

Newspaper Clips

September 22-23, 2013

September 22

Financial Express ND 22-Sep-13 P-1

Foreign varsities cold to idea of campus in India

Anubhuti Vishnoi
New Delhi, Sept 21

YALE, Cambridge, MIT and Stanford — top-ranking global universities have given a cold shoulder to the Indian government's renewed efforts to invite foreign universities to set up campus in India.

While the Pallam Raju-led human resource development ministry recently announced that it is set to open doors to top 400 foreign varsities by registering them as companies under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, the move hardly seems to have enthused global academic leaders. Queries sent to top 30 global universities on India's proposal returned with similar responses — in the negative.

Professor Leszek Borysiewicz, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, said while it is "an interesting development which marks a growing trend towards transnational education", the varsity prefers collaboration over competition. "Our own approach to global partnerships is that there is such quality, excellence and potential in the Indian higher education sector that Cambridge wishes to collaborate rather than compete, to be a partner rather than a rival. We already have multiple research collaborations in place with institutions such as JNU, Public Health Foundation of India, IIT-Bombay and IISC Bangalore. We are looking to increase these and to promote two-way exchanges of students and faculty to mutual benefit," the VC told *The Indian Express* in an email.

Like Cambridge, MIT said they preferred partnerships instead. "MIT's approach to international engagement is based on collaboration and local capacity building, so this policy does not change how we work with our colleagues, friends and alumni in India. Because we prefer the partnership model, we do not establish branch campuses that would operate independently," vice-president, MIT, Claude Canizares said

on the issue.

Yale, on the other hand, has categorically said it has no plans for a physical presence in India. "The only campus on which a student can earn a Yale degree is in New Haven," George Joseph, director for international relations and leadership programmes at Yale said.

Stanford University also said it has no plans to set up campus anywhere else. "This is an institutional decision and not related to any actions taken by the Indian government," the university said.

California Institute of Technology and The University of Edinburgh responded



similarly.

John Hopkins University said while it had a number of research projects active in India, they have no plans to establish a campus here.

University of Toronto said while the development was "very interesting", they would wait for more information.

Duke University, which had earlier evinced interest in setting up campus in India, has now backtracked and says it now has no such plans.

The much-debated Foreign Education Providers Bill has gone through UPA I and II without passing muster in Parliament. Not giving up, the HRD ministry has been making efforts over the past few months to find non-legislative routes to facilitate the entry of and collaboration with foreign varsities.

Moving over US & UK, Indians prefer to study Down Under

Vanita Srivastava

vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Australian Universities are once again attracting Indian students, as is reflected by the 50% increase in the number of Indian students joining these universities in the first half of 2013 as compared to the corresponding period in 2012.

“There were 4,081 new commencements in the first half of 2013, a 50% increase on the

2,714 commencements in the first half of 2012,” an official spokesperson in the Australian High Commission said.

The most preferred courses for Indian students are management and commerce, information technology, food, hospitality and personal services, engineering and related technologies, and society and culture.

The Australian universities have shown an impressive performance in the overall world

rankings. While six of the 39 Australian universities are in the top 100 and 18 are in the top 400 in the Times ranking, seven Australian universities made the top 100 in 2013 QS World University Rankings.

The spokesperson said, “A large numbers of Indian students continue to be attracted to Australia’s high quality of education, despite the low enrolment over the past few years due to student visa policy changes, etc.”

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 22, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 20;

e-paper

Yadav finds support, may move court over removal from UGC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The stage is now all set for a court battle on the HRD ministry’s decision to remove political scientist Yogendra Yadav from the membership of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Yadav could move court next week. “He is in Hyderabad and once he returns, we will finalize everything,” a senior lawyer close to Yadav said.

Support is pouring in for Yadav thick and fast. On Saturday, jurist Shanti Bhushan, who along with other eminent per-

sons and academics came out in support of Yadav, said, “If challenged, it does not even have 2% chance of being sustained in the court and yet the government has made this order in the secure belief that Yadav would not challenge it in court.”



Bhushan demanded that the government should tender an unqualified apology to the political scientist and re-instate him immediately.

Linking Yadav’s dismissal to arrogance of Congress, Bhushan said “Congress considers all pow-

ers as their personal property. It is crystal clear that it is total misuse of power. The party is not realizing that people have woken up and they are watching each and every action of the government...”

Senior journalist and activist Kuldeep Nayar said, “The dismissal underlines the fact

that autonomous bodies are now very much undervalued.”

Nandita Narayan, president of Delhi University Teachers’ Association (DUTA), said what has happened to Yadav might have come as a shock but was expected since he was the lone voice of dissent in the UGC.

September 23

Times of India ND 23/09/2013 P-11

UGC, AICTE heads out of body that picks IIT directors

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The composition of the search-cum-selection committee for the director's post of IITs has been changed. The new format was approved in the IIT Council meeting held last week.

Moreover, in order to free faculty members from laboratory/workshop responsibilities so that they devote time to research and teaching, the overall ratio of faculty-technical staff has been increased to 1:1.3 instead of the existing 1:1.1.

The selection committee has also been empowered to give the incumbent director another term if it feels that he/she has "demonstrated outstanding capabilities in providing leadership to the institution and accomplished some of the goals set out for the institutions".

