

# Newspaper Clips

September 2-3, 2012

September 2

HT, Patna

## SUPPRESSING NATURAL TALENT

For the past decade, Anand Kumar has been selecting 30 poor children and training them for two years to make the transition from a future without hope to one rich with promise. Super 30, his Patna-based school, sends most of the 30 selected students to the IITs every year. These include children of brick-kiln labourers, orphans and kids unable to speak a word in English. All they have, Kumar insists, is “natural talent.” “Now, with the new IIT admission rules, it is these poor children who will suffer,” he says after a Friday morning class. Most city-based coaching classes have raised their fees — lacing the IIT dreams they sell with the promise to also train students for Board examina-



**“With the new IIT admission rules, it is the poor children from government schools who will suffer.”**

**ANAND KUMAR,  
SUPER 30**

■ **Anand Kumar’s Super 30 takes in poor students without any fee**

tions. Super 30, which caters only to poor children, charges no fees. Across the country, several private schools have also started special, after-school coaching for students to ensure that they can manage both school studies and IIT entrance requirements. A poor child at a government school cannot compete, Kumar says.

**EDUCATION** We're moving towards replacing a complex college admission system that sidelines schooling, with a single national test – but there are lessons to be learned first

# RIGHT OF ADMISSION



Students paying for dozens of multiple entrance tests may now have to focus on clearing just one national test

Charu Sudan Kasturi  
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As India's education czars battled with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) teachers this May over creating a single national admission test for all engineering schools, neighbouring China was grappling with a similar debate: only turned inside out.

Days ahead of China's single national entrance test for admissions to all universities, images appeared online of rows upon rows of high school students on intravenous drips. The photographs of students injecting amino-acids into their bodies to restore energy to continue cramming for the sole entry test taken by millions of college aspirants forced the Chinese government to order a probe. It also triggered a debate on whether the single national test, called the Gaokao, is outdated.

It's a debate India may well want to follow. Starting 2013, all central engineering schools including the IITs will use a Joint Entrance Examination to be conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education to select students. The IITs will be allowed a second exam to further select from students who clear the first test. Other central engineering schools will have to assign 40% weightage to Board examination scores, while the IITs will use these scores as an eligibility criterion. The common test is the first step towards human resource development minister Kapil Sibal's stated plan to

eventually create a single examination covering all streams and colleges across the country like the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the Gaokao.

Sibal's plan is aimed at correcting some of the biggest ills plaguing India's higher education admission process. Several students currently appear for up to a dozen entrance examinations for different streams and within the

same stream, with multiple engineering tests. This involves high costs for students and their families. Popular professional schools like the IITs, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the national law schools and the School of Planning and Architecture currently rely only minimally on Board performances for

admissions, instead depending on different entrance tests. This has in recent years led to high school students increasingly ignoring school studies and Board examinations.

Increasing the relevance of school-leaving examinations in admissions to popular colleges will likely make students focus more on school studies. But the wide gap in standards of schooling between rural and urban India has triggered concerns that using Board scores may hurt children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Experiences globally with a single entrance examination for admissions to all colleges have been mixed. In India, such an examination would need a widespread network of test centres. It would also need the proven capability to hold the test and process results with fairness, consistency and security, says Soumitra Roy, country managing director of Prometric, which delivers the SAT, GRE and the CAT in India.

It won't be easy. But looking at the concerns flagged in India, and learning from the experiences abroad may help India improve its troubled admission system without adopting one living on drips.

## WHERE WE STAND AGAINST THE WORLD

Changing college admissions: Is India graduating with the world?

	INDIA	US	CHINA	UK	RUSSIA
Gross enrollment rate (GER)*	13%	70%	76%	60%	66%
Degree-awarding Universities	576	4,140	2,000	244	3,000
Admissions based on	Multiple tests, Board scores	SAT/ACT**, and/or school scores, essays, recos	Single test	Multiple tests, school scores & essays	Single test

\*GER in higher education is defined as the ratio of high school graduates who go to college.

\*\*SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test; ACT: American College Testing

### What can be done?

- PLANS FOR CHANGE**
- Replace the multiple engineering entrance exams with a single test.
  - Increase weightage of Board exam in engineering colleges admissions.
  - Scale this plan up to combine all entrance tests – across streams and disciplines – into one like the SAT.
  - Ensure Board scores matter in admissions to all colleges & universities.

- AIMS**
- Reduce the number of exams students need to take.
  - Bring back the focus on school studies.
  - Reduce the influence of coaching centres.



## casestudy

### SUPPRESSING NATURAL TALENT

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## IN OTHER COUNTRIES..

While China is the only country that solely relies on a single entrance test, other countries like UK and Russia have avoided it due to diversity in student backgrounds

### UNITED STATES

One in four accredited colleges in the US no longer requires SAT scores for all courses, though 95% need some test according to Educational Testing Services, which conducts the SAT. SAT scores, even when mandatory, are only considered alongside school-leaving scores, essays, recommendations and extracurricular achievements while deciding on admissions. But many colleges have found a single nationwide test unable to capture the diversity in student background and interests these institutions look for, says Bill Hiss, Vice President at Bates College, a top liberal arts college and the first to turn SAT-optional in 1984. "Creating a single, make-or-break test to serve as gatekeeper to higher education in India will doubtlessly ratchet up the stress felt by many applicants," he warns.



