

Newspaper Clips
September 19, 2010

Business Standard, ND 19-Sep-10 p-3

Genpact all set to enter West Asia to serve local clients

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi, 18 September

Genpact, the country's largest business process outsourcing (BPO) company, is spreading its wings to West Asia. The company is exploring Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon for setting up centres to serve local clients.

"We have customers in financial services in West Asia because of our relationship with GE. Though we are servicing these clients from India as of now, we will need a local Arabic speaking delivery centre there. Egypt is a good option because it has an old and great education system, along with a good English, French and Arabic speaking population. Jordan and Lebanon could be the other places," said N V Tyagarajan, chief operating officer of Genpact. The company has inked a contract with Sabic, a Saudi Arabian chemicals company, to manage its analytics and supply chain services. It has also signed contracts with two clients in the financial services sector in West Asia.

"We are also looking for a



'We have financial services customers in West Asia because of our relationship with GE. We will need a local Arabic speaking delivery centre there'

N V TYAGARAJAN
COO, Genpact

person to lead the company's West Asia operations and will soon announce that," he said.

"Egypt is emerging as an offshore destination and is in competition to India. The investment in the centre should be around half a million dollars (₹3 crore)," said an analyst.

Besides West Asia, Genpact is looking at Brazil to set up delivery centres in the next one year. "There is a huge market for both global clients and local Chinese and Indian companies in Brazil. As of now, we have a little presence there, in places where the Brazilian languages

are not required. We are looking at Sao Paulo and Tier-II cities in Brazil to set up the centre," Tyagarajan had earlier said.

The investments in these new centres will be part of the company's plan to spend around five per cent of its revenues on capital expenditure that includes both replacement and new expenditure. The company will start with 50-100 people in these centres and then scale them up. Headcount in these centres will grow like the BPO's Guatemala centre, which will soon have 1,000 employees, and the Manila centre, where it will have 2,000.

p-14

'Super 30' figures in Newsweek

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Patna, 18 September

After *Time* magazine, *Newsweek* has taken note of mathematician Anand Kumar's initiative, 'Super 30'. His school was included in the list of four most innovative schools in the world in the US magazine's latest edition.

According to *Newsweek*, the effort of Anand Kumar for underprivileged students is "incredible", as his help of educational and moral support has facilitated poor students to study 16 hours every day, and also qualify in the entrance test of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), known as toughest test in India. *Time* had earlier this year selected Kumar's school — Super 30 — in the list of Best School of Asia 2010.

When contacted, Kumar said it had further emboldened his strength to guide underprivileged students to deliver. "This is a great recognition, which will not only motivate me but also students to do even better. I am happy my small initiative has brought Bihar on the international map for positive reasons," he said.

Special envoy of US President Barack Obama, Rashad Hussain, who visited the school had described it as "the best of India".

Hindu, ND 19-Sep-10 p-11

India set for building prototype gravitational wave detector

R. Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: Indian gravitational astronomy research got a major boost on September 14 with the approval of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) to fund a Rs.2-crore proposal for building a prototype gravitational wave (GW) detector.

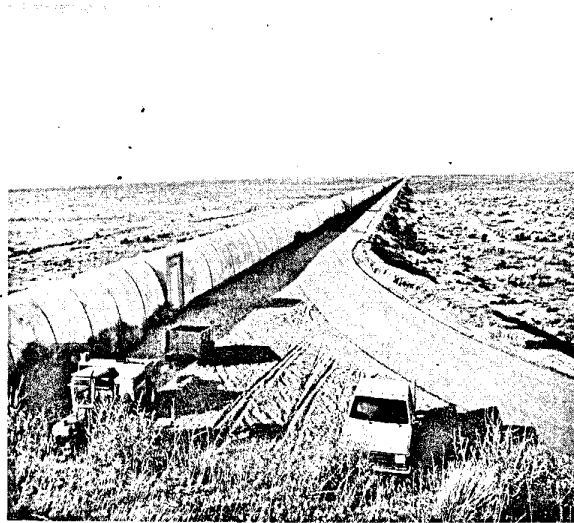
This three-metre-long optical interferometer-based detector is the first step in the four-phase strategy recommended by a consortium of Indian gravitational astronomy researchers towards building a four-km class Indian Interferometric Gravitational Wave Observatory (IndIGO) by the year 2020.

The building of the prototype, led by C.S. Unnikrishnan and G. Rajalakshmi of the TIFR, is expected to be completed in three years.

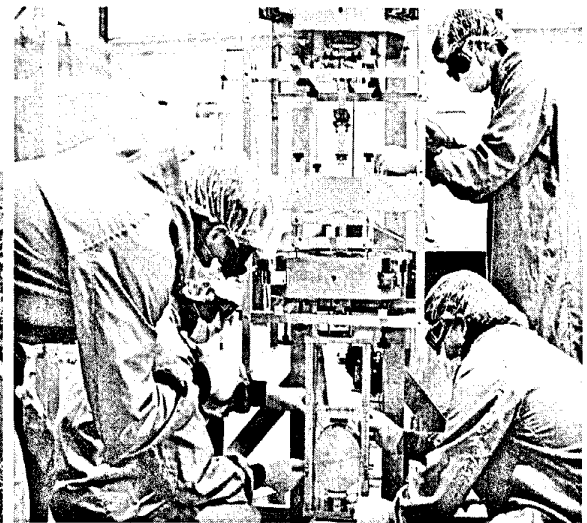
Direct detection of GWs, which Einstein's theory of gravitation predicts, has been a major challenge for physics, and at present there is only indirect evidence for their existence (see photo). Gravitational waves are ripples in spacetime – somewhat like propagating ripples on the surface of a pond – caused by the acceleration of a gravitating body.

As these distortions of spacetime travel outward, they cause changes in the lengths of objects in their path, which are different in different directions with respect to the wave direction. The idea is to pick up these signatures with instruments on the Earth as the passing waves affect different parts of the apparatus differently.

But being a feeble interaction, these length changes on the Earth are extremely small – about a hundredth of a billionth of a billionth of a metre – and only phenomena in-



The northern leg of Caltech's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory at the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington. At right, researchers tuning the vibration isolator at the Australian International Gravitational Observatory.



volving highly massive objects can produce signatures that may be detectable on the Earth.

Instruments based on laser interferometry – with reflecting mirrors suspended in ultra high vacuum conditions and separated by large distances to increase the signal strength – promise to give the best sensitivity. But detecting GWs even from violent astrophysical systems has proved to be extremely difficult after decades of effort. However, with vast improvements in technology, current detectors have successfully attained design sensitivity close to the detection threshold.

There is a strong international effort under way to build a worldwide network of ground-based detectors capable of opening the field, as the

existing network falls well short of all-sky coverage. One of the main objectives of the Gravitational Waves International Committee (GWIC) is to optimise global research in GW astronomy with a 30-year horizon.

The GWIC's first priority is to expand the network with appropriately chosen international baselines and orientations to maximise the detection capability. A recent report of the GWIC recognises the need for a detector in the Asia-Pacific region – Australia, Japan, and possibly India or China.

In June, the GWIC noted its appreciation of the long-standing GW research activity in India in theory and data analysis, and endorsed the multi-pronged strategy proposed by the consortium to initiate experimental work as

well. The IndIGO consortium comprises 26 scientists that include researchers drawn from nine leading Indian institutions, as well as Indian scientists who are actively engaged in the field at major gravitational astronomy research centres of the world such as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) at Caltech, United States, and the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) in Potsdam, Germany.