In the new selection committee, chairpersons of University Grants Commission and All India Council for

The selection panel has also been empowered to give the director a second term if it feels he/she has been 'outstanding'

Technical Education have been removed. "The change has been made as per the regulations of the department of personnel and training, which stipulates that members of the selection committee should be one rank above the post for which selection is to be made. The chairpersons of UGC and AICTE are in the same rank and pay as directors of IITs," an official said.

The new selection panel will have the HRD minister as chairperson. It will consist of two members from the Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC) to be selected by the chairperson, chairperson of the board of governors of the IIT for which a director

is to be appointed and the SCIC chairperson.

In case the SCIC chairperson happens to be the chairperson of the IIT concerned, then the chairperson of the board of governors of another IIT will be nominated by the HRD minister. Additional secretary or joint secretary in-charge of technical education in the HRD ministry will serve the selection committee as non-member secretary. This is the second time after the Institutes of Technology Act, 1963 was passed that change has been made in the composition of the selection committee. In the 1980s, AICTE chairperson was included as a member.

As for the increased faculty-technical staff ratio, IIT directors have been complaining about the shortage of technical manpower, especially in the older IITs. Also, change in research and introduction of new equipment requiring different technical skill sets are required.

MINT ND 23/09/2013 P-4

PROMOTING RESEARCH

IITs to open up PhD programme, admit B.Tech students from NITs

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will start admitting third-year B.Tech students from other centrally funded colleges to their doctoral programmes next year in an attempt by the government to improve the quality of research and increase the number of research scholars at the elite engineering schools.

These students will not be required to crack the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), which has until now been a prerequisite to gain admission to postgraduate and PhD programmes in the IITs, two government officials said on condition of anonymity.

To begin with, the top 10 percentile of third-year B.Tech students from the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will be considered by the IITs for admission to their doctoral programmes. There are 30 NITs in India and they are considered next only to the IITs in terms of their quality of education.

Human resources development minister M.M. Pallam Raju said after a 16 September meeting of the IIT Council—the apex decision-making body of the 16 IITs—that the government was considering opening up the PhD admission process.

Raju, who heads the council, said the aim is to admit some 10,000 PhD scholars every year in the IIT system over a period of time. Currently, around 3,000 PhD students are enrolled in by all IITs put together. “As a country, you need more research scholars and quality manpower in this field,” U.B. Desai, director of IIT-Hyderabad, said, confirming the move to make the process of admission to PhD programmes more liberal.

J. Veeraraghavan, a former education secretary with the government of India, said this move will improve the quality and image of NITs as some of their top students can directly get entry into the IIT system.

However, he said the IITs are already facing a shortage of teachers and need to appoint some to manage this work load. He suggested that IITs should

train some of the faculty of central government-funded technical institutes, who, in turn, can help their own students better.

According to an official document, the “selected students will move to the selected IITs in the fourth year. They will primarily do courses for a year”.

“Each student’s doctoral committee will assign them the courses. The credit earned in the first year of the PhD programme at IITs should have equivalence to the credit needed for the fourth year of the B-Tech programme,” the document said.

One of the two government officials cited in the first instance said students who gain admission to the IIT doctoral studies receive their B.Tech degree in the second year of their PhD programme. The B.Tech degree will be awarded by the NIT they migrate from. The PhD degree from IITs will be awarded after the students complete their doctoral programme. Students who are found to be poor performers in the first two years risk being sent back to the NITs.

The government believes the IITs don’t turn out a sufficient

number of research scholars who go on to teach at the elite schools, which are facing a faculty shortage of between 15% and 20%. “Once you have more PhD passouts, there is a bigger chance of IITs getting more fresh teachers,” said the second official.

The official said this plan will stem the brain drain syndrome of students from top engineering schools going abroad for doctoral studies or jobs. As many as 25% of graduates from centrally funded technical institutes go abroad every year to study further or join industries.

Higher enrolment in PhD programmes may also aid the IITs in improving their positions in global rankings of educational institutes, the same official said.

Augmenting PhD enrolment in the IITs was first suggested in 2011 by a panel headed by scientist Anil Kakodkar. The panel’s report suggested that after the first year of a two-year M.Tech programme, students should have the option of switching to dual degree programmes.

Instead of working on an M.Tech project, students should be allowed to start work on PhD projects and get both degrees after completing studies, the committee said, and suggested a waiver of the requirement for students to pass GATE to gain admission to doctoral programmes.

GATE-less entry into IIT PG courses for NIT toppers

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are contemplating opening their doors to top ten per cent of students of state and private engineering colleges to pursue post-doctoral studies from their campuses, without having to clear GATE.

As per the proposals, such merit students need not write the Graduate Aptitude Test Examination (GATE) to apply for PhD programmes at the IITs on the basis of those scores.

The scheme has been offered to students of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) from this year. The plan is to extend similar facility to students of other technical institutions which are not funded by the centre. No final decision has, however, been taken, highly placed sources in the Human Resource Development Ministry told *Deccan Herald*.

With the premier technical institutes facing shortage of "qualified" faculty, the Council of IITs in its recent meeting here decided to allow meritorious technocrats from NITs take up PhD programmes at their campus.