### CHINA

A single window to enter almost all Chinese universities, the Gaokao was started in 1952 and has run since, barring a decade-long gap during the Cultural Revolution. But the test, taken by 10 million students each year, faces greater scrutiny than ever for the stress it puts on students. Girls have been known to pop contraceptive pills to avoid the distraction of menstruation while preparing. "The Chinese experience with the Gaokao – an explosion of expensive coaching schools and near-annual cheating epidemics – shows the folly of relying on a single test to determine undergraduate admissions," Schaeffer of the NCFOT says. Several Chinese educationists have recently argued against relying solely on the Gaokao. Others have argued that the Gaokao only needs some tweaks. But change appears imminent.



### UK

The UK has avoided an SAT-style single national admission test, and largely relies on school-leaving scores for varsity selections, despite a government panel recommending a single test in 2004. But like India, the UK also has several other competitive tests for admissions to streams like medicine and law. Universities like Oxford and Cambridge also hold their own additional tests to gauge an applicant's critical thinking abilities. "There is no appetite for one single test when there are good secondary school exams combined with other details on the application form and the use of specific tests where they add value," said Janet Graham, Director of the Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) programme, an independent British education think tank.



### RUSSIA

Different universities traditionally conducted their own admissions, littering Russian higher education with multiple entrance tests. In 2003, the Russian ministry of education introduced the Unified State Examination (USE) as a pilot project in some colleges. In 2009, the USE was made mandatory for all colleges across streams – with a handful of institutions allowed to use their own admission criteria. Proponents of the USE have made some of the same arguments that India has witnessed. The USE is also the uniform school-leaving examination across Russia – in effect, a combination of a single, common Board examination and the single entrance test for all colleges. But this single test has also invited criticism that it fails to capture academic aptitude.



## FAVOURING THE PRIVILEGED?

Suresh Ram knows what it takes to beat the odds and get into the IITs. But the civil engineering graduate from IIT Delhi fears that others with his background may be blocked from pursuing their dreams, even if they clear the IIT entrance examination like he did.

The son of a farm labourer, Ram went to a government school in his home district of Madhepura, Bihar. With 58% in his Board examinations, Ram may not have even been eligible for admissions under the new selection policy the premier engineering schools plan to follow from 2013, under which only stu-



"The one-test move is against rural students. They won't be able to compete with students who get better schooling."

SURESH RAM, FARMER'S SON

Toulro.

"This move is against rural students," Ram argues. "They will be unable to compete with students who have access to better schooling and have an advantage in Board examinations."

Students such as Ram may suffer due to this national test. Students in the top 20 percentile of their Board will be considered. Today, he works as a construction design engineer for Larsen and

# Obama names IITian to key post

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

US President Barack Obama has named IIT-Bombay alumnus Romesh Wadhvani as a general trustee of the Board of Trustees of the prestigious John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

Announcing his intent to appoint Wadhvani and nine other general trustees of the centre, Obama said, "These dedicated men and women bring a wealth of experience and talent to their new roles and I am proud to have them serve in this Administration."

"I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come," added Obama, whose administration has over a score Indian-Americans serving in senior positions, more

than any other previous administration.

Set up in 1971 as a living memorial to former President John F Kennedy, the centre is the busiest performing arts facility in the United States and annually hosts approximately 2,000 performances for audiences totaling nearly two million.

A White House release said that Wadhvani has been actively involved in Kennedy Center initiatives, having served as Co-Chair of the Maximum India Festival in 2011 and as a supporter of the 2010 Honors Gala.

Previously, Wadhvani was the founder, Chairman, and CEO of several software and IT companies, including Aspect Development, Inc.

(With IANS inputs)

National Duniya ND 02.09.2012 P-13

## आईआईटी मुंबई में पढ़े रोमेश को ओबामा प्रशासन में महत्वपूर्ण पद

वॉशिंगटन (भाषा)। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा ने जानेमाने भारतीय अमेरिकी रोमेश वाधवानी को प्रतिष्ठित जॉन एफ कैनेडी सेंटर फॉर परफार्मिंग आर्ट्स के न्यासियों के बोर्ड में शामिल किया है। ओबामा ने इस प्रतिष्ठित सेंटर के बोर्ड के सभी नौ सदस्यों की घोषणा कर दी है। ओबामा ने बयान में बताया कि इन समर्पित महिलाओं और पुरुषों को इस क्षेत्र में नियुक्त करके उन्हें काफी खुशी हो रही है। आने वाले दिनों में वह इन लोगों के साथ काम करने को

तत्पर हैं। सिम्पनी टेक्नोलॉजी ग्रुप के संस्थापक, अध्यक्ष और सीईओ डॉक्टर वाधवानी इसके पहले एसपेक्ट डेवलपमेंट सहित कई सॉफ्टवेयर और आईटी कंपनियों के संस्थापक, अध्यक्ष और सीईओ रह चुके हैं। व्हाइट हाउस ने बताया कि वह वाधवानी पाउंडेशन के संस्थापक और अध्यक्ष भी हैं। वाधवानी ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) मुंबई में पढ़ाई की है। उन्होंने कार्नेगी मेलॉन विश्वविद्यालय से पीएचडी किया है।

## Delhi University bans student rallies

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi University on Saturday imposed a ban on student rallies in the campus after reports of misbehaviour and eve-teasing during a protest march, but the move has irked student leaders ahead of the DUSU election.

