

Newspaper Clips
September 16, 2010

Hindustan Times ND 16/09/2010 P-11

Push for Mandarin in CBSE

HT Correspondents

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BEIJING/NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday sought Chinese help in training Indian teachers as part of a plan to introduce Mandarin in the CBSE curriculum for primary students.

"The best way to introduce China in India is to introduce its language at the primary level so that our children develop an interest and knowledge about China," Human Resources Minister Kapil Sibal told the media in Beijing after talks with Chinese education minister Yuan Guiren.

Chinese officials reportedly said they were interested in a two-way programme to train teachers but no formal agreement has yet been signed.

Sibal said he had discussed the plan with the CBSE chairman and obtained his consent.

**(The best way to introduce
China in India is to
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the primary level.)**

KAPIL SIBAL

"I'm willing to include Chinese in the CBSE system as a course curriculum but I can't do that unless I have standards and there's a test. And that can't happen unless I collaborate with you," Sibal told the Chinese.

The plan will be launched once teachers are available. However, existing Chinese language training programmes in deemed universities in India complain of constraints in acquiring visas for Chinese teachers.

A joint working group of both nations will discuss mutual recognition of degrees but Sibal said that extending recognition to Chinese medical degrees in

India was out of its purview.

Sibal also proposed that India and China expand student sponsorship programmes on the lines of the Fulbright scholarship.

KRISHNA VISIT

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will travel to China in November, his second visit to that country this year.

He will attend the RIC (Russia, India, China) meeting of foreign ministers and interact with the top Chinese leadership, government sources said.

The sources added that Krishna will hold discussions with Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the meet. He is expected to discuss concerns over Beijing's activities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, issuing stapled visas Kashmir residents and the issue of trade imbalance.

Hindustan Times
ND 16/09/2010 P-5

PG STUDENT SUBJECTED TO RAGGING AT MAMC

HT Correspondent

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- **NEW DELHI:** A first year post-graduate student at Maulana Azad Medical College, the teaching wing of Lok Nayak Hospital, was allegedly ragged in the hostel premises by a group of seniors on Sunday night.

The 23-year-old student specialising in medicine had lodged a complaint with the dean as well as the Delhi Police on Monday, alleging "misbehaviour/ragging" by a group of five seniors from the department.

The Dean Dr AK Agarwal has constituted anti-ragging committee of three members comprising Dr Veena Choudhary, Dr Swaraj Batra and Dr Richa Diwan to look into the incident.

"It was brought to our notice on Monday. We formed a fact finding committee the same day and on Tuesday after they submitted a report, we forwarded it to the apex committee. The next course of action will depend on the report that is expected to be submitted by this week," said Dr Agarwal.

IITs want to repeat a failed experiment

FLOP SHOW Medical school, started 10 yrs back by IIT-Kgp, is dying

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The first medical school started by an IIT 10 years back has struggled to retain students and attract doctors — showing up challenges the IITs may face as they expand further into medical education.

A decade before the IIT Council last week reiterated its long-standing proposal to allow the IITs to enter medical education to promote interdisciplinary research involving medicine and engineering, IIT Kharagpur had already taken the first step.

The School of Medical Scie-

(It is a fact that we have struggled to either attract doctors or retain students.)

ASST PROFESSOR

At the IIT-Kgp run med school

nces and Technology (SMST) at the country's oldest IIT was started in 2000 and offers a carefully crafted postgraduate course — a three-year programme for MBBS graduates. The school was launched to coincide with the Golden Jubilee of the IIT, started in 1951.

Promoting interdisciplinary research has also been a key

focus area of the school which does not offer MBBS courses. Other IITs are also already pursuing interdisciplinary research involving the medical sciences.

But almost 50 per cent of the MBBS graduates who joined IIT Kharagpur medical school left the MMST course mid-way, and the school failed to attract doctors as faculty, top sources confirmed to HT.

"It is a fact that we have struggled to either attract doctors or retain students — and this should serve as a mirror to the IITs as they plan to expand deeper into the field of medical education," an assistant pro-

fessor at the school said on the condition of anonymity.

The school has only one professor rank teacher and all the other faculty are assistant professors — the junior-most posts in the teaching structure. Almost all the faculty have an engineering background.

Another faculty member at the school cautioned against concluding that the IITs should stay out of medical sciences. "On the contrary, what the problems faced at the SMST show up are the challenges that the IITs must be prepared for, if they want to expand into medical education," faculty member said.

Financial Chronicle ND 16/09/2010

p-10

IISc and IIM-B join hands for innovative research

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

THE Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) on Wednesday signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) in a move aimed at deepening the academic exchange and collaboration between the two institutes.

The MoU will ensure closer academic collaborations between the two institutes as well as initiate technology and innovation management activities related to science-based Intellectual Property at IISc and co-created between the two institutes.

"In this technology-driven age, such collaborations are crucial for development, as academic research benefits society when converted into entrepreneurial opportunities. The intersection of science and management offers exciting opportunities and this collaboration will certainly enhance the output from Bangalore as a knowledge centre," said Pankaj Chandra, director, IIM-B.

Agreed IISc director P Balaram, who sees the need for closer ties between these institutes in order to bring scientific innovations closer to society, and thereby build scientific institutions in India that will serve industry and society in general.

The academic activities include joint academic programmes in all areas of science and management. The technology and innovation management activities will involve joint identification of IP at IISc, strategies for its marketing, joint incubation and startup companies between IISc and IIM-B. Faculty, students and alumni of both the institutes will be involved and a joint board will be set up between IISc and IIM-B for overseeing this initiative.

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Financial Chronicle ND 16/09/2010 p-10

'US should invest in jobs, not take regressive steps'

Nasscom hits out at Ohio's outsourcing ban, visa fee hikes

THANUJA B M

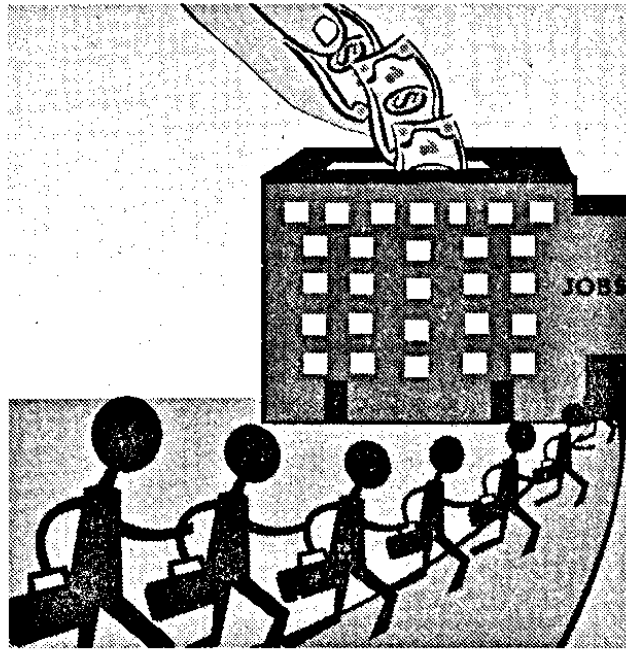
Bangalore

TRADE body Nasscom has described US protectionist moves as a disturbing trend and said it hopes that America will make more investments to create jobs, instead of taking such regressive actions.

"I hope the US makes more positive investments to create jobs and to become competitive, rather than taking any regressive action which seems negative and will lead to protectionist measures around the world," Nasscom president Som Mittal said on the sidelines of Nasscom's Infrastructure Management Services Summit 2010 on Wednesday.

The last couple of months have seen some measures in the US that have caused concern in the Indian IT industry. These include a controversial bill that proposed to strengthen security along its border with Mexico by increasing H-1B and L1 visa fees and state of Ohio, US recently banning outsourcing by government departments to offshore locations.

Mittal said the industry expects to hear more noise on the issue in view of the forthcoming elections to the US Senate and House of Representatives. "But we do not know in what form or shape it would be. It was



"THE industry expects to hear more noise on the issue in view of the forthcoming US elections "

Som Mittal
President, Nasscom

also not necessary that it would all be targeted at India," he added.

Forrester's VP and principal analyst, John McCarthy said the moves were mere rhetoric and there won't be much impact on Indian IT services companies. "A lot of it is rhetoric since the mood in the electorate is pretty volatile. But I don't see companies becoming less reliant on IT because of this," he said.

He suggested that Indian IT firms increase their hiring in the US because of the presence of highly skilled talent in domain and consulting areas.

Meanwhile, remote infrastructure management

(RIM) services as a segment is estimated to have aggregated export revenues of \$4.3 billion in FY2010 and employs 90,000 people. It is projected that by 2020, RIM can contribute more than a third of total IT services revenues for India.

Mittal said, "The RIM services sector has been a major growth driver for the Indian IT services industry in the past few years, and has the potential to become the third largest revenue contributor to the IT services industry by 2020. But to sustain and achieve the potential growth, the industry needs to find effective measures to ensure 24/7 uptime of technical infrastru-

ture, build a large pool of talent through investments in training, ensure compliance requirements of clients are met and security best practices are implemented on an ongoing basis."

The drivers for RIM are expanding rapidly from cost, value to innovation and transformation. Over the past four years, the domestic IT services market has also witnessed increased adoption of RIM services across different verticals like BFSI, telecom, real estate, utilities, auto, consumer, pharma and government.

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e-paper

Antibiotic to fight drug-resistant bugs?

Washington: Scientists have developed next-generation of antibiotics, which may fight be able to fight "superbugs" that are resistant to normal antibiotics.

Micha Fridman of Tel Aviv University said that the key to developing this miracle drug is the bacteria itself.

"We took the mechanism of bacterial resistance and used this mechanism itself to generate antibiotics. It's thanks to these bacteria that we can develop a better medication," explained Fridman.

The research has been conducted in collaboration with Sylvie Garneau-Tsodikova from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

According to Fridman, certain bacterial strains include enzymes, which help the bacteria to inactivate antibiotics.

When the enzymes meet with

A test that diagnoses TB in just an hour

London: Scientists have developed a new test which can diagnose tuberculosis in one hour, potentially helping to curb the spread of the disease, a health agency said in a study on Wednesday.

The "ultra-rapid" test is far quicker than traditional methods, which can take up to eight weeks and mean that patients, who are often from transient populations, move on untreated, said the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

"We're excited to have developed this new test because it

these antibiotics, they chemically alter the drug, making the antibiotic ineffective and unable to

means we can potentially diagnose someone at a TB clinic within an hour and start them immediately on the treatment they need," said Cath Arnold of the HPA, who led the study.

The new, highly sensitive test works by identifying a single molecule of DNA in the TB bacterium. The announcement comes less than two weeks after US researchers said they had developed a new test also using genetic markers that could diagnose drug-resistant TB in two hours. **AFP**

recognize its target.

Turning this powerful mechanism against the bacteria itself,

the team isolated the antibiotic-inactivating enzymes from the bacteria, and then integrated them into the drugs.

With this alteration, the modified antibiotics proved to be effective against typically resistant bacterial strains.

Once the researchers identified how the bacteria incapacitated the antibiotics, they were able to create a drug that could block bacterial resistance while maintaining the integrity of the antibiotic.

These new antibiotics will be a vast improvement on today's drugs, said Fridman.

