#### Newspaper Clips

**September 16, 2011** 

Times of India Pune 15.09.2011 P-3

## **Chahande is acting varsity VC**

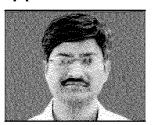
#### Process To Appoint Full-Time Vice-Chancellor Of The UoP To Start Soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Sanjay Chahande, a 1988 batch IAS officer and director general of the Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (Yashada), will take charge as the acting vice-chancellor (VC) of the University of Pune (UoP) on Thursday.

State governor and chancellor K Shankaranarayanan accepted, on Wednesday, the resignation of incumbent VC, R K Shevgaonkar, who will hand over the charge to Chahande. Shevgaonkar has been appointed director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

Chahande (49), an MBBS degree-holder, will be the second acting VC of the UoP in the last three years and will hold the



charge in addition to his existing responsibility as Yashada chief. The then pro-VC Arun Adsool had held the officiating charge between August 2009 and March 2010.

Chahande also has a masters degree in sociology from the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science and a masters in public administration from the Syracuse University in New York, USA.

A senior official from the Raj Bhavan told TOI, "The process for appointment of a new full-time VC will begin soon. A threemember search panel, headed by a former Supreme Court or high court judge and two eminent members, will be constituted by the end of this month."

According to the state government's new policy for appointment of VCs, introduced in 2010, the search panel will release advertisements inviting applications from qualified candidates for the varsity's topjob.

"After the scrutiny of such applications, eligible candidates will be called for an interactive session with the panel members, to present their vision and views about the UoP's future progress. A shortlist of successful candidates will then

be forwarded to the governor for final selection," the official said.

Going by past experience, an officiating VC's tenure remains for six to eight months to enable the appointment process for a full-time VC to take place.

During this period, the officiating VC's prime role will be that of a caretaker head in running the varsity's day-to-day administrative affairs smoothly. The laws governing the state universities do not provide powers to an acting VC to take policy decisions.

Incidentally, Chahande will be the second IAS officer to head the UoP after the then Yashada chief Ratnakar Gaikwad, who held the officiating post between February and August, 2006, following the end of Ashok Kolaskar's five-year term as VC. Gaikwad, who is now state chief secretary and head of Yashada's 13-member board of governors, had an eventful term, owing to the fast pace of administrative reforms he had set at the UoP besides chalking out a Rs 1,000 crore ambitious albeit controversial Master Plan for transforming the university into a world class institution.

Chahande began as an assistant collector of Sangamner and Jalgaon in 1991 and has since held several important postings including chief executive officer of Nanded Zilla Parishad; director of social welfare in Pune; collector of Mumbai and Mumbai suburban districts; divisional commissioner of Nashik and secretary to state department of women and child development.

## The big test

## Engineering colleges, including IITs, may determine entry through a common test

HE Indian Institutes of Technology enjoy their cachet at least partly on the basis of their ferociously competitive entrance test - the idea that once, , you're past the gates, you are ushered into an aristocracy of the intellect, no matter what your social context is. Now, the council of IITs and the HRD ministry are planning a radical change. They propose a common entrance aptitude test to replace the IIT joint entrance examination as well as those currently in place at various state engineering colleges, and one that could possibly be adopted by private colleges too. While the plan is still being worked out, one of the stated aims is to provide an SAT-like standard, to expand access and make for greater diversity, and possibly minimise the skews created by coaching classes that only a section of applicants can afford, in terms of finances and time.

The Scholastic Assessment Test was created as a pure intelligence test, based on an ethic of equal opportunity for everyone — one that could separate innate academic ability from family background and quality of schooling. While erasing the weight of privilege and history

might be more difficult to realise than the idealistic champions of the SAT imagined, it is a rough and ready instrument for its purpose, to sort admissions to American colleges. How will that idea be modified for entry into specialised engineering programmes? While the HRD ministry's intentions are commendable, success depends entirely on how the test is designed.

However, having a common examination for public engineering schools is clearly a better system. A single entrance test for MBBS and postgraduate medical programmes has already been approved - one that is expected to cut through the thicket of examinations in different states (as many as 10 to 15), which presented logistical challenges as well as financial ones. Less well-off students were forced to limit the number of competitive tests they could take. Having a single measure to evaluate all contenders also creates a standard - it makes for more meaningful assessment between various student populations in India, and makes global vetting easier. Given how many students stake their futures on these tests, the HRD ministry must make sure it crafts the right standards for the test.

#### PEEFIKEN DEING ONGESMPLOYED STUDIENTS WILL HAVE TO REPAY GOVE SUBSIDY

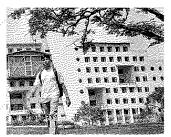
## Goodbye IIT-JEE; 1 test from 2013

Vineeta Pandey @ NEW DELHI

The government will scrap all engineering entrance exams from 2013-14. It has also come up with a novel idea of hiking tuition fees: students will not feel the pinch during the course of study, but they will have to pay up once they get a job.

Currently, various state boards and institutions, including the IITs, conduct at least 150 entrance exams every year. The government decided to dump all such exams, including the IIT-JEE and the AIEEE, at a meeting of IIT Council (IIT directors) and officials from the ministry of human resource development (HRD). Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal chaired the meeting.

"There will be one merit list. Institutes, including the IITs, will have to pick up students from this list," Sibal said. "The list will be based on Std 12 marks and the entrance test results. Also, students will be counselled before they choose a course." This test will be similar to the common entrance exam for medical courses beginning next year.



IITs will have to pick students from a single merit list

While rejecting the report of the Anil Kakodkar Committee that had suggested a fivefold fee hike for ITTs (BTech and MTech programmes), the government, in principle, approved a fee hike. Sibal said students would continue paying Rs50,000 as annual fee, but they would have to "pay back" the difference money — the fee paid by a student and the money spent on him by an IIT — once they get a job.

Those from the SC/ST and OBC categories and students going for higher education or joining an IIT faculty would be exempted from this policy. The exemption would encourage students to take up research work and meet the faculty shortage, Sibal said.