The Proctor issued a notice on Saturday, saying that all rallies will be banned in the campus till "further notice". The action came a day after allegations of misbehaviour were made during a student rally.

"In the light of the reported incident of eve-teasing and disturbing harmony in the campus during the student rallies, the University has decided to ban all rallies and demonstration of any kind within the Delhi University campus till further notice," the statement by Proctor Usha Rao said.

While the varsity did not specify the details, the matter apparently refers to an incident on Friday during a protest march called by the NSUI when some participants in the rally allegedly indulged in eve-teasing.

The move to ban rallies comes ahead of the Delhi University Students' Union election on September 13 and student leaders said a blanket ban on rallies was no solution.

ABVP state secretary Rohit Chahal said his group would defy the ban on Monday by organising a rally of women students demanding action against the culprits.

He said the incident occurred outside IP College and

**Matter apparently refers to Friday's incident when some rally participants allegedly indulged in eve-teasing**

as many as 90 per cent of the people participating in the rally were not University students but outsiders.

"It is absurd. Rather than find out those responsible and take action, the University has banned protest. There are enough number of cameras on campus to catch the culprits. We are not taking this. We are taking out a march of women students, come what may," Mr. Chahal said.

NSUI leaders claimed the allegations on their rally were being levelled by "political groups" but criticised the ban.

NSUI spokesperson Amrish Pandey said if any such incident of eve-teasing has happened, it is highly condemnable but imposing a ban on rallies was not a way out.

"It is our democratic right. We were raising some genuine demands during our rally," he said, reacting to the ban.

Asked if the student group had tried to find out details of the reported incident, he said: "Allegations have been levelled by political groups. I have tried to find out the details but so far I have not come to know anything in this regard". — PTI

## Meira Kumar first chancellor of Central University of Bihar



**PATNA:** Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar has been made the first chancellor of the Central University of Bihar, running from a campus in Patna, at present. The post of chancellor had been vacant in the university, which has now entered its fourth year. With the appointment of chancellor, the work of the university is expected to gather further momentum.

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### UK varsity may go to court over licence

Andy McSmithn & Richard Garner

High court judges could have the final say in a bitter dispute between immigration officials and a London university which has left 2,500 foreign students in fear of being deported.

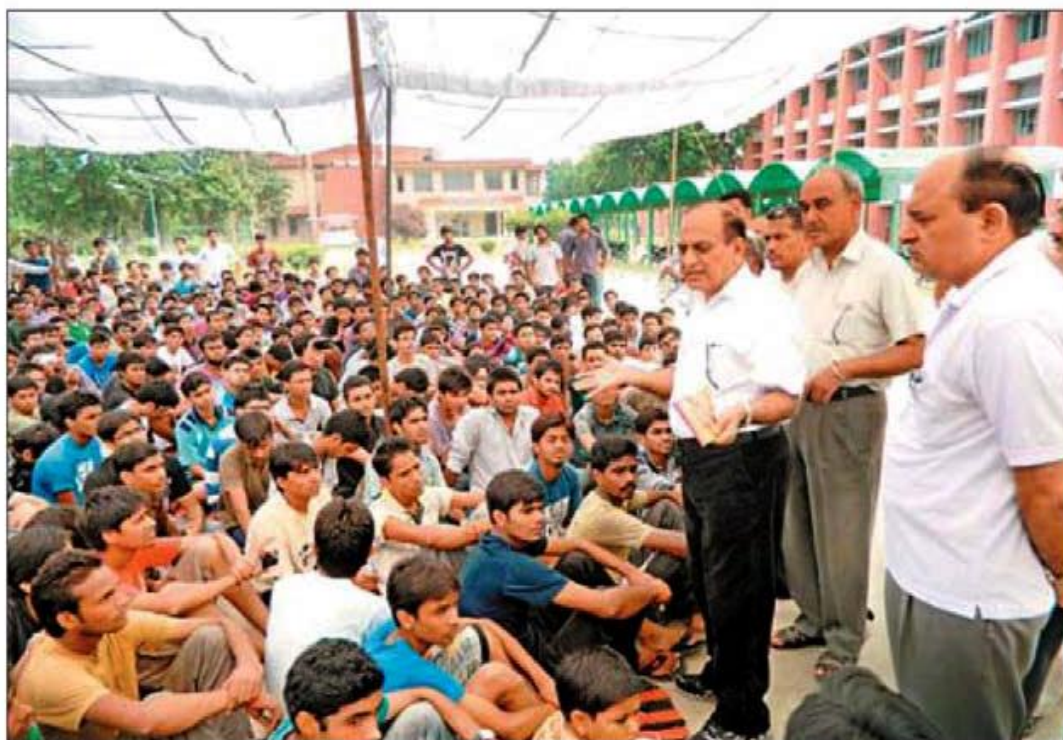
Legal experts are predicting that London Metropolitan University, which has been stripped of its licence to sponsor non-EU students by the UK Border Agency (UKBA), will have no choice but to fight the government through courts.