When fully developed, they could be used to treat infections that are now considered difficult if not impossible to treat with current antibiotics. The findings were published in the journal *ChemBioChem*. **ANI**

Times of India Bangalore 15.09.2010 p-1

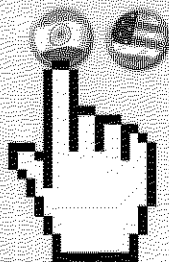
IT future looks hazy as US cos turn wary of offshoring

IN A BIND

- **US economy** has shed 8.4 m jobs since December 2007
- **Current unemployment rate** is hovering near 10%
- **Customers are** postponing large IT investments and waiting for the economy to improve
- **Protectionism and anti-offshoring** gaining momentum as US prepares for November elections
- **Forrester says** hike in IT budgets could be flat or grow by a modest 2% next year amid economic uncertainty
- **TCS, Infosys, Wipro and Cognizant** concerned about growth in 2011

"What we see from customers is that they are committing short term; they also reserve the right to cancel, so clearly, everybody is playing the short-term game at this point in time"

Kris Gopalakrishnan
CEO, Infosys



New Contracts Get Postponed Raising Concern Levels

Pankaj Mishra
NEW DELHI

AMERICA'S worsening economic climate and incendiary political rhetoric could end up hurting the fortunes of India's \$50-billion outsourcing industry as US firms start avoiding overseas contracts fearing a backlash from skittish politicians. At least six customers of India's top three IT companies — Wipro, Infosys and TCS — have postponed decisions on new contracts in the past quarter, triggering concern in Bangalore and Mumbai, the headquarters of the big Indian IT firms.

"What we see from customers is that they are committing short term; they also reserve the right to cancel, so clearly, everybody is playing the short-term game at this point in time," said S 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan, chief executive of India's second biggest software exporter, Infosys. The trend, if it continues, will be a body blow to the outsourcing industry, just recovering from the worst slowdown in its history. Hiring in IT companies has picked up in the past few

quarters and so has earnings growth. But another round of weakness, bound to be triggered if American firms pull the plug on new orders, will definitely damage confidence and financial performance, experts say.

"Customers are not pulling any trigger yet on big contracts, and unfortunately, the November election is making them even more cautious," John C. McCarthy, vice president and principal analyst at US-based Forrester Research says. Indian firms, he adds were hoping that customers in the US would start doling out large contracts after the European debt crisis, which didn't happen. Large banks and manufacturing companies in the US are wary about demand for their products, and have been trimming their payroll in order to boost profits. This has resulted in high unemployment rates of 9.6%, the biggest slump in hiring since the post World War II era. US economic growth too has slipped to about 1.6% in the second quarter, less than the 3.7% growth in the first quarter.

► **Job scene worsens in US: P 3**

Times of India ND 16/09/2010
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To give China a run for its money, IIT-M to study it up close

Hemall Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: It was the ancient Chinese strategist Sun Tzu who spoke of the importance of knowing one's enemy when he said, "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the results of a hundred battles". India has evidently decided to take a cue from that principle: It will now keep a keen eye on its competitors on the global stage. And it will do this through its best centres of excellence — the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Each IIT, which is free to pick the country it wants to study, will establish an observatory and study the developments of nations strategic to India. IIT-Madras, which mooted the proposal, is setting up a centre that will follow China — right from Mao Tse Tung's revolution and Deng Xioping's reforms to every step that the dragon takes today. The idea was approved by Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal.

"A centre of studies on a foreign country may be established with a view to developing expertise on countries of strategic importance," says the note shared in the meeting with Sibal. "Each IIT may concentrate on a particular country. As in the US, such centres will be able to advise the gov-

IIT-Madras is setting up the centre that will follow China — right from Mao's revolution and Deng Xioping's reforms to every step that the dragon takes today

ernment, especially in terms of strategic negotiations... Such centres will necessarily have advisory boards of former foreign secretaries and ambassadors."

The idea of such centres is borrowed from the West. Asia's upward surge recently saw several American and British universities starting observatories that most commonly watched India and China. No longer are neighbours and nations just that; enmeshed among countries are multiple complexities, making foreign policy a frontal issue. And experts say that observatories are as much international watchdogs as they are vehicles for turbocharging bilateral relations.

In its pitch, IIT-Madras stated: "China is important in geopolitical terms. China and India also compete on the world stage. An engaged study of policy would provide a sound basis for creating an interpretative framework within which China may be understood."

AVAILING OPPORTUNITIES

Indian campuses get a foreign flavour



Adding diversity: Sharda University faculty member Peter Waugh (right). He arrived in India earlier this month from Britain to pursue his interest in silicon photonics.

New universities are hiring faculty from overseas at salaries far above the industry average

By PALLAVI SINGH
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Opportunity brought Tatiana Alejandra Cardona to Phagwara, 335km north of New Delhi. This past summer, during her arduous search for a job, Cardona, who hails from Colombia, stumbled upon an online advertisement for faculty positions at Lovely Professional University (LPU), a private institution.

Cardona, who is 23, recalls that "the university appeared very big", and since it was new, she thought, it might offer teaching opportunities. Teaching excited her, but so did the prospect of travelling to India. "Its job openings were so, so, so important to me," she says. A year after she graduated in industrial engineering from Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira in Colombia, she joined LPU in July to teach microeconomics and quantitative techniques to management students.

At LPU, in this small Punjab town, Cardona met somebody unlikely—a fellow Colombian, Diego Armando Hernandez had joined the previous month; he too, had been looking for a job back home, but couldn't find one that allowed him to teach.

"I was competing with the world's best," he says. "Companies wanted me, but no faculty positions were open due to my lack of teaching experience." Hernandez had worked in the corporate and non-government sector, apart from teaching for a year, which he says wasn't enough to qualify for a faculty position. Hernandez realized he was needed in India, so he joined LPU last year, along with seven other foreigners who came on board as teachers.

The three-year-old LPU is just part of the story that is attracting foreigners to India to teach. As the higher education sector expands and prepares for the entry of foreign education providers, new universities—some as young as a year—are furiously hiring people from overseas on to faculty panels, for salaries far above industry average. The purpose, most universities admit, is two-pronged: one, to build their "international" appeal and credibility in the initial years; and two, to add "ethnic diversity".

"We realized there were two issues which were causing institutions, especially business schools, to hire white faculty and a limited faculty pool, since 10% of institutes in India have 90% of the best faculty

available," says Jagmohan Bhanver, chief executive officer of the Indian Institute of Financial Management (IIFM), a business school with seven campuses in India. IIFM hired five foreign teachers this year.

At the year-old Manav Rachna International University (MRIU) in Faridabad, the import of foreign teachers has been institutionalized. Yulia Doctor of Russia, who dresses in smart business suits, is MRIU's window to its "international" appeal. A 23-year-old graduate in linguistics and languages from Moscow—and the first and only foreign faculty member at MRIU—Doctor teaches German and Russian to students. But that's not her only brief.

As manager (protocol), Doctor, barely into a month of employment at MRIU, was also asked to receive delegates from Germany. She knows the importance of this work all too well. "I speak German, and when people from the West visit the university, I make them feel at home. My being here makes the university international."

Similarly, many universities have hired consultants to help bring foreigners into the institution. Sharda University, in Greater Noida, has a team of consultants to help attract foreigners; at LPU, a "Division of International Affairs" formulates the university's strategy, which includes collaborations with foreign universities, international student exchanges and faculty recruitments.

The likes of Doctor also figure prominently in the universities' advertisements on television and in print, alluding to their "global" appeal. Sharda University has dedicated an entire publicity film to its foreign faculty. LPU's brochures and websites amply accentuate its "international edge"; for assistance in admissions, the university even hired more foreigners, outside of the faculty, to transact business and counsel students, Cardona says. MRIU calls itself, simply, "an International University".

"The fact is, they are quite excited about teaching in India, and we are very serious about faculty acquisition," says Aman Mittal, chief execu-

tive of LPU. "In fact, last year we were very aggressive about it. I myself have studied in the United Kingdom and we want to give our students a different classroom experience."

There are some who criticize this new trend, and who read into it an exploitation of a certain colonial mindset. "According to the Indian common psychology, the words 'white' (or) 'foreign'...represent intellectual superiority," says Srinivasa Rao, assistant professor in history at Tiruchirappalli's Annamalai University. "Secondly, it (the import of foreign faculty) could also amount to the arresting of the brain drain, money drain and removing the colonial 'brand' over the colonized."

Rao thinks that foreign teachers now find India to be "a good destination for exploiting the colonial cultural construct... Getting a job in higher educational institutions is a time-consuming process in Europe and America. Here, if they are willing and if the government allows, they could stay forever, get respect for being foreigners, and also get higher salaries compared to Indians."

The employment of white professionals is not singular to India, though. In 2004, a study on race in the US labour market by Harvard University professors Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan concluded that white-sounding names receive 50% more callbacks for interviews than African-American ones. This gap was found to be uniform across occupation, industry and employer size.

To explain his choices, Prem Kumar Gupta, chancellor of Sharda University, refers to an in-house study conducted to find out why India hadn't yet emerged as a global education hub. "One of the reasons we found was that we didn't have ethnic diversity on our campuses. We don't promote colours and cultures," he says. "Second, we realized we hadn't yet graduated from our fixed, rigid academic curricula."

Thus, when Sharda University opened last year, one of its priorities was hiring foreigners

to teach and also to train Indian faculty in international classroom practices. "Foreign faculty today are not just setting the quality benchmark for us; they are also helping us collaborate with foreign universities abroad," Gupta says, explaining how pedagogy at the university is now more interactive than passive spoon feeding.

One Sharda University faculty member from overseas is Peter Waugh, who arrived earlier this month from Britain to pursue his interest in silicon photonics. Waugh jokes that he landed in India because he "didn't fit into the UK education system". He received his PhD only in 2008, after 11 years in the electronics trade, and is at pains to explain how there were few teaching positions in British universities.

At Sharda, though, Waugh is looking forward to setting up a photonics lab. His colleague Mansi El Mansi, with 17 years of teaching experience in Britain, joined Sharda University last year and has now decided to extend his contract with the university by another year.

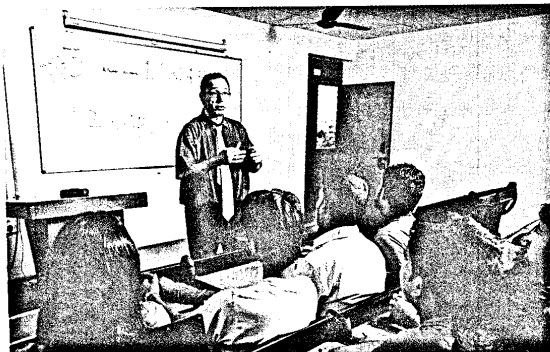
Anshuman Singh, a first-year B.Tech student at Sharda, admits that he was attracted to the presence of foreign faculty, but he also bears testimony to the quality of classroom experience. "They ask many questions in class and encourage you to speak," he says. "They make you feel that you are not at just any other university."

Gupta admits that roughly a dozen foreign faculty members last year were sent back because they didn't meet the teaching quality expected of them. "One can't come here thinking that one is British or American and it will work for him," he says. "(C)olour of skin won't ensure quality. Last year, we hired 25 people; this year, we could hire only 10."

The argument finds an echo in the general faculty crisis in India, which has deepened with the growth of the education sector. While the 472 universities, 22,000 colleges and thousands of other technical institutions in India represent a growth of 25% over the last five years, the country needs 803 more universities and 31,830 more college-level institutions in the next 10 years. The number of students is expected to rise to 42 million by 2020, which would require 4.2 million teachers, according to estimates available with the ministry of human resource development.

At IIFM, Bhanver says what is more challenging, after the recruitment of good faculty, is retaining them. "We provide time for quality research" and "a curriculum that constantly evolves," he says, while admitting that most foreigners like to come as part-time faculty to deliver a course module or two.