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## Goodbye IIT-JEE; 1 test from 2013

#### From p1

"At present, the fees are nominal because of government subsidy," he said. "The actual cost works out to nearly Rs6-8 lakh per student. Students can surely pay back this amount in easy instalments, considering the plush jobs they land with once they get their degrees."

But the government wants a foolproof system in place to ensure students pay back the difference money. The degrees, which will soon be in a DMAT format, will reflect the difference money as loan and employers will be asked to deduct

it from a student's salary and deposit it with the government.

The government knows that several states might oppose its plan of a common entrance test for engineering courses because a large chunk of engineering colleges comes under state purview. But it is confident of having the support of state governments because of the Supreme Court order in favour of a common entrance exam for medical courses. Sibal said that the Centre would discuss the matter with all state education ministers and representatives of all state boards.

#### Times of India ND 16/09/2011

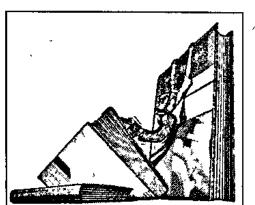
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## A Common Test

## It's a sweeping education reform idea whose time has come

World University Rankings make for grim reading. In fact, all Indian varsities figuring in the list have seen a significant slide in their positions. IIT Bombay—the highest ranked Indian institute last year—dropped 38 places to 225, while IIT Delhi—this year's top Indian institute—fell 16 places to finish up at 218. Instead of aiming for academic excellence Indian universities have, by and large, become factories for churning out degree holders.

Given many aspirants and few opportunities, the education system also inflicts extraordinary stress on students. While the case for educational reform has been obvious for a long time, the council of IITs has come up with an innovative suggestion in this regard. It has pitched for a national common entrance aptitude test for admissions to engineering programmes across colleges. This would replace the current system of a joint entrance exam (JEE) for IITs and separate tests for state engineering colleges. To reduce the clout of coaching institutes, weightage is also sought to be given to class XII



exam results.

If the suggestions are adopted it would certainly reduce clutter in the system and therefore stress on students, although there is scope to simplify the system further. Engineering aspirants would need to appear for only one test, instead of devoting years of their lives to the taxing JEE and a plethora of other tests. But there are problems if one tries to incorporate class XII results into the cumulative test score. Different boards have different standards and marking

systems. A better approach would be to allow each institute to devise its own criteria for admission, and decide what weightage it will assign to the common aptitude test as well as to class XII results from different boards. Moreover, there is no reason why the common aptitude test cannot be designed for admissions to colleges and universities across the board, rather than just for engineering institutes. After all, the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the US works in this way.

Such a system would radically reduce clutter for students who may not have decided what stream they wish to get into. Moreover, it would give colleges and universities the freedom to set their own criteria of admission. If they are to be pulled out of the quagmire they are in at present, the need of the hour is to push for autonomy and implement processes that allow universities a freer hand to decide on admissions, curriculum, funding and teaching methodology. Quality cannot be engineered from above. A centralised system will only spread the mediocrity all round.

Times of India Hyderabad 15.09.2011 P-9

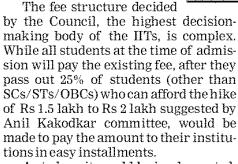
## CET for IIT\NIT, fee hike for IIT?

#### Both Decisions Must Be Approved By State Govts & FM

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: IIT Council on Wednesday decided to have a common entrance test for IITs/NITs, state government-run and private engineering colleges throughout the country from 2013. It also decided to go in for a complicated fee

hike structure. But there is a catch—both the decisions are subject to approval from the state governments and the finance ministry. In case it does not meet the states' approval, only IITs/NITs — under the central government — would have a common entrance test.



As to how it would be implemented,

HRD minister Kapil Sibal said employers would pay to the IIT. Asked how this would be ensured, Sibal said under the proposed law that would allow dematerialisation of certificates in electronic format, employers would cross-check the validity of certificates from government and then they would be told to pay a

part of salary directly to the institute. But there were no clear answers to other questions: What happens to a student who starts his own business? What happens to students who join a foreign firm in a foreign country? One official asserted that the students would have to sign a

bond at the time of admission.

Sibal said the payback by 25% students would not apply if he joins M.Tech and subsequently PhD. He would be charged only after he joins a firm. Exception would also be given to students who after PhD join the IIT faculty. Reason: There is a dearth of good faculty in IITs. But, Sibal said, the entire formulation on fee has to meet the approval of finance ministry. As for the common en-

trance test, what has been decided by the T Ramaswami committee is a new kind of Joint Entrance Examination where weightage would be given to class XII marks of students and a Scholastic Aptitude Test-kind of test. In fact, the committee has given various options and no final decision has been taken on which option will be adopted. Again, as Sibal said it had not been decided how much weightage would be given to class XII marks and the SAT-like test. The marks scored by students in class XII would be `normalized' through a formula devised by experts of the Indian Statistical Institute. But the experts favoured the normalization system after doing a pilot study of only four out of 42 boards in the country. They studied the result patterns of CBSE, ISE, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal Boards.

It also needs to be pointed out that normalization as a method has been abandoned by BITS, Pilani, and even in the USA. Last year, when a committee on JEE reforms under D Acharya, director of IIT, Kharagpur, suggested normalisation it was opposed by many state boards.

## Mail Today ND 16/09/2011

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## Sound proposal on IITs

THE Union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry must be commended for its proposal to increase the fees at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), while at the same time making students pay the hiked

amount only after they get a job.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal's estimate of Rs 2-2.5 lakh as annual expenditure per student covers only the operational costs and the total figure will obviously be much higher. It is, therefore, important that the IITs be allowed to recover a respectable part of that amount, especially keeping in mind the need to provide them with greater autonomy.

The fourfold increase in tuition fees that the Anil Kakodkar committee has recommended is aimed at giving the IITs greater financial autonomy by helping them recover about 30 per cent of the total expenditure. As a matter of principle, the costs should be recovered from those who can afford them, while those

who cannot should be provided scholarships or tuition waivers.

