

Hindustan Times
ND 21/09/2010 P3

Newspaper Clips
September 21, 2010

DUTA on three-day strike from today

NEW DELHI: Protesting against what they claim as the continued illegal occupation of the vice-chancellor's chair by Deepak Pental, the Delhi University Teachers' Association starting from Tuesday will strike work for three days — September 21-23. It will also hold a session with DUSU on the matter. **HTC**

Hindustan Times
ND 21/09/2010 P10
Sibal sets the ball rolling

The selection process for appointments to the posts of vice-chancellors of central universities and directors of Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management begin — strangely — only after the outgoing heads end their respective tenures. This delay in appointing a head often hurts the institutions. Now Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal wants to fast-track the selection process of new vice-chancellors and has asked for a list of all top posts that are likely to fall vacant in the coming months. Sibal has also asked ministry officials to start looking for possible candidates for the selection panels that suggest names for these top positions — a demand that initially startled some officials but has left them praising the minister.

Quality Over Quantity

How many universities India has is less important than how good they are

Bhaskar Dutta

The QS ranking of world universities was released recently. Like all such rankings, this one too has many critics who question its methodology and hence the accuracy of its ranking. But Indian universities and educational institutions fare far too badly for this to be attributed to faulty methodology. The highest-ranked Indian institution is IIT, Mumbai, with a rank of 187 in the world. What is perhaps more disheartening is that 35 other Asian institutions have been ranked above it. Clearly, we are falling far behind even countries like South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and, of course, China and Japan in higher education.

Why should we care whether we have a world-class university when we do not have enough primary schools and inadequate healthcare facilities? This may well be the reaction of large numbers of Indians, who view top-quality higher educational institutions as a luxury good that cannot be afforded by developing countries. Unfortunately, this is an extremely myopic view. The absence of Harvards and Cambridges in India has resulted in gigantic outflows of the best Indian students leaving the country to study abroad. In fact, sometimes I feel that I hear more students speaking in Hindi on the University of Warwick campus than, for instance, in the Delhi School of Eco

This migration w mattered if it had rary. It is not — an ov

fraction of Indians who go abroad to study do not return to India. The sheer magnitude of the brain drain from India is mind-boggling. India does benefit from their presence abroad through remittances and goodwill earned overseas. But we suffer a far bigger loss because the direct benefits of their skills as managers, doctors, innovators and researchers accrue to the countries where they reside.

The UPA government started its second innings with the promise to build several world-class universities. We have not yet been told how it intends to keep its promise although half

The government should build perhaps three or four universities with research facilities and salaries comparable to the best in Asia. These universities must be truly autonomous institutions

its term is over. Perhaps, the government believes that all it has to do is construct some new buildings and the rest will follow. But what we actually need is a dramatically new approach.

The strategy followed so far in developing higher education in India has been to gradually increase the number of universities, all of them with roughly the same scale of facilities. This emphasis on quantity has had



Bound for the brain drain?

research institute in India receives no more than a fraction of the funds available to comparable institutions in several Asian countries.

Consider, for example, the salaries on offer in Indian universities. Despite the quite large increase in salaries after the last pay commission report, university salaries remain grossly inadequate compared to remunerations available elsewhere. A bright young researcher who, after finishing a PhD abroad, has just received an assistant professorship in any North American university would have to attach an exceedingly high premium to the intangible joys of working "back home" in order to actually return to India.

Is it surprising then that even leading universities and

world with those in academia explains why increasingly large numbers of bright students opt for a career in the private sector instead of entering academia.

Of course, salaries are just one component of what young researchers look for when they evaluate alternative job offers. Although the internet, skype and e-mail have made the world a smaller place, it is imperative for young academics to have generous research grants so as to be able to travel abroad to attend conferences and workshops, to collaborate with foreign co-authors. Experimental scientists need state-of-the-art laboratories. Which Indian university offers these facilities?

So, the financial requirements of "world-class" universities are very large. This means

grants, etc, across all universities. Instead, the government should build perhaps three or four universities with research facilities and salaries comparable to the best in Asia. Moreover, these universities must be truly autonomous institutions. And they must be completely free from the draconian formulaic regime imposed by the UGC in particular and the government in general. For example, imagine that Harvard wants to hire an outstanding young academic as an associate professor, but is unable to do so because the person has not completed eight years after his PhD!

Ideally, these universities should have both undergraduate and graduate programmes. Moreover, the size of the undergraduate programme should be sufficiently small so that the entire teaching is done by the graduate faculty instead of being farmed out to affiliated colleges. This practice, which has also been advocated by the vice-chancellor of Delhi University in a recent newspaper article, will improve the quality of undergraduate teaching dramatically.

Of course, this will mean inequality in the education sector both in terms of the quality of teaching available to students as well as the remuneration package available to faculty. This will inevitably attract the charge of elitism. Unfortunately, this is the additional price which has to be or setting up world-class rsities!
e writer is professor, Univer- Warwick.