William Byrnes, one of the five foreign faculty members hired by IIFM this year, is in demand not just in India but also in his home country. Taking time out of his work as associate dean of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in California, Byrnes teaches compliance and ethics at IIFM. "The advantages we bring to the table for students is cross-disciplinary studies, and they also have the option of an American experience," Byrnes says. "For students who can't go to America for a year, we create opportunities here."



International edge: Mansi El Mansi taking a class at Sharda University in Greater Noida.

JUXTCONSULTING SURVEY

Half of the gainfully employed women in India are unskilled

Study says housewives have better social and economic profiles compared with married working women

By ABHILASHA OIHA
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NEW DELHI

Earlier this month, "Indian Women 2010", a survey released by the New Delhi-based Juxtconsult Research and Consulting Pvt Ltd. showed that more housewives and stay-at-home mothers had better socio-economic classifi-

cation (SEC) profiles compared with married women who were working as well as working mothers.

"The field study was conducted over two months in 25 states, covering 58,000 households in cities, small towns and villages," said Sanjay Tiwari, chief executive officer of Juxtconsult Research and Consulting.

The study divided women into six sections, including housewives, stay-at-home mothers, students, single women who were working, women who were married and working, and working mothers.

Out of 448 million women,

only 40 million are working women (roughly 9%). Of the rest, 148 million are students and 260 million are housewives. Women who are single and working constitute only 2% of all women. While half of the gainfully employed women in India are "unskilled" workers, only one in 10 is employed in the corporate world.

The survey also revealed that there are more working women in southern India, and Marathi and Tamil-speaking women form a noticeable proportion of the woman workforce.

Stay-at-home mothers or "housewife moms is the largest

occupational-marital segment among women (50%)" said the study.

According to the survey, a majority of housewives and stay-at-home mothers belonged to SEC A, B and C. SEC is based on education and occupation of the chief wage earner who contributes maximum to household expenses. SEC A and B refer to high socio-economic classes while SEC C refers to mid and SEC D and SEC E fall in the low socio-economic class.

The study stated that while the average monthly household income of homemakers was roughly ₹7,440, it was an

average of ₹5,284 for women who were married and working.

Single and working women, said the survey, had the highest average monthly family income (₹8,555) and lived mostly in the metros.

While a relatively higher proportion of housewives live

in bigger cities, including the metros, two out of three working women are found in tier 4 cities such as Ajmer, Aligarh, Kota, Agra, Kolhapur, Kalam and Mysore.

Mrutyunjay Mishra, co-founder of juxtconsult Research and Consulting, said: "The monthly average household income of the families to which the housewives belong is better compared to working women."

The survey found housewives having better household asset ownership levels compared with working and married women and working mothers. For instance, 56% of housewives had colour television sets as a household asset compared with 37% of women who were married and working.

Likewise, 9% housewives and 10% single working women had access to iPods and MP3 players compared with those who were working and married (2%).

A majority of working wives and working mothers surveyed found themselves least physically fit. The study added that these two segments were, in fact, more prone to lifestyle diseases.

Study puts average monthly household income of homemakers at ₹7,440, for married working women at ₹5,284

Business Standard ND 16/09/2010 P2

Healthcare, hospitality lead in job creation

BS REPORTERS

Bangalore/Chennai, 15 September

The organised sector in India would create about 320,000 jobs between July and September, according to the Ma Foi Randstad Employment Trends Survey. There is optimism in the economic scenario across all sectors and most of the new jobs created are in services, it says.

Conducted among 650 companies across 13 industry segments that included eight Indian cities, the survey revealed 418,000 jobs were created between January and June, with the healthcare sector creating 121,000 jobs, with another 63,000 in the hospitality sector. The top five sectors leading the boom are healthcare, hospitality, real estate and construction, information technology and IT-enabled services, and education, training and consulting.

New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai were the cities leading on jobs, by creating 112,000 between January and September. Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad follow, creating 30,000-plus during the same period.

Real estate and construction leads with the highest growth in number of people employed. It also expects growth in average salary by about four per cent, followed by pharma (3.5 per cent) and healthcare (3.4 per cent) during the third quarter.

Bangalore expects a rise in average salary by about 4.9 per cent (the highest),



THE ESTIMATED PROPORTION OF EXPERIENCED workforce is highest in the pharma sector at 87 per cent

followed by Delhi and Pune (both 3.5 per cent) during the third quarter.

The estimated proportion of experienced workforce is the highest in the pharma sector, 87 per cent. Healthcare is estimated to have the highest percentage of freshers, at 38 per cent. Kolkata has the highest estimated percentage of experienced workforce, at 82 per cent, and New Delhi the highest estimated percentage of freshers (35 per cent).

Ben Noteboom, chief executive officer and chairman of the executive board at Randstad, said: "We see positive trends across many economies across the globe, such as USA, Germany, France, Asia-Pacific and parts of Europe,

which are clearly growing. India would continue its economic growth and employment generation, fuelled by its domestic consumption and stabilising global economy."

K Pandia Rajan, managing director & CEO, Ma Foi Randstad, said: "We see a clear trend of increased optimism in hiring spread across all sectors, and the service sectors like healthcare and hospitality, spearheading the boom by adding a significant number of jobs. The buoyant economy has given a boost to real estate & construction, which has demonstrated the highest growth in employment figures. We are positive that this trend will continue in the next quarter, too."

Indian legal eagles begin to 'correct' their US counterparts

PRAVEEN BOSE

Bangalore, 15 September

Indian lawyers' standards have risen in the eyes of top American law firms that have done legal process outsourcing (LPO) to here. The lawyers hired by LPOs over time have become skilled enough to review the work of US lawyers, they say.

For instance, the Mysore team of SDD Global, the Indian subsidiary of SmithDehn LLP, a New York-based law firm, is now checking for English and editing drafts of US lawyers. The usual high-end model till now has been that of Indian LPO employees preparing only drafts and for the US lawyers/clients to review these. "The most surprising new work, besides editing for English, is the Mysore team's legal review of US lawyers' drafts for errors in substance," said Russell A Smith, president and chairman, SDD Global Solutions, an LPO with offices in Mysore. Smith is a partner at SmithDehn LLP. "I never would have predicted this," he added.

A recent *American Bar Council Journal* article compared the scenario to a 'man bites dog' story. "Indian LPO companies have taken a lot of heat from US lawyers for siphoning of work, but they (the latter) now may need to steel themselves against editors,"



said the article. Smith said: "We never expected lawyers in India to be correcting grammar and legal writing efforts of US attorneys." Also, American lawyers are too busy, law firms are under huge cost pressure and, therefore, unable to take time to do a perfect or near-perfect draft.

Till some time ago, Indian lawyers were seen to be using lofty English — a vestige of colonial rule. Their sentences were long-winding. "Today, they are good with plain, crisp, clear and clean English writing. In fact, LPOs have made them think global and grow global. American lawyers are liking it, a high-quality second look at the draft," he added.

"Though much of the less complicated legal work is being outsourced to India, in the case of patent filing, there are a few jobs for drafting and crafting that are being out-

sourced to India by the US law firms," said Shannad Basheer, Ministry of HRD professor in IP Law, National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

With cost pressures still affecting firms abroad, they are looking to cut legal costs. As a result, as they continue to outsource work to India, they realised they could cut costs further if they went beyond document revision. "So, they have begun to offshore document drafting, too, and so you now have document drafting and revision being done by LPOs in India," said S R Arun, partner, ALMT Legal. The best the Indian LPOs earlier did was contract management and some related works, now LPOs have moved up to e-discovery for large foreign firms, abstraction of evidence and such others. Also, third party affidavit preparation, said Sajjan Poovayya, partner, Poovayya & Co

Business Standard ND 16/09/2010 P6 IISc, IIM-B to collaborate on technology, innovation

BS REPORTER

Bangalore, 15 September

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) in a move that will deepen the academic exchange and collaboration between the two institutions.

The MoU focuses on two goals — to have closer academic collaborations between the two Institutes and to initiate technology and innovation management activities related to science-based intellectual property generated at IISc and co-created between the two.

The academic activities will cover joint academic programmes in all areas of science (pure science and engineering) and management, and will share the wealth of complementary wisdom and pedagogical experience the Institutes possess. The technology and innovation management activities will involve joint identification of intellectual property at IISc, strategies for its marketing, joint incubation and start-up companies between IISc and IIMB.

Business Line ND 16-Sep-10

p-19

IT hubs will be set up in more places: Buddhadeb

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, Sept. 14

West Bengal will set up more IT hubs to facilitate expansion and create employment in the IT and ITeS sectors, the Chief Minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, said today.

"We will set up IT hubs in Siliguri, Durgapur, Haldia and Kharagpur," Mr Bhattacharjee said at the foundation laying ceremony of the East Kolkata IT Park here.

He said West Bengal had been a late bloomer in the domain of IT as compared to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. "Since 2002, when the IT sector started to take off, the growth has been good," he said.

The IT park will come up at Nonadanga near the metropolis. It will be operational in 18-24 months and will involve a cost of Rs 500 crore.

Rohta, HSBC and HCL will set up development centres on 5, 3.5 and 1.5 acres respectively. The Managing Director of Rohta India, Mr K.K. Singh, told reporters that the company will invest Rs 250 crore and create employment for 5,000 people.



One more for Kolkata: The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, unveils a plaque during the foundation stone laying ceremony of 'East Kolkata IT Park' in Kolkata on Wednesday. - PTI

Business Line ND 16-Sep-10

p-7

US 'protectionist' policies won't hurt industry: Nasscom chief

Hopes US would make positive investments to create jobs

Our Bureau

Bangalore, Sept. 15

Short-term blips will not impact the IT industry, said Mr Som Mittal, President, Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies), referring to the "protectionist" policies of the US and the global economic scenario.

"We may see a protectionist policy, which is political in nature. But it will not change the fundamentals of the industry," said Mr Mittal at the inauguration of the 'Infrastructure Management Services Summit 2010' organised by the industry body. The trend is "disturbing", said Mr Mittal, hoping that the US would

make positive investments to create jobs, instead of resorting to "regressive" measures.

The global changes of 2008 have led to a 'new normal'. Emerging economies have become the drivers of the world and the developed economies are looking at improving productivity. And the Indian IT industry has a role to play. Despite the downturn, free movement of data and people between economies will continue, said Mr Mittal.

ON GST, DTC

Referring to the changes in the tax structure in the country, Mr Mittal said the proposed GST (goods and



Mr Som Mittal

services tax) which plans to simplify laws will "make life easy". The Direct Tax Code (DTC) too will have its merits, especially for units that commence operations in SEZs by March 2014, he said. "We have to make a presentation to the standing commit-

tee (on DTC) with our suggestions. It is our endeavour to ensure that the industry remains competitive and gets benefits."

The IT industry is seeing great promise in the domestic market, especially government projects. "The Government (through the public-private partnership model) will drive more large virgin outsourcing deals in the future," said Mr Mittal.

A new talent base is emerging in the industry which is looking at science graduates and diploma holders with great interest, said the Nasscom President. "We don't need only highly qualified engineers. We need some engineers. But the industry is

training people doing their undergraduate programme so that when they pass out, they are industry-ready."

RIM SERVICES GROWING

Apart from the traditional services, the IT industry is seeing good growth from remote infrastructure management (RIM) services, said Mr Mittal. "The RIM sector has been a major growth driver for the Indian IT services industry in the past few years, and has the potential to become the third largest revenue contributor to the IT services industry by 2020." This sector, which employs 90,000 people, is estimated to have aggregated export revenues of \$4.3 billion in FY2010.

Economic Times ND 16/09/2010

p-3

Use eco-friendly idols, says ministry

Urmi A Goswami
NEW DELHI

RELIGIOUS rituals may have to make some compromises for the sake of environment. Ahead of Ganapati Visarjan and Durga Puja, the environment ministry has put in place guidelines for idol immersion.