The HRD ministry's proposal will place the burden of paying the increased fees on the students, rather than their parents. Since most IIT graduates land up with rather lucrative jobs, it is only fair that they be asked to pay for their education at India's premier engineering institute.

#### Tribune ND 16/09/2011

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## Less testing entrance

#### Towards more equitable intake by IITs

IFE for an engineering aspirant is tough in the country. On an average, he has to take three tests — IIT-JEE for IITs, the state test. It causes tremendous stress to students and parents alike. The whole system is tilted in favour of those coming from elite institutions and those who can afford to take extra coaching. The Joint Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) proposes to make the admission process more accessible and equitable for all by holding an all-India common entrance test for admissions to all engineering colleges, including the IITs, by 2013.

A merit list would be generated based on combined weightages of the Class XII marks and aptitude test scores of students. The aptitude test will be part of the national test and will judge a student for analytical abilities and not subject knowledge. How to evolve a formula by which Class XII marks obtained by students across all 42 boards in India can be equalised is going to be a tall order for the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata. Much will also depend on the response of states, some of which are not too keen on the change

— given the complexities and sensitivities involved.

The Joint Council also agreed to raise the fee of IIT students from the current Rs 50,000 per annum to Rs 2 lakh, but this hike will not be across the board. Students from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (except the creamy layer) are exempted from it. That means only about 25 per cent students will be affected. A large percentage of them are entitled to education loan. Equally important is the decision to make the IITs world class institutions by ensuring that the IIT system will produce 40,000 Ph.D.s by 2020. The faculty would also be enhanced to 16,000 with an additional 4,000 to be appointed every year. One just hopes that these islands of excellence would be allowed to grow freely and also become beacons for other engineering institutes, some of which have nothing much to recommend them at the moment, but are still thriving in a situation of scarcity.

Times of India Chennai 15.09.2011 P-12

# IITs plan big changes, await govt approval

New Delhi: The IIT Council on Wednesday decided to have a common entrance test for IITs/ NITs, state government-run and engineering private colleges from 2013. It also decided to go in for a complicated fee hike structure. But, both the decisions are subject to approval from the state governments and the finance ministry. In case it does not meet the states' approval, only ITs/ NITs – under the central government - would have a common entrance test.

The planned fee structure is complex. While all students at the time of admission will pay the existing fee, after they pass out 25% of students (other than SCs/STs/OBCs) who can afford the hike of Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh suggested by Anil Kakodkar committee, would be made to pay the amount to their institutions in easy installments.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal said employers would pay the IITs. Under the proposed law, employers would cross-check the validity of certificates from the government and then the firms would be told to pay a part of salary. TNN

Telegaraph Kolkata 15.09.11 P-1

## IIT plan to limit subsidy

#### BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, Sept 14: The IIT Council today decided that subsidy on tuition fees for B. Tech courses should be given only to those students who pursue research and take up teaching jobs.

The council, chaired by human resource development minister Kapil Sibal, considered the report of the Anil Kakodkar committee that had suggested that operational cost for running the B. Tech courses should be covered by raising the fees. At present, students pay Rs 50,000 as annual tuition fee. The operational cost per student comes to about Rs 2 lakh a year.

The council today decided that starting from 2013, students would have to pay the balance Rs 6 lakh if they take up a non-teaching job after graduation.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, who do not have to pay any fees now, and students from poor families who are on scholarship or have been granted interest subsidy loans will however be exempt.

Students who study for M. Tech and Ph.D and take up teaching after that would not have to pay the Rs 6 lakh.

"The intention is to attract the IIT students to teaching and research," Sibal said, adding they expected the number of PhDs to go up from 1000 a year now to 10,000 in 2020.

The government will track each B.Tech graduate through its proposed electronic database of certificates. The ministry has prepared a draft National Academic Depository Bill that could be introduced in the winter session.

"We hope the national depository will be in place by 2013. Once the certificates are put in DMAT format, we will know if any student is joining any job after completion of the course. Then we will ask the employer to pay Rs 6 lakh to the IIT for that student," Sibal said.

The decision will have to be approved by the finance ministry.

Academic Prof Yashpal welcomed the idea: "This is a good decision which aims to attract B.Tech holders to teaching and research."

#### Single exam

The council also agreed that there should be a single entrance test for all engineering institutes from 2013. The proposed single exam will give weightage to Class XII marks.

Since there are about 40 senior secondary boards with different assessment systems, a committee under science and technology secretary T. Ramasami has suggested a formula for normalisation of marks. "The formula is based on percentile system under which the score obtained by the topper of each board will be considered 100 per cent and accordingly the score of other students would be calculated." IIT Guwahati director Gautam Baruah said.

Sibal said he would take up the matter of a single exam with the states before a "final decision".

### Financial Express ND 16/09/2011

P-8

## **Engineering solutions**

IIT fee-hike paves way to hike other fees as well

the fact that the HRD ministry's decision to hike the fees for the IITs four-fold, from the current ₹2 lakh to ₹8 lakh (the cost of delivering the education) hasn't met much opposition is telling. Partly, it has to do with the fact that the ₹6 lakh subsidy is to be got from potential employers over the years and not upfront from the students. The idea of a 'demat' degree is an innovative one and what it means is that potential employees can check online on the degrees and, probably, the 'subsidy due' column linked to the degree. The muted criticism of the move, and the decision of some IIMs to hike fees in 2010, suggests that, in keeping with rising salaries all around, the higher fee doesn't pose as much of an extra pinch on the wallet as the government believes. It also suggests that the government's indecision when it comes to raising university fees—on the belief that the people will protest—is unwarranted; it could very well raise the fees of all government-run universities. . Indeed, the Kirit Parikh committee had also suggested a similar methodfor cutting petroleum subsidies-freeze the subsidy as on a particular date and, based on annual per capita income growth, hike the price each year.