The consortium, chaired by Bala Iyer of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, had submitted its detailed proposal and a road map for IndIGO to the directors of institutions with possible interest in GW astronomy and to leaders of the Indian scientific

community on December 4, 2009.

Another important step in this phased strategy that will be formalised very soon is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IndIGO consortium and the Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy (ACIGA).

The ACIGA, established in 1995, coordinates gravitational research in Australia and is a collaboration of five leading Australian universities. It operates a national research facility called the High Optical Power Facility (HOPF) at Gingin, located on a 50 sq.km, site about 80 km north of Perth.

One of the chief objectives of ACIGA is to build the Australian International Gravitational Observatory (AIGO)

with an advanced GW detector at this site. It is already an active participant in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC) and a partner in the Advanced LIGO project, which is constructing three four-km baseline laser interferometric GW detectors.

Recently, the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the U.S. approved the proposal to construct one of these LIGO detectors at the AIGO site if Australia can raise funds to the tune of \$170 million to build the infrastructure (including vacuum systems), provide staff, and meet the operational costs over 10 years.

The ACIGA, in turn, seeks to form an international collaboration, including the U.S., Germany, the U.K., India, China, France and Italy.

The ACIGA-IndIGO MoU

will enable Indian participation in the setting up of AIGO and associated research in advanced detector technology, which is expected to give Indian researchers experience in state-of-the-art optical, mechanical and quantum metrology techniques towards building IndIGO, a third generation GW detector.

The MoU will also link IndIGO with the international programme of ground-based GW detection through access to all data generated through the LSC. The MoU will remain in effect for three years subject to a mid-term review in December 2011 and the total amount of funding envisaged towards this collaboration is about Rs.125 crore, most of which is expected to be spent in fabrication of sub-systems and tests in India.

Cybercrime is world's most dangerous criminal threat

Agence France-Presse

Hong Kong, Sept. 18

A crime epidemic is silently sweeping the globe as criminals turn our ever-increasing dependence on computers against us, and even the head of Interpol is not immune.

On Friday, 300 of the world's top law enforcement officials concluded the first-ever international police anti-cybercrime conference, facing the stark and growing threat from an estimated \$105-billion illegal business.

Ronald K. Noble, Secretary-General of the international police agency Interpol, told the cream of law enforcement from 56 countries that his identity had been "stolen" to create two Facebook profiles.

One of the impersonators used the fake profile to obtain information on fugitives targeted in a recent Interpol-led operation seeking on-the-run criminals convicted of serious offences, including rape and murder.

"Cybercrime is emerging as a very concrete threat," he said at the opening ceremony of the first Interpol Information Security Conference, at Hong Kong's police headquarters on Wednesday.

"Considering the anonymity of cyberspace, it may in fact be one of the most dangerous criminal threats we will ever face."

And terrorists could also inflict a significant blow with a cyber attack on a nation's infrastructure, he added.

"Just imagine the dramatic consequences of an attack, let's say, on a country's electricity grid or banking system," he said.

"We have been lucky so far that terrorists did not — at least successfully or at least of which we are aware — launch cyber attacks.

"One may wonder if this is a matter of style. Terrorists may prefer the mass media coverage of destroyed commuter trains, buildings brought down, to the anonymous

► Ronald K. Noble, Secretary-General of Interpol, told the cream of law enforcement from 56 countries that his identity had been "stolen" to create two Facebook profiles.

collapse of the banking system. But until when?" The scale of the problem was also highlighted at the Asia launch of a new report, also in Hong Kong, on Thursday by Internet security firm, Symantec.

Almost two-thirds of all adult web users globally have fallen victim to some sort of cybercrime, the 2011 Norton Cybercrime Report: The Human Impact study says, from spam e-mail scams to having their credit card details stolen.

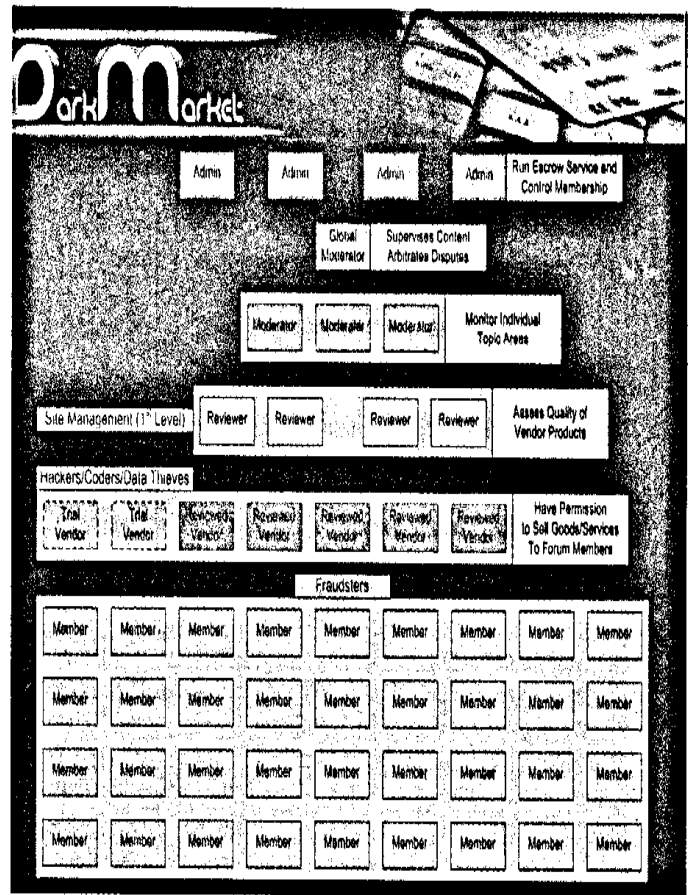
China had the most cybercrime victims, at 83 per cent of web users, followed by India and Brazil, at 76 per cent each, and then the US, at 73 per cent.

The study, of over 7,000 Internet users, also found that 80 per cent of people believed the perpetrators would never be brought to justice. Fewer than half ever bother to report the crime to police.

Stacey Wu, a Symantec Senior Director, told AFP that just one of the firm's offices — in Chengdu, China — alone detects 100,000 cybercrime threats every single day.

"It is no longer just high school kids in their bedrooms sending out malicious e-mails," she said. "It's organised criminals."

"They carry out silent, hit-and-run attacks that steal relatively small amounts of \$20 or so from 20 or 30 people. Then they



Dark market: This Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) computer screen image shows an online forum called 'Dark Market' where it educates users where to buy skimming devices to penetrate bank accounts, how to distribute malware through spam, and buy stolen credit cards among other things. — Reuters

move on." Cybercriminals also trade in data stolen, often unnoticed, from a victim's computer. Credit card details, for instance, are sold on the black market for between \$5 and \$20.

"Identity and personal information theft is a big problem," Wu told AFP. "For example, if the criminal knows a person makes a lot of transactions online, the value of that person's information can be worth a lot more."

Cybercrime is worth an estimated \$105

billion, according to rival computer security firm McAfee, and US police say cybercriminals can earn around \$23,000 a week.

The biggest problem, and the criminal's greatest advantage, is complacency, says Prof. Joseph Kee-Yin Ng, Treasurer of the Internet Society Hong Kong.

"It is hugely important for people and companies to protect themselves," he told AFP. "The criminal is as real as any thief or mugger, you just can't see them."