The scheme, however, will be applicable only to those engineering graduates from NITs who are among top 10 per cent of students of their respective batches in terms of academic performance. Such students may apply for admission to PhD programmes of their choice at the IITs in their seventh semester. They will have to complete their eighth (final) semester at the IITs to move on to pursue PhD programme at the premier technical institute without GATE scores. "Though they will complete their final semester at the IITs, the B.Tech degree will be awarded to them by their respective NITs," sources clarified. The IITs will only award them PhD," sources clarified.

IITs have not made up their mind yet to allow engineering graduates from other technical institutes to pursue PhD programmes at their campus from this year as they want to see the "response" of the NIT students to the scheme as well as their performance, sources added.

The move has been prompted by a faculty crunch as most of the engineering graduates from IITs choose to take up a job in private and other sectors instead of pursuing post graduate and post doctoral programmes soon after completion of their courses. "This is the trend because they offered a handsome salary. But, the country is in dire need of qualified faculty. The IITs and the HRD Ministry hope that engineering students will show enthusiasm in pursuing PhD," sources said.

Slowdown clouds skip top engineering schools

"We will start going to the campuses by October. We plan to recruit graduates from the newer IITs and MTechs from the older ones," Mudgal added.

At IIT-Roorkee, 100 companies have confirmed participation so far. These include majors like Qualcomm, Adobe, Schlumberger, Google and Microsoft. The institute has already received PPOs from Google.

"To make our placements successful, we have changed our strategy this time. We are conducting alumni meets and hosting events on the campus to connect with companies and reach out to more potential recruiters," said Tarun Goel, placement committee member, IIT-Roorkee.

Last year, the highest among pay packages offered to IIT-Roorkee students was from Facebook — of ₹80 lakh. The institute has around 1,600 students to place this year.

Slowdown clouds skip top engineering schools

Early signs in placement season show more firms signing up and increase in salaries

KALPANA PATHAK & VINAY UMARJI
Mumbai/Ahmedabad, 22 September

Early placement trends at the country's leading engineering institutes appear to be defying the general economic slowdown. According to institutes, not only has companies' response been positive across functions, even salary packages have doubled in many cases. An average increase of at least 10-15 per cent is expected in pay packages this year.

At the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), for instance, 100 companies have so

far registered for placements — 10 per cent more than that in the corresponding period last year.

Companies from across functions — consultancy, banking, finance and core engineering — have registered for placements. The formal recruitment process at the IITs will begin in December.

"The response from companies has been very good so far. We have recently begun the process. We think it will get even better by December," said a placement committee member at IIT-B, which has a total of 1,179 students to place this year.

"While some companies have

doubled salary packages, many have indicated they would recruit in good numbers," the placement committee member added.

As part of pre-placement offers (PPOs) at IIT, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), Google has made an offer of ₹93 lakh to a student for summer internship at the search engine giant.

"Slowdown hasn't been evident in so far as PPOs are concerned. As regards the final placements, we will get a better idea by next month, when recruiters' registrations are completed," said Sudhir Baral, head of training and placements, IIT-KGP.

For recruiters, too, slowdown has hardly been a concern area — especially for the companies in the core engineering and IT sectors.

"Since we engage in high-end research, we continue to need technical graduates and post-graduates every year. The slowdown has, therefore, not impacted our recruitment planning. We will continue to offer packages of ₹6-7 lakh a year, the same as earlier," said Girish Mudgal, director at Time-Tooth Technologies, a regular recruiter at IIT-KGP, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-B, IIT-Gandhinagar and IIT-Ropar.

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DEFYING THE DOWNTURN

▪ **Package:** Institutes see 10-15% rise in pay packages on an average; many companies double pay

▪ **More firms:** Institutes invite more companies on their campuses; conduct alumni meets to rope them in for better placements; hosting events help connect with companies

▪ **Recruiters:** IT, core engineering, e-commerce, analytics and consulting firms have been major recruiters so far this year

No Placement for Slowdown in Engg

Hirings so far in non-IIT engineering colleges dispel fears of dull placement season

DEVINA SENGUPTA &
SREERADHA D BASU
MUMBAI

K Gopi Krishna is this year's poster boy at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal. Social networking site Facebook offered the computer science student an annual salary of \$135,000 (ap-

proximately ₹84.6 lakh) during the ongoing placements — a record for the institute. Last year, the highest offer at the institute — at \$100,000 (then ₹60 lakh) — came from Microsoft.

The story is similar across other leading non-IIT engineering institutes in the country, where initial apprehensions of a dull placement season are slowly being put to rest. Campus hiring for most engineering colleges begins in mid-August while at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) it begins in December.

"There were apprehensions before the placements started, but so far, the situation for the Class of 2014 is good. We

have been able to attract many companies, and 300 of 850 students have already been placed," said Rajeev Tripathi, professor-in-charge, department of training and placement, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Allahabad.

Global Tech Majors Line Up >>> 14

HRD panel to set rules for top-notch research

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to bring Indian institutions on to the global ranking list in the research performance category, the HRD Ministry has set up a high level committee to create a broad framework for research activities in elite institutions and universities.

The 18-member committee will review existing arrangements, develop strategy and a framework for research evaluation to drive up research activities, the lack of which is hampering Indian institutions from featuring in the global ranking list.

The announcement of the committee comes amid increased criticism about the lack of output of research activities, one of the vital parameters that determine the ranking of an institute at the global level. None of the Indian institutes features in the top 200 ranking list carried out by established bodies.