Times of India ND 21-Sep-10 p-21

Indian-American Dipak named dean of Insead

Boston: Noted Indian-American academician Dipak Jain has been named as dean of Insead a leading international business school which aims to expand operations in developing countries like India and China. Jain, a Dean Emeritus at Northwestern University's prestigious Kellogg School of Management, will succeed J Frank Brown, who will step down in 2011.

Among Jain's responsibilities would be to look for opportunities to build Insead programmes in China and India as the business school focuses on growing its global presence and attracting more students from the developing countries.

"I am pleased that someone of Dipak Jain's calibre and values will continue to develop the school. The

Class Act



- Dipak Jain is a graduate in statistics and a postgraduate in mathematical statistics from Guwahati University
- He did master's in operations research, and then followed it with a PhD in marketing from the University of Texas
- Jain was the dean at Kellogg School from 2001 to 2009; has been teaching at Kellogg since 1986
- At Kellogg, Jain was the Sandy and Morton Goldman Professor in Entrepreneurial Studies and Professor of Marketing

Indians Don The Mantle

- Harvard Business School got its first Indian-origin Dean Nitin Nohria this year
- University of Chicago's Booth School of Business named Stanford University professor Sunil Kumar as its new dean in July this year

board chose Dipak Jain to lead Insead into what is fast becoming a new global economic climate. AGENCIES

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 21, 2010; Section: Times Nation; Page: 15;

'India 3rd most powerful nation in the world'



GROWING CLOUT

Washington: Recognizing India's growing clout in the world, an official US report on global governance here declared the country the fourth most powerful nation/bloc behind the US, China and the European Union.

The new global power lineup for 2010 compiling the world's most powerful countries/regions recognized India as the third most powerful country behind the US and China, and predicted that its clout as well as that of China and Brazil would further rise by 2025.

"Global Governance 2025" — a follow-on to the NIC's 2008 report — was jointly issued by the National Intelligence Council (NIC) of the powerful Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the European Union's Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

In 2010, the US tops the list of powerful countries/regions, accounting for nearly 22% of global power.

The US is followed by Chi-

na (more than 12 per cent), European Union (more than 16 per cent), India (nearly eight per cent), and less than five per cent each for Japan, Russia and Brazil. According to this international futures model, by 2025 the power of the US, EU, Japan and Russia would decline while that of China, India and Brazil would increase, even though there would be no change in this listing.

By 2025, the United States would still be the most powerful country of the world, but it would have a little over 18% of the global power.

The US would be closely followed by China (nearly 16%), European Union (14%) and India (10%).

The report concludes that three effects of rapid globalisation are driving demands for more effective global governance — economic interdependence, the interconnected nature of the challenges on the international agenda, and interwoven domestic and foreign challenges. **PTI**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 21, 2010;Section: Times Global;Page: 19;



China to build giant N-plant for Pak

1-Gigawatt Atomic Plant Certain To Raise Safety Concerns With New Delhi, Washington

Beijing: China's main nuclear energy corporation is in talks to build a 1-gigawatt atomic power plant in Pakistan, an executive said on Monday, a move that could intensify global unease about their nuclear embrace.

China has already helped Pakistan build its main nuclear power facility at Chashma in Punjab province, where one reactor is running and another is near-finished, and it has contracts to build two more there, despite the qualms of other governments. Qiu Jianguang, vice-president of the China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC),

told a meeting in Beijing that the company was already looking beyond those deals to an even bigger plant.

"Both sides are in discussions over the CNNC exporting a one-gigawatt nuclear plant to Pakistan," he said. Qiu confirmed the two countries have signed contracts to build the No 3 and No 4 reactors of about 300 megawatts each at Chashma. He did not give details about who was involved in discussions for the bigger plant and how far the talks had progressed.

The proposed expansion of China's nuclear power ties with Pakistan is likely to

Beijing facing shortage of N-specialists

China's rapidly expanding nuclear power industry is demanding more professionals than the country can produce, a potential threat to safety, senior government officials said on Monday. China, soon to overtake the US as the world's No 1 energy user, is building about 28 reactors or roughly 40% of the world's total, part of a massive drive to reduce its heavy dependence on coal, and cut carbon emissions. "The development trend is good but there are lots of hidden worries," said Li Ganjie, chief of National Nuclear Safety Administration and also vice-minister of environmental protection. "The training for professional staff is inadequate... we are short of specialised talent and also short of experience." Since its first reactor started operating in 1991, China has maintained a fairly good safety record. REUTERS

magnify unease in Washington, Delhi and other capitals worried about Pakistan's

role in regional security and nuclear proliferation. Pakistan is a long-standing partner

of China, and has been suffering chronic power shortages. Beijing is wary of Indian regional dominance and American influence.

In 2008 Washington signed a nuclear energy deal with India that China and other countries questioned but ultimately let through. Critics of that Indo-US civilian nuclear deal say it prompted China to deepen its own nuclear power cooperation with Pakistan, which has been beset by political instability and militant attacks.

Critics say Pakistan's domestic instability and its past role spreading nuclear arms

technology demand that China's nuclear plans there at least come under stricter international scrutiny.