The decision to put the LUM's 2,500 foreign students at risk of being deported came at a time when the government is struggling to fulfil a promise to bring net immigration down to below 100,000 a year. Foreign students add an estimated £12.5 billion a year to the economy. **THE INDEPENDENT**

KURUKSHETRA DROWNING CASE

# NIT students end strike following assurances

**MENDING WAYS** Management assures 24-hour ambulance service on campus



■ National Institute of Technology acting director VK Arora addressing students on the campus in Kurukshetra on Sunday.

RAKESH ROHILLA/HT

**Vijay Sabharwal**

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**KURUKSHETRA:** The strike by students of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here was called off on Sunday after the college management conceded to some of their demands. Their main demand for the resignation of NIT director Anand Mohan, however, was not met.

The striking students had blamed Mohan for not taking timely action after a third-year student, Tejasvi Arora, drowned in a canal at Jyotisar on last Monday evening.

Earlier in the day, the management appealed to students to end the stalemate through negotiation. They explained to students the steps taken by it in the wake of the incident.

“The management will constitute a fact-finding committee to take preventive steps so that downing incidents do not happen again,” acting director VK Arora said. The NIT director is on leave. Arora said a disciplinary committee would be formed to find out students responsible for creating ruckus on the campus. “We have decided to take lenient action against the guilty.”

As Tejasvi Arora (victim) used to participate in cultural activities, the Students Activity Centre on the campus will be named after him

VK ARORA  
National Institute of  
Technology acting director

“As Tejasvi Arora used to participate in cultural activities, the Students Activity Centre on the campus will be named after him,” he said.

“A student’s advisory committee and a rapid action committee will be constituted to tackle downing incidents in future. A 24-hour ambulance service will be available on the campus to meet any eventuality,” he said.

Arora announced to postpone the mid-term test, which were to commence on Monday, to Friday. He assured to take steps with the help of district administration in removing a liquor vend situated close to the NIT campus.

A students’ leader, Vipul, claimed that the authorities had assured to take action against a person found guilty by an investigating team of the ministry of human resource department, while Arora said no such assurance had been given.

# CAG picks holes in HRD Ministry's 'favour' to IIT-Madras

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2**  
At a time when a debate is raging on the potential of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to raise their own funds, the Ministry of HRD has been found favouring these premier technical institutes a tad too much. In a surprise find, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed that the Ministry which Kapil Sibal heads extended a huge loan of Rs 100 crore to the IIT Madras Research

## THE AUDITOR'S INTERVENTION

- The Ministry gave it ₹100 cr loan at just 3 pc interest
- Under govt rules, such loans must be charged at 11.5 pc rate
- After being alerted by the CAG, the anomaly was finally corrected.
- The intervention of the audit resulted in recovery of the interest loss worth ₹46.75 cr

Park at an interest rate which was 8.5 per cent lesser than the rate the institute should have been charged.

The largesse resulted in the loss of Rs 46.75 crore to the Government even though the Ministry, after being alerted on the faux pas by the CAG,

recovered the lost amount and corrected the anomaly.

That apart, the CAG found out how in January 2010, the Ministry had extended the said loan to IIT Research Park, a company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, against the

“The action of the ministry was in contravention of the General Financial Rules and the decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Government.” — CAG report

General Financial Rules of the Government.

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, through its office memorandum issued in October 2007, had prescribed an interest rate of 11.5 per cent per annum on

investment loans given by the Central Government to industrial and commercial undertakings in the public sector as well as to the cooperatives.

Despite this, the agreement which the Ministry of HRD executed with the IIT Madras Company in February 2010 provided for levying of interest at the rate of three per cent per annum as against the applicable rate of 11.5 per cent. Repayment of the loan was to commence from 2013-14 for a period of 10 years.

“The action of the Min-

istry was in contravention of the General Financial Rules and the decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Government. After this was pointed out to the Ministry in June 2011, it replied in June 2012 that the agreement had since been revised and the company had agreed to pay interest at the applicable rate as per Government norms,” CAG said in its audit report on the issue.

The timely intervention of the audit resulted in recovery of the impending interest loss amounting to Rs 46.75 crore.

Indian Express ND 3/09/2012 P7

# IIT-Madras squabble turns into war with media

GOPU MOHAN  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 2

A SQUABBLE between a photojournalist and a faculty member of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras triggered by incidents in the aftermath of a student's suicide has snowballed into a major struggle between the institute and the media, with a police case being registered and a professor absconding.

The incident happened on August 21 when the media came to the institute to report the suicide of an MTech student, Nerugu Manasa. According to reports, as photojournalist Albin Mathew of *The New Indian Express* (not connected to this paper) was taking pic-

tures of the hostel and some of the grieving students, a senior faculty, Prakash M Maiya, asked him to stop, saying he was making the girl students uneasy. Maiya is also the chairman of the council of wardens.

An argument ensued, and the professor along with a few security guards allegedly manhandled Mathew. The photojournalist and his newspaper claim the guards and the faculty assaulted him and tried to snatch his camera, and detained him for about an hour in the administrative building. After the newspaper took up the matter with senior officials, police were called in.