Foreign Secy conveys India's concerns on H1B to US

Rules Out Changes In Nuclear Liability Bill, Saying It Is Consistent With The CSC

PTI
WASHINGTON

INDIA has conveyed its concerns to the US over the H1B visa fee hike and exchanged views on issues like UNSC expansion and nuclear liability bill during foreign secretary Nirupama Rao's talks with top American officials focusing on President Barack Obama's November visit to the country.

Rao's meetings with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, National Security Adviser Gen (Retd) James Jones and other key officials of the Obama Administration here yesterday "laid the foundation" of a successful Presidential visit to India in early November, the White House said.

After her meeting with Jones at the White House, National Security Council (NSC) spokesman Mike Hammer said that "both agreed that the vast range of co-operation between us would set the foundation for a successful presidential visit and further our strategic partnership."

Noting that the Rao-Jones meeting was held to continue preparations for the US president's upcoming visit to India in early November, Hammer said: "In addition, General Jones and Rao discussed other developments in the South Asia region, noting our mutual desire for stability."

Besides driving down to the White House for her meeting with Jones, Rao spent most of her day yesterday at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department, where she had a series of meetings on issues ranging from the bilateral ties, situation in the region, India's role at the global level to the expansion of the UN Security Council.

However, all these meetings were focused on the early November visit of Obama to India. On the Clinton-Rao meeting, State Department spokesman PJ Crowley said the Secretary of State held talks with Rao along with her top aides like Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake. They discussed the latest developments in the US-India relationship and preparations



for the President's trip to India later this year, he said.

After Rao's meetings, a senior Indian official said the deliberations reflected the "transformational" relationship between India and the United States. There is a convergence of views and strategic interest on a wide range of global issues.

At the same time, officials of both countries conveyed their respective concerns during the meeting. While India was quick to raise the issue of H-1B and other perceived protectionist measures of the US in the recent past, the US spoke of its dissatisfaction over the Nuclear Liability Bill that was recently passed by Parliament and said it was incompatible with Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC).

The Indian delegation told the US it believed that the Nuclear Liability Bill was consistent with the CSC and categorically ruled out making any change to the text of the legislation passed by Parliament. While the US was supportive of India's desire to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, officials said the Obama Administration was unlikely to "endorse" New Delhi for this place in the near future as it had done for Japan. The Indian delegation urged the US to resolve the H-1B visa issue as soon as possible. "It would be good for the relationship if it (H1B issue) is sorted out earlier," the US side was told during the meetings, according to the Indian official.

However, there was no immediate commitment from

the US on this issue, which has now been left to Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk, who are scheduled to meet in Washington next week.

Rao's meetings also gave a sense that the Obama Administration was determined to take the Indo-US relationship to a new level of strategic partnership and working to make the Presidential visit a "milestone" of these emerging ties between the two largest democratic countries of the world, the official said. The Indian delegation is also understood to have brought to the notice of the US officials the recent Pakistani statements on Kashmir as it was an internal matter of India, continued infiltration into Kashmir, the issue of cross-border terrorism and painfully slow progress in bringing to book those responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

During the meetings, US officials are believed to have praised constructive Indian role in Afghanistan and urged New Delhi to "step-up" its cooperation in the war-torn country. India, on the other hand, expressed concern that any "US exit" from Afghanistan at this point of time or even in the near future would strengthen the terrorist organisations and extremist elements in the region, which it feels would not be good for the security of the United States, European countries and India as well.

The issue of increased assertiveness of China in the Indian Ocean and Asia was also discussed during these meetings. Asked about the tough US stance on outsourcing and the recent hike on H1B visa fee, foreign secretary Rao told an Indian TV channel that she raised the issue during her meetings with the American officials here. "I raised it in a number of my meetings and I was able to convey to them that the issue was of concern, of serious concern, to our industry and essentially was perceived as a rise in protectionist sentiments in the United States and we needed to address this issue. "But, I also think the sense that we got in these discussions was that this relationship between India and the United States has acquired a dimension and a relevance that includes a number of areas and issues such as this — the visa-related issues and the issues relating to the controls that have been placed in this area — need to be addressed keeping in mind the larger purpose of this relationship," she told an Indian television channel.

When pointed out that US and India appear to be on different pages on their Af-Pak policy, Rao said: "I actually do not agree with you on that description. We are not on different pages. In fact, I came away with the impression, with the very strong conclusion that India and the US have much in common when it comes to Afghanistan."

Statesman, ND 19-Sep-10

p-6

IIT MENU CARD

Mr Sibal diversifies to medicine

AN institute of technology ought not to be a centre of diffusion. Brainwave in wild profusion might signify an ingenuity of the thought process; but if IITs are to double up as medical colleges, the exclusive focus gets deflected almost as a matter of policy formulated by the Union HRD minister. Mr Kapil Sibal may even consider renaming the IITs. It is of lesser moment that the plan has to be approved by the Medical Council of India, which itself has been superseded by a regulatory authority in the wake of irregularities. The approval is merely a formality. It is amazing that the IIT Council, headed by Mr Sibal, has accorded permission to open up the campuses for the teaching of medicine. Why the council should be headed by a lawyer-turned-minister, and not a scientist or technocrat, is itself a puzzle.

The decision to include MBBS and MD courses in the agenda of the IITs has been announced when the institutes themselves are facing a severe shortage of faculty. So crippling indeed that the Centre has virtually cleared two measures to cope with the crisis ~ raise the retirement age to 70 and induct faculty members from abroad. Home-grown talent is clearly at a discount in Mr Sibal's reckoning, indeed his obsession with a contrived brand equity.

Is it really necessary to change the character of the IITs through this bizarre broadening of the courses on offer? Even the ministries of health and law appear to have reservations over the HRD's trial balloon. Bio-technology is an inter-disciplinary course, closely linked to engineering. To start courses in MD, MS and MBBS in IITs is a different proposition altogether. Mr Sibal is acutely aware that his recent proposal on "MBBS India" ~ through a common "exit exam" ~ is likely to flounder in the absence of uniform standards of medical education. It would have been worthwhile to strive for this uniformity in the interest of public health. IITs must remain focussed on engineering, technology, pure and applied science. The currently fashionable multi-disciplinary approach might suit the social sciences. There can be no justification to diversify the menu of the IITs, and to a different discipline altogether.

Jamia to coach underprivileged

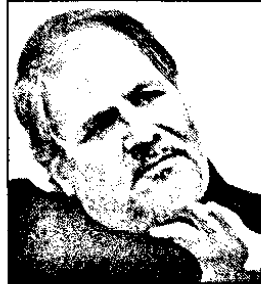
Starts Academy To Help Students Crack Competitive Tests

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia's centre for coaching and career planning will soon help underprivileged students prepare for various competitive examinations like civil services, IIT-JEE, NET and AIEEE without shelling out a paisa.

The ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has granted Rs 15 crore to the university to construct a 200-seater residential coaching academy at Jasola Vihar. The hostel will be ready by next year. It will accommodate 200 students selected through a national-level entrance test to be conducted by Jamia. The aspirants will simply have to be from economically-weak backgrounds or belong to SC/ST/OBC groups or minority communities. Women will be also given the privilege.

Vice-chancellor Najeeb



The underprivileged students will get coaching for various competitive exams like civil services, IIT-JEE, NET and AIEEE without shelling out a penny, said Jamia VC Najeeb Jung

Jung said: "We (Jamia) have a plot of land at Jasola Vihar where we will be build the hostel for the coaching academy. The classes will be held on Jamia campus itself. All the rooms are air-conditioned and we are providing the best of facilities so that we get the best results."