HRD Ministry official said that the 18 member-committee headed by Secretary in the

Department of Biotechnology K Vijay Raghavan have been tasked to create a framework for excellence in research to ensure that increased funding supports the country's most talented researchers and most effective research institutions and departments. The official said that the Raghvan committee will have to submit report till the end of this year.

The other members include top educationists and former V-Cs drawn from UGC, AICTE, IISC, BITS Pilani, top officials from Planning Commission and HRD Ministry Higher Education Department. The terms and reference of the committee would base on suggestions of the 12th Five Year Plan that provides a broad framework and a detailed strategy for creating a competitive research environment.

"It will review existing arrangement for funding of research, both core funding of research facilities and infrastructure and project funding in academic institutions with a view to identify gaps and ensure a more coordinated approach in research funding," said the official.

Indian students make for second largest chunk in online education

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Sept 22

MORE than a year after Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology launched edX, their massive online education initiative, India has shown the second highest number of enrolments with more than 150,000 students from the country taking various courses on the online platform. Of the 1.2 million students on edX from all countries, 30% are from the US while 13% are from India.

EdX offers MOOCs or massive online open courses and interactive online classes in subjects including law, history, science, engineering, business, social sciences, com-

puter science, public health and artificial intelligence. At present, there are 70 courses on edX.

"Engineering courses were in high demand initially and then subjects in public health became very popular with Indian students," said Anant Agarwal, president, edX, and added that the courses that can be tak-

en online now were available earlier only in the brick-and-mortar mode.

While close to 30% Indian students opt for courses in circuits and electronics, 21% are going for subjects related to computer graphics and a similar number for courses in artificial intelligence.

EdX is based in Cam-

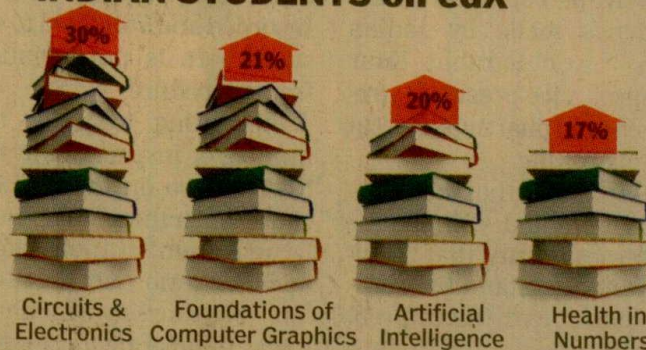
bridge, Massachusetts, and is governed by MIT and Harvard. The two institutes had pumped in \$60 million into the platform last year. EdX courses are open to everyone and are free of cost.

In June this year, IIT Bombay became an edX partner and Agarwal added that the platform will now tap into corporates to get more funds.

"EdX recently welcomed IIT Bombay to our X consortium. Joining the X consortium enables IIT Bombay to develop next-generation online and blended learning courses, as well as fill a specific professional development need in India: Training engineering teachers," said Agarwal.

■ **Continued on Page 2**

Top courses taken by INDIAN STUDENTS on edX



Students...

With approximately 5,000 engineering colleges in the country and student enrolment in these colleges now over 1.25 million, IIT Bombay will use edX's open source platform to increase the number of qualified and experienced engineering educators in India and beyond.

On completing a course which includes taking online exams, participants receive a certificate of achievement which certifies that one has fully participated in an edX course made available through one of its institutions. "Today, the certificates of achievement are free. This

may change in the future to help cover our costs. Going ahead, the certificate might be charged but the course will continue to be free," Agarwal said.

Global Technology Majors Line Up

►► From Page 1

The highest salary at MNNIT so far is ₹20 lakh from web services firm Directi, but results from the final round of selection by Google are awaited. The firm had offered ₹56 lakh last year. Facebook is expected in the next semester. The company had made an offer of \$262,500 (then ₹1.34 crore) two years ago.

Back at NIT Warangal, technology giant Microsoft will snag nine of Krishna's batchmates this year, and those posted at headquarters will get a salary of \$120,000 (₹75 lakh), said a placement team member who didn't want to be named. Search giant Google is yet to make its final selection, but the salary offered is \$100,000 (around ₹63 lakh), sweetened by a 15% bonus and 125 company stock units.

"The numbers as of now are good, but there are signs of slow-down since companies are hiring only 60-70% of the number of students hired last year," said the placement team member cited earlier.

NIT Warangal has a total of 1,200 students to place this year.

Delhi Technological University computer science student Himanshu Jindal got an offer of ₹93 lakh

from Google while US-based software company Epic reportedly made the second-best offer of ₹70 lakh and selected 11 students.

Meanwhile, at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, Japanese firm Works Applications has come calling with a ₹35 lakh offer. Although the company picked up only one student last year at a similar package, this time it's expected to hire more. Amazon has offered seven students a salary of ₹17 lakh each this year while Yahoo! will hire students for ₹14-15 lakh this year.

"Product companies have made good offers, but the manufacturing segment is slow on hiring," said Siddharth Bhattacharya, placement head for Jadavpur University. Mahindra and Mahindra, HSBC, Alpha Laval, Bajaj are some of the other firms that visited the college. Of the 800 students, 130 have been placed across sectors.

At NIT Surathkal, about one-third of the 700 students have been placed and 50-60 companies have visited the campus, including DE Shaw, Oracle, SAP Labs, IBM, TCS and Adobe. The highest domestic offer till date is ₹28 lakh from Goldman Sachs. The institute is expecting international offers from the likes of Microsoft.