China says safeguards in place at Chashma ensure its role is entirely peaceful. The complex is China's first nuclear energy plant project abroad, and CNNC recently cast it as a launching pad for expanding into the global market. "We must rely on the Pakistan Chashma nuclear power project to improve our ability to contract for nuclear power projects abroad, and to open up the foreign market for nuclear energy," the company said. REUTERS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 21, 2010;Section: Times Global;Page: 20;

China brings river, dead for 20yrs, back to life

Beijing: A river that went bone dry two decades ago in China is bursting back to life following successful implementation of an ambitious environmental project.

Yongding River, historically the biggest to flow through Beijing, is slated to be brought back to life by filling water into Wanping Lake, one of four lakes along its course.

The lake's bed has recently been reconstructed so it can hold water more efficiently and it is now being refilled. Zhang Minqiu, an engineer with the Beijing Institute of Water and the designer of the project, said the four lakes and a circulation line connecting them are the first phase of the overall restoration. The river has been almost completely dry since 1992 as its ecological systems on either side of it have been damaged, Zhang said.

The municipal government has invested 1.4 billion yuan on the first phase of restoring the river and the riverside ecology. The initial phase lasted for one year. The entire project will last five years. "More than 98% of the water used to restore the river is reclaimed water from five sewage treatment plants in Beijing; other sources include rainwater and water from the Guanting Reservoir," said Zhang. PTI

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 21, 2010; Section: Special Report; Page: 33;

Job bonanza as Australia hires Indian technicians

Swati Shinde | TNN

Pune: Australia is calling, and two batches of nearly 450 technicians from the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Aundh, Maharashtra, have made their way there.

These ITI passouts know it would have been a struggle to find decent-paying jobs in India. So the shortage of technicians Down Under has come as a boon to them, and the entire batch of last year's 250 students and around 200 students who passed out this year have found jobs as plumbers, masons, carpenters, electricians and heavy- and light-vehicle mechanics.

The minimum annual package is a good 40,000 Australian dollars (approximately Rs 17 lakh), said J D Bhutange, director of vocational training. The ITI is run by the state government and has been training the students since last year for a certification that is recognised by the Australian government.

Bhutange said the Australian

JOBS IN OZ

► 250 ITI students placed last year, 200 this year

► Yearly package at least 40,000 Australian dollars (around Rs 17 lakh)

► **Professions** | plumber, mason, carpenter, electrician, mechanic

► **Necessary qualification** | ITI certification

workforce is beset with an ageing problem. "Most technicians have crossed the age of 50. The younger generation prefers white-collar jobs, leading to a shortage of skilled manpower. Our ITI technicians, though skilled, are often jobless in India," he pointed out.

An official who has been involved in placing the students in Australia said some industries, particularly mining, are booming there. "Australia faces a shortage

of tradesmen. Outsiders who are highly skilled are always welcome. People in India may find plumbing a lowly profession, but that is not the case in Australia. In fact, a professor in an Australian university may not be able to make the kind of money a tradesman would."

Vaibhav Ovhal from Rajgurunagar, one of the students who will be taking up a job as an electrician with an Australian firm, said he got to know of the ITI course through a friend in his village. The friend is already working in Australia as a carpenter. "Electricians are paid really well there and treated with much respect too, from what I gather. I am still not sure about my exact pay package though. I will be flying to Australia in a couple of days," said Ovhal.

ITI principal R S Ghume said, "There is a good demand for trained and certified technicians in Australia. The students have gone there under the migration scheme of the Australian government."

Times of India Ahmedabad 20.09.10

p-6

Jobless youth must go to India for IT training: UK min

London: British youths who cannot get jobs here should be sent to India for training in information technology which could improve their prospects for employment when they return home, business secretary Vince Cable has suggested.



Vince Cable

Cable, who was in India recently, made the remarks at the annual dinner of Indian Journalists Association. He said that during his meetings in Bangalore, India's IT tycoon Azim Premji had offered that he could train British youths and send them back so that they could have better job prospects.

Cable is also opposed to placing an annual cap on migrants from India and other countries outside the EU as well. On Friday, he told The Financial Times that the limit imposed by the Home Office is already affecting the country's economic recovery.

That statement was borne out by British companies that complained that the 24,100-visa cap was affecting hiring recruitment of key employees from India. General Electric, one of the major employers in Britain with 18,000 workers, has complained that it has been unable to hire a stem-cell research executive from India because of 'very, very small' quota given to the company to hire people from outside EU.

Placing an annual limit on the number of Indian and other non-EU professionals who could come for work is one of the major items on the coalition government's agenda. AGENCIES

IT'S BACK TO ENGLISH AT GU AFTER 52 YEARS

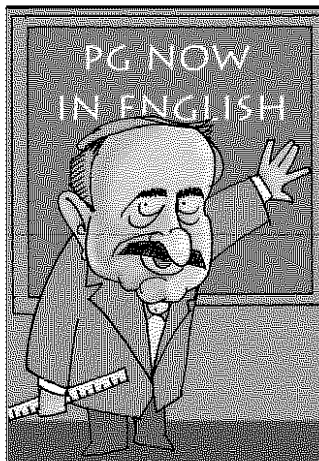
In 1949 When GU Came Into Existence All Its Courses Were In English

Bharat Yagnik | TNN

Ahmedabad: There is a feeling of déjà vu on Gujarat University (GU) campus. After 52 long years, the university has returned to where it had begun, as far as the language of instruction is concerned. GU's academic council recently okayed a proposal to shift over to English medium of instruction in all the 100 PG colleges associated with it.