The centre, which is funded by University Grants Commission and MHRD, has a sanctioned strength of 200 students each for IIT-JEE and civil services and by next year it is targeting to coach around 400 candidates for

various exams. The civil services coaching will start on September 15 with a batch of 51 students.

According to coordinator Mohammad Tarique, "We conducted a national-level exam with objective and subjective questions. Over 1,100 students applied and we shortlisted 161 for the interview and selected 51. We will also start our IIT-JEE and AIEEE coaching from this year for which we will have the entrance test somewhere in October-November. We will probably start with a batch

size of 100 students as our facilities are not fully ready."

University officials said 20% of the selected candidates are eligible for merit-cum-means scholarships worth Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per month. "The students can use the library from 9 am to 9 pm all through the week except on Sundays. We will arrange all magazines, newspapers, periodicals and study materials the students may need. Thereafter, need-based scholarships will be provided. The students will just have to a registration fee of Rs 100," said Tarique.

But the hostel accommodation is not going to be free as the university will be charging a minimum tariff, which is yet to be decided, and meal cost. "The academy is open for all. But being a Jamia facility we will definitely prepare our students so that they can make it to the academy and finally crack these exams competitions," said Jung.

It's criminal to close schools that teach the poor

MEN & MORALS

GURCHARAN DAS



The summer of 2010 will be remembered by many mandal education officers in Andhra Pradesh as particularly lucrative. Emboldened by the new Right to Education Act, they swooped down on unsuspecting schools in

the slums and villages of Andhra Pradesh in order to shut them down. By June-end, they had created so much fear and terror among poor parents that the secretary of education of the state government had to clarify that the new law gives unrecognized schools three years to gain recognition and will not be closed immediately. By then, corrupt officials of the state bureaucracy had achieved their objective. Bribes had tripled. One official even boasted that he may not have done as well as at the Commonwealth Games, but it had been one of his best months.

India must be unique in the world for wanting to close down schools that serve the poor. What would be admired elsewhere as an example of entrepreneurial initiative (or jugaad as we say) is illegal here. These schools typically charge Rs 100 to 250 per month in fees but do not get recognition because they fail to meet standards. For example, they don't have a large enough playing field or they can-



DUPED: Students protest against the absence of teachers in a government school in Hyderabad

not pay the minimum government teacher salary of Rs 20,000 a month. In order to comply with standards, they would have to raise fees to Rs 1,200, but then the poor would not be able to afford them.

Why should a parent spend hard-earned money on fees when the child can go to a government school for free and get a mid-day meal as well? The reason is that one in four government primary teachers is illegally absent on any day and one in four who is present is not teaching. This disgraceful lack of accountability is obvious to the poorest parent.

A low-cost private school may not be much but at least the teacher shows up and is motivated. Hence, more than half the children in urban India and a quarter in rural areas are now in private schools. This migration is so rapid that Jean Dreze predicts that government schools will soon become 'ghost schools'.

To want to close down institutions that genuinely serve the needs of the poor seems bizarre and immoral. Their critics dismiss these schools as being of very poor quality and claim that the poor are being 'duped by unscrupulous elements'. But what about the even poorer quality of government schools? No one knows quite how many unrecognized schools exist in India but estimates are in the lakhs. It is hard to believe that millions of parents are capable of being 'duped' year after year. While sending its own children to private schools, the establishment stridently opposes a similar choice for the poor. Of the 20 million employees of the state, hardly any send their children to government schools (except elite Central or Navodaya schools).

The Right to Education Act is a landmark legislation created by well-meaning people. It has many fine features but its great weakness is total neglect of outcomes. More than half our children in Class V cannot read or do the simple arithmetic that is expected of them in Class II. The focus of the lawmakers was to get all children into school. Oddly enough, more than 95% of primary school-age children are already in school. The real problem

is high dropout rates and this relates to high teacher absence. The Rs 43,500 crore required by this new law will mostly finance government teacher salaries that are now seven times India's per capita income against the global norm of two. High teacher salaries are good in principle but only if they are accompanied by performance.

In the end, no democracy can allow tens of thousands of schools to close down. The new law will merely raise the amount of bribe paid to inspectors. This, in turn, will force schools to raise fees, and the burden will fall on the poor. Imagine a law that makes people dishonest and harms the poor! Our democracy is a work in progress, and the answer is not to close schools but to understand their situation and amend the law. Considering these schools charge such low fees, let us have a graded system of recognition, as we have first and second-class tickets in a railway train. Allow these schools the freedom to pay market salaries to teachers and have smaller play areas to ensure that their fees remain affordable for the poor. Don't treat them like illegal brothels but see them as heroic examples of people solving their own problems. Make them safe from rapacious inspectors. They are symbols of India's unique economic model — of a nation rising despite the state.

My Times, My Voice: Like this article? SMS MTMVCOL <space> Yes or No to 58888. Charges applicable. Rs 3 per sms

Could E-power really be just a click away?

India wants IT to set it free. But there are lots of hurdles

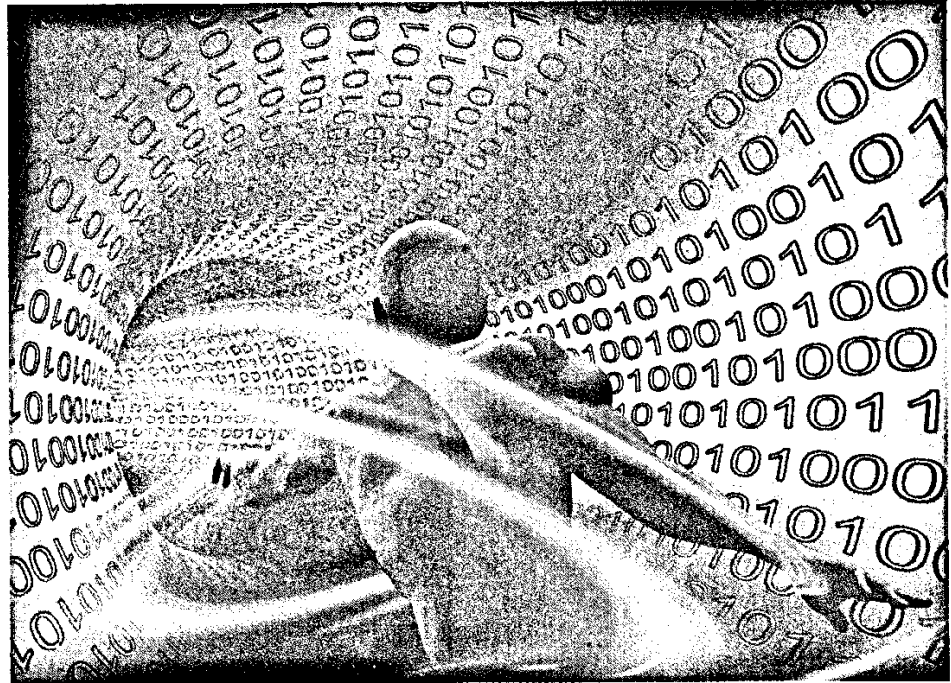
Shobhan Saxena | TNN

Last year, a group of babus tried to reveal a miracle at Tirupati. They invited IT experts and media at the unveiling of the world's "cheapest computer ever". It cost \$10. They claimed it was the perfect personal computer. But when the experts got to work on it, the "miracle" machine turned out to be a tin box with no display screen and little memory. It was an embarrassment.

