Distribution Department and Labour Ministry, besides Faridabad-based NHPC and THDC in Rishikesh.

Contractual teachers-cops clash: two dozen injured

KUNWAR ASHOK S RAJPUT

LUCKNOW, SEPT 14

DEMANDING their appointment as primary school teachers in Government-run schools, contractual teachers on Tuesday clashed with police here which left at least two dozen people, including the SSP, injured.

The incident took place at Shaheed Smarak in the state Capital when Siksha Mitra aka contractual teachers got agitated and started stone pelting and damaging Government property. Later, police conducted a baton-charge to disperse the protesting teachers and open fire in the air to disperse the angry protesters.

The protesting teachers vandalised public property and Government vehicles. Around fifty teachers and half a dozen policemen, including DIG Lucknow Rajiv Krishna, were injured as the demonstrations turned violent. The agitators not only pelted stones on police they were also witness targeted a number of vehicles and torching public property during their protest, police said.

Sizable numbers of policemen has been deployed in the area; the situation is well under control. We had to seek help from various police stations in order to bring the situation under control, SP Crime Gyan Prakash, who was also injured during the protest,

Cops stand guard as *shiksha mitras* shout slogans during a protest, in Lucknow on Tuesday— PTI photo

told media. At least 50 of the protesters Siksha Mitra have been detained by the police for the Tuesday violence.

District administration officials in afternoon were seen in busy to fix a meeting of Siksha Mitra aka contractual teachers with officials of the state education department.

Meanwhile, in Banda district one dozen policemen receive injuries from fury mob that attack after a speeding truck crushed a school student there. Sushil Kumar, 17, of Satya Narain Inter College, was run over in Chapad village. The truck driver escaped, furious locals and students stoned policemen and torched a dozen vehicles outside the police station. Protesters tried to set fire to the police station, DIG BP Tripathi said.

Deccan Herald B'lore 14.09./10 p-13

I-T scanning Vodafone-type deals for evasion

NEW DELHI: Income Tax Department is now "closely" examining other cross-border mergers like the Vodafone-Hutchison deal for probable tax evasion in the wake of Bombay High Court rejecting petition by the Vodafone against imposition of tax on the deal.

"We are now closely looking at other cross-border merger cases. We are examining these cases from the angle of probable tax evasion, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman S S N Moorthy told reporters here on Monday.

The court ruling on tax issues relating to the Vodafone-Hutchison takeover deal has widened the scope for tax authorities to look for probable tax evasion in similar type of cross-border merger cases, he said adding government would not lose its legitimate revenues.

Moorthy, however, refused to specify which of cross-border

CBDT Chairman SSN Moorthy (right) with Assocham Senior Vice President Dilip Modi, during the 7th International Tax Conference, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

merger deals were being examined by the Income Tax Department to detect possible tax evasion.

The Income Tax department had served a show-cause notice on UK-based cell-phone operator Vodafone asking the company why tax should not be imposed on its acquisition of Hong Kong's Hutchison Telecommunications stake in Indian telecom Joint Venture Hutch Essar for over US$11 billion in 2007. As per an estimate made by tax accountants the tax on the transaction could amount to as much as Rs 12,000 crore including payment of penal interest. The Vodafone approached the Bombay High Court challenging the show-cause notice served by the Income Tax Department. The Income Tax Department in its show cause notice had pointed out that Vodafone's deal was liable for tax because most of the assets were based in India and under Indian law, buyers have to withhold capital gains tax liabilities and pay them to the government.

Law of land

After a prolonged hearing that started in 2007, the Bombay High Court recently ruled that the Income Tax Department has the jurisdiction to levy tax on Vodafone, even though the multi-billion dollar deal was signed outside the country. The High Court has directed the Income Tax Department not to act on its tax order for eight weeks. The CBDT Chairman said that the Income Tax Department would abide by the High Court order. "We will not take any action till the expiry of the time given by the High Court," Moorthy said.

After the expiry of eight weeks from date of delivery of the verdict by the Bombay High Court the Income Tax Department would server the notice to the Vodafone for payment of tax, he said.

The Income Tax Department would insist upon recovering the evaded tax amount even if the Vodafone threatens to move the Supreme Court, Moorthy said. However, he maintained that the Department would deal with the issue in accordance with provisions of law of land. **DH News Service**

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad
14.09.10 p-14

I-T wing to focus on foreign buys

New Delhi, Sept. 13: Tax officials are scrutinising other cross-border mergers like the Vodafone-Hutchison deal for possible tax evasion after the Bombay High Court rejected a petition against imposition of tax on the deal, a key finance ministry official said on Monday.

"We are in the process of investigating other cases. They are also in various stages of processing," Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman, Mr S.S.N. Moorthy said.

Mr Moorthy, who was abroad when the court delivered its verdict on Thursday, said the tax department will abide by the order and not proceed with any tax notice on Vodafone before the expiry of eight weeks.

Earlier, tax authorities had slapped a showcause notice on Vodafone, asking the company why tax should not be imposed on its acquisition of Hong Kong's Hutchison Telecommunications stake in Indian telecom JV Hutch Essar for over $11 billion in 2007. Sources said that tax on the transaction could amount to as much as ₹12,000 crore, including interest.

However, the Bombay High Court ruled on Thursday that the income-tax Department has the jurisdiction to levy tax on Vodafone, even though the multi-billion dollar deal was signed outside the country. Mr Moorthy refused to specify which deals are being investigated by the tax department to check duty evasion.

Sources, however, said the court order may have a bearing on deals like the SABMiller-Foster and Sanofi Aventis-Shanta Biotech transactions.— *PTI*