The idea of a single engineering test is a good one, though the idea of including Class 12 results doesn't seem as sound since the proposal includes finding a method to 'normalise' the results of different board exams across the country. Hopefully, the increased fee and some of the other measures proposed by the Kakodkar committee—the fee hike stems from this—for autonomy for the IITs will also incentivise the IITs to fill in the yawning gaps in the faculty, ranging between 15% and 40% in different IITs. A higher fee for an IIT is all very well, but when their quality is slipping each year—there is now no IIT among the top 500 universities in the world—it does seem a bit unfair.

## 'Single-test policy for engg colleges flawed'

Akshaya Mukul TNN

New Delhi: An analysis of the T Ramaswami committee report on JEE reforms, proposing a single entrance test for all engineering colleges (including IITs, NITs and private institutions) throughout the country, exposes many flaws.

This and other recommendations of the committee were accepted by the IIT Council at its meeting on Wednesday subject to the approval of the state governments and the finance minis-The report says weightage would be given to class 12 marks and a SATkind of test would be held. But the entire proposal is based on a survey of class 12 results of just four boards -CBSE, ISC, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal - though there are a total of 42. Orlly 2,000



The proposal is based on a survey of class 12 results of just 4 boards, though there are a total of 42

people were surveyed out of which 66% were in favour of factoring in the performance in school boards and 34% were not. Out of those who were not in favour, 45% said board examinations do not assess capability and 30% feared non-uniformity. However, 85% of those sur-

veyed supported the concept of a single entrance test.

"If there was a big enough sampling, these percentages would have increased significantly, thus, making a mockery of using class XII scores for admissions," a senior IIT functionary said. He also raised concerns about the process, especially with regard to the fairness of the testing methodology, pointing out that alleredy there were large scale irregularities in the JEE.

When the Damodar Acharya Committee first suggested the proposal of normalization' of class 12 marks across boards, it was opposed by many state boards on the ground that it was not easy to do. They had also said that institutions like BITS, Pilani, and the Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering had abandoned

the normalization system. In 2007, a three judge bench of the Supreme Court (Sanjay Singh vs UP PSC), while "demonstrating the anomalies/absurdities arising from scaling (normalization)", had concluded that "there are number of methods of statistical scaling (normalization), some simple and some complex. Each method or system has its merits and demerits and can be adopted only under some certain conditions or making certain assumptions."

A comparison of the Acharya Committee report on JEE reforms and the Ramasamy committee shows there is a confusion on what model is best suited. Also, it is not clear how shifting to a new system would take away the dominance of coaching centres.

The Acharya Committee

had suggested a single formula of JEE that included a weighted sum of the class 12 result and an aptitude test. The Ramaswamy panel has given six options with many variations. Achiarya said only the class 12 marks should be used, while Ramasamy said it could be class 12 alone or both class 10 and 12.

"The Ramasamy proposal is not a concrete proposal, it is basically exploration of all the possible options," the director of a new IIT said. He said, "With the new proposals, there would be multiple coachings, to be started much early, for class 10, 12, an advance test, and an aptitude test." He also feared that the ultimate scenario would be cut-throat competition in class 10 and 12. "Even with 100%, a student will not able to get an IIT seat of his choice," he said.

Times of India Pune 15.09.2011 P-3

# RS disorder costs students degree

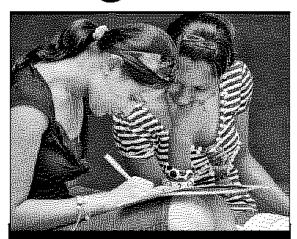
## Upper House Was Supposed To Bring IISER Under NIT Act

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Frequent disruptions of Parliament has cost over 80 students of the prestigious Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) in Pune and Kolkata dearly. IISERs were to be made part of the National Institutes of Technology Act but the amendment bill could not be passed in Rajya Sabha after receiving the nod in Lok Sabha. The immediate fallout is students of the two IISERs will not get their MSc degree for which they toiled for five years.

The IISERs in Pune and Kolkata were opened in 2006 as centres of excellence to promote study and innovation in science. In Pune, 42 students took admission while 44 did so in Kolkata. In 2007, IISER was opened in Mohali and in Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram in 2008.

V S Rao, officiating registrar of IIS-ER, Pune, told TOI, "Students in both the institutes have been given provisional certificates. Out of 42 students in Pune, 40 have got jobs and admission for further studies but the final certificate will be needed." Sanjay Dhande, director, IIT-Kanpur and senate member of IISER, Pune, said, "A way out has to be found. Future of students will suffer."



IISER is a registered society and cannot award degrees, much like the IIMs. Institutes established through an Act of Parliament (like IITs, NITs, AIIMS), or having a university status from the UGC can award degrees

An official said what students have been given provisionally is only a certificate and not a degree that was promised.

The HRD ministry is contemplating an ordinance. Legal opinion is being sought, sources said. But IISER-Kolkata's claim on its website that it is an autonomous institution awarding its own degrees has created confusion. IISERs are registered societies and cannot award degrees on their own. Educational institutes established through an Act of Parliament (like IITs, NITs, AIIMS), or having a university (may be deemed, to be deemed etc) status from UGC or state governments can award degrees.





Indian Express ND 16/09/2011

(News Line) p-1

#### CITY ANCHOR AT IDEA EXCHANGE, ST STEPHEN'S STUDENTS QUESTION MINISTER ON ISSUES RANGING FROM ANNA TO SEMESTERS TO POST OFFICE BANKING

### Aiyar's BA Pass remark an insult to student community: Sibal

NANDINI THILAK & NAVEED IQBAL

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

FORMER Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar's disparaging remarks about a "BA Pass student from Hans Raj College" drew criticism from his Congress colleague and Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal who on Thursday said it was "an insult to the entire student community".

"Not just to Hans Raj, it is an insult to the entire student community," Sibal said while fielding a question at an Idea Exchange programme organised by *The Indian Express* at St. Stephen's

College, Sibal's alma mater.

Last week, Aiyar, also a former student of St. Stephen's, had said he could not believe that a BA Pass student from Hans Raj College could use words like 'dichotomous' in an official letter. The letter referred to was written by Sports Minister Ajay Maken, an alumnus of Hans Raj College.