Way back in 1949, Gujarat University was carved out of University of Bombay. Then, the medium of instruction in all the 16 colleges of Gujarat was English. When GU came into existence and became the first university to be set up in Gujarat, the first task was to decide on language the students will be taught in. The educationists of the state and the society at large were sharply divided over the issue – some pitched in favour of mother tongue Gujarati, while there were strong advocates for English language as well. The debate raged for three more years. In this period, several dharnas took place and seminars were conducted to arrive at a consensus. Finally, in 1953, the decision went in favour of Gujarati. Then too, like now, students had been granted the flexibility to choose other languages like English or Hindi if they desired.

Earlier, the rule was that if you did not have English while clearing standard XII, you would not be given admission in colleges. This norm was changed in 1978. The then education minister Gordhandas Chokhawala changed the education Act and made way for the genesis of A and B group system followed by GU. A group is for English-medium students, while B group is for students of Gujarati medium students. The then GU VC Maganbhai Desai also played a key role in shifting the decision. Such was his presence in the controversy that the move was then referred to as Magan Madhyam because of Desai's inclination towards Gujarati.



Decision for masses: The reason behind this shift was that the state had no university then. "Popular consensus ruled in favour of Gujarati since this medium of teaching would have wider acceptability among the masses," said KS Shastri, former GU V-C. Shastri was among the last batch of GU students who studied in English-medium. "Then too, there was a proposal to keep English as the medium of instruction, while providing the students option to choose Gujarati while answering their papers and maintaining their note books. This would have provided the perfect synergy creating a bright future for Gujarati students. However, the proposal was not considered favourably. This choice has caused some damage to our students since they are unable to take up career of their choices or compete in joint entrance exams," said a former V-C of GU. TNN

Shift won't be easy initially

Ahmedabad: The move to shift from Gujarati to English in post-graduate courses like MCom, MSc, MA is not going to be a smooth sailing all the way.

"There may be teething problems in shifting to a new medium of instruction which will be effective from the forthcoming academic session, slated to begin soon. The students who have done their schooling from Gujarati-medium institutes will have problems initially and the colleges too will have to overcome the paucity of English-medium teachers," said source-

medium will help students in picking career options and widening their horizons, this move is going to be implemented at all costs," said a GU official.

Baldev Patel, dean of science faculty in GU, said: "The compulsory English status will be achieved over the next two to three years. The process of implementation will be gradual. For science students and faculty though, there will be less of a problem since the instruction of teaching is largely English."

GU arts faculty dean Mahipatsinh Chawda, also the principal of LD Arts College, said: "Most colleges of Gujarat follow Gujarati as the sole medium of instruction. This change is a welcome initiative. Gradually capacity building will take place and we will successfully shift to English. However, there may be problems in getting English-medium faculty in rural parts of the state." President of City College Principals Association, Saurabh Choksi said: "Commerce students and faculty members will not face too much of a problem to shift gears from Gujarati to English. The arts students might have a tough task ahead. However, the concern is what will happen to the students who are already pursuing their studies in Gujarati medium in our colleges. TNN

ENGLISH
Unstoppable

Supported by Times Foundation

es in GU.

According to the new norm made by the academic council of GU, any teacher who wishes to take his class in a language other than English has to seek prior permission from the GU authorities. "The irony here is, according to a rough estimate, close to 50 per cent of the teaching staff of GU colleges will have difficulty in taking the lectures in English," said GU sources.

"This problem will, however, be sorted out gradually. "A very pragmatic approach will be adopted by us while shifting over to English. Since, in the longer run, being educated in English

Don't limit skill development to IT: govt to pvt sector

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

FINANCE minister Pranab Mukherjee has called on India Inc to participate in the government's skill development initiatives and help create a pool of trained manpower.

"It is indeed going to be a challenging task to bridge this skill gap. Obviously, government alone cannot achieve this target. So far participation of private sector in skill creation has been more or less limited to IT sector," Mukherjee said on Monday in his address to the board of National Skill Development Corporation. NSDC is a joint venture between the government and industrial associations that was set up under the Eleventh Five Year plan to train 1.5

crore youth in technical skills by 2022.

Even as the government has ramped up the capability of NSDC to meet the target, Mukherjee stressed on developing a streamlined curriculum and certification programme with uniform standards.

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The number of training projects the National Skill Development Corp has approved since its inception last year

"The key outcome of the efforts of NSDC has to be related to the employability of the trained individuals. This must remain the focus area in all the proposals and projects being developed and financed by the Corporation," he said.

He also called on the private sector to build a pipeline of such projects and suggest suitable methods of collateral to overcome financing difficulties.