Then, there was the tablet computer human resources development minister Kapil Sibal showed off last month. It looks like Apple's iPad and costs \$35. The news was received with some scepticism. Sibal was bullish about his government's plan to give the machine to millions across the country: "In 2011, the sun will rise for the children of India".

Can the computer and info-tech change a country in which 60% of villages don't have electricity? Can the internet really become a tool for citizen-centric governance in India? According to an Internet & Mobile Association survey, more than 84% of respondents in seven Indian states are unaware the internet exists? Nevertheless, the government and its private sector partners are working on different initiatives which they claim would bring in sweeping changes. These include the unique identification number database (UID), broadband infrastructure, virtual classrooms and a National eGovernance Plan (NeGP). By 2011, IT spending by India's public sector is expected to grow to \$5.1 billion, most of it on education and healthcare. Can we really expect virtual classrooms and hospitals in remote places any time soon? Paul Bell thinks so and he should know.

Bell is president of the global public sector division of Dell, the Texas-based firm that is providing technological support to some government projects in India. He told TOI that technology has literally liberated government thinking. "Earlier, the governments depended on their large physical infrastructure to deliver public services effectively to people. Now, information and



© Mike Agiolo/Corbis

communication technology allows governments to experiment with new ways of organizing themselves and reaching the citizens."

If technology means freedom, the scale of India's IT efforts on public services is staggering. The eGovernance Plan is meant to reach the most remote village, ensuring large-scale digitization of all land and revenue records. Under the Common Services Centres scheme, over 100,000 broadband centres are being created in rural areas. Around 60 cr people will get UID cards in the next

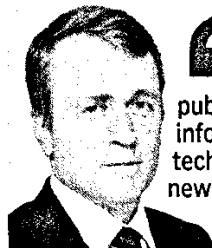
four years. This, according to project head Nandan Nilekani, will give them access to the "government's special health schemes and food or fertilizer subsidies and also would provide instant money deposit and withdrawal facilities at village kirana stores".

Bell says schemes like these are vital for inclusive growth in India. "The UID card will improve the efficiency of the government and impact the quality of life of citizens, especially the poor," he says.

But no one denies that India's

"technology gap for young people" is one of the most stark on this digitized planet. The IMAI survey says there are just 5.4 million internet users in the countryside. This, despite mobile phone operators signing up 16 m new users every month on average and global mobile equipment manufacturers competing for lucrative contracts in India. Telecommunications minister Sachin Pilot agrees that a technologically enabled India is a long way off. "It is not enough just to give connectivity, but to be able to give content in those languages, in those rural parts where e-medicine and education can be made a reality. The industry should start focusing on the quality of service," he says.

In the end, says Bell, any technology is only as good as the people running it. Schemes such as UID or e-medicine will empower people if the babu who is noting their online responses is efficient. Else, prepare for more tall tales and non-events such as the \$10 laptop.



“Earlier, governments depended on their physical infrastructure to deliver public services effectively. Now, information and communication technology allows governments to find new ways to reach their citizens

Paul Bell | PRESIDENT, GLOBAL PUBLIC SECTOR, DELL

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 19, 2010; Section: Times Nation; Page: 15;

Watchdog calls for more medical seats

Aims To Produce 100 More Docs From Every College

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The seven-member committee that replaced Medical Council of India, on Saturday recommended far-reaching education reforms, including 100 additional seats in each of the medical colleges across the country; raising retirement age of teachers and easing land requirement norms for campuses and hostels. These are aimed at removing acute shortage of doctors in the country — 7.5 lakh according to one estimate.

Most medical colleges have at present about 150 seats and the proposal envisages increasing the number to 250. The committee, headed by Dr S K Sarin, met in Delhi on Saturday and also recommended doing away with the mandatory 25-acre land requirement to start a

SHOT IN THE ARM

▶ 100 additional seats in each medical college across the country

▶ Raise retirement age of teachers from 65 to 70 years

▶ Ease land requirement norms for campuses and hostels, from 25 acres as of now to 10

▶ Mandatory hostel requirement for medical colleges to also be eased — colleges can now construct hostels in 5km radius

▶ Measures aimed at removing acute shortage of doctors in the country

medical college. "It will be 10 acres now. To address the acute faculty shortage, the retirement age of teachers

has been raised from 65 to 70 years," a committee member told STOI.

The committee also decided to reduce the mandatory number of beds from 1,500 to 900 for a teaching hospital with 250 students. "The mandatory hostel requirement for medical colleges will also be eased. Colleges can now construct hostels in the 5-km radius. The idea is to add 10,000 more medical seats. We want more colleges to come up, specially government institutions," he said.

According to sources in the committee, India requires 500 more medical colleges. "If 100 colleges are added every year for the next five years, we'll have an adequate number of doctors by 2025. Right now, India has a shortage of 7.5 lakh doctors," the member stated.

Asian Age, ND 19-Sep-10 p-1 age delhi

Lenient law stokes fear of ragging raging again

NIDHI SETHI

THE ASIAN AGE

IT grieving father's battle to seek justice for the death of his son is now at a crossroad. Rajendra Kachroo, father of medical student Aman Kachroo who was ragged to death last year, has been fighting for justice since then. But now the scales of justice have swung a different way. The Delhi High Court has stated that students accused of ragging should not be expelled for life from college as it will ruin their career and might turn them into anti-social elements. While some parents and students have given a thumbs up to the directive, others nurse serious doubts and feel such leniency might dilute the fight against ragging.

The court said, "No college would be willing to grant them admission to enable them to complete their studies, thereby leading to such frustration and disappointment or despondency which may lead even either to suicide or turn them into anti-social elements."

Many believe that ragging which crosses the border of fun and takes on the form of harassment and torment is a crime that deserves punishment. "In some cases ragging is akin to molestation. Ragers need to be punished and made to apologise to their juniors. Instead we now have the court, if not fully but partially, supporting the culprits," says Jahnavi Gill, a physiotherapist.

Madhurima Das, mother of an 18-year-old student at a girls college in Delhi University, believes this move will embolden ragers and says, "I am highly disappointed by the court's thought-process. It certainly sends out a wrong message. There will be no fear among students now and ragers will do what they feel like. If the court is so concerned, why can't we have a ragging-free environment



(Above) A ragging scene from *Dil, Dosti, etc*; (right) college students having fun

Ragging will no longer result in rustication. Will this weaken the battle to curb ragging?

in colleges?"

Those who've faced the horrors of ragging disapprove of the lenient turn. Ankit Singhal (name changed), a final year engineering student says, "When I joined college in 2007, one night our seniors came to my hostel room and started making derogatory comments about my appearance.

When I and my roommate objected, the three lashed at us with leather belts and even hit us with bricks. With the law made easier now, I fear that a larger number of students will become victims of ragging."

"THE SENIORS LASHED AT US WITH LEATHER BELTS AND HIT US WITH BRICKS"

Many think seniors need to be made aware of the consequences of ragging. They should be told that their act can badly affect freshers mentally as well as physically and can even drive them to take extreme steps.

Reacting to the directive, Dr Kanan Nanda, principal, Daulat Ram College says that one can't have just one rule to punish all. "All the cases need to be studied thoroughly to ascertain the extent of the fault. If a student deserves to be punished, he should be punished. In our campus, we appeal to seniors not to indulge



in ragging and inform them about the repercussions of their intolerant actions," she adds.