Concerned about the increase in pollution of water bodies at the end of the festival, the ministry has suggested use of environment-friendly materials for idols and laid out a system for immersions that would minimise pollution of water bodies.

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh has written to all chief ministers asking them to ensure strict implementation of the guidelines. "Faith must be respected but there is a growing need to regulate this practice since the number of idols being immersed is increasing every year. This has led to instances of severe pollution of these water bodies," Mr Ramesh wrote.

The guidelines, formulated by the Central Pollution Control Board, has suggested preferred materials for idols, immersion process and segregation of materials ahead of immersion to prevent pollution. "These guidelines lay down specific instructions for immersion in lakes, rivers and in the sea, which must be paid attention to. These guidelines further delineate and specify the role of the state pollution control boards in conducting water quality assessments of water bodies and classifying them on the basis of certain physio-chemical parameters," the minister wrote.

It has been suggested that idols be made from natural materials "as described in the holy scriptures". The CPCB guidelines suggest discouraging the use of plaster of paris and baked clay. Painting of idols is also being discouraged. In case idols have to be painted, the CPCB has suggested that water soluble and non-toxic natural dyes are used. The guidelines suggest to segregate all worship



WORTHY IDOLS

materials into bio-degradable and non bio-degradable materials. the former would be used for composting and recycling and the later to be disposed in sanitary landfills. It is suggested that clothes be sent to orphanages.

To ensure that immersions are conducted with minimal damage to water bodies, the local authorities have been asked to identify and notify immersion spots. This identification will be done in consultation with the river authority, port authority, water supply board, irrigation department. The pooja organisers are to be roped in for spreading awareness about the need to use non-toxic materials for idols and decorations.

It has also been suggested that the immersion spots be cordoned off and barricaded, and a synthetic liner be placed at the bottom of the spot. This will help in collecting and removing materials that do not dissolve in water. The CPCB has set out specific instructions for all kinds of water bodies. The state pollution control boards and pollution control committees have been asked to make a water quality assessment before and after the immersions.

Let IIT directors retire at 65

OVER past year or so, three leading business schools in the US — Harvard, Chicago and Stern — have hired new deans. The oldest of them is 48. Here in India, we seem to be moving in the opposite direction. The ministry of human resources development (HRD) has permitted the boards of IITs to raise the retirement age of directors from 65 to 70. This is a bad idea. The IIT boards would do well not to implement it.

Raising the retirement age to 70, it is said, will give greater scope for a second term and even a third term for directors. Some in the IIT system have argued that this is necessary as there is a scarcity of directorial talent. Nonsense. There is enough talent within the country and among overseas Indian faculty willing to return to India — enough to fill the post of director in the 15 IITs we have.

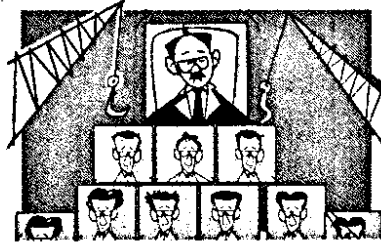
We need younger leaders in this country, new leaders. One of the welcome changes in the Indian corporate world in recent years is that there are more young people at the top. Alas, other walks of life — politics, the bureaucracy, academia — have remained relatively immune to this trend. Academia must embrace this trend, not buck it.

That apart, there is a weighty reason for not having a higher retirement age and a second or third term for directors: in the IIT system (and also in the IIM system), there is very little accountability of directors. Lack of accountability of the director is the principal governance issue in our elite institutions today, not any supposed lack of autonomy. Over the years, the boards of these institutions have failed to put in place adequate norms for accountability of the director. In the past couple of years, the ministry of HRD has tried very hard to bring this issue to the fore, but we are yet to see any results.

The contrast with top institutions in the US, the Mecca of higher education, could not be starker. Competition among educational institutions in the US is fierce, unlike in India where the leading IITs and IIMs face no worthwhile competition. The deans of these institutions are, therefore, subject to a

THE BIG PICTURE

TTRAM MOHAN



- Raising the retirement age to 70 will give greater scope for a second term and even a third term for directors
- Until the Indian system is subject to greater market discipline and accountability, giving IIT directors a second or third term is unwise
- IIMA has set the right example by limiting the tenure of the director to one term

high degree of accountability. A failure to improve the faculty profile, the departure of faculty of stature, a fall in programme rankings, a decline in the quality of research — these and other failures could easily cost the dean his job. In India, it is possible for the director of an elite institution to sleep through his tenure without evoking any response from the system.

Until the Indian system is subject to greater market discipline — say, through the entry of quality institutions from abroad — and until a rigorous system of accountability is in place, it would be most unwise to give a second or third term to IIT directors. The decision to extend a director beyond 65 would be based on the whims, not just of those in government, but those on the boards of these institutions. We must not forget that boards invariably tend to lean towards the incumbent. Those at the top know how to keep the board happy.

The IIMs, in general, have followed the healthy principle of a single term for the director, although there have been occasional departures at some IIMs (other than IIMA). The man responsible for this convention in the IIM system was IIMA's first full-time director, the legendary Ravi Matthai. Matthai was all of 38 when Vikram Sarabhai and his colleagues chose him as the first full-time director. (Sarabhai had been honorary director until then).

Even at the time that he was appointed, Matthai had indicated to Sarabhai that he would not like to stay on in the job for more than five to seven years. His contract, however, did not stipulate any term. Power is addictive. Matthai could have changed his mind and stayed on as director until retirement. He did not do so. At 45 and at the peak of his fame, he chose to step down, having put IIMA firmly on the map of the country as a centre of excellence.

Matthai argued that as institutions evolve, a change in leadership is required as otherwise, a system can get too set in its ways. My own sense is that he was also alive to the dangers inherent in a director's staying on for too long in a system where the director had sweeping powers but was subject to very little accountability. At IIMA, having a single term for the director has been crucial to preserving the culture and processes that Sarabhai and Matthai created. It has been an important factor in IIMA retaining its position of pre-eminence in the country.

IIMA has adhered to this convention for the past four decades. (Those seeking to have it overturned have run into the argument to end all arguments: if the great Matthai could step down after one term, why should anybody else continue?). But not all the IIMs have remained true to it. The government would do well to codify this convention for the IIMs and extend it to the IITs as well. Not only must the IIT director retire at 65, he must stay only for one term. Where accountability is ill-defined, limiting the director to one term is eminently desirable.

(The author is professor, IIM Ahmedabad)

Chinese soon in CBSE curriculum, says Sibal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BELJING, SEPTEMBER 15

MANDARIN, the language spoken by the majority of the Chinese, will soon be part of the CBSE curriculum as India and China discussed modalities on Wednesday to train a large number of Indian teachers to acquire the language skills necessary to make it part of the course.

“China is a powerful neighbour and is emerging as a biggest consumer of global resources. The best way to introduce China in India is to introduce its language at the primary level so that our kids develop interest and knowledge about China,” Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said.

The issue figured high on his talks with China’s Education Minister Yuan Guiren,

who promised to work out modalities to train Indian teachers in Chinese language in India.

“Let us get enough Indians to learn Chinese. Let us have a lot of Chinese trainers in India who will teach the school students. That is how we evoke interest in our kids about China,” Sibal told Indian journalists here.

“I told Yuan I am willing to introduce Chinese in the BSE system as a course. I cannot do that unless I have standards and a there is a test. That cannot happen unless I collaborate with you,” said Sibal, who also took part in the World Economic Forum in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

The Chinese side said that a two-way programme can be worked out to train about 200 teachers. Some can come

here to learn and others can learn in India through different methods, Sibal said.

Sibal said he has already spoken to CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi and obtained his consent to make Chinese part of its curriculum.

Sibal has also proposed to China to extend its sponsorship programme to exchange scholars from universities in different subjects on the lines of Full Bright Scholarship. India as a reciprocal gesture will support equal number of students, he said.

Sibal visited Peking University and held discussions with its officials on various subjects. To deepen the co-operation among universities, 10 Vice-Chancellors of India and China would meet here next month to discuss specific issues of collaboration.

Indian Express
ND 16/09/2010 p8

CCE: Board order for projects to be done in class

MAROOSHA MUZAFFAR
NEW DELHI, SEPT 15

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has asked schools to ensure that projects and assignments given to students under the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) scheme must be done as group activities in school and not carried home.

The CBSE decision is seen as an attempt to stop students from taking their assignments home. The board had recently expressed concern over students outsourcing their projects to siblings and parents or to “entrepreneurs who have set up shop.”

In a new circular on the implementation of CCE in upper primary classes — VI to VIII, the CBSE has asked schools to communicate to their teachers that various projects and assignments given to children must be done within school time and in class. The board has released a teacher’s manual listing its directives.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that schools were extending the tools and techniques of CCE to upper primary classes.

The CCE takes into account both scholastic and non-scholastic areas for grading a student. “The teachers’ manual has recommended a nine-point scale for scholastic components and a five-point scale for co-scholastic components,” said a CBSE official.

Co-scholastic areas consist of life skills, values, health and physical education, etc. The CCE was implemented in class IX last October.

The CBSE has also raised concerns about the CCE such as too many tests, assignments, projects, homework and review tests and increasing stress on students.

Don't doubt the HR in HRD

The ministry's response to criticism of its legislative agenda

SUNIL KUMAR



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA also chooses to comment on the Foreign Education Providers' Bill (No HR in HRD; IE, September 8). He has not told us what special privileges are being accorded to foreign institutions under the legislative proposal, and how the hands of domestic institutions are tied, as he claims. In fact, under the proposal, which again is before Parliament, foreign educational providers are accorded a level playing field and will be governed by national laws. Mehta seems to have misread clause 9 of that bill, which is about exemptions from any "foregoing" provisions — that is, from only those provisions of the same bill which have to do with the fast-tracking of applications in favour of globally reputed universities or institutions. Mehta is recommended to study clause 12, which makes all national laws applicable. How private unaided institu-

tions in India are stifled by government regulations, as opposed to foreign education providers who do not obtain aid from the government, has not been explained by Mehta. Nor could he have explained it because unaided institutions, whether domestic or foreign, will be treated in the same manner. The moral of the story is that half-baked knowledge and thought processes are no substitute for wisdom or informed opinion.

The first draft of the Universities for Innovation Bill has been circulated and the first round of consultations has been held with several renowned academics in the country, who have with unanimity approved the conceived course of action and have given some valuable suggestions.

The process of consultations would continue and if Mehta waits for a while, takes time to do his research, he will have the answers to the questions he has raised.

As for the UGC guidelines, described by Mehta as "absurd", he could have reached out to the commission itself to understand the rationale for the guidelines, before giving such a strong opinion in cold print. Indeed, as the right hand in government ought to know what the left hand is doing, equally the mind ought to be aware of what the hand writes for a column published in a nationally important newspaper like *The Indian Express*.

Some very significant steps have been taken to foster research in our higher education institutions, of which Mehta

could be informed if he chooses to find out. The level of investment that has gone into public institutions in this country during the Tenth Plan and the current Eleventh Plan, and policy decisions that have been taken, are unprecedented.

As for the conflict related to the semester system in the Delhi University, Mehta being an academic ought to know that the Government of India does not intervene in the academic affairs of universities. The decision on any university's pace of reforms has to be autonomous. It is unfortunate that Mehta has been uncharitable and patently biased in choosing to place the blame of what is happening in Delhi University at the doorstep of the education establishment.