"Basic guidelines of NSDC don't allow creation of 'hard assets' like land and building. Hence collat-

eral of loans will remain an issue, if viewed from a banker's perspective," he said, adding that collaterals in the form of charge on assets created, escrow account, etc may need to be resorted to.

Since its inception last year, NSDC has approved nine training projects and three more are in advanced stages of approval, while 25 others were at various stages of diligence.

On Monday, NSDC also signed an agreement for forming a joint venture with Bharti Enterprises' associate company Centum Learning. The JV — Centum Workskill India Ltd — will seek to open 383 centres across India to train 1.15 crore youth in technical skills by 2022.

Industry bodies CII, Ficci and CII have also submitted proposals to open new skill development centres in sectors including retail, food processing, media and hospitality.

Govt clears pay hike for professors at IITs, IIMs

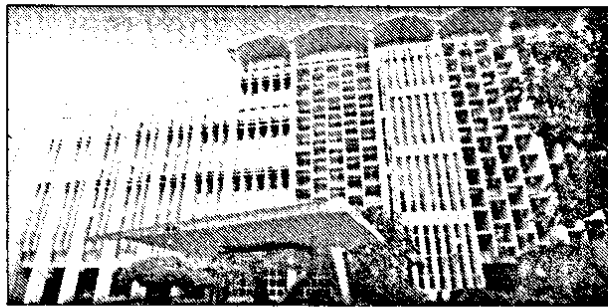
ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

YIELDING to the year-long demand of IIT faculty members, the Centre has decided to offer experienced and senior faculty members a Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) Pay of Rs 67,000-Rs 79,000 — the highest government pay scale accorded at the Additional Secretary level since the Sixth Pay Commission came into effect.

The move is good news particularly for professors.

In its earlier order, dated August 18, 2009, the HRD Ministry had said that those appointed as professors must have a Ph.D with first class or equivalent with a very good academic record and a minimum of 10 years of experience with an academic grade pay of Rs 10,500 per month. Forty per



At IIT- Bombay. The new pay scale will also apply to professors at IIMs, IISc, NITIE, IISERs.

EXPRESS

cent of these every year, the ministry order had said, would be eligible to move to Academic Grade Pay (AGP) of Rs 12,000 per month after six years of regular service in AGP of Rs 10,500 per month subject to performance evaluation based on research publications, Ph.D supervision, teaching and consultancy services etc.

Now, in a new order dated September 15, 2010, the Ministry has said that instead of

movement up to AGP of Rs 12,000 per month, 40 per cent of the professors would move to HAG. "It has now been decided in consultation with the Department of Expenditure to extend the HAG scale of Rs 67,000-Rs 79,000 without any Grade Pay in place of AGP of Rs 12,000 per month. The AGP of Rs 12,000 per month does not exist anymore," the HRD notification states.

The IIT teachers, during

their agitation last year, had sought a HAG pay or higher for senior faculty. "We are glad this has been notified. This was one of our key demands, which has been much delayed by the Ministry," Prof M Thenmozhi, president, All India IIT faculty Federation, said.

Recently, members of the IIT faculty federation had also met HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, demanding HAG and its implementation from 2006 with retrospective effect. They also wanted it to be extended to larger sections of faculty and not only to 40 per cent of the professors.

The new pay-scale will apply to professors at IITs, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs).

NCERT, NBT, JNU & DU await their chiefs

NITIN MAHAJAN

NEW DELHI

Sept. 20: While Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal continues with his foreign trips unabated, four important institutions under his ministry, National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Book Trust (NBT), Delhi University (DU) and Jawaharlal Nehru University

(JNU) are currently awaiting the appointment of their new chiefs.

Official sources stated that with the ministry being unable to finalise the names of heads of these institutions, they have been operating with makeshift arrangements over the past few months, adversely affecting the functioning of these institutions. Despite several meetings and deliberations, the ministry has failed to

appoint heads of these institutions.

Despite repeated claims of concerns over improvement in the education sector, the NCERT, the premiere body for textbook and syllabi selection at the school level, has been without a director since March 2010, ever since the tenure of Prof. Krishna Kumar ended.

National Book Trust, also doesn't have a director ever since Nuzhat Hasan, left the

institution about six months back.

The HRD ministry hasn't given a green signal for the appointment of new directors to these two institutions despite the importance of these institutions.

The situation is similar at the two premiere Central universities of DU and JNU. The tenure of JNU vice-chancellor B.B. Bhatnagary ended on June 30. While the tenure of the cur-

rent vice-chancellor of DU, Prof. Deepak Pental, expired on August 31.

In both these cases the search committee have shortlisted and recommended a few names. Sources stated that despite several rounds of deliberations candidates for the posts are yet to be finalised.

HRD ministry sources, however, claimed that the appointments to these positions would be made soon.

Asian Age ND 21/09/2010 p-11

Yahoo grant for IISc student to analyse social networks

SANGEETHA CHENGAPPA

AGE | BENGALURU

Sept. 20: Ramasuri Narayanam, a PhD student from the Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has won a \$2,000 research grant that comes with a 'honorable mention' in Yahoo's Key Scientific Challenges (KSC) programme for his research proposal on "Game Theoretic models for Social Network Analysis".