According to the institute, dean of students L S

Ganesh first urged Mathew not to take photos of the students. When Mathew persisted, hostel warden Indumathi Nambi requested him to delete the “objectionable pictures”. Nambi then asked the hostel affairs secretary Praveen to ensure that the pictures were deleted. It was at this juncture that professor Maiya intervened, leading to the alleged altercation. The institute also claims that it was Mathew who assaulted the professor first.

On Mathew's complaint, police registered a case of rioting, wrongful confinement, voluntarily causing hurt and threat to cause death against Maiya and the security personnel.

Three security persons

have been arrested, while Maiya is absconding.

To defuse tension, IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthi issued a statement the next day of the altercation, regretting the “unfortunate incident” and apologising to Mathew and media at large. But by then, various associations representing media personnel including the Chennai Press Club, Madras Reporters' Guild and Tamil Nadu Union of Working Journalists had taken up the matter with police and institute higher-ups seeking action. Several political parties, too, joined in their protest.

This prompted the administration to go on the offensive. In subsequent letter to editors, reporters' guild

and the Press Council of India, Ramamurthi said the institute would lodge a complaint against the “unethical behaviour of the photojournalist”. He alleged in the letter, signed by faculty members and students who were present at the time of the incident, that the photographer abused and punched Maiya.

Without naming Mathew, the institute lodged a case of assault and under Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Women Harassment Act. To counter this, *The New Indian Express* published a full-page package including photographs Mathew took to claim that none of the pic-

tures was close-ups of girl students as alleged by the IIT administration.

Deputy resident editor, *The New Indian Express*, G Babu Jayakumar told *The Indian Express*: “When the persons there tried to snatch the camera from him, Mathew held on to it like a professional in the situation would do. For that he was beaten up. Instead of manhandling him, the authorities there should have either contacted the police or the journalist's higher-ups and then checked the camera with their assistance to see if their suspicion of him having taken any objectionable photos was true.”

# Professor, teach thyself

Our tertiary education system does not serve the masses

Markandey Katju

I was at Jawaharlal Nehru University recently with some of the top senior academicians in Delhi, before dinner.

I was told that the budget of the University Grants Commission was Rs.41,000 crore in the Five Year plan and the annual budget of JNU was about Rs.150 crore.

In my usual blunt way I said, "How has this benefited the Indian masses? It seems that the huge funds being ploughed into higher education in India are for the benefit of foreign countries and to give you professors huge salaries and fine houses to live in rather than to benefit the Indian people."

This sparked off a lively debate. Some of the professors tried to refute my statement, but I stuck to my guns.

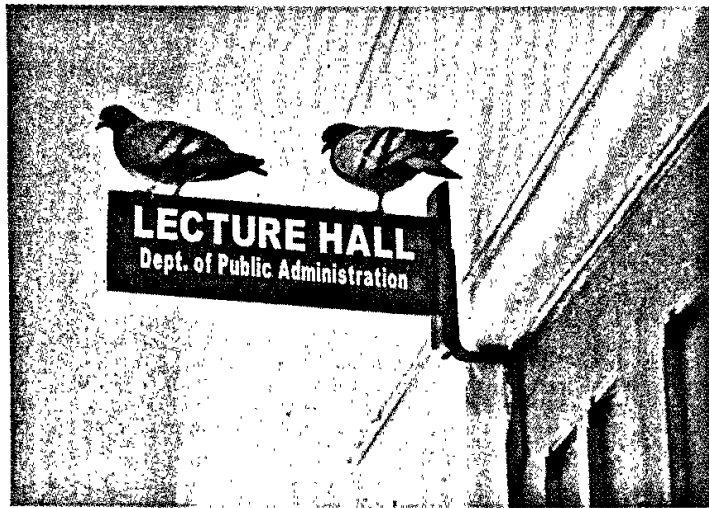
I said that most of the money spent on education in India went to the institutes of higher education like the IITs and universities, and very little money was spent on primary and middle schools, particularly in rural areas, where the foundation of education was laid. There are very few facilities such as proper seats, electricity, books, classrooms, etc in these primary or middle schools, whereas the institutes of higher education are given huge funds and have very good facilities, state-of-the-art campuses, air-conditioning, etc. I then gave a few examples to prove what I said:

1. I once went to a village about 40 km from Allahabad (my native city) to meet a farmer friend of mine, with whom I had studied at Allahabad University.

At his home I met one of his sons who had passed class seven and promoted to class eight in his high school in the village. I asked him to bring his class 7 mathematics book and solve a few simple problems. He could not do so. I wondered how he had been promoted when he could not solve simple class 7 problems. I then solved those simple problems, and asked him to attempt the other problems in the lesson. He was obviously an intelligent boy, because having learnt how to solve the simple problems, he proceeded to solve the rest.

At this I asked him, "Did your teacher not teach you all this?" He replied, "Master Sahib thekedari karne lage hain, aur doosre master sahib class lene aate naheen ha" (the teacher has become a contractor, and the next teacher does not come to take classes").