A few words would be in order on the "slash and burn" approach — frankly it is an approach pursued by Mehta in his piece, and not that of the ministry of human resource development: slash-what-ever is happening and burn-whatever is good, hoping that because the opinion is rendered by an academic, it will go down well with the public. If you feed the public with wrong facts, you only destroy the process of reform which aims to constructively build an education structure that is more flexible and caters to the aspirations not only of the student community but of the entire nation. It is easy to castigate "bureaucrats" and "select academics" when you are yourself not part of the selected few, but difficult to restructure an

education system that aims to meet the aspirations of future generations.

Finally, in India's tradition of civil services, civil servants are trained to contribute their experience for both continuity and change — remaining apolitical and professional as they do so, irrespective of the government of the day or the minister in office — so there is nothing surprising or out of the ordinary about the human resource in the ministry of HRD. In any case, it is difficult to believe that an imaginative liberal disposition is the prerogative of Mehta alone.

Serious opinions are not about giving them without thinking, but thinking before giving them. The writer should not believe that he knows best. Uninformed debate should not carry the day. Neither serious academics, nor professional journalism can benefit from such preclusions.

(Concluded)

The writer is additional secretary in the Union human resource development ministry

Shake off your linguistic shackles, save Hindi

■ HINDI, our mother tongue and our national language, is dying a slow death. It is losing its importance in fast-changing modern India. It is getting limited to speaking and verbal communication. Today, people prefer reading English newspapers, watching news in English and reading more of English literature than Hindi.

Hindi can be made more popular and given its due importance, but the initiative has to be taken by us. We, perhaps, have forgotten that India is the land that has produced great Hindi novelists and poets like Munshi Premchand, Mahadevi Verma, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and many more, but today's generation has forgotten these names and is deviating towards Western authors like Stephanie Meyer, PG Wodehouse, Eric Segal, etc.

Students should be encouraged in schools to read Hindi literature. Hindi should be made a compulsory subject up to class XII. Students can be provided with Hindi newspapers about once a week. To make Hindi popular, novels read by the youth — such as those by Chetan Bhagat — can be translated in Hindi to make the language more popular.

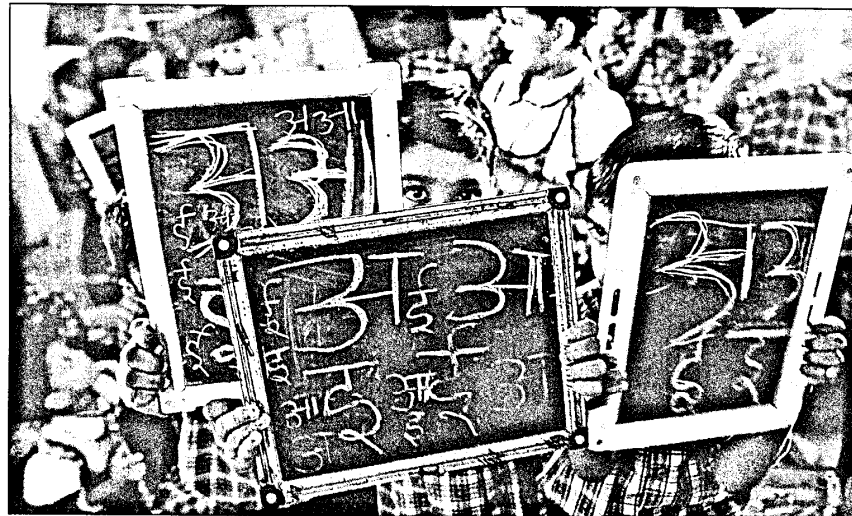
ANKIT BHATTIA, XI
The Indian School, Sadiq Nagar

■ "AS LONG as we hold on to our own language, we will have a key to our prison." Hindi, a language spoken by 40 per cent of our population, is a true reflector of our traditions, culture, values and ethics. Westernisation has gripped the minds of the people to such an extent that they are giving English a higher status than Hindi. Even after 63 years of Independence, Britishers still dominate our minds through their language. Generation Y considers English upmarket, and shies away from Hindi.

The need of the hour is to give recognition to Hindi writers who, through their writings, preserve our national language. Speeches delivered at international forums by our politicians should be in Hindi. Hindi newspapers, magazines and books should be propagated. Most importantly Hindi should be given a recognition of a national language because, as said by Gandhiji, *Rashtrabhasha ke bina rashtra goonga hai*.

MEHAKPREET KAUR, XII D
St. Marks Sr Sec Public School, Meera Bagh

■ HINDI was adopted as our national language on 14th September, 1949. It was thought, back then, that in the next few years, Hindi will become more popular and the use of the foreign language left behind by Britishers will decline. But today, in contrast, those who speak Hindi are considered inferior to those speaking English.



PRADEEP KOCHAREKAR

Even our educated political leaders prefer English to Hindi.

We must understand that the Hindi language is our legacy and not a thing to be ashamed of. Schools should organise various Hindi competitions such as Hindi debates, poetry recitations, letter and paragraph writing and good quality *kavi samellans* as part of the national curriculum. Also, people who inspire the youth, like movie stars and celebrities, should take to speaking correct Hindi. Colleges of repute should offer more and more Hindi courses. The time has come for Indian citizens to move forward and make a concrete effort towards popularising Hindi not only in India but also at the global level.

SURAMYA AGRWAL, IX C
St. Mary's School, Safdarjung Enclave

■ A language is used to express and put across views, concerns and an abstract emotion of culture. My language, my mother tongue Hindi, makes me proud and gives me a sense of belonging to the Indian culture, which not only effects 'one state elevation' but also instills values from Sanskrit and Arabic. Unfortunately, students

U S A SCHOOLS' INITIATIVE FROM THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Hindi was adopted as the official language of the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949. Since then, this day is celebrated as Hindi Day. However, in spite of being our national language, it is witnessing a gradual decline among the masses. Students suggest ways to popularise Hindi again.

are discouraged by the fear of university acceptance, besides advancement of technology and modern society, forgetting their very roots in the process. Originality comes mainly through your language. I strongly believe Hindi is already popular, it just needs to be re-enforced through encouragement and acknowledgment in schools. Teaching everyone about Indian writ-

ers and literature, besides regular events and seminars on enhancing patriotism, will surely enhance the status of Hindi worldwide.

SANJONY SETHI, XII D
The British School, Chanakyaपुर

■ Nowadays, speaking English is considered as a status symbol. Everybody tries to speak English even if they do not know how to, and feel ashamed of speaking Hindi even if they excel in it. People speaking Hindi are considered to be backward. A lot can be done to popularise Hindi. At the school level, steps should be taken to promote the language through debates and plays, *doha-chaupates*, *muhavre* and *lokotkiyan* competitions so children can know their proper usage and develop their Hindi writing skills.

It should be made compulsory for children to speak the national language in at least one more period, other than the one pertaining to Hindi. While teaching moral values, stories from Indian mythology can be narrated in Hindi. This will improve their language skills as well as enrich their knowledge of our golden past. We must try and converse in Hindi with our foreign tourists,

so they know that we take pride in our national language.

VASUNDHARA VIVEK CHAUDHARY, VIII B
Ranjnas School, R K Puram

■ IT IS heart-breaking to see that Hindi, the mother tongue of a majority of Indians, is rarely used. There is no harm in accepting foreign languages, but we should not even overlook the fact that Hindi is one of the oldest languages in the world and has been gifted to us by our ancestors. Parents prefer to send their children to schools that promote the use of English. Parents take pride in telling others that their child is studying in an English medium school, and look down upon children going to Hindi medium schools. It's time we realised the significance of this language and learned to respect it. The language can be promoted through essay writing competitions, workshops and story reading sessions in schools.

With the Commonwealth Games just round the corner, it is even more important that people coming to India from across the globe appreciate the culture and the heritage of the country. Therefore, being an Indian, we should bear in mind that losing Hindi is like losing our culture.

SHUBRATA SHASTRY, X B
Cambridge School, Indrapuram

■ "VIDESHI bhasha ka kisi bhi swatantra rashtra ke raajkaaj aur shiksha ki bhasha hona Saanskritik daasta hai."

This line, said by an anonymous person, means — it is a cultural slavery for an independent nation to have education and official work in some foreign language. Hindi is losing its stand as the common man's lingo. The lingua franca of this country is gradually being replaced by English, or rather, Hinglish. While the world is going gaga over the Hindi and Sanskrit languages and embracing it as their own (Pop star Katy Perry's Hindi tattoos and 'Jai Ho' becoming a sensation across the globe), youngsters back home are isolating themselves from this ancient language.

Due to globalisation, Hindi has been pushed into the darkest corner of our country's cupboards. The only solution is to bring Hindi back to its former position. Hindi should be made compulsory in all schools and official educational institutions. Also, because Bollywood is very influential in this country, stars and filmmakers should be told to promote Hindi through their movies and try to use it as far as possible. In the end, only Hindi can promote Hindi, which means that if we Indians don't make an effort, no one will.

TANVI CHATTERJEE, X C
St. Paul's School, SDA

IT/MA/IV

Who's afraid of visa fees?

THE United States Government has made a hefty increase in H1B visa fees payable by software engineers and other professionals seeking to enter the US. Professionals are allowed to take wage employment for six years under this visa. Previously applicants had to pay Rs 1,06,000 towards fees. Now they will have to pay Rs 1,98,000. Consequently, it will become difficult for Indian software engineers to migrate to the US.

The US Government hopes that this move will reduce competition faced by US engineers and open up job opportunities for them that were till now being grabbed by Indians. American engineers will not have to face competition from Indians who were willing to work for lesser wages. Indian software companies like Infosys and Wipro offer services to US companies from their US-based offices. They bring large numbers of engineers from India to man these operations. It will become expensive for them to do so and they will be encouraged to employ American engineers instead.

The increase in fees has been made under pressure from the American voter who perceives that Indian engineers are taking jobs that truly belong to them. Unemployment at 9.5 per cent is forcing the US lawmakers to abandon their traditional stance of free markets and to take the direction of protectionism.

The measure is specially targeted towards Indian companies. The increase in fees will only be applicable to those companies that have more than one-half of their US employees on H1B Visa. Companies like Microsoft employ larger number of professionals from India than many Indian companies. But their overall payroll in the US is larger hence H1B visa holders constitute less than one-half of their payroll and they will not be hit by this law. On the other hand, an Indian company with fewer H1B visa holders will be hit because its total payroll in the US is smaller.

The increase in visa fees appears to be harmful for India and beneficial for the US on first reading. Indeed, immediately fewer engineers will migrate to the US. This short-term impact has led commerce minister Anand Sharma to condemn the increase in fees. Indian government officials have even threatened to take up the matter in the World

While we must certainly continue to contest the hefty increase in visa fees payable by software engineers, there is no need to get worried because this anti-India measure will rebound and hit the US in the long run, says Bharat Jhunjhunwala



Trade Organisation. While we must certainly continue to contest this anti-India measure, there is no need to get worried. This measure will rebound and hit the US in the long run. The street-corner shop may gain immediately by raising its flour grinding charges but not in the long run. Some customers will buy flour from the kirana shop instead of buying wheat and having it ground. Others may go to the shop in the next street. In the end, the high price will lead to less income for the shop owner. Similarly, the American economy will stand to lose by discouraging the immigration of Indian engineers.

Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association of US says

on the basis of a study by Vivek Wadhwa of Duke University that "immigrants to the US founded more than half of all Silicon Valley start-ups created in the past decade. Half of all Silicon Valley engineers are foreign born, up from 10 per cent in 1970, and about 40 per cent of all US patents go to immigrants. These immigrant-founded companies employed 450,000 workers and generated \$52 billion in revenue in 2005." In the same tone, according to GreenCardBase.com website, "Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates has urged the US administration and lawmakers to increase the immigration limits for foreign workers who can be hired by US companies on the H1B visa programme. The US educa-

tion system is producing fewer math and science graduates than countries like India and China, and top IT workers in those countries and others are more often opting to stay home instead of work at a US company, Gates said." Availability of fewer skilled engineers from India will force American employers like Microsoft to employ high-paid low-skilled Americans. This will erode their global competitiveness and haunt the US economy.