Narayanam, 28, who hails from Nagaram village in Guntur district, says his research discusses complex communication patterns among individuals in a network and measures the strength of relationships between connected individuals.

"I have been working on Game Theoretic models for Social Network Analysis for the last four years under the guidance of Prof Y. Narahari and am extremely happy that my effort has been recognised," said Ramasuri, who has already received his grant cheque. He plans to use the grant to register and travel to international conferences where he hopes to present his award winning research work.

Explaining his research project, Ramasuri said "Most of the existing research in social network analysis targets static analysis of networks, studying statistical properties such as - how many people exist on a network, how many friends does each one in a network have, who has more contacts, etc. However, none of the existing research focuses on the dynamics of social networks, which is extremely important for



Ramasuri Narayanam says his research focuses on dynamic relations within a social network to draw out insights that are crucial for internet businesses.

those who do business on the Internet. I have used Game Theoretic models to develop algorithms to predict the topology of networks as they evolve over a period of time; identify influential people in social networks and detect underlying communities like a

community of journalists, java developers, etc., in social networks."

The Yahoo KSC Program is a core element of Yahoo Labs' charter to support new scientific discovery that will contribute towards or shape the next generation Internet. It was first launched in Janu-

Narayanam develops algorithms to predict how a social network would evolve over time by studying the dynamics within networks.

ary 2009 and enables students from across the globe to work alongside the company's leading scientists to solve fundamental challenges and potentially contribute to the next "big thing" on the Web.

Students are invited to submit a proposal about their current or planned research that is relevant to the challenges and explain why their work would make an impact in the area. A committee comprising senior scientists in each research area reviews the papers and selects those that can be a part of the programme.

During 2010, 23 winners from 16 universities in the United States have been selected based on their research proposals on a variety of scientific issues, ranging from discovering insights into the effects of online advertising and defining new sociological models for how people engage with the Web, to mining personally relevant information from Web data. Narayanam is the only Indian national to win the Yahoo KSC Award. He was selected from a short-list of six other candidates from different tertiary institutes in the country, a Yahoo release said.

P&B Daily ND 21-Sep-10

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Visa fee hike, Ohio ban to rule TPF meet

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON SEPT 20

INDIA'S disappointment over recent "protectionist" measures by the US including increase in visa fee for IT professionals and Ohio's ban on government outsourcing will be raised at the high level ministerial meeting here on Tuesday.

The Trade Policy Forum (TPF), the principal trade dialogue platform between the two countries, will be co-chaired by visiting Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

Sharma is accompanied by senior officials, including Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar.

"They (protectionist measures) will be on our agenda," a senior Indian official said expressing hope that the issues could be sorted out through a bilateral dialogue without India having to go to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In any case, India does not want to vitiate the bilateral trade environment with the US in the run-up to President Barack Obama's visit to India in November, sources said.

Of the India's total \$50 billion IT and ITES exports, the US accounts for about 60 per cent. Besides, the bilateral mer-



chandise trade was \$36.5 billion in 2009-10. India is perturbed over a number of steps taken by the US in the recent past, which are "protectionist" in nature.

Under the Border Security law-- the US has hiked fee for certain categories of H-1B and L1 visas by at least \$2,000 for the next five years.

The ban on government offshore outsourcing by Ohio state has also not gone well with India even though it would not immediately impact the Indian IT exports.

India's trade and industry also wants the government to voice its concern over the 'Buy America' law under which the companies availing of state incentives must source their requirements from the US itself.

Another important matter which India is expected to raise during the TPF is early implementation of a proposed totalisation agreement with the US. Under this, professionals on short-term work visits to America would be exempted from paying social security taxes.

PPP model in educational sector soon, says Govt



PBD BUREAU

NEW DELHI, SEPT 20

MINISTRY of Human Resource Development and Planning Commission will soon issue guidelines so as to incorporate the public private partnership model in educational sector as well.

"We are at the advance stages of negotiation and the guidelines for PPP in educational sector shall be announced soon", said D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, while speaking at a

business meet in New Delhi today.

The Minister of State further said that the task of finalizing the regulations for educational projects under the PPP mode is being jointly finalizing between Planning Commission and HRD Ministry.

On being asked about the lack of quality teachers in the country's educational system, the Minister of State said, "There is a lack of trained teachers as the best minds are not coming to the field of teaching. To overcome these challenges, the HRD Ministry is working on improving the teaching scenario in the

country's educational system."

Also present at the meet, Vineet Joshi, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) emphasized the awareness for vocational courses at senior secondary level (classes XI and XII) in any CBSE school that volunteers.

He further added that recognition of professional courses as means of creating employment opportunities as the Ministry of Human Resource Development has already introduced many vocational courses in a variety of subjects at the degree level.

Business Standard, ND p-6

21-Sep-10

Better pay scale for Central tech teachers

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has revised the pay scale of teaching and other staff in centrally-funded technical institutions. In consultation with the Department of Expenditure, the ministry will now extend the higher administrative grade scale of Rs 67,000-79,000 in place of the academic grade pay of Rs 12,000 per month.