"Computer science and IT stu-

dents have been doing particularly well, though percentage of offers in core engineering courses is relatively lower," said R Shivashankar, department of training and placement, NIT Surathkal. Last year, the highest offer was \$120,000 from Microsoft, and there were four to five international offers.

Some institutes have had a better experience than others, with offers pouring in. Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT) 2,000 students had approximately two offers each at the end of the first placement session in July-end. Last year, 3,603 jobs were offered to students at the end of first round while this time around there were 3,934 offers.

Accenture has picked 1,688, Wipro 1,162 and Cognizant 1,084 students from the campus. Deloitte, Musigma and Schneider Electric have made offers to 60, 57 and 31 students, respectively. DE Shaw, Flipkart and eBay have all offered a salary of more than ₹11 lakh.

DE Shaw made offers of ₹14 lakh to students of Bangalore-based RV College of Engineering, according to the placement team.

It may not be a season of plenty yet, but it does look promising, despite the sluggish economy.

devina.sengupta@timesgroup.com

Harvard launches \$6.5b fund-raising campaign

REUTERS

Boston

HARVARD, the richest university in the United States, said on Saturday it would seek to raise some \$6.5 billion in donations to fund new academic initiatives and bolster its financial aid program.

The fund raising drive by the Cambridge, Massachusetts, institution is believed to be the most ambitious ever undertaken by a university, ahead of one concluded last year by Stanford University in California that raised \$6.2 billion.

Harvard unveiled its campaign at an event fea-

turing Bill Gates, who spent three years at the school in the 1970s before dropping out to co-found Microsoft. Gates, who was ranked by Forbes magazine this year as the world's second-richest person behind Mexico's Carlos Slim, joked about his decision to leave the university during a talk before alumni and donors.

"You never say that you are 'dropping out' of Harvard. I went on leave from Harvard," he said. "If things hadn't worked out for my company, Microsoft, I could have come back."

The university has already raised \$2.8 billion from more than 90,000

donors during the pre-launch phase of the campaign, it said.

Harvard's investment portfolio is worth about \$30.7 billion, roughly the size of the annual gross domestic product of the Baltic nation of Latvia. That endowment shrank 0.05 percent in the financial year ended 2012, after double-digit gains the previous year.

"The endowment is meant to last forever. It enables our faculty to do groundbreaking research and supports financial aid for our students," VP for Alumni Affairs & Development Tamara Rogers said in a statement.

Millennium Post ND 23/09/2013 P-6

Green signal for 28 Oct launch of Mars mission

BANGALORE: India's Mars Orbiter Mission is slated to be launched on 28 October after a national committee of experts gave the go ahead for the Rs 450 crore ambitious venture after threadbare deliberations.

The committee held deliberations over two days on Thursday and Friday last and reviewed the status after senior Indian Space Research Organisation scientists gave an in-depth presentation on the mission.

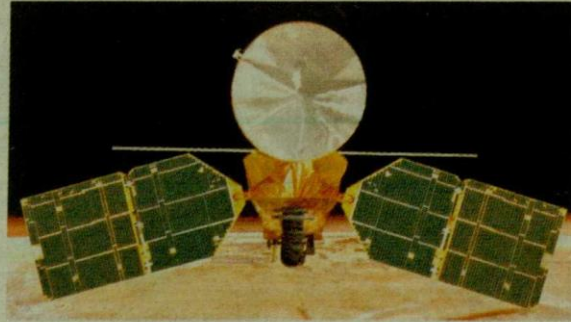
Primary objectives of the mission are to demonstrate India's technological capabil-

ity to send a satellite to orbit around Mars and conduct meaningful experiments such as looking for signs of life, take pictures of the red planet and study Martian environment.

"The committee has given the go ahead," an ISRO official said on Sunday.

Former ISRO chairman UR Rao, noted space expert Raddam Narasimha and Professors of Indian Institute of Science Bangalore were among those part of the eminent panel.

The 21 October - 19 November launch window has now been pushed forward by a week, and it now starts



on 28 October though final date of the window remains the same (19 Nov).

"We would like to utilise the first available opportunity," the official said, adding, the launch can be expected on

the afternoon of 28 October, weather permitting.

The Rs 150-crore Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft is currently undergoing vibration and acoustic tests at ISRO Satellite Inte-

gration and Testing Establishment here, and is slated for shipment from here on 30 September to the Sriharikota spaceport after a pre-shipment committee review on 26 September.

Launch campaign has already commenced in Sriharikota spaceport from where the 1,350-kg MOM spacecraft is slated to be launched by the Rs 110 crore Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C25).

The first stage of the PSLV-C25 with strap-ons has already been assembled, with the rocket ready for satellite integration by 10 October.

Asian Age ND 23/09/2013 P-4

Varsities neglect education dept

NITIN MAHAJAN
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Almost one third of all Central Universities in the country do not currently have a functional department or school of education, despite the fact that India faces a shortage of an estimated 1.4 million trained teachers.

The situation continues even as the University Grants Commission has sent repeated reminders asking all Central universities to open a depart-

● 12 of the 40 Central universities still do not have an operational school of education

ment of education and 12 of the 40 Central universities still do not have an operational school of education.