Dr Pratibha Jolly, principal, Miranda House, feels it is a good idea and adds that ragging is not always intended to hurt somebody. "But if something goes wrong, it affects a student's career adversely. It is not that we won't take any action if there are complaints. Students have been pulled up for bad behaviour. It is then we bring in student counsellors and parents to guide them, followed by the process of rehabilitation," she says.

Cement containing fly ash can cause lung cancer: Scientists

DEEPKAMAL KAUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 18

While the Government of India has made it mandatory for cement companies to use fly ash in cement, a study conducted by scientists at Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) here suggests otherwise. They have found that an exposure to radioactive trace elements present in cement containing fly ash can lead to a higher incidence of lung cancer.

The scientists have analysed that this cement contained radioactive radium, thorium and potassium. They have claimed that during the process of decaying, radioactive radium releases a gas called radon which could be inhaled. They said a higher volume of the gas breathed in by sitting for a longer period within the confines of

A study conducted by scientists at Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology found that an exposure to radioactive trace elements present in cement containing fly ash can lead to a higher incidence of lung cancer

home or workplace could prove dangerous.

The team has rather suggested the government to replace thermal power plants with nuclear power plants. They have opined that the disposal of nuclear waste is far more easier to handle because of less radioactivity in it than fly ash.

Dr Rohit Mehra, assistant professor of the Department of Physics, NIT, and his team have recently conducted a study on the "Comparison of natural radioactivity levels in OPC and PPC cements of various companies".

The OPC is the Ordinary Portland Cement, which does not contain any fly ash and is being used only by government departments like the CPWD and the BRO. The PPC is the commercially available Poslanic Portland Cement with fly ash content varying from 15 to 35 per cent. Fly ash is replaced by clay as strengthening agent, thereby solving the dumping problem.

The physicists collected the OPC and the PPC samples of five cement companies, including JK, Jay Pee, Shree Ultra, JK Laxmi and

Binani. All samples were analysed for the measurement of radioactive radium, thorium and potassium. The analysis was done using the high-resolution gamma spectrometry system available at the Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi.

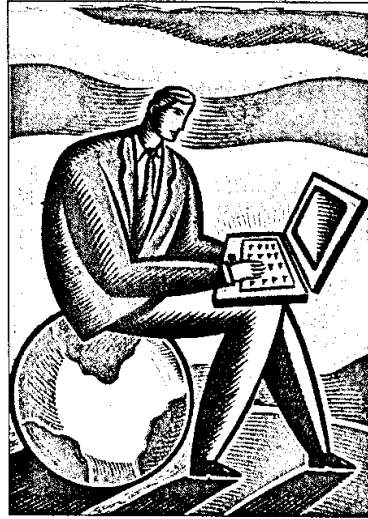
The study said the samples of radioactive content was higher in case of the PPC than the OPC. They also found that the radioactive exposure was highest in case of the JayPee cement and least in the case of the JK Laxmi cement.

Dr Mehra said the team had planned to extend the study for measurement of building materials like granite, marble and bricks. The team had been taking a keen interest in the Pusham area in Bhiwani district of Haryana where people have been falling sick because of high content of granitic rock.

बड़े काम का है गूगल डॉक्स

Q ऑनलाइन हाई वर्ड और एक्सल को कैसे यूज कर सकते हैं ?
- एक पाठक

गूगल डॉक्स एक बहुत ही पावरफुल ऑनलाइन टूल है, जिसकी मदद से आप ऑनलाइन हाई स्प्रेडशीट्स, वर्ड डॉक्यूमेंट्स, प्रेजेंटेशन, ड्राइंग आदि बनाकर उन्हें दोस्तों के साथ ऑनलाइन भी शेयर कर सकते हैं। आप जब भी इस डॉक्यूमेंट में कोई चेंज करेंगे तो वह आपके दोस्तों को भी अपडेटेड ही मिलेगा। आप अपनी अभी की एक्सल, वर्ड, ओपन ऑफिस फाइल, एचटीएमएल या टेक्स्ट फाइल को अपलोड या आप जो भी फाइल ऑनलाइन बनाते हैं, उनको डाउनलोड भी कर सकते हैं। आप अपने डॉक्यूमेंट्स को अपने दोस्तों और सहयोगियों के साथ मिलकर ऑनलाइन एडिट कर सकते हैं यानी अगर आप अपने कंप्यूटर पर और आपका सहयोगी अपने कंप्यूटर पर एक ही डॉक्यूमेंट में काम कर रहे हैं तो आप एक-दूसरे की एडिटिंग



को भी देख सकते हैं। इसके अलावा आप यह भी देख सकते हैं कि किसने कब उस डॉक्यूमेंट को चेंज किया। अगर आप चाहें तो किसी भी पुराने वर्जन पर वापस भी जा सकते हैं। अपने डॉक्यूमेंट को किसी वेब पेज की तरह ऑनलाइन पब्लिश करने के साथ-साथ किसी भी ब्लॉग पर पोस्ट भी कर सकते हैं। इन डॉक्यूमेंट्स को सीधे ही किसी को भी ई-मेल किया जा सकता है। एक्सल को गूगल डॉक्स में स्प्रेडशीट कहते हैं।

गूगल डॉक्यूमेंट्स को यूज करने के लिए आप <http://docs.google.com> पर जाकर उसे अपने जी-मेल यूजरनेम और पासवर्ड से लॉग-इन कर सकते हैं। अगर आपका जी-मेल यूजरनेम नहीं है तो docs.google.com पर गूगल अकाउंट बना सकते हैं। किसी भी नए डॉक्यूमेंट या स्प्रेडशीट को क्रिएट करने के लिए आप <http://docs.google.com> पर जाकर Create New पर क्लिक करें और डॉक्यूमेंट, स्प्रेडशीट या प्रेजेंटेशन जो भी आपको बनाना हो, उस ऑप्शन को सिलेक्ट करें। जब आप डॉक्यूमेंट्स पर काम करना शुरू करते हैं तो राइट कॉर्नर पर Save बटन पर क्लिक करने पर जो विंडो ओपन होगी, उस विंडो के राइट में Untitled Document नाम से बने बॉक्स पर क्लिक करें, जिसके बाद Rename Document नाम से एक बॉक्स नजर आएगा, उसमें डॉक्यूमेंट का नाम एंटर करें। यह डॉक्यूमेंट बाद में उसी नाम से डॉक्यूमेंट लिस्ट में मिल जाएगा। अगर आप अपने जी-मेल में हैं तो लेफ्ट साइड में टॉप पर बने Documents लिंक को क्लिक करके भी अपने ऑनलाइन डॉक्यूमेंट्स को एक्सेस कर सकते हैं। गूगल डॉक्स में अगर आप जल्दी से कोई प्रफेशनल डॉक्यूमेंट बनाना चाहते हैं तो आप Search Templates से बने बनाए टेम्पलेट्स का यूज करके डॉक्यूमेंट को बना सकते हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara ND 19-Sep-10

p-1

एमसीआई का 500 मेडिकल कालेज खोलने का फार्मूला

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। मेडिकल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (एमसीआई) ने मेडिकल शिक्षा में निजी क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपना पिटारा खोल दिया है। इसके तहत देश में 500 मेडिकल कालेज खोलने का फार्मूला तैयार कर स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पास भेजा गया है। फार्मूले में मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के लिए जो अनिवार्य शर्तें होती हैं, उन सब में जबर्दस्त ढील दी गई है। इतना ही नहीं, चालू मेडिकल कालेजों में छात्रों की वर्तमान संख्या को बढ़ा कर 250 करने की सिफारिश भी की गई है।