2. I went to a reputed intermediate



*Very little money is spent on primary and middle schools, particularly in rural areas where the foundation of education is laid.*

— PHOTO: P.V. SIVAKUMAR

college in Allahabad and was told that in a section in Class 11 there are 250 students. I was shocked. Under the rules there should not be more than 40 students in a class. What teaching can possibly be done in a class of 250 students? I also learnt that in some of the sections at Allahabad University there are over 300 students, and there is not even place for a student to sit.

In view of this, much of the real education takes place in private coaching institutes, or at the residence of teachers who make much more money there than in their institutions. As a result, these teachers evince little interest in teaching in their institutions, and a student who does not join the coaching (paying high fees) finds it difficult to pass.

3. In many of the staffrooms of our educational institutions, teachers, instead of discussing academic matters, often discuss petty politics, often of a casteist nature or matters pertaining to their service conditions. Senior professors often try to promote lecturers of their own caste, whether they have merit or not.

4. Teachers are often appointed not on merit but on extraneous considerations, like political connection, caste, etc. They are appointed on contract basis. In some States, "shikshamitra" who

have been appointed on a salary of Rs.1,500 a month have no degree or teachers' training qualification.

5. The level of intellect of many teachers is low, because many of them have not been appointed on merit but on extraneous considerations. To give an example, when I was a judge of Allahabad High Court I had a case relating to a service matter of a mathematics lecturer in a university in Uttar Pradesh. Since the teacher was present in court I asked him how much one divided by zero is equal to. He replied, "Infinity." I told him that his answer was incorrect, and it was evident that he was not even fit to be a teacher in an intermediate college. I wondered how had he become a university lecturer (In mathematics it is impermissible to divide by zero. Hence anything divided by zero is known as an indeterminate number, not infinity).

## Brain drain

I gave them many more such examples, and told the senior academicians at JNU that huge amounts of money of the Indian taxpayer is spent on the IITs and other institutes of higher education, but the graduates of these institutes usually take up jobs in foreign countries. This results in brain drain. Thus, while Indians pay taxes which go towards educat-

ing our bright students, the benefit of their education goes to foreign countries and not to the Indian people. These foreign countries benefit because higher education in their own countries is very expensive, so they have to pay only a fraction of that amount to get our bright young students.

I posed them another question: the test of every system is one simple question. Does it raise the standard of living of the masses or not? I said that the huge amount of money being spent on higher education in India is not raising the standard of living of the Indian masses because over 75 per cent of Indians live in dire poverty. There is massive unemployment, skyrocketing prices, huge problems of health care, housing, etc.

Apart from that, I asked them how many Nobel laureates have our universities and other institutes of higher education produced. Hardly any.

In many American universities one will find half a dozen Nobel laureates. Australia, which has a population of about 25 million, has 180 academicians who have an F.R.S. (Fellow of the Royal Society), while India, with a population of 1,200 million, has only about 20. So what are the achievements of our scientists and other intellectuals? It is only when they go to the United States or Canada or Europe that they achieve anything.

What is the quality of research work done by our academicians in institutes of higher learning? Unfortunately it is abysmally low and does not benefit the Indian people. Their publications are mostly poor, and done only to improve their CVs in order to get jobs.

The purpose of education is to help raise the standard of living of the masses. But in India it seems that its purpose is to raise the standard of living of a handful of people who get jobs as teachers, particularly in institutions of higher education.

I must say to the credit of the professors assembled there that they did not take any of my remarks personally. I told them that I had no intention to insult them but was only voicing my genuine grievance about the educational system in India, and the need to make it more beneficial to the masses.

At the end it was agreed that my views required serious debate which hopefully shall be held at JNU or elsewhere soon.

(Justice Markandey Katju is chairman of the Press Council of India.)



# Don't shut the door on them

The government must step in to help Indian students facing deportation in Britain

**I**t should by all logic be a joyful experience — a student goes abroad and comes back armed with a degree which will open the doors to a bright and economically viable future. But for many, as for the hapless students jettisoned after the London Metropolitan University was banned from sponsoring and teaching non-EU students for harbouring illegal immigrants under the guise that they were students, the doors to that future are firmly shut. If the Indian and other non-EU students do not find another university to sponsor them within 60 days, they face deportation. This means that many deserving students will face the axe for the sins of a few. But, the fault here lies with the university and it should ensure restitution to the students affected. Earlier, the Tri-Valley University in the US was shut down by the authorities after it was found to have been illegal and with it many Indian students found themselves at sea. To make matters worse, many had to wear ankle bracelets to monitor their movements prior to deportation unless they could find another university willing to take them in.

**ourtake**

Many foreign universities lure gullible Indian students with the promise of employment during and after studies and even immigration. Most of the time, the students end up duped and return home to debt and unemployment. Families often mortgage all their assets to send their children for higher studies and when things do not work out, they are literally driven to penury. Indian students bring in a sizeable chunk of revenue to the education systems of countries like Britain, US, Canada and Australia. But they seem to get little by way of rights. This is not to mention the discrimination they often face, to the extent of violence as seen in some examples in Australia and even Britain. But the most alarming thing is the complete inaction on the part of the Government of India. It has to first set up a regulatory agency which can advise students on which universities are fly-by-night ones and which are genuine.