This newspaper had in July this year highlighted the fact that the UGC had written repeatedly to various universities, urging

them to take the issue seriously. Union HRD minister Dr M.M. Pallam Raju too has expressed concern over the shortage of teachers in the country and has called for special efforts to improve the situation.

Sources stated that the high number of untrained teachers is also affecting the successful implementation of the Right To Education Act, which promises education to all children. It was felt that unless the num-

ber of trained teachers increased in the country, UPA government's landmark RTE Act would become a non starter.

It is understood that almost 20 per cent of all teachers appointed in the country do not fulfil the norms of the National Council for Teachers' Education (NCTE).

According to human resources development ministry statistics, Uttar Pradesh needs three lakh teachers in schools, the maximum in the country.

Academic institutions cannot ignore social media

Uma Ganesh



THE number of social media subscribers in India has touched approximately 66 million, according to a study conducted by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI) and Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB). Out of the estimated 80 million active internet users in urban India, around 70% are active on social media. Corporates and others are taking cognizance of this new phenomenon and are rethinking about how the businesses could take advantage of it.

Social media offers an immense potential for the educational institutions too in various dimensions of their functioning and for transforming the process of education. In schools, we find parents actively forming groups and keep in touch with each other and the teachers on a variety of subjects. Some of the faculties have started using videos extensively to supplement their teaching sessions. Although as individuals, a significant number of them are part of the social media, barring marketing activities to some extent, social media is yet to occupy the centre stage in higher

educational institutions. Social media is a force that academic institutions cannot afford to ignore. If planned well, it can impact positively various aspects of the academic system. We now finally have the opportunity for students, corporates and academia professionals to work in the same space, bridging the gap that exists in meeting each other's expectations and collaborate for achieving the common goals. We already have several successful examples of social media based models overcoming the constraints of customisation, time, cost, relevance of content and time sensitivities which collectively enable the institutions which collectively enable the institutions to be better prepared to address the new realities.

MOOCs and Coursera have demonstrated that it is feasible to access the world class courses and content to supplement students' learning from a university and thereby equip them with the cutting edge capabilities in niche areas as required by the industry. Turnright.com is a great example of connecting students with the alumni of the same alma mater or with the corporate mentors based on matching profiles and interests. Webex, Google Hangout and Skype have been recognised as excellent tools for facilitating not only sharing of expertise from remote locations and

showcasing the profiles of students but also for helping promote projects and internships with corporations. Innovation, research and entrepreneurship in academic institutions would also get a better thrust with the use of collaborative and crowd sourcing techniques.

Following important opinion makers and Gurus on the Twitter and encouraging students to express their views also contributes to the efforts in making the learning process up to date and contemporary. Faculty could also consider ring-fencing twitter groups to the students enrolled in a particular subject and the invited industry experts to ensure the interactions remain focused on the subject and the pathways of conversations do not go awry. Social networking amongst the academic

fraternity has picked up momentum through sited dedication to support their interests. Pinterest is one such fastest growing website with 10 million users where faculty can freely share content of mutual interest and enable users pin together videos, links, slides and notes to use them as part of their sessions.

With institutions finding it harder to find employment opportunities for the graduating students, smart use of social media networking can help identify new possibilities heretofore untapped by the training and placement officers (TPOs) at the campuses. In order to provide adequate exposure of the real life environment of the industry and nurture networks, students are often encouraged to take up apprentices or intern-

ships with companies. Due to the demand far outstripping the actual internships available and the practical issues of cost and feasibility of such opportunities in specific locations, often campuses and students are unsuccessful in sourcing such opportunities.

With social media, a variety of ways of connecting with employers and engaging with them with the objective of not just familiarising them with the candidates but giving them an opportunity to understand their competencies becomes feasible. The era of creating the directories with student profiles at the end of the term to seek placement is outdated. The ground rules for identifying placement and internship opportunities have changed substantially. Placement and employment should not be viewed any longer as an activity to be pursued at the end of the term of education.

Social media provides the academic institutions with an opportunity to relate to the corporate problems and opportunities right from the time the programme is conceived and the students register and from thereon to collaborating on an ongoing basis to learn, share and improve. Employers are interested in interacting with those with niche skills and who have taken the initiative to relate to their business needs. TPOs

need to proactively identify professionals who could be potential mentors or employers for their students and identify industry-academia partnered projects that could be carried out remotely through frequent reviews and interactions using social media.

Thus with social media, academic institutions have a great opportunity to remodel their interactions with companies and position themselves in the sweet spots for collaboration at various levels by smart integration of different tools. Despite the availability of several useful tools and social media sites, educational institutions still face constraints in freely using social media in education. Grading and assessment of students, individual performance and progression, establishing identity of the individuals learning and contributing, in-depth analytics of the various aspects of engaging with the social media, security and protection of individual contribution are some of the areas that would continue to require more attention and solutions in order to make the industry-academia collaborations bear rich dividends.