खासबात यह है कि मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के नए फार्मूले ने पांच माह से हिरासत में चल रहे

एमसीआई के पूर्व अध्यक्ष डा. केतन देसाई के मेडिकल स्कूल के फार्मूले को पीछे छोड़ दिया है। एमसीआई बोर्ड ऑफ गर्वनर्स के अध्यक्ष डा. एसके सरीन ने संवाददाता सम्मेलन में बताया कि देश में डाक्टरों की बहुत ज्यादा कमी है। इसे पूरा करने के लिए देश में पांच वर्ष के अंदर 500 मेडिकल कालेज खोलने का प्रस्ताव एमसीआई की ओर से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पास भेजा गया है। मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए वर्तमान नियमों में छूट देने की सिफारिश की गई है। इसके तहत मेडिकल कालेजों के प्रोफेसर्स के अवकाश ग्रहण की वर्तमान उम्र को 65 वर्ष से बढ़ा कर 70 वर्ष करने और मेडिकल छात्र व अस्पताल मरीज का अनुपात कम करने के लिए कहा गया है। इस

समय मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के लिए अनिवार्य भूमि को आधे से भी कम करने की सिफारिश की गई है। इस समय 25 एकड़ जमीन की आवश्यकता होती है मगर एमसीआई ने इसे 10 एकड़ करने के लिए कहा है। मेडिकल कालेज के लिए अस्पताल की अनिवार्यता को भी कम करने के लिए एमसीआई ने कहा है कि प्रति मेडिकल छात्र पर कम से कम पांच अस्पताल

बिस्तर होने चाहिए जबकि इस समय यह अनुपात एक मेडिकल छात्र पर आठ मरीजों का है।

पांच वर्ष में 500 मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के प्रस्ताव में कहा गया कि हर साल 100 मेडिकल कालेज खुलेंगे। इससे 10 हजार अतिरिक्त डाक्टर

निकलने लगेंगे जबकि इस समय 30 हजार डाक्टर निकल रहे हैं। एमसीआई ने नए मेडिकल कालेजों के लिए ही पिटारा नहीं खोला है बल्कि जो मेडिकल कालेज चल रहे हैं। उनके लिए भी नियम उदार बनाने की सिफारिश की है। इस समय जो मेडिकल कालेज हर वर्ष 50 से ज्यादा छात्रों को प्रवेश नहीं देते हैं, वहां पर हर साल कम से कम 250 छात्रों को एक बार में दाखिला देने के लिए कहा गया है ताकि हर साल डाक्टर बन कर निकलने वालों की तादाद को बढ़ाया जा सके। एमसीआई का मानना है कि यदि यह सिफारिश मान ली गई तो देश में हर साल 30 हजार अतिरिक्त डाक्टर निकलेंगे। मेडिकल कालेज में दक्षिण और उत्तर के अंतर को पाटने का संकेत भी एमसीआई ने दिया है।

- ▶ मेडिकल शिक्षकों की रिटायरमेंट उम्र 70 वर्ष होगी
- ▶ चालू मेडिकल कालेज दे सकेंगे 250 छात्रों को दाखिला
- ▶ मेडिकल कालेजों के लिए अस्पताल की अनिवार्यता में मिलेगी छूट



मानव संसाधन मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल सप्ताहभर की अमेरिकी यात्रा के दौरान येल विश्वविद्यालय, वर्जीनिया टेक विश्वविद्यालय और कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के प्रतिनिधियों से साधे संपर्क।

इनोवेशन विवि में अमेरिकी संस्थानों को न्योता

पंकज कुमार पांडेय, नई दिल्ली

उच्च शिक्षा में नई अवधारणा पर आधारित विश्व स्तरीय इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी स्थापित करने की मंशा को परवान चढ़ाने के लिए मानव संसाधन मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की निगाह कई प्रतिष्ठित अमेरिकी संस्थानों पर है।

सिब्बल अपनी एक सप्ताह की अमेरिका यात्रा पर रविवार तड़के रवाना होंगे तो उनके मिशन में अमेरिका के येल विश्वविद्यालय, वर्जीनिया टेक विश्वविद्यालय और कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के प्रतिनिधियों से संपर्क साधना शामिल होगा। भारत इन प्रतिष्ठित अमेरिकी संस्थानों को भारत में इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी खोलने के लिए आमंत्रित कर सकता है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि कुछ संस्थान खुद अपना कैम्पस स्थापित करना चाहते हैं, जबकि कुछ संस्थानों का परस्पर भागीदारी के आधार



इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी में साझेदारी के स्तर तक बढ़ाने की है। मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के सूत्रों का कहना है कि अमेरिका ने भारत के साथ शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भागीदारी को लेकर काफी सकारात्मक रुख अपनाया है। कई प्रतिष्ठित अमेरिकी संस्थान चाहते हैं कि वे भारत में शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अपना रुख करें।

पर आगे बढ़ने का इरादा है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, फिलहाल येल विश्वविद्यालय इनोवेशन विश्वविद्यालय की मेंटरिंग कर सकता है। वहीं वर्जीनिया टेक अपना विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने की कतार में है। कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के साथ रिसर्च डेवलपमेंट के क्षेत्र में साझेदारी को

सिब्बल इन संभावनाओं को अपनी यात्रा के दौरान पुख्ता करने का प्रयास करेंगे।

गौरतलब है कि विदेशों के प्रमुख संस्थानों के साथ भागीदारी के अलावा सिब्बल ने कई भारतीय उद्योगपतियों को भी इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी की मुहिम में शामिल करने का मन बनाया है। मुकेश अंबानी के साथ इस दिशा में बात काफी आगे बढ़ चुकी है। वहीं अजीम प्रेमजी और सुनील भारती मित्तल भी इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी की अवधारणा में भागीदारी के लिए बातचीत कर रहे हैं। सूत्रों का कहना है कि इनोवेशन यूनिवर्सिटी को परंपरागत ढर्रे से इतर वास्तव में इनोवेटिव मूड का संस्थान बनाने के लिए सिब्बल ने कई स्तरों पर कवायद की है। मंशा यह है कि ये संस्थान जिन इलाकों में स्थापित हों इनका नाता वहां की स्थानीय परिस्थितियों से हो। इन संस्थानों में शोध पर खास तवज्जो देने की बात भी हो रही है। कुल 14 इनोवेशन विवि खोलने की तैयारी है।

रैगिंग मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध

रैगिंग उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के परिसर में अब एक समस्या बन चुकी है। उन अभिभावकों से पूछिये जो रैगिंग के कारण अपने कलेजे के टुकड़ों को खो चुके हैं। रैगिंग के नाम पर अमानवीय घटनाएँ और अमानुषिक क्रियाकलाप तथा प्रताड़नाएँ मानवता पर कलंक हैं। कुछ वर्षों से छात्रों में बढ़ती हिंसा उग्र रूप धारण कर रही है। शैक्षणिक संस्थानों का वातावरण भयावह हो चला है। पश्चिमी देशों में छात्रों के पार्श्विक आचरण की खबरों से हमें आश्चर्य नहीं होता क्योंकि वहाँ के उन्मुक्त वातावरण में बच्चों से वैसे आदर्श और व्यवहार की अपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती, जैसी कि भारत में की जाती है। विडम्बना यह है कि भारत की युवा पीढ़ी पाश्चात्य आचार-विचारों का अंधानुकरण कर रही है। उसके आदर्श विनोबा भावे, स्वामी विवेकानंद, सरदार पटेल जैसी विभूतियाँ नहीं हैं।