BS REPORTER

Economic Times ND
21-Sep-10 P-6

What's happening to your Google search engine?

DPA

WASHINGTON

GOOGLE originally wowed internet users with its refreshing simplicity. The search engine's spartan, easy-to-use interface won over legions of internet users at a time when other search engines—or "portals"—had become cluttered and confusing.

Google still has a flair for the understated, but the search engine giant has also been tinkering a lot lately with new search features and interface enhancements that many feel border on distracting. Here's a rundown of what's happened to your Google search page recently, along with some tips on how you can get back the simplicity you might miss.

If you start typing into Google, and the search field suddenly flies up to the top of your browser window, you know you're dealing with the new feature that Google calls Instant. In essence, Instant attempts to update search results in real-time, as you type. So, for example, if you're searching for "ms word templates", the search results will be updated with each few characters.

Eventually, Instant figures out what you're searching for based upon what others have searched for, and this usually happens a few characters before you finish typing. At that point, you can stop typing and simply select the best search result from those presented. You might find Instant's constant screen redrawing more distracting than helpful. If so, you can turn Instant off by searching for the faint "Instant is on" drop-down arrow to the right of the search field and selecting Off. You have to start typing, however, before that drop-down appears. In an effort to make search results more personalised, Google introduced its Star rating system earlier this year. As a result, if you have a Google account and are signed in to the search engine, you'll note that each item in a list of search results now includes a hollow star to the right of the title. Click that star, and it turns yellow. What also happens, behind the scenes, is that the item is added to your customised list of favourite sites and will appear at the top of a list of search results when the page is relevant to what you're seeking. Here's an example. Let's say that after searching for "Hemingway," you see the Wikipedia entry for Ernest Hemingway among the list of search results, and you click the star next to that entry. The next day, you conduct a search for one of Hemingway's books—perhaps "The Sun Also Rises." At the top of the list of search results will be a "Starred results" section, which will include the Wikipedia link that you starred the previous day. In this way, over time, the starred results system allows you to influence the search results that you see.

Want to disable starred search results? You'll need to click the Sign Out link in the upper right-hand corner of Google to sign out of your account.

Occasionally when you're searching with Google you'll see a scrolling box within the search results, with new search results appearing as you watch. This is what Google calls "real-time search", a feature designed to leverage constantly changing social networks such as Twitter and Facebook.

Originally rolled out late last year, real-time search has grown in popularity so much that Google recently rolled out an entirely new product called Google Realtime, which is devoted solely to capturing results from the web's premier social networks. Google Realtime draws heavily from Twitter and Facebook to supply its search results. But Google claims that Realtime will also inherit some of the personalisation emphasis given to the mothership Google by allowing multiple ways to customise your search results.

Financial Express ND
21/09/2010

p-12

MNCs give skill scarcity a miss, to go on hiring spree

S Saroj Kumar

Chennai, Sep 20: Multinational companies are set to hire big time in the country. The health-care sector is estimated to hire 2.95 lakh followed by hospitality industry (1.37 lakh) and real estate and construction major (1.36 lakh), according to HR consultant Ma Foi Randstad.

On skill deficiency, which is considered the major hurdle while hiring, Ma Foi and Randstad director & president E Balaji said that it is no more an important factor. MNCs know the skill status in the country and are tailoring jobs accordingly, he said.

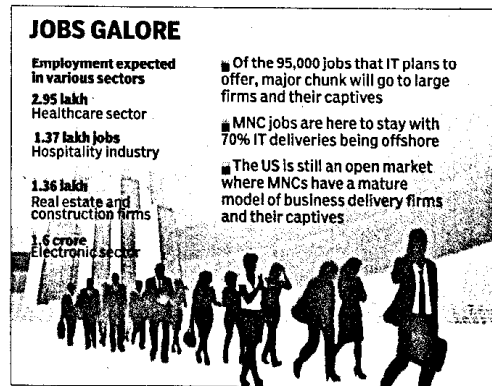
On addressing the skill challenges, he said, "IT industry has already learnt to address the challenges and now other sectors

filling existing vacancies. While IT/ITeS, auto, banking and insurance are going through, oil & gas and pharma have increased hiring appetite.

Due to rising incremental cost of manpower and infrastructure, companies are switching to low-cost destination. "Manila is emerging as an alternate hub," he said.

However, Tata Consulting Services CFO Mahalingam believes that MNC jobs are here to stay with 70% IT deliveries being offshore. "The US is still an open market where MNCs have a mature model of business delivery. We need to enhance the global competitiveness of our engineering graduates to grab jobs that arise out of outsourcing from that market," he said.

The electronic industry is al-



are following suit. To fine tune the available talent, companies are giving sound orientation and pre-induction trainings. They are forging collaborations with e-learning firms that deliver training via V-SAT, tele-learning and virtual classrooms." This is seen especially in labour deficit sectors like healthcare, manufacturing and telecommunication, he said.