The writer is CEO, Global Talent Track, a corporate training solutions company



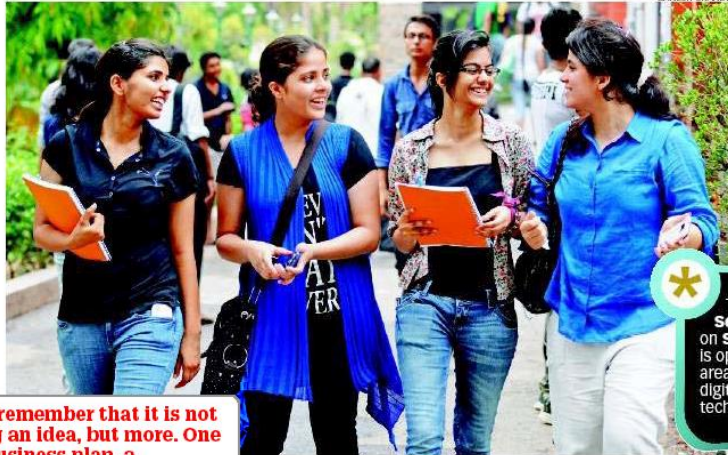
Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 23, 2013; Section: Education Times; Page: 34;



There are not enough jobs today. Hence, universities, industry and governments from across the world are trying to address this issue through a range of global collaborations. In one such initiative, BSEI-Ryerson Incubation Center of Excellence (BRIC), set up recently, has announced the 'Next Big Idea' contest for budding entrepreneurs. Elaborating on the idea, Sheldon

we had already as a university been building good relations through India, it felt right. But in addition, we had six IIT and IIM students at the university last year, starting their own companies. So we were already building the bridge in incubation. So it was a natural next step to work with BSEI."

Budding Indian entrepreneurs can enter the contest to win a three-



GANESH CHANDRA

business plan, a prototype, and very close to having a customer. Sheldon further said, "Those selected will be incubated and we will be working with them to get their first funding and we will go from there."

The competition is for young people but not only for young people. It is more about the idea and how close you are to the market.



BIG IDEA

Canada's Ryerson University, Government of Ontario and the Bombay Stock Exchange Institute (BSEI), has collaborated to launch a competition to promote startups in India. SHELDON LEVY, president and vice-chancellor of Ryerson University, Toronto, speaks to Tirma Ray on the scope of this initiative

Levy, president and vice-chancellor of Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, said that the university created an incubator three years ago. "When representatives from the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) were visiting different incubators in North America, they visited us. They liked what they saw and they asked us whether we would be interested in becoming their partner in developing the incubator in the stock exchange in Mumbai. We had interest in becoming international and because

Applicants must remember that it is not just about having an idea, but more. One needs to have a business plan, a prototype, and very close to having a customer. Those selected will be incubated

week trip to Toronto. They will be provided access to the Digital Media Zone at Ryerson University, along with opportunities to meet mentors,

industry experts, entrepreneurs and investors. "We have a methodology that chooses companies," Sheldon ex-

plained, adding, "We then help the companies to get investments and we help them merge when two of them are stronger than they are individually. We encourage them to partner as companies because each of them only have part of a solution. Around this, at the university, we

created Ryerson Futures, a for-profit company owned by the university. The president of that company will be taking the lead in building the incubator with BSEI."

However, applicants must remember that it is not just about having an idea, but more. One needs to have a

The contest commenced on **September 6** and will close on **September 28**. The contest is open to Indian companies in areas such as clean technology, digital media, information technology, life sciences

The other advantage, Sheldon added, is that Ryerson will provide the opportunity for companies to enter the North America market and help them get integrated and this will also help Canadian companies or North American companies get integrated into the Indian market.

The great equaliser

Education mobility has accelerated in the post-reform era; it's time now to focus on policies that create opportunity

ISHAN
BAKSHI



HAS there been a shift in the public discourse over the past decade? The discourse, which previously centred on the struggle for survival, conditional on state benevolence, now seems to have coalesced around the role of the state in bridging the gap between rising aspirations and the realisation of these aspirations. By creating pathways to participate in the growth process, high growth had ushered in an unbridled sense of optimism about the future, unleashing the aspirations of millions. Couched in the language of rising aspirations is the idea of social mobility. This development marks a shift in public discourse, centring on the concept of equality of opportunity.

As opposed to the concept of equality of outcomes that focuses on the distribution of income or wealth in a society, equality of opportunity implies that every individual has roughly equal opportunity to participate in society's institutions such as the labour market—a concept closely linked to the idea of (intergenerational) social mobility. Intergenerational mobility, examined through the lens of education, occupation, income and wealth, serves as a unique indicator of equality of opportunity. By estimating intergenerational mobility, what we are examining is the relationship between the socio-economic status of parents and the socio-economic outcomes of the adult child. If parental outcomes have a significant impact on the education, occupation and income of their children, then children from poor households have a low probability of escaping from poverty and rising up the income distribution. In such societies who your parents are is indeed an important determinant of your fate. On the other hand, in highly mobile societies,

1983	Edu 1	Edu 2	Edu 3	Edu 4	Edu 5
Edu 1	0.52	0.10	0.16	0.20	0.01
Edu 2	0.16	0.17	0.22	0.41	0.04
Edu 3	0.10	0.07	0.24	0.53	0.06
Edu 4	0.03	0.02	0.09	0.70	0.16
Edu 5	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.54	0.41
1993-94					
Edu 1	0.42	0.12	0.14	0.25	0.06
Edu 2	0.12	0.16	0.17	0.40	0.15
Edu 3	0.08	0.05	0.19	0.50	0.18
Edu 4	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.49	0.40
Edu 5	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.25	0.72
2009-10					
Edu 1	0.21	0.10	0.17	0.37	0.15
Edu 2	0.05	0.09	0.15	0.49	0.21
Edu 3	0.04	0.03	0.14	0.52	0.27
Edu 4	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.43	0.51
Edu 5	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.17	0.81

Author's estimate based on NSSO employment and unemployment data (38th, 50th, 66th rounds)
(1 - Illiterate, 2 - Literate to Below Primary, 3 - Primary, 4 - Middle to Secondary, 5 - Higher Secondary & above)

the link between parental outcomes and the opportunities available to children is weak. In such societies, an individual's education, occupation or income depends more on factors within his control than factors beyond his control.