Asked if he considered English an elititist language, Sibal said that such reactions are provoked in India because English is often given preference over Hindi. "We don't give the kind of emphasis we should to Hindi. Everyone should learn English, Hindi and their mother tongue," he said.

St. Stephen's students ques-



At the Idea Exchange at St. Stephen's on Thursday. RAVI KANOJIA

tioned the Minister on issues ranging from Anna Hazare's sit-in to semesters in Delhi University to plans for introduction of banking services through post offices

ing services through post offices. Sibal said his Ministry was launching pilot projects of the National Vocation Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) in schools in Haryana and West Bengal. Students will start vocational training in areaspecific vocational subjects from Class IX and will be awarded certificates in Class XII, he said.

He reiterated his support for the plan to exempt IIT students who join the institutes as faculty or researchers from paying back fees, and proposed more measures, including allowing thirdyear B Tech students to pursue research leading to PhDs to prevent students from fleeing to foreign universities for research work after completing their B Tech from IITs.

For students at the Idea Exchange, the free-wheeling interaction was a novel experience.

"The event was interesting. Instead of the Minister giving a lecture, as is usually done, it was an open interaction," said Vanshika Kant, a second-year History Honours student. "The idea is amazing, but I wasn't happy with the way he responded to some questions," said Sucharita Saha, a first-year Economics Honours student.

## \$35bn Nasa plan: Most powerful rocket in history

Washington: To soar far away from Earth and even on to Mars, Nasa has dreamed up the world's most powerful rocket, a behemoth that borrows from the workhorse liquid-fuel rockets that sent Apollo missions into space four decades ago.

But with a price tag that some estimate at \$35 billion, it may not fly with Congress.

Nasa administrator Charles Bolden on Wednesday unveiled the general plans for its rocket design, called the Space Launch System.

The multibillion-dollar program would carry astronauts in a capsule on top, and the first mission would be 10 years off if all goes as planned. Unmanned test launches are expected from Cape Canaveral, Fla, in six years.

Calling it the "largest, most powerful rocket built", Nasa's exploration and operations chief, William Gerstenmaier, said the rocket will be tough to construct. But when Nasa does it, "we'll have a capability to go beyond low-Earth orbit like no other nation does here on Earth," he said. The rocket

#### Final frontier: First commercial space is just a year away

usiness magnate Richard Branson hopes to launch a vessel into space within the next 12 months, kicking off an era of commercial space travel. "The mother ship is finished... The rocket tests are going extremely well, and so I think that we're now on track for a launch within 12 months of today," he said. "This could be the beginning of a whole new era of space travel, which will be commercial space travel." His company, Virgin Galactic, hopes to one day send people into space and launch satellites for a fraction of the cost of government-run programs. AFP

resembles those Nasa relied on before, but even its smallest early prototype will have 10% more thrust than the Saturn V that propelled Apollo astronauts to the moon. When it is built to its fuller size, it will be 20% more powerful, Gerstenmaier said. AP

Kenneth Chang focus

The megarocket, blandly named the Space Launch System, embodies the space agency's enduring desire to aim far and dream big

o push farther out into the solar system — to the moon and beyond, to asteroids, eventually to Mars asteroids, eventually to Mars — Nasa unveiled plans on Wednesday for a behemoth rocket that would serve as the backbone of its human space-flight programme for decades. The finished rocket would be the most powerful ever to rise from the gravitational bonds of earth

from the gravitations.
earth.
"We're investing in technologies to live and work in space, and it sets the stage for visiting asteroids and Mars," the Nasa administrator, Maj. Gen.
Charles F. Bolden Jr., said at a press conference in

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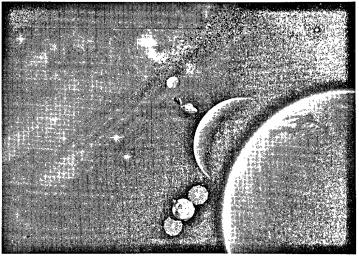
The megarocket, blandly named the Space Launch System, embodies the space agency's enduring desire to aim far and dream big. But it also reflects a shrinking of near-term ambitions as budget cutters seek to rein in federal spending. Just two years ago, Nasa had hoped to build an even larger rocket that would take astronauts back to the moon and set up an outpost there. With money more limited, the pace of progress will be much slower 'thanki'during 'Nasa's 'Apollo heyday inithe 1960s. 3' 'William'H. Gerstenmäier,' the agency's associate administra-

agency's associate administra-

agency's associate administra-tor for human exploration, said Nasa expected to devote \$3 bil-lion a year to the effort, or a total of about \$18 billion over the next six years.

That would be enough to finish a rocket capable of lifting 70 metric tons into orbit; the largest unmanned rockets cur-rently available can lift about one-third that much. The first unmanned test flight is sched-uled for 2017. uled for 2017.

The design would evolve to larger versions that could lift up to 130 metric tons. (The Saturn



An illustration of Nasa's planned Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle (above) shows possible destinations for future astronauts beyond the earth's orbit, including the moon, an asteroid and Mars. On the right is the new space launch system design.

V rocket that powered the Apollo Moon exploration pro-gram could lift 120 metric tons.) In contrast to the previous programme, Constellation, which

gramme, Constellation, which set a very specific goal—returning to the moon by 2020—Nasa has yet to decide destinations or deadlines for what it would do with its new rocket. "We've talked conceptually about multiple destinations," Mr Gerstenmaier said. "We talk about an asteroid in 2025. We talk about Mars being the ultimate destination."

talk about Mars being the ulti-mate destination."

More details would be worked out over the next year. "We can do pretty exciting missions with the capability that we've got," Mr Gerstenmaier said.

Congressional backers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration heiled the

Congressional backers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration hailed the announcement as resolving a stand-off between Congress and the White House over the agency's future. In February 2010, the Obama administration had: proposed a radical shift time space exploration, cancelling the Constellation programme and deferring any decision on a replacement for five years.

But the administration retreated under Congressional pressure, first reviving the crew capsule from the Constellation programme and now proposing a heavy-lift rocket that looks like Constellation's slimmer sibling.