The long-term impact on the Indian economy, on the other hand, is likely to be beneficial. Web-conferencing has made it possible to talk to persons sitting thousands of miles away just as if they were sitting on the same

table. The need to send Indian engineers to perform tasks sitting in the host's office in America has correspondingly become less. American principals can communicate their requirements and problems to Indian engineers sitting in Bangalore. This has led to a decline in the number of engineers being sent to America by Indian companies lately.

Infosys had requested 4559 H1B visas in 2008. This had declined to a mere 440 in 2009. A similar decline is seen by Wipro, Satyam and TCS. Till recently the H1B quota was lapped up on the very first day of opening. This year, however, only 28,000 applications were received many months after opening of the 85,000 visas that were available.

The demand for H1B visas is declining in tandem with improvement of communication technologies. Increase in visa fees in this situation is like flogging a dead horse.

According to one report, Infosys's revenues from onsite provision of services in the US were 47 per cent and offshore revenues from operations in India were 53 per cent. Infosys is capable of raising the share of offshore operations in India to 95 per cent from present 53 per cent. The company has already conducted pilot programmes with a couple of clients in the US in this direction successfully. The immense value of the H1B visa that prevailed in yesteryears has clearly evaporated. It means that software contracts will continue to flow to India.

The difference will be that previously a large part of these contracts was executed onsite in the US. Now most will be executed in India. This will be harmful for the US. The spread effects of technological innovation will accrue in India, not in the US. This will erode the technological lead of that country. Money that was being spent by Indian engineers in the US will now be spent in India.

I reckon the US has sunk into a trap. Increase in visa fees will lead to greater outsourcing and less jobs for American engineers. Reduction in fees will lead to more immigration and again fewer jobs for American engineers. Either way there is no escape.

The basic problem, mentioned by Gates, is that the cost of production of the mathematical mind in the US is much higher than in India. Any attempt to keep cheap goods out of the shop leads to closure of the same. Likewise, any attempt to keep out cheaper Indian mind power will lead to loss for the US economy.

Instead of the US trying to keep Indians out, it should learn the techniques of creation of mindpower from India like applying *nika* on the forehead, tying *moli* on the wrist, circumambulating around the temple, taking bath in rivers, ringing bells in the temples, burning incense, etc. These techniques will improve the math scores of US students and help them compete with India.

The writer is former Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

By Anuradha Shukla
in New Delhi

EVEN as the Indian IT industry finds the recent speech by US President Barack Obama disturbing, industry experts says that the anti-outsourcing move will not have any immediate impact on its revenues.

However, they maintain that it may affect the business of small companies.

"The recent anti-outsourcing (move) is not going to impact the Indian companies as most of their businesses are with private companies. The private companies are still looking at India as their outsourcing partner and are not affected by rhetoric. However, the trend is certainly disturbing," said Ameet Nivsarkar, vice president, global trade, Nasscom.

Similar sentiments were expressed by global networking giant Cisco.

"This is business is not driven by rhetoric but hardcore commonsense. US companies outsource because it is profitable and not just out of some political compulsions. So, large contracts will not be impacted.

TCS, M-Sat & Mindtree looking at Europe

However, there may be certain disruption for small contracts and companies," a senior official of Cisco said.

And with the mid-term elections to the Senate and House of Representatives coming up, there would be more noise on the anti-outsourcing front, said IT & ITeS industry body Nasscom.

Recently, the state of Ohio banned offshoring of jobs by government departments. This was followed by protests by Indian companies. The ban was followed by the Obama's statement against outsourcing by American companies.

Last month, the US increased the fees for H-1B and L1 visas, sought by Indian professionals and IT companies. The hike in fees is expected to put an additional burden of \$250 million annually on the Indian IT firms.

However, there have been some concerns among the Indian IT companies on the US companies shying away from making long-term commitments.

"What is challenging is that companies are willing to commit for the short term but not the long term or the medium term. Because of this, it

Small IT cos to feel heat of ban on outsourcing



CAUTION RULES: US companies are holding back on long-term IT contracts on fears of the unfolding economic scenario in the West, which many fear may not be very rosy.

becomes challenging to do medium- to long-term planning," S. Gopalakrishnan, chief executive officer (CEO) of Infosys Technologies had said in an interview at the World Economic Forum in China.

However, the Cisco official pointed out that companies are being held back from committing to long-term contract not by political sentiments but by economic concerns.

"The global economy has not recovered completely and so the companies are trading with caution before making long-term commitments. The con-

cerns are similar in the European as well as other markets," he added.

At present the \$50-billion Indian IT industry gets over 60 per cent of its revenue from the US. Europe accounts for about 20 per cent of its revenue while the rest 20 per cent comes from Latin America, Middle East and other destinations. And with the anti-outsourcing rhetoric getting louder, Indian IT companies have started looking for alternatives in other markets like Europe, Middle East and Latin America.

"It is not that the companies

are not looking at the options. We have already started looking at the options in Europe. The response is slow but good. Once the economy improves we will get many more deals and also from Latin America," said an official from Infosys, who did not wish to be named.

Others like TCS, Mahindra Satyam and Mindtree are also considering European options seriously.

Even Nasscom is pitching for flexible work permits and single visas for European Union countries, which will reduce costs for the Indian IT industry.

IT stocks shine despite talk of outsourcing ban

By B.S. Srinivasalu Reddy
In Mumbai

THE market continued its winning streak taking the bellwether BSE Sensex a bit closer to the 20,000-points mark, mainly led by information technology (IT) stocks, which found favour with the investors after nearly two months.

The BSE IT index moved up by 2.49 per cent in a single session, despite anti-outsourcing rhetoric picking up pace ahead of state elections in the US, and the feeling that IT stocks are getting fairly valued. The Sensex gained 0.8 per cent to 19,502 points.

"The reason for optimism in the sector is growing volumes of business and low impact of the anti-outsourcing propaganda in the US," said Srishti Anand, IT analyst of Angel Broking.

State elections in the US are scheduled for November, boosting the pitch for ban on outsourcing government jobs. The state of Ohio has officially banned outsourcing of its jobs abroad, making a case for other states to follow. If Obama's Democrats gain in the elec-

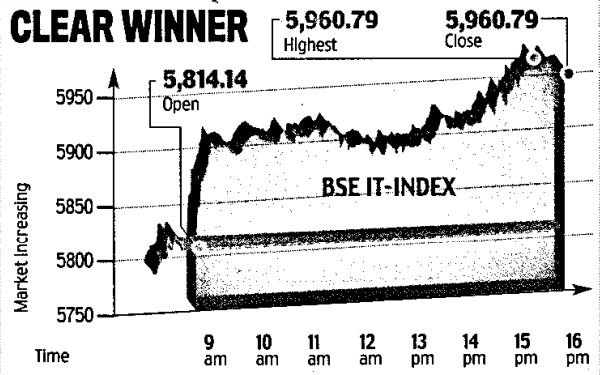
tions, it is feared that this rhetoric may gain further strength.

"Most of the non-governmental outsourcing business from the US comes from three sectors, banking and financial services companies, manufacturing and retail segments, and there are signs of revival in these segments, of late," Srishti added.

Unlike in the UK, where government outsourcing is high, outsourcing by the US government agencies is minimal.

However, as the US economic prospects brighten, Indian IT companies are expected to benefit further. "There is a lot of headroom for IT companies to gain in valuations. Volume growth will pick up further. However, I bet more on big companies in the sector," said Rajiv Mehta, IT analyst of IIFL.

Smaller IT firms gained more than their larger counterparts in the sector on Monday. While biggies like TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCL Technologies gained in the range of 2.25 per cent to 3.29 per cent, second rung companies like Oracle Financial, Patni and Financial Technologies gained over four per cent.



Rajiv bets only on Infosys, TCS and HCL Tech in the sector. "It is difficult for the smaller stocks to maintain their margins in adverse conditions," he argued.

Harit Shah of Karvy Stock Broking however, said that IT firms' valuations are stretched and advised a little caution. "It is better to wait for a correction to buy into IT stocks, in the wake of rising protectionism in

US and global economic uncertainties," he said.

Srishti, however, bats for smaller ones too, saying their valuations are not as stretched as of the biggies. "Of course, there are execution problems with the smaller IT companies like Patni compared to Infosys. But Patni is valued 10-11 times its earnings, while Infosys is 40-50 times," she added.

Asian Age ND 16/09/2010 p-11

It's social network-centric warfare

Google plans layered phalanx

Twitter revamps to manoeuvre

ALEXEI ORESKOVIC

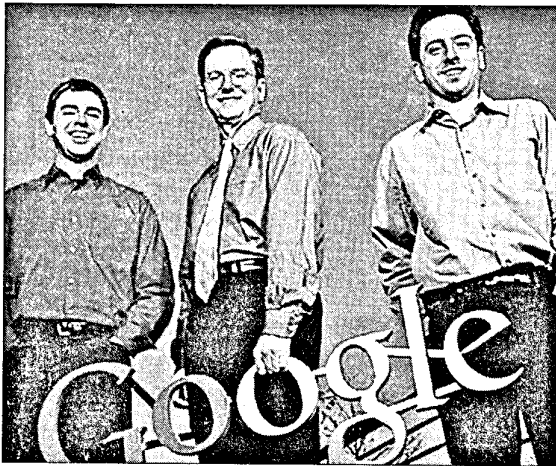
Sept 15: Google plans to gradually introduce social-networking features starting this fall, reviving attempts to compete with Facebook after pulling the plug on its stillborn Wave project.

Chief Executive Eric Schmidt said Tuesday the Internet search leader intends to work in "layers" of social networking to its sites, rather than unveil a flashy product. To propel that effort, he intends to sustain its pace of acquisitions. "We're trying to take Google's core products and add a social component," Schmidt said at Zeitgeist, a gathering of business partners and high-profile industry figures.

"If you think about it, it's obvious. With your permission, knowing more about who your friends are, we can provide more tailored recommendations. Search quality can get better."

Google has struggled to find the right touch in creating the types of social networking services that have become increasingly hot online. It declared the demise this year of Wave, a high-profile online communications tool launched last year. And Orkut, its early online social network, has failed to catch on outside of Brazil and India.

Media reports now peg Google as developing a new social networking product - dubbed Google ME - in a bid to take on Facebook, which has more than half a billion users, worldwide. Others speculate it might be looking for an acquisition to get into social gaming.



Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page with CEO Eric Schmidt

Google is developing ME, for a frontal attack on FB some day, but for now, it will just embed social networking features into all of its sites.

"Everybody has convinced themselves that there's some huge project about to get announced next week. And I can assure you that's not the case," Schmidt said. Analysts point to recent acquisitions as signs the company is steadily beefing up its social-network capabilities.

The company this year undertook a series of small to mid-sized purchases, including a \$182 million deal to take over social networking firm Slide, and a \$700 million offer for airline ticketing firm ITA Software Inc.

Schmidt expects the latest deal to win regulatory approval. He said the level of scrutiny it has drawn is

similar to that for Google's acquisition of Admob, which won a green light. Analysts have attributed a recent flurry of tech-sector acquisitions to a perception that valuations remain low, a product of a sputtering

economy as well as persistent doubts about the strength of the tech sector recovery.