Once the student goes abroad for higher studies, he or she still remains the responsibility of the Indian government. When students find themselves in trouble as they do in London now, the government has to step in to put pressure on the British authorities to see that justice is done to those who have conformed to the rules. They should be helped to transfer to legal colleges rather than come home, having lost considerable money in fees, to start all over again. The fact that foreign universities are keen on Indian students is evident from the large number of roadshows that they hold in India. But, they must not be allowed to either con students or wash their hands of them when things go wrong. India is very proud of its economic clout. It must use precisely this to ensure justice for its students abroad. In the recent case, the government should have been in overdrive to protect innocent students. Instead, it seems inexplicably inert while the students are running from pillar to post to save their future.

# Poor PISA score: Govt blames 'disconnect' with India

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

JUST why did Indians perform so badly at the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) as to stand at the bottom of the ladder? The government thinks it is not a reflection on the country's schooling. Advised by the NCERT, the HRD Ministry has concluded that India trailed in the international rankings because of the questions posed.

Termining these out of context, the government will take up the issue with organisers of PISA before deciding on full-scale participation in the test for 2012, with students from

10 of its states.

PISA — introduced by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development — is an internationally standardised assessment that tests 15-year-olds in reading, mathematical science and science literacy. While PISA assessments first started in 2000, India participated in the "extended cycle" of the test for 2009 with 16,000 students from 400 schools across Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Against first-timer China that stormed into the 2009 ratings with Shanghai schools topping maths and science with a mean score of 556, the two Indian states stood near the bot-

## WHY ATM, AIR BAG QUESTIONS: OFFICIALS

THE NCERT in its report concluded that "non-exposure of students (especially in rural areas) towards the items tested in PISA" was a critical factor in the poor performance by Indian students. They cited questions relating to ATMs and use of air bags in cars.

tom with 337 and 325, respectively — a performance that led to much discussion in India.

The ministry has concluded that there was a socio-cultural disconnect between the questions and Indian students. The ministry will write to

the OECD and drive home the need to factor in India's "socio-cultural milieu". India's participation in the next PISA cycle will hinge on this.

Considering that over 70 nations participate in PISA, it is uncertain whether an exception would be made for India. Incidentally, the Ministry of External Affairs is not enthused about a pan-India participation in PISA as it is expected to throw up discouraging results. India is already close to missing the 2012 cycle and may have to wait for 2015.

Incidentally, PISA results were reaffirmed by NGO Pratham's annual ASER report on learning levels of schoolchildren.

# In a first, DU head meets parents

**MAKING HEADWAY** Dinesh Singh points out the need to transcend education from classroom lectures to environmental learning

**HT Correspondent**

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Interacting with parents for the first time, Delhi University (DU) vice-chancellor (VC) Dinesh Singh on Sunday outlined how education needed to transcend from classroom lectures to what a student learnt from his surroundings.

For more than 500 parents, this discourse could well alter their perception towards learning.

## NO MORE 'UNMUKT JAIN' CASES

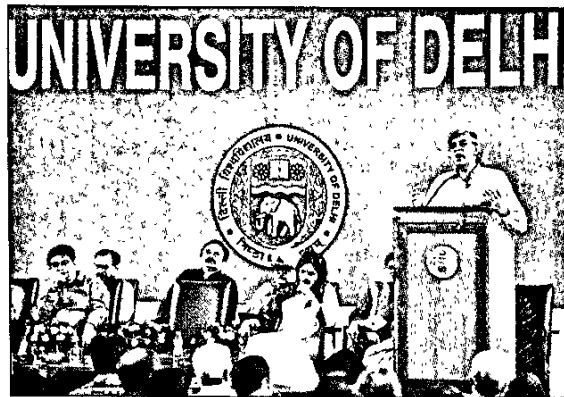
As the tussle over Unmukt Jain drew to a close with the university permitting him to proceed to the second year of study, Dinesh Singh said the four-year meta college model will prevent more such cases.

"We are trying to keep students away from cut-off hassles and let them do courses that they want to do. The meta college concept will prevent cases similar to Unmukt Chand's from cropping up because a student will also be given academic credit for the sport that he plays in lieu of a course," Singh said.

## GO BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

"When the concept of a University comes into effect, other practical factors such as admission and exams naturally follow. But students need to know that education is not limited to the classroom. Parents must encourage their children to take on activities that will enrich them as people and expand their horizon," said Dinesh Singh.

For the same, Singh also urged parents to let their children embark on the journey that Delhi University's academic train, 'Gyanodaya Express' had recently undertaken to travel to Sabarmati Ashram and Wardha. While the next journey will be undertaken in October



■ DU vice chancellor Dinesh Singh during an interactive session with parents at the university.

RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

We are trying to keep students away from cut-off hassles and let them do courses that they want to do.

Parents must encourage their children to take activities that will enrich them as people and expand their horizon.

DINESH SINGH  
Vice-chancellor, Delhi University

for the NCC students, Singh told parents that this journey, which was free of cost, would teach students about compartment designs, food habits and sociological aspects of the places they visited.

## BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

When the vice-chancellor met close to 3000 students on Saturday, most students expressed concern over the dilapidation in college infrastructure — a concern that the parents shared as well, echoing their children's sentiments over ill-stocked libraries and crumbling facilities in college.