"This is a day we're hear best

a heavy-litt rocaes where a heavy-litt rocaes where siblings.

"This is a day we've been looking forward to for a long time," said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican. "We wish it had been sooner, of course."

In 2010, Congress passed, and President Obama signed into law, a blueprint for the space agency calling for a rocket like announced

the one announced on Wednesday, But Nasa missed deadlines for announcing how it would carry out the plan. In frustration, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, where Senator Hutchison serves as ranking member, even issued a subpoena to Nasa demanding information. The unveiling of the heavy-lift

The unveiling of the heavy-lift rocket was a victory for Ms Hutchison and Senator Bill Nelson, the Florida Democrat who is chairman of the commerce committee's science and space subcommittee.

space subcommittee.

Texas is home to Nasa's Mission Control and Florida is where Nasa's rockets are launched from. The two senators played key roles in writing the Nasa blueprint and outlining many speoifies of the rocket they wanted Nasa to build, leading with a many than the control like all the section like all the control like all the control like all the control like all the control like all the section like all the control like all the control like all the control like all the section like all the control like all the section like all the control like all the section like all the sec ing critics to sarcastically call it the Senate Launch System. The announcement took place

'We're investing in technologies to live and work in space, and it sets the stage for visiting asteroids and Mars,' Nasa administrator Maj. Gen. Bolden Jr said

on Capitol Hill, not Nasa head-quarters, and at the press con-ference it was Senator Nelson

quarters, and at the press conference it was Senator Nelson who spoke first for five minutes, describing the characteristics and capabilities the rocket.

For his part, General Bolden said, "I'm the administrator and not the expert at Nasa" and deferred technical questions to a subsequent telephone press conference that Mr Gerstenmaier held. Critics note that Nasa has announced ambitious rocket plans before, only to cancel them as costs escalated and schedules slipped.

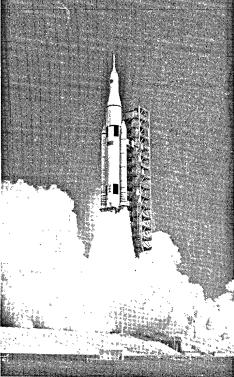
"Yes, there will be budget cuts," said James Muncy, a space policy consultant. "Yes, it will be stretched out. Yes, it will have problems. And yes, it will fall apart."

"The Constellation programme."

will be stretched out. Yes, it will have problems. And yes, it will fall apart."

The Constellation programme, unveiled in 2005, spent more than \$10 billion and flew one prototype rocket before it was cancelled. Will self-constelled will be former astronaut who flew on several space shuttle missions to repair the Hubble Space Telescope and is now deputy director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, said: "The only good thing about the initiative is that Nasa is moving on something, and that the jobs are preserved. It also means we'll have this discussion again in two years."

To speed development and control costs, the design is based on pieces from the just-retired shuttles and the cancelled Constellation programme. The first stage is an elongated shuttle fuel tank, and



it would use the same rocket engines as the shuttles. For the initial test flights, two solid rocket boosters — stretched ver-sions of what flew on the shut-tles — would provide additional thrust. Nasa also announced plans for

Nasa also announced plans for a competition to design more powerful boosters, each providing 3.9 million to 5 million pounds of thrust, for the more powerful version of the rocket.

The schedule beyond the first. test flight depends on future budgets. The first rocket that is to fly in 2017 will consist of a sin-

to fly in 2017 will consist of a single stage.

Internal Nasa documents suggest that if the space agency's budget remains flat, providing about \$41 billion from 2012 through 2025, Nasa will not be able to do much work on the second stage, needed to increase the lift capability, until after 2017, and the first manned flight would not occur until 2011.

Subsequent flights would occur only once every year or two, and the final version, capable of lifting 130 metric tons, would not be completed for two

decades.
With more money, perhaps as much as \$62 billion over the next 14 years, the agency estimated that the first manned flight could be moved up by three years and the 130-metricton rocket could be available by 2021. It could fly up to two missions a year and still have enough to start developing the necessary pieces for a mission to an asteroid, like a deep-space habitat — essentially a living room for astronauts during long space trips.

room for astronauts during long space trips.
Senator Hutchison said there was now broad support from the administration and both parties in Congress on the space exploration plan.
She said even among the ardent budget cutters in her party, "they have not cut the core mission of Nasa, because they see that as part of the American spirit and most certainly part of the American economy and America's national security where we cannot afford be in second place."

By arrangement with the New York Times

#### Tribune ND 16/09/2011

P-12

## NASA unveils new plans

### Rocketing to the great beyond

Space Administration (NASA) back to the moon and beyond, eventually to Mars. NASA has announced that the unimaginatively titled Space Launch System will replace the Space Shuttle programme that has been discontinued, but it will take time to develop this rocket, whose capability and range are expected to be augmented in time. The new rocket will take space watchers to the old days of the Saturn rockets which were used to carry the Apollo astronauts to the moon in the late 1960s. However, unlike the 1960s, when NASA enjoyed a virtual carte blanch and huge funding while the US and the erstwhile USSR raced to be the first on the moon, the space agency is now facing many budget cuts.

Many eyebrows were raised when the space shuttle Atlantis touched down on earth after its final foray into space earlier this year, and there was no viable replacement in sight. Now that plans have been announced, and funding made available, NASA will have to deliver a reliable rocket, within the schedule it has announced. The new rocket system is planned around many parts including the distinctive fuel tanks, of the space shuttle. It will use liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen engines.

NASA has been caught in the crossfire of political rivals in Washington. This has cost the US space programme, which was, in any case, suffering from lack of direction. All American astronauts manning the International Space Station have to be sent aloft and brought back via Russian Soyuz rockets. Last month, an unmanned cargo mission crashed, apparently because of a faulty valve. A powerful reliable rocket will go a long way in helping the US achieve its goals of exploring deep into the universe by sending astronauts and thus seeking more understanding of the world beyond our reach at present.

## ISRO's 2<sup>nd</sup> space port will be a 'polar shift'?

#### Madhumathi D.S.

Bangalore, Sept. 15
The national space agency may be planning to separate its two satellite launchers fully or partially and move some or all polar or PSLV launches to a new second site when — or if — it happens in the coming years.