On hiring in IT sector, Balaji said, of the 95,000 jobs, major chunk will be absorbed by large firms and their captives. As far as hiring pattern in the IT industry is concerned, the core functionalities are retained in the metros and commoditised jobs are moved to tier-I and tier-II cities. However, auto sector does not witness such a pattern. He also said that growth in jobs is restricted to a few cities.

Naukri.com vice-president marketing Sumeet Singh said MNC offshoring jobs as well as

so poised to witness a boom. Intel India MD Siva Kumar said the electronic sector will add 1.6 crore jobs in the next decade. Talent management company Development Dimensional International (DDI) finds that Indian HR landscape is a good breeding ground for top leadership roles.

In India, among the top management aspirants, 4 out of 10 opt for high-potential leadership training programme. Although 45% of the MNC companies have the right analytics and metrics to identify their Indian heads, only 26% of them had a process to develop them.

Commenting on hiring a good local leader for a global organisation, Richard Wellins, senior vice-president, DDI, said: "Good leadership will be important in future, to control costs, cope with increasing change and tackle any upcoming challenges."

Mail Today ND 21/09/2010p-33

More m-deals to raise anti-fraud tech demand

By Mail Today Bureau In New Delhi.

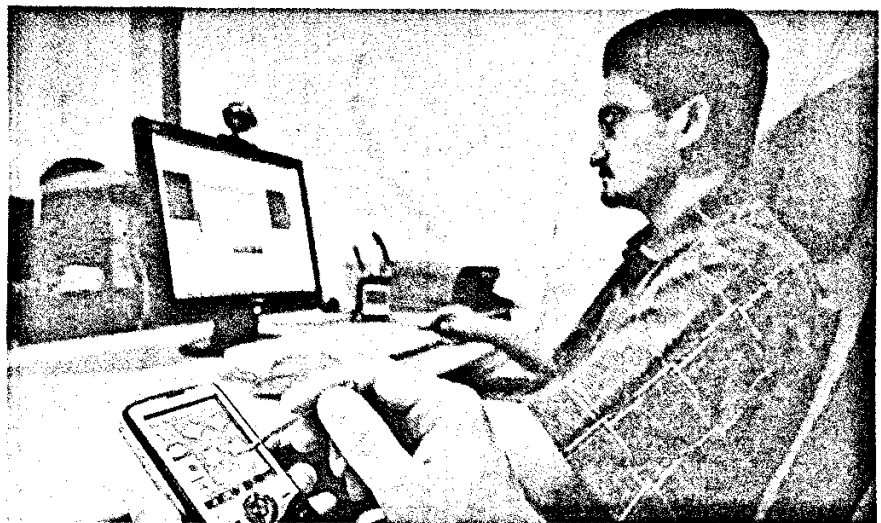
AS BROWSING gets faster and better with smartphones, by the end of 2013, as much as 12.5 per cent of all e-transactions in India will be conducted through the mobile mode, forcing banks and other e-commerce providers to implement fraud detection capabilities, says IT advisory firm Gartner Inc.

"Because of the improving browser experiences on smartphones, mobile commerce and transaction execution are set to increase rapidly," said William Clark, vice-president (research), Gartner.

"We estimate that by the end of 2013, 12.5 per cent of all e-commerce transactions will be mobile," Clark said.

As per the Gartner report, given the explosive growth of smartphones and increase in mobile commerce and the

Gartner says 12.5% of all e-deals will be done via cellphones by 2013



SWITCHING PLATFORMS: Gartner says due to the explosive growth of smartphones and increase in mobile commerce, fraud attacks have migrated to these devices.

Mobile fraud-detection tech is an imperative now

consequent migration of fraud attacks to these devices, using mobile fraud-detection techniques in mobile commerce environments is an imperative.

Gartner says this is forcing banks, social networks and other e-commerce providers to implement the kind of fraud detection capabilities that have become mainstream with fixed-line computing.

"By 2013-end, location information or profile information from mobile phones would be used to validate 90 per cent of mobile transactions," Gartner says.

The report points out that the evolution of fraud detection tools would play a part in turning mobile commerce into location- and context-aware commerce by increasing the confidence of businesses, financial institutions and end-users.

According to Gartner estimates, 70 per cent of the largest 20 global card issuers would gradually adopt mobile context information to help detect fraud on fixed-line transactions. As a result, by 2015-end, more than 15 per cent of all payment card transactions will be validated using context-aware profile information.

"Enterprise applications must detect fraud in these mobile environments, but fraud detection tools available today that work in fixed-line computing environments does not work well or at all in the mobile world," Clark said.

"There are a number of methods that can be implemented to help

enterprises detect fraud in the mobile space. But these are still in their early stages of development. It will take until at least 2012 for these to transform to technically mature systems that work easily and

transparently across disparate mobile networks," he adds.

"Enterprises that want to remain competitive in electronic commerce over the next five years should begin exploring context-aware applications

by 2011-end for both fraud detection and later on for customer acquisition and retention activities afforded by personalised and customised marketing and advertising information," Gartner says.

6 Fraud-detection tools that work in fixed-line computing don't work well in mobiles. New fraud-detection methods are still in early stages of development

— William Clark, V-P (research), Gartner

Gearing up for new era

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