Schmidt said he did not expect another recession soon, but warned of slow, or even zero, growth over the next few years. "It's unlikely we'll have a double dip for all the reasons people talked about. A much more likely scenario is slow or no growth for a few years," Schmidt said in the interview. "High tech is different. High-tech seems to be benefiting from new product cycles, lots of new investments," he added. "So high tech will probably have a different outcome from the average American (consumer)." - Reuters

San Francisco, Sept 15: Microblogging sensation Twitter, which is now signing up 370,000 new users daily on average, is redesigning its website to make it easier for users to navigate the service and discover new information.

The four-year-old company, which this month reported more than 145 million users, announced on Tuesday new improvements, such as embedded YouTube videos and other content, which is featured in a new two-pane layout.

Twitter Chief Executive Evan Williams said the overhauled twitter.com features a completely new architecture, which is more responsive and user-friendly. "It makes it such a richer and faster experience," Williams said at a press conference to announce the new site. Twitter allows users to send 140-character text messages - tweets - to groups of followers. The company has quickly become one of the Web's most popular social networking services, along with Facebook and LinkedIn.

Williams said more than 90 million tweets are sent per day on average.

He hopes the new site will improve discovery, making twitter.com more of an information resource.

"You don't need to tweet. Twitter can be great just as a way to get information," Williams said.

Twitter, increasingly challenging established Web giants such as Yahoo Inc and Google Inc for con-



Twitter's Evan Williams

sumers' online time.

Forrester analyst Augie Ray said the Twitter redesign should help improve engagement with users.

"Twitter's new Web functionality is a significant evolution that promises to attract more visits to Twitter.com, improve Twitterers' interactions with content and each other, and ease adoption for Twitter newbies," Ray said in a blog post.

The new twitter.com will start rolling out to a small percentage of users on Tuesday, and will be rolled out incrementally on a global basis over the next several weeks. The company is aiming to broaden Twitter's appeal. It is also rolling out a new advertising system, as it aims to transform it into a sustainable, revenue-generating business.

Williams said he hopes the redesign will help to better monetize the service.

Twitter's backers include Spark Capital, Benchmark Capital, mutual fund giant T. Rowe Price and private equity firm Insight Venture Partners. - Reuters

IBM boss blasts HP, defends 'boring' image

New York, Sept 15: IBM Corp has been known to revel in its image as the most boring technology company. But Chief Executive Samuel Palmisano took that a step further when he used a rare public appearance to tell his Silicon Valley rivals they should consider being more boring themselves.

Palmisano in particular took several swipes at computer maker Hewlett-Packard Co, questioning everything from its acquisition strategy to its technology investment levels and its recent handling of the exit of former CEO Mark Hurd.

He said on Tuesday that Hurd's exit package - estimated at about \$34.6 million - was a mistake, especially since Hurd very quickly joined rival Oracle Corp after departing amid a scandal related to allegations of sexual harassment.

"They spent a lot of money to keep him for an hour," the executive said in response to a question at the Wall Street Journal Viewpoints Executive Breakfast. "That to me



IBM chief executive Samuel Palmisano

Palmisano said HP's huge exit package to Mark Hurd was a mistake, and criticised its recent acquisitions of 3Par and ArcSight. Then, in a slight effort to balance his criticisms, he also made fun of the flamboyance of his own performance at the event. "You see now why they don't let me out very often," he said.

was not handled in the best interests of shareholders."

The executive also questioned HP's recent flurry of acquisition, including deals to buy data storage company 3Par Inc for \$2.4 billion and security technology company ArcSight Inc for \$1.5 billion. He said IBM makes its acquisitions at "reasonable valuations."

"We'd never do a 3Par or the one (ArcSight) yesterday. We don't have to,"

Palmisano said, noting that 3Par had traded at \$18 a share before HP agreed to pay \$33 a share for the company to win a bidding war with Dell Inc.

Instead of making flashy acquisitions, Palmisano said IBM makes sure it sticks with its policy of returning value to shareholders through dividends and share buybacks.

"I understand this is boring and old-fashioned," said the

executive, who joked that he would never get the HP CEO job.

He also defended IBM's policy of not providing mid-quarter earnings updates, saying he focused on the long term.

Palmisano said he respects Oracle's high level of investment in new technologies. He was much less worried about competing against HP because that company does not invest enough in

research and instead depends on reselling products of partners such as Microsoft Corp.

"If you're pushing technology you will get returns," Palmisano said.

According to their latest quarterly reports, Hewlett-Packard, long known as the original 'garage company', invested 2.4 percent of its revenue in research and development (R&D) while IBM invested about 6 percent.

HP declined to respond to the comments.

Palmisano also said he was glad IBM had sold its personal computer business to Lenovo several years ago because of the declining profit margins in PCs. Retail prices have fallen to the extent PCs can sell for as low as \$400.

"You can't even cover advertising and support at \$400," he said. Asked if the PC business was over Palmisano said: "It ended three or four years ago."

Instead, he said IBM focuses on investing over-

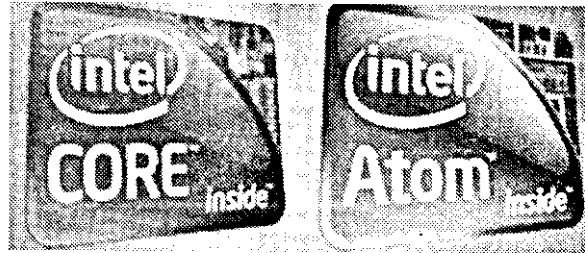
seas and building its technology services business by placing employees in growing markets.

Palmisano said IBM is looking to benefit from growth in economies such as China and India, and also cited Vietnam and Egypt as countries where IBM sees a lot of promise.

However, the executive said he had made little progress with the Obama administration in his discussions with officials about what would be good for business. In particular, the executive criticized the government's policies on exports, saying that exports were key to future growth of the United States.

Palmisano, who turned 59 in July, said he was not "going anywhere" when asked if he would retire when he reaches 60. But in a slight effort to balance his criticisms, he also made fun of the flamboyance of his performance at the event.

"You see why they don't let me out very often," he said. — Reuters



Intel inside TV, cars

San Francisco, Sept 15: Intel Corp unveiled microprocessors for smart TVs and Web-connected cars on Tuesday and expanded an online store selling applications for netbooks built with its Atom chips.

Intel's low-cost Atom processors designed for mobile gadgets dominate the netbook niche but the leading chipmaker has struggled to get into smartphones — and the fast-growing market for devices like tablets, car computers and Internet TV is wide open. As well as high-profile consumer gadgets, Intel aims to include its Atom silicon in more mundane machines like traffic signs, security cameras and home appliances that are increasingly computerized and interconnected.

Intel launched two new versions of its Atom chip. The E600 series is aimed at embedded applications like in-car computers that control entertainment and navigation. The CE4200 series is for machines that blend TV with web-browsing.

"We've a lot of territory and as Atom is coming into these market segments where Intel architecture hasn't been before we're really trying to help support customers very quickly," said Doug Davis, head of Intel's Embedded and Communications Group. He showed off a prototype racing motorcycle that uses a microchip to send data about its engine to a pit crew, and a roof-mounted taxi sign that shows different ads depending on where the cab is driving. — Reuters

Genetic therapy cures thalassaemia

Though the patient has not required any blood transfusion for the last 2 years, risk of cancer has to be continuously monitored

R. PRASAD

Nearly 10,000 children born every year in India suffer from thalassaemia major, an inherited disease that is caused by an abnormality in haemoglobin (an oxygen-carrying protein) production. This results in ineffective production of red blood cells, thus causing anaemia. This necessitates regular blood transfusion. It not only affects the quality of life of children but also cuts short their life span.

A paper published online in *Nature* today (Sept 16) reports the first case where gene therapy on an 18-year-old teenager has successfully cured the disease.

Transfusion free

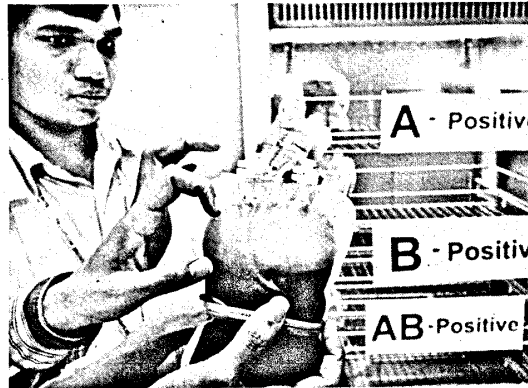
The therapy was performed three years ago in June and the person has not required any blood transfusion since June 2008, a year after the transplantation was conducted. However, the patient remains mildly anaemic. The frequency of transfusion requirements was 2-3 red blood packs given once a month before the therapy.

"At present, approximately three years post-transplantation, the biological and clinical evolution is remarkable, and the patient's quality of life is good," note the authors. Since no red blood transfusion was required since June 2008, the authors consider this case as a "clinical success."

The procedure

First the patient's diseased haematopoietic stem cells taken from the bone marrow were separated. They then transferred a functional beta-globin gene capable of producing red blood cells into the haematopoietic stem cells. The beta-globin gene was introduced into the patient's haematopoietic stem cells using a viral vector (HIV-derived lentiviral vector).

With the gene successfully transferred, the patient was subjected to a high dose of chemotherapy before transplanting the genetically modified haematopoietic stem cells. High dose chemotherapy treatment ensured that all diseased stem cells were destroyed. This ensured that the effects of the genetically modified stem cells introduced were not diluted and



TREATMENT: Frequent blood transfusion is needed to treat anaemia in patients with thalassaemia. - PHOTO: MOHAMMED YOUSUF

hence the outcome not compromised.

Destroying the diseased stem cells through chemotherapy prior to undertaking bone marrow transplantation to treat thalassaemia patients is routine.

Following the treatment, the haematopoietic stem cells containing the modified gene started to produce healthy blood cells.

According to a *News and Views* piece in the same issue of *Nature*, the levels of genet-

ically modified cells rose from less than 2 per cent in the first few months to 11 per cent at 33 months after transplantation.

Need for caution

However, there is great

need for caution. The genetically modified stem cells appear to have altered the expression of a gene that controls the behaviour of blood stem cells, causing a mild, benign expansion of these cells.

While the effect seen in the patient may be responsible for much of the therapeutic benefit, the possibility that the behaviour is a prelude to cancer cannot be completely ruled out.

The paper notes that the increased levels of a particular protein (HMGA2) that is implicated as a potential cancer stimulus was present in only half of all the haematopoietic cells circulating in the patient's blood.

Based on this fact, the authors note that "there is no evidence of a malignant or pre-malignant state" in the patient.

Earlier experiments

It must be remembered that earlier experiments of introducing genetically modified haematopoietic stem cells led to cancer.

The first time it was tested about ten years ago, a murine leukaemia virus vector was used. Several patients developed cancer.

In a later trial, a retroviral vector was used to introduce the genetically modified beta-globin gene. But the result was the same — patients developed cancer.

Though HIV-derived lentiviral vector was used in this case, there has been some benign proliferation of cells that have a protein which is often implicated in cancer.

Hence many more trials and more investigations are required before genetic therapy can be considered as a viable alternative.

The advantage

The advantage with genetic therapy is that the therapeutic gene (beta-globin gene) is made in the laboratory and inserted into the vector and transplanted into the body.

This makes redundant the need to look out for a donor, leave alone donors with a perfect tissue match as the recipient's, as is the case with bone marrow transplantation.

Though stem cells harvested from cord blood do not require perfect tissue match, a perfect tissue match, nevertheless, vastly improves the chances of the transplant's success.