The seed of a second space port has been sown after the Prime Minister's office greenflagged a feasibility study for it earlier this month.

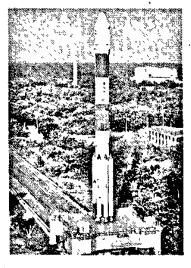
ISRO's lone space port, the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in coastal-Andhra Pradesh, launches the smaller PSLV and the heavier GSLV rockets.

Last week, Dr K.
Radhakrishnan, ISRO's
Chairman and Secretary,
Department of Space,
indicated that a second
launch complex, still a
thought now, could work for
polar launches, mainly to put
in orbit national remotesensing satellites and small
foreign spacecraft in a lowEarth orbit (LEO) for a fee. It
would be part of the 12th Plan
that begins next year.

However, the geostationary satellites — 2-tonne-plus communications that are slotted in medium orbits 36,000 km away from ground — would remain with SDSC.

#### **TACIT MOVES**

In recent years, ISRO is increasingly, but tacitly, building and launching Earth



**Steering high:** A view of ISRO, Sriharikota (file photo).

observation satellites for the military, for full or partial use. They are put in pole-to-pole motion in LEOs 400-600 km away.

One learned view is that a new launch complex could be located further North of SDSC, so that it would be closer to the MoD's Balasore test range in the neighbouring Orissa.

SDSC, formerly SHAR, was built in the 1970s and has made incremental investments, including a Rs 300-crore second launch pad in the 2000s. It now plans a third pad.

#### **TIME-TAKING PROCESS**

To build a new complex from scratch along with its tracking, telemetry, command centres and an on-site solid propellant plant could take many years and Rs

10,000-20,000 crore. There was no official confirmation on this.

Within the country, SDSC, located on the eastern Bay of Bengal coast on a reclaimed island two hours or 70 km by road from Chennai, is considered the best location to prevent rocket stage debris from falling on residential places during launches. It now falls into the Bay.

Mr M.C. Dathan, Director of SDSC, told Business Line, "Theoretically, if we go slightly towards the North (of Sriharikota) there will be an advantage of steering the polar launcher. We can get a payload benefit (or capability to lift an additional) 300 kg or so."

A second complex could be warranted for certain flights when the number of launches increases in a few years, he said.

Mr Dathan said SDSC's two pads can handle eight launches a year. "If pressed, they can do a couple of more launches in ten available months."

Before every satellite is sent up, the launch pad needs a 45-day pre-launch 'campaign' and a 15-day post-launch refurbishing of burnt-out systems.

According to Mr Dathan, "The constraint is not the launch complex, but the production of the stages. We are enhancing this capability of the industrial partners." Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 16, 2011; Section: Times City; Page: 7;

#### Sheila does a U-turn, lauds engineers now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Sheila Dikshit on Thursday showered praises on engineers for helping build "world-class infrastructure" in the city in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games.

The generous words of praise came 15 days after the CM put the onus forclearances and allotment of tenders for projects on officers in charge and said the cabinet led by her was only responsible for policy decisions related to Games projects. The CM made this statement in the assembly during the monsoon session which concluded on September 5.



AM CLEAN

She said infrastructure developed would have otherwise taken 7-8 years. She was addressing a seminar organized by the Institute of Civil Engineers (India)

Speaking at the Delhi Assembly on August 30, Dikshit had washed her hands off any alleged wrongdoings in award of contracts or in tender process for Games projects saying various technical committees of officials and experts were set up to take decisions on such issues.

Addressing a seminar organized by the Institute of Civil Engineers (India) on Thursday chief minister said, "The infrastructure developed would have otherwise taken seven-eight years. Considering the influx of people into Delhi from other states, the city will require more and more buildings, roads, flyovers, houses

and other civic amenicles to cater to the demand. Therefore, new technologies are essential for sustainable futuristic infrastructure." Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 16, 2011; Section: Delhi Times; Page: 37;



## **World of education**

our search for the right international institution ends here. Edwise has organised an education fair that will start from September 23 at The Park hotel from 10.30am to 5.30pm. Top universities from six countries will participate in the fair and will be offering on the spot offers, interaction and admissions.

Some of the leading UK Universities that will be attending the fair are Anglia Ruskin University, Birmingham City University, Coventry University, De Montfort University, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Essex, University of Glamorgan and University of Salford. From the USA, universities like Hult International Business School, New York Film Academy, University of Massachusetts (Boston), University of Massachusetts (Dartmouth), University of Massachusetts (Lowell) and Western Kentucky University will be participating.

Universities from Canada that will be participating are – Algonquin College, Centennial College, Fleming College, Fraser International College, George Brown College, International College of Manitoba, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Thompson Rivers University.

Universities like Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, Curtin University, La Trobe University, Think: Education Group, University Of Western Sydney and The University Of New Castle will be coming in from Australia. While Curtin Singapore, East Asia Institute of Management, James Cook University, Management Development Institute of Singapore and Singapore Institute of Management will be representing Singapore.

Edwise represents over 450 universities across 14 countries. Edwise India's overseas education consultants and the organisers have been assisting students for last 21 years for pursuing studies abroad. They give personalised help in almost everything ranging from application to admission, free counselling and free application processing.

Student queries related to courses, visa, scholarships, loans, etc will be answered by these delegates in the informative seminars that will be held every hour. Some Institutes also provide application fee waiver (up to ₹35,000) and scholarships or spot admissions for complete applications.

Pre-registration with Edwise is essential for personal interview with university delegates. Aspiring candidates can register for the event and bring academic originals with five sets of photocopies for Jan 2012 spot offers before September 21.