भारतीय जीवन मूल्यों में छात्रों की कोई आस्था नहीं। मानवीय मूल्यों की अवहेलना कर जिस अमानवीय व्यवहार को वह दिखा रहे हैं, वह चिंताजनक है। रैगिंग की बर्बर घटनाएँ लगातार सामने आ रही हैं, लेकिन शिक्षण संस्थान और सरकारें इसे रोकने में पूरी तरह विफल हैं। जिस तरह बहू सास की प्रताड़ना सहने के बाद सास बनते ही बहु को प्रताड़ित करने लगती है ठीक उसी तरह से छात्र पहले यातना सहन करते हैं, बाद में वे भी दूसरों को यातना देने लगते हैं। उन्हें इस बात का अहसास ही नहीं होता कि जो कभी उनके लिए दुःखदायी रहा वह अब दूसरे के लिए भी दुःखदायी है। वास्तव में बच्चों में संस्कार डालने की परम्परा जो घर से शुरू होकर शिक्षा संस्थानों तक पहुँचती थी, अब खत्म हो चुकी है। कालेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में वर्चस्व कायम करने की प्रतिस्पर्धा के चलते ही हिंसक घटनाएँ होती रहती हैं।

बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के छात्रावास में जिस तरह से एक विकलांग छात्र की निर्मम पिटाई की गई, उसका अहसास टीवी चैनलों पर दिखाए गए एमएमएस से होता है। जयपुर में सीनियर छात्रों द्वारा एक जूनियर छात्र की पिटाई करने का मामला सामने आया है। कुछ दिन पहले कानपुर में एक छात्र ने आत्महत्या कर ली थी। रैगिंग की हृदय विदारक घटनाओं का उजागर होना शिक्षा संस्थानों की व्यवस्था पर प्रश्नचिह्न लगाता है।

हिमाचल प्रदेश के कांगड़ा स्थित डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मैडिकल कालेज के एमबीबीएस प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र अमन काचरु की मौत के बाद उसके परिवार के आंसू अब तक नहीं थमे हैं। रैगिंग के दौरान चार छात्रों ने उसे इतना पीटा था कि उसकी मौत हो गई थी। क्या आंध्र प्रदेश के इंजीनियरिंग कालेज की एक छात्रा के परिवार के आंसू अब सूख गए होंगे जिसने चार सीनियर छात्रों के उत्पीड़न से तंग आकर आत्महत्या कर ली थी? ऐसी कई घटनाएँ सामने आईं लेकिन रैगिंग की बर्बर परम्परा पर कोई अंकुर नहीं लगा। छात्र जान गंवा रहे हैं और आरोपी छात्र अपना भविष्य गंवा बैठे। आश्चर्य की बात है कि रैगिंग की शिकायत मिलने पर कालेज या विश्वविद्यालय प्रबंधन कोई ठोस कार्रवाई नहीं करता। न्याय व्यवस्था शिथिल है। निश्चित रूप से ऐसी रैगिंग एक सामाजिक अपराध है, जिससे दूसरे की जान चली जाए। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 2001 में उन्नीकृष्ण समिति की सिफारिश के आधार पर कालेज के संचालकों और प्रिंसिपल को रैगिंग रोकने के लिए जवाबदेह माना था। प्रिंसिपल का निलम्बन, न्यायिक जांच और दोषी छात्रों को गिरफ्तारी से किसी की मौत को भरपाई नहीं हो सकती।

2005 में राज्यसभा में रैगिंग रोकथाम विधेयक पेश किया गया था, जिसमें तीन वर्ष की कैद और 25 हजार रुपए जुर्माने का प्रावधान रखा गया था। इस विधेयक का क्या हुआ, कुछ पता नहीं। पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राघवन समिति की सिफारिशें स्वीकार की थीं। विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग ने कुछ सख्त दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए थे। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी अपनी चिंता से सरकार को अवगत कराया था। यूजीसी ने कहा था कि किसी भी संस्थान की रैगिंग विरोधी समिति द्वारा दोषी पाए जाने पर अपराध की गम्भीरता के अनुसार छात्र के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी। इनमें प्रतिष्ठान से निलम्बन, शैक्षिक सुविधाओं का वापस लिया जाना, होस्टल से बाहर निकालना, उसका नामांकन रद्द करना और किसी समय विशेष के लिए किसी भी अन्य संस्थान में प्रवेश नहीं दिए जाने, परीक्षा परिणाम रोकने या किसी भी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय, राष्ट्रीय या क्षेत्रीय आयोजन में शामिल नहीं होने देना शामिल है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी विश्वविद्यालयों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को रैगिंग करने वाले छात्रों को मनोवैज्ञानिक के पास भेजने और नशा करने वाले छात्रों को नशा मुक्ति केन्द्र भेजने और सभी राज्यों को रैगिंग विरोधी कमेटियाँ बनाने का निर्देश दिया था। शीर्ष न्यायालय के निर्देशों का पालन ही नहीं किया गया। केवल कानून से सामाजिक अपराध खत्म नहीं हो सकता। रैगिंग के बहाने हत्या करने वालों को तो कठोर सजा मिलनी ही चाहिए, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि अभिभावक बच्चों को संस्कार दिए बिना ही उनमें महत्वाकांक्षाओं का पहाड़ जगा देते हैं। महत्वाकांक्षारं पूरी न होने की स्थिति में छात्रों के जीवन में भटकाव आ जाता है और अनेक व्यसनों के आदी और हिंसक हो उठते हैं। छात्रों को शिक्षा दी जा रही है जान नहीं। ऐसा वातावरण सृजित करने की जरूरत है कि जूनियर छात्र सीनियर छात्रों के रैगिंग के भय से मुक्त हों।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी विश्वविद्यालयों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को रैगिंग करने वाले छात्रों को मनोवैज्ञानिक के पास भेजने और नशा करने वाले छात्रों को नशा मुक्ति केन्द्र भेजने और सभी राज्यों को रैगिंग विरोधी कमेटियाँ बनाने का निर्देश दिया था। शीर्ष न्यायालय के निर्देशों का पालन ही नहीं किया गया। केवल कानून से सामाजिक अपराध खत्म नहीं हो सकता।

Hamara Mahanagar
ND 19/09/2010 P-1

'कैट' पर भारी नहीं पड़ेगा 'माऊस'

नई दिल्ली। पिछले वर्ष कैट की परीक्षा में हुई भारी परेशानी को देखते हुए इस बार परीक्षा को व्यवस्थित तरीके से संपन्न कराने की तैयारी की गई है। कैट परीक्षा का आयोजन कराने वाली कंपनी प्रो-मैट्रिक ने कंप्यूटर से जुड़ी किसी परेशानी का तुरंत निदान करने का पुख्ता इंतजाम किया है। प्रो-मैट्रिक की प्रवक्ता का कहना है कि अगर कैट की परीक्षा के अंदर अचानक कोई कंप्यूटर क्रैश कर जाता है तो उसे तुरंत बदला जाएगा। यही नहीं इस बार प्रो-मैट्रिक ने ऐसे परीक्षकों को नियुक्ति की है, जो सर्टिफाइड प्रोग्रामर हैं। इसके अलावा केंद्रों पर टेक्नीशियन की भी नियुक्ति की गई है, जिससे किसी दिक्कत का समाधान जल्द से जल्द किया जा सके।