While rags to riches stories are popular, the idea that one's life chances are determined largely at birth is still widely held in India. The organisation of society on the basis of caste, which an individual inherits at birth, has often been viewed as the biggest impediment to social mobility. That the son of an illiterate, low caste, poor labourer is destined to live in poverty, leads many to characterise India as a highly immobile society with high levels of inequality of opportunity. Furthermore, the rise in inequality of outcome as measured by the Gini coefficient in the post liberalisation era, has led many to argue that a privileged few have garnered a disproportionate share of the benefits and opportunities flowing from high growth.

The fundamental question which needs to be explored is whether social mobility has accelerated in the post liberalisation period marked by rapid growth. Has high growth created a more inclusive opportunity structure and reduced inequality of opportunity

measured across its various axes? Is the rise in aggregate education levels a result of the rise in education levels of children belonging to the least educated parents? Do children from poor households have equal probability of attaining higher education as compared to those born to more affluent sections of society? Does caste still influence an individual's occupation and thus his life chances? Do children from poor households have a higher probability of rising up the income distribution than before?

While studies exploring the various dimensions of equality of opportunity in India are limited, they do indicate greater social mobility in the post-reform era. Paucity of space limits my analysis to a brief examination of intergenerational education mobility. The accompanying transition matrix details the percentage of 'children' who have attained a particular education level, corresponding to the education level of their 'parent'. Each row of the table represents the education level of the parent, while columns indicate the education level of the child. Thus the row labelled 'Edu 1' in the first table can be read in the following manner—in 1983, 52% of the adult children of illiterate parents remained illiterate, 10% acquired some education, 16% finished primary school, 20%

had middle school education, and 1% had an education level of secondary school and above.

The transition matrices do indicate that the sharp decline observed in intergenerational persistence of illiteracy is to a large extent on account of children of the least educated parents moving up the education ladder. Accompanying this fall in intergenerational persistence of illiteracy is a concomitant rise in the probability of children born to the least educated parents attaining higher levels of education. These estimates clearly show that education mobility has accelerated in the post reform era. Data also suggests that caste no longer plays a dominant role in determining an individual's occupation and thus his life chances. Furthermore, a child born in a low-caste poor household now has a higher probability of escaping from poverty than his parents had.

Is high growth an effective equaliser? Kuznets argued that there exists a direct relationship between growth and mobility. High growth is perhaps the most effective way of increasing social mobility as it weakens the barriers to upward mobility. It reduces the disadvantages associated with a person's family background and provides greater opportunities for the poor to escape from poverty. Criticism of the high-growth period while focusing almost exclusively on the rise in inequality of outcomes has overlooked its impact on attenuating structures that limit social mobility. A highly mobile society will have lower inequality in the long run than one with lower mobility, as greater mobility leads to a more equal distribution of lifetime incomes. Ironically, while economic and social mobility matter more in unequal societies, it has received very little attention in India. With one of the world's largest population of young people and the much anticipated demographic dividend that India expects, it is high time to free ourselves from the shackles of fatalism. Put simply, policies that create opportunity will create the India of tomorrow.

The author works at NCAER.
Views are personal

HT Lucknow

India offers great opportunities to young minds, says expert

HT Correspondent

■ lkoreportersdesk@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Petroleum and chemical engineers have opportunities to suggest solutions to make India an energy sufficient country, said Arvind P Kudchadker, professor emeritus, IIT Bombay.

He was delivering a lecture on 'Exciting Times- Challenges and Opportunities' at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGPT), Rae Bareilly, on Friday.

India meets 80% of its crude



■ Prof Kudchadker.

oil requirements through import.

"India is a phenomenal country that offers huge opportunities to young minds. An institute like RGPT is here to provide a

platform to young generation to convert challenges into opportunities through innovative ideas and ensure their contribution to nation building," the prof said.

Kudchadker has over four decades of teaching and research experience with IIT-Kanpur, IIT- Bombay and Texas A & M University, USA.

"There is tremendous scope here to find unexplored oil and gas basins and produce crude oil effectively, using new technology to reduce our oil import bills," he added.

'Follow your dreams passionately'

ROORKEE: "An individual has to chase his dreams. The acquisition of any dream in life happens when it is pursued with an undying passion," said Thomas J Miller, while addressing IIT students at the convocation on September 21.

Miller, CEO of Siemens Healthcare urged students to chase their dreams in a scientific manner as a country like India has immense potential.

"So do keep your imaginations

high. Politicians and governments design policies for the sake of countrymen but no country can advance unless its citizens have a solid understanding in science and technology," he said. Former member of planning commission Kirit Shantilal Parikh was conferred upon an honorary doctorate by the IIT. Parikh stressed on the need for out of box thinking to generate sustainable development ideas.

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