Hindu ND 16/09/2010

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World's largest wind farm set to open

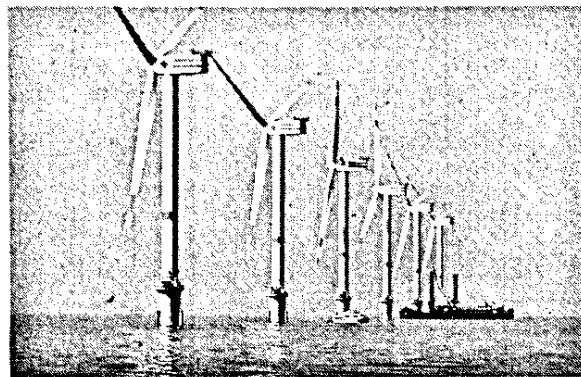
TERRY MACALISTER

The world's largest offshore wind farm, which cost more than GBP750m to build, is poised to begin generating power off the coast of Kent, south-east England, with 100 turbines producing enough electricity to supply heat and light for some 200,000 homes.

The Thanet facility, which is going through final testing by Vattenfall, its Swedish power company operator, is going on stream as the National Grid revealed that at one stage last week 10 per cent of the U.K.'s electricity came from wind farms.

But industry experts claim that the wider green revolution needed to meet renewable and climate change targets imposed by the European Union is still in danger from proposed spending cuts.

Chris Huhne, the energy



NON-POLLUTING: Windmills of an off shore wind farm off Zeebrugge in the North Sea. - PHOTO: AP

and climate change secretary, will open the facility, which is 7.5 miles (12km) off Foreness Point, on 23 September.

The Thanet farm, which will be able to produce 300MW of electricity, will be the biggest offshore facility of its kind until the even larger London Array, which has an eventual goal of 340 turbines, is completed.

It will dwarf the nearby Kentish Flats facility off Whitstable, also run by Vattenfall and using similar Vestas turbines.

Excitement about the potential for wind was heightened last week when the grid put out a statement that over a 24-hour period up to 10 per cent of electricity came from wind and 4 per cent from

hydro.

Maria McCaffery, chief executive of RenewableUK, said the figures underscored the contention that wind and renewables were no longer "alternative" but core parts of the power sector.

"We are expecting to see the contribution of electricity from wind gradually increase over the next decade, to around 30 per cent of the UK's total consumption.

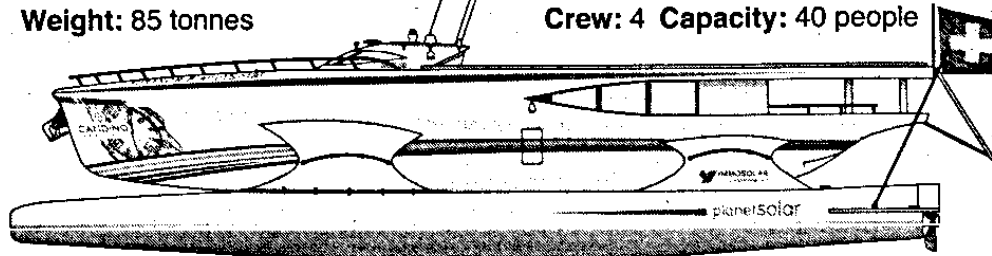
This news confirms that not only are the wind farms we have built so far starting to deliver, but that U.K. wind farm yields are the best in Europe, and comparable with established technologies such as hydro," she said.

The U.K. currently generates only 3 per cent on an annual basis, although last week's figure from the National Grid shows that — on a temporary basis at least — that figure can be much higher. — © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2010

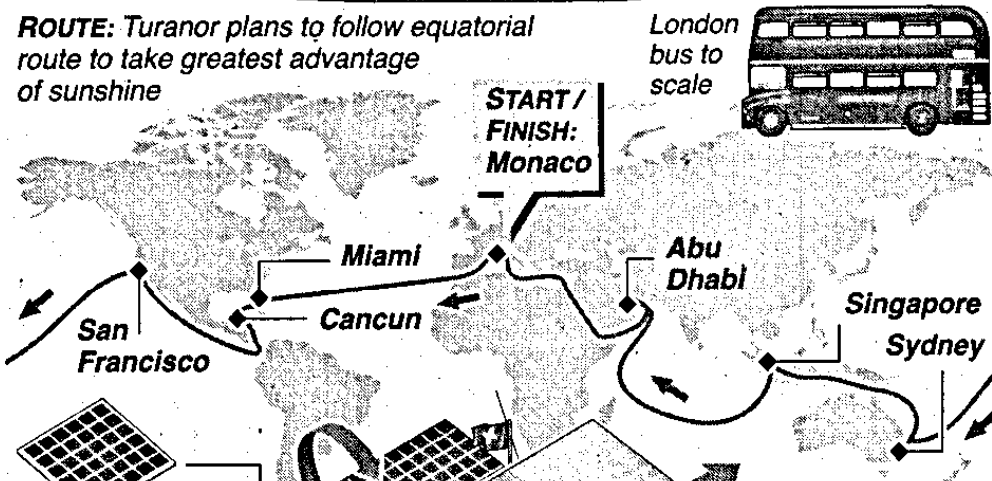
World's biggest solar-powered boat

Turanor, a giant catamaran launched by the Swiss company PlanetSolar, is planning to circumnavigate the globe simply by harnessing the power of the sun. The 50,000km journey, expected to take over 160 days, is intended to prove the under-exploited potential of solar energy

Length: 31m Width: 15m **TURANOR** Max. speed: 26 km/h
Weight: 85 tonnes Crew: 4 Capacity: 40 people

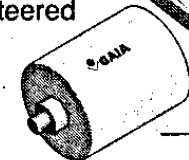
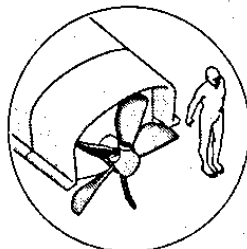


ROUTE: Turanor plans to follow equatorial route to take greatest advantage of sunshine



Solar panels: 825 modules, equipped with 38,000 photovoltaic cells, cover total area of 537 square metres

Propulsion: Twin carbon-fibre propellers enable boat to be steered without rudder



Batteries: Energy stored in world's largest lithium ion battery allows boat to run for three days at 14km – speed of average oil tanker – in absence of sunlight

Solar arrays: Attached to side riggers and "rear wings", can be retracted in stormy weather

Power: Four electric motors have maximum output of 120 kW and energy efficiency of 90%

Source: PlanetSolar

© GRAPHIC NEWS

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UGC nod for four new centres at JNU

Urvashi Sarkar

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission has approved the establishing of four new centres at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Three of the proposed new centres are part of the School of Social Sciences while one is a special autonomous centre.

Prof. Deepak Kumar, head of the proposed Centre for Media Research, said the centre will focus on research and not on media studies which is the common focus of many institutions.

The centre will aim to develop a critical understanding about the media and its engagement with society, polity and economy in India. It will also engage itself with determining and studying factors influencing the media and search for alternative niches through new media for instance.

According to Prof. Kumar, the centre should be func-

tional in a year or two. The initial programmes on offer will be M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes.

Centre for the Studies of the Informal Economy head Prof. Amitabh Kundu said: "The informal economy is a significant emerging field of study in India and not much research has been done in this area. The centre will aim to focus on the informal economy in all its dimensions and explore its importance."

Efforts would be made to have the centre functional in a year, he added.

The third centre at the School of Social Sciences is the North-East Studies Research Centre.

According to Special Centre for Nano Science chairperson Prof. Sanjay Puri, the aim of the centre is to be "at the cutting edge of research in nano technology." The centre will be a special autonomous centre in JNU and will not be part of any school.

Tribune ND 16.09.2010 P-4

FMS goes online

Integrates two MBA courses

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

In a bid to make admission more student-friendly, Delhi University's Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) has made several changes to its admission process and courses.

From now on, aspiring candidates will have to register themselves on the official website of FMS. In another major change, FMS has decided to integrate its two-year full-time MBA in management services programme (MBA-MS) with its flagship MBA (full-time) course. The new programme will now be known as MBA (FT). The student intake for MBA (FT) pro-

gramme will be 226, which is 15 seats less than the cumulative intake of both the courses in 2010.

FMS dean K. Mamkoottam said that the decision to integrate the two courses was taken by the academic council. Mamkoottam also clarified that there will not be a decrease in the number of seats for the course. "Besides the 226 seats, there will be 5 per cent seats for foreign students," he said.

Further, FMS has also advanced the dates of entrance tests by almost a month. The institute has included three new test centers— Varanasi, Roorkee and Baroda.

Also, this year, FMS will be selecting Ph.D. scholars on the basis of an entrance test. The entrance test for MBA (FT) and PhD programmes will be conducted on December 5, 2010.

PSIEC land for IT companies

CHITLEEN K SETHI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 15
In a bid to ease out the acute dearth of land for the setting up of bases of IT companies in Mohali, the state government today decided to use over 70 acres of land available with the Punjab Small Industries and Exports Corporation (PSIEC).

Almost 73 acres of land of the corporation had been offered to IT giants Wipro and TCS to set up base here. However, in the absence of any response from the two companies it was decided today that a part of this land be offered to other companies and the rest divided

The state government has decided to use over 70 acres of land available with the PSIEC for providing land to IT companies to set up their base at Mohali

into industrial plots for allotment to IT and IT-related industries.

This was decided in a meeting of Industries Minister Manoranjan Kalia with the Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal today.

TCS and Wipro were to be given this land in 2005 but the state could not fulfil its promise due to pending litigation. Following the end of the court case, this chunk of land was handed over back to the Industries department.

The state government wrote to the two companies informing them that the land was available and in case they were still interested they could pursue their offer with the government. However, the CM was today informed that these two companies had not shown any interest in this land and it could be used for other purposes.

The Principal Secretary, Industries, SS Channi, said 25 acres out of these 73 acres would now be kept aside to

be offered to a big IT company, which can set up an anchor unit here. Another 10 acres would be kept aside for the setting up of an IT Park.

It was decided that almost 10 per cent of the land would be retained by the PSIEC for commercial use to set off the subsidy that the government might have to give while allotting land to the IT companies to set up base on these chunks of land.

"There would be 10 1-acre plots on 10 acres of this land, another 20 of 2,500 square yards on another 10 acres and 50 of 1,000 square yards each on another 10 acres which would be allotted according to the Industrial Policy," Channi said.

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IIT takes steps to counter stress among its students

ZAFAR IRSHAD
KANPUR, SEPT 15

A day after an IITian here landed himself in a hospital in a bizarre act, the institute today said performance pressure, at times, leads students to mental illness and depression resulting in such unnatural steps.

Many students here face stress due to high academic pressure, besides parental and peer pressure. Some are worried over job prospects in current scenario. This builds up so much pressure among them that sometimes they take drastic steps like suicides, IIT-K Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar told PTI.

To counter this, counselling and yoga centres



have been set up on the campus with an aim to reducing stress level among students.

A separate centre with a woman counsellor is there for girl students. Various sports activities are also organized round the year to give them a break from the hectic routine, he said.

However, an IIT student, suspected to be under depression, had yesterday inserted a pencil in his penis following which he was taken to a hospital in a critical condition.

According to SC Tewari, professor psychiatry department of Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University, Lucknow, the disease is called "sexual perversion" in medical terminology.

"Students in institutes like IIT are constantly under the burden of studies or job prospects. To fulfil their sexual desires they, at times, indulge in such unnatural activities," Tewari said.

Senior psychiatrist Manish Nigam here described sexual perversion as a mental illness.

Seven students of the institute had committed suicide in last five years, Kashalkar said, adding that mental stress was a major reason behind the suicides.— PTI