For free registration please call: 4700 5333 or sms: "ED WD" to 56070. Visit www.worldeducationfair.com

## Hindustan ND 16/09/2011

## अवसर बढ़ाने से ही सुधरेंगे आईआईटी

सिर्फ प्रवेश परीक्षा की प्रणाली में सुधार कर देने से ही असल समस्या खत्म नहीं होगी।

मदन जैड़ा ब्यूरो चीफ, हिंदुस्तान

जाने-माने शिक्षाविद् प्रोफेसर यशपाल ने कहा था कि हमारे आईआईटी साइंटिस्ट नहीं, बल्कि बाजार में काम करने के लिए सिर्फ एक प्रोडक्ट पैदा कर रहे हैं। कारण साफ है कि वास्तविक प्रतिभाशाली छात्र वहां भले ही न पहुंच पाएं, लेकिन मोटी फीस देकर लंबी कोचिंग लेने वाले छात्र जरूर उसकी शोभा बढ़ाते हैं।देश के 15 आईआईटी संस्थानों में करीब दस हजार सीटें हैं। ज्यादातर सीटों पर वही छात्र काबिज हो। पाते हैं, जो नौवीं कक्षा से कोचिंग शुरू कर देते हैं।एसोचैम के एक सर्वेक्षण के . - अनुसार, आईआईटी कोचिंग पर हर छात्र सालाना तकरीबन दो लाख रुपये फूंकता है। लेकिन अब इस पुरे ढरें के खत्म हो जाने की एक उम्मीद बंधी है। अब कोचिंग के धंधे को बढावा देने वाली आईआईटी-जेईई, एआईईईई जैसी परीक्षाएं खत्म हो जाएंगी। यदि राज्य तैयार हुए, तो राज्यों की परीक्षाएं भी प्रस्तावित नई परीक्षा प्रणाली में शामिल हो जाएंगी। इस नई प्रणाली में प्रवेश का आधार 12वीं का रिजल्ट और अभिरुचि परीक्षा के नतीजे होंगे।

हालांकि यह भी तय है कि नई प्रणाली से समस्या का पूरी तरह से समाधान नहीं होगा। आईआईटी में एडिमशन के लिए मारामारी खत्म नहीं होगी, क्योंकि सीटें सीमित हैं। प्रवेश परीक्षा की कोचिंग बंद हुई, तो कोचिंग का कारोबार स्कूली शिक्षा की तरफ मुड़ जाएगा। फिर स्मर्ज़ी 12वीं में अधिक से अधिक नंबर हासिल करने की हो जाएगी। यदि वास्तव में कोचिंग के कारोबार पर अंकुश लगाना है और छात्रों पर परीक्षा के बोझ को कम करना है, तो इसके लिए आईआईटी जैसे संस्थानों की संख्या बढ़ानी होगी। निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की कमी नहीं है, लेकिन उनकी गुणवत्ता सुधारने के लिए अभी बहुत कुछ करना बाकी है।मौजुदा आईआईटी में सीटों में भी इजाफा करना होगा। आईआईटी में ज्यादा से ज्यादा छात्र इसलिए पढ़ना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि वे विश्वस्तरीय संस्थान हैं। उनकी एक साख है। वहां से बीटेक करते ही एक शानदार नौकरी, एक शानदार भविष्य आपके सामने होता है। वैसे यही बीटेक की डिग्री बाजार में पचास हजार रुपये सालाना की फीस पर भी उपलब्ध है. पर ऐसी डिग्री लेने वाले सिर्फ बेरोजगारों की संख्या बढ़ा रहे हैं। इसलिए आईआईटी में सीट्रें बढ़ाए बगैर परीक्षा कोई भी हो, उससे मारामारी नहीं रुकेगी।

दस हजार सीटों के लिए पांच लाख छात्र जेईई परीक्षा में बैठते हैं 127 हजार सीटों के लिए एआईईईई में 10 लाख छात्र बैठते हैं। ऐसे में सिर्फ टेस्ट बदल देने भर से समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती। केंद्र सरकार ने तीन साल पहले आठ नए आईआईटी खोले, लेकिन अभी तक ये अस्थायी केंद्रों में चल रहे हैं और इनमें सीटें बहुत कम हैं। आठ नए आईआईटी की कुल सीटें अकेले आईआईटी कानपुर की सीटों से भी कम हैं। आईआईटी में आज यदि कोचिंग का दखल बढ़ा है, तो सीटें कम होनां भी उसकी अहम वजह है।

## Amar Ujala ND 16/09/2011

## नौकरी मिलने के बाद देनी होगी बढ़ी फीस

नर्ड दिल्ली। आईआईटी में वर्ष 2013 से छात्रों के लिए फीस बढ़ाने के फैसले को लेकर बृहस्पतिवार को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने सफाई दी। सिब्बल ने कहा कि फीस की अतिरिक्त राशि छात्रों को नौकरी मिलने के बाद ही देनी होगी। यदि उन्हें दस साल नौकरी नहीं मिले तो उनसे तब तक पैसा नहीं लिया जाएगा। मालूम हो बुधवार को आईआईटी काउंसिल ने सामान्य वर्ग के छात्रों के लिए•फीस बढ़ाकर दो लाख रुपये प्रति साल करने को सशर्त मंजुरी दे .दी थी।

आईआईटी छात्रों को फिलहाल चार साल का बीटेक कोर्स करने में 50 हजार रुपये हर साल फीस देनी होती है। लेकिन 2013 से फीस बढ़ाकर दो लाख रुपये सालाना कर दी गई है। हालांकि यह बढ़ी हुई यदि अन्ना हजारे की टीम



लोकपाल के मुद्दे पर अपनी कुछ मांगें पहले ही छोड़ देती तो देश अन्ना के आंदोलन का

कष्ट झेलने से बच सकता था। -कपिल सिब्बल, केंद्रीय मंत्री

फीस उनसे पढ़ाई के दौरान नहीं ली जाएगी। काउंसिल के ने पले के मुताबिक नौकरी पाते . मय हर छात्र को आईआईटी से करार करना होगा कि वह इतनी अवधि में किस्तों में यह पैसा दे देगा। इसके अलावा जिन छात्रों को रोजगार नहीं मिलता है या जो रिसर्च के क्षेत्र में कैरियर चुनते हैं, उन्हें यह करार नहीं करना होगा। एजंसी