Singh, however, was quick to reassure them that repair work would soon be under way.

"Some girls told me that they are harassed when they leave college in the evening, some said that their college bathrooms are malfunctioning. I have spo-

ken to the police commissioner regarding this and are also working on providing more books and laptops for the students," he said.

## BETTER PLACEMENTS

Soon enough, there will not be any difference between a DU graduate and a management trainee, with Singh promising the best corporate placements to students across all courses and colleges through the varsity's Central Placement Cell.

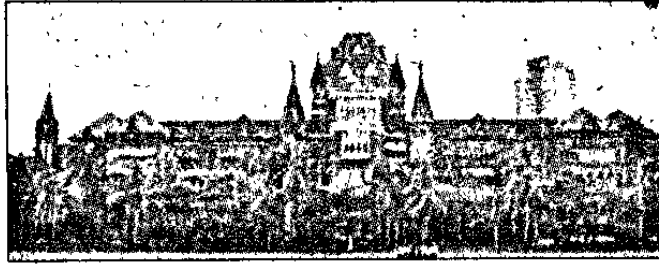
However, parents said that students from courses other than BCom (hons) and Economics (hons), were seldom absorbed by these companies.

"My daughter is a Mathematics (hons) student and till now she has not got placed by any company. It is only the Commerce students who end up benefiting from this exercise," said a parent.

# केंद्र के फैसले को हाई कोर्ट में चुनौती

**शिक्षकों के समान वेतनमान के लिए आईआईटी के गैरशिक्षण कर्मचारी गए अदालत**

मुंबई। पवाई स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान के गैर शिक्षण कर्मचारियों के एक समूह ने आईआईटी के शिक्षण कर्मचारियों को अधिक वेतन देने के केंद्र सरकार के फैसले को बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय में चुनौती दी है। आईआईटी के एच जी पाटिल, बी बी नारे और अन्य गैर शिक्षण कर्मचारियों की याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए न्यायमूर्ति शरद बोबडे और न्यायमूर्ति राजेश केतकर ने पिछले सप्ताह में सरकार से 13 सितंबर तक हलफनामा दाखिल कर जवाब देने को कहा है। याचिकाकर्ताओं ने अपने वकील विश्वोत्तराव देवकर के माध्यम से दलील दी है कि हालांकि तीसरे, चौथे और पांचवें वित्त आयोगों ने गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों और शिक्षण कर्मियों को समान वेतनमान देने की सिफारिश की थी लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ने शिक्षण कर्मियों को अधिक वेतन दे कर वेतनमान में पक्षपात किया है। आईआईटी, पवाई में



कार्यालय सहायकों, स्टेनोग्राफरों, वरिष्ठ टेलीफोन ऑपरेटरों और सहायक पंजीयकों के पद पर 46 गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों काम कर रहे हैं। इन लोगों ने मांग की है कि उन्हें वही वेतनमान दिया जाना चाहिए जो कनिष्ठ तकनीकी सहायकों को या कनिष्ठ इंजीनियरों (शिक्षण कर्मियों) को दिया जा रहा है। याचिकाकर्ताओं का कहना है कि वर्ष 1986 से पहले शिक्षण कर्मियों और गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों को समान वेतनमान मिलता था। बहरहाल, वर्ष 1986 में सरकार ने शिक्षण कर्मियों जैसे कनिष्ठ

इंजीनियरों और कनिष्ठ तकनीकी सहायकों को अधिक वेतन देना शुरू कर दिया। इस पर नाराज गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों ने बंबई उच्च न्यायालय में याचिका दाखिल कर सरकार के, शिक्षण और गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों को अलग अलग वेतनमान देने के आदेश को चुनौती दी। उच्च न्यायालय ने 22 जून 2008 को उनकी याचिका पर सरकार को दोनों श्रेणियों शिक्षण और गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों के लिए अलग अलग वेतनमान तय करने के सरकार के आदेश को रद्द कर दिया। अदालत ने केंद्र सरकार से गैर

शिक्षण कर्मियों की, शिक्षण कर्मियों के समान वेतनमान दिए जाने की मांग पर केंद्र सरकार से पुनर्विचार करने को कहा। सरकार द्वारा मांग पर विचार न किए जाने के बाद उसे कानूनी नोटिस भेजा गया। गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों का तर्क है कि उन्हें शिक्षण कर्मियों के समान वेतन न मिलने के कारण प्रत्येक कर्मियों को प्रतिमाह 5,400 रुपए का नुकसान हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि हालांकि उनके काम की प्रकृति शिक्षण कर्मियों की तुलना में अलग है लेकिन काम का अनुपात और गुणवत्ता दोनों श्रेणियों में समान है। पिछले साल छह अप्रैल को केंद्र सरकार ने फिर शिक्षण कर्मियों को अधिक वेतन देना शुरू कर दिया। इस पर नाराज गैर शिक्षण कर्मियों ने पिछले माह उच्च न्यायालय में एक याचिका दाखिल कर समान वेतनमान और 1986 से बंकाया (एरियर) दिए जाने की भी मांग की। ■