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Cabinet clears six MoUs to be signed during Modi's US visit

HT SPOTLIGHT
MODI IN AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 26-30



HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: From space science to education, the Union cabinet on Wednesday cleared six draft memoranda of understanding with the US, to be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US tour.

One of the proposals, between ministry of human resource development and US' National Science Foundation (NSF) is aimed at a global initiative to boost research in cutting edge technology and build

bilateral academic networks.

"The proposed India-US Cooperation will be beneficial for adoption of newer methods of pedagogy and innovation driven learning at a relatively lower cost," said law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, after the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet also approved a proposal for India's participation in the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) Project at Hawaii, in the US, at a total cost of ₹1,299.8 crore.

The telescope, to be constructed by an international

consortium, will enable Indian scientists to explore many fundamental questions of modern science.

As New Delhi will enjoy 10% partnership of the project, Indian scientists will be able to observe 25 to 30 nights with the telescope every year.

Another ambitious joint venture, SWAYAM, was given a nod by the Union government which will boost higher education through online platforms.

The new partnership will comprise a mechanism to enable the top US universities to create and share post-graduate online courses on the Indian SWAYAM platform.

The cabinet also approved a proposal for Indo-US cooperation in the field of gas hydrates, among other initiatives.

Cabinet nod to education MoUs with US to be signed during Modi visit

TNN | Sep 25, 2014, 06.21 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Education/News/Cabinet-nod-to-education-MoUs-with-US-to-be-signed-during-Modi-visit/articleshow/43381939.cms>

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet on Wednesday cleared three joint declarations of intent on education to be signed between India and the US during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US.

Cabinet also cleared withdrawal of Higher Education Research Bill from Rajya Sabha. HER Bill was introduced in Parliament by the UPA government in 2011.

First declaration of intent with US aims to create active learning for young aspiring minds. Called Swayam (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), under this programme, professors of IITs, IIMs and central universities will offer online courses to citizens. All courses will be available free and a verified certificate will be issued for a small fee. In the first phase, IITs of Bombay, Chennai, Kanpur, Guwahati, Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, IGNOU, IIMs of Bangalore and Calcutta will offer courses in engineering, social science, energy, management, basic sciences with help from faculty of foreign universities. As per the MoU the new Indo-US Partnership for Online Education (IUPOE) programme will comprise a mechanism that will enable the top universities of the US (top 100 in global ranking) to create and share post graduate online courses (and associated assets) on the Indian SWAYAM platform.

The Cabinet also cleared a joint declaration to be signed between HRD ministry and National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US, to initiate a new program entitled Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN). Under GIAN, universities will create a list of eminent scholars, researchers from both within the country and outside, who they would like to invite to their campuses as guest speakers/scholars in residence etc.

The government communique did not refer to signing of declaration of intent with US about formation of IIT in Goa, but sources said it was also part of the cabinet agenda. Though the site for the new IIT is far from getting finalized, the government is going ahead with the MoU. Goa government has only found 60 acres when the need is for more than 400 acres. HRD ministry has told the state government to find a bigger site. As per the MoU, US will mentor IIT, Goa just like it nurtured IIT, Kanpur in the 1950s. USA will help in setting up the campus, in designing courses, faculty and student exchange.

Scientist meet on climate concern

TNN | Sep 25, 2014, 01.25 AM IST

CHENNAI: In the run-up to the Climate Summit in New York, scientists in India came together to present the scenario of climate change at IIT-Madras on Monday and urged the public to take steps to reduce the impact of the global crisis.

Taking stock of the changing climate and its implications on the country, scientists and experts from JNU, IIT Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IARI and UCAS Bangalore discussed the facts of climate change issues in India.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had released the Assessment Report 5 that detailed the impacts of climate change, the future risks from a changing climate and the opportunities for effective action to reduce risks. The report identified vulnerable people, industries, and ecosystems around the world. Ranking third in terms of carbon emissions, India is considered among the top polluting countries. Keeping this report as the premise, Indian National Science Academy (INSA) hosted the discussion to sensitize the public on the actual impacts of climate change specific to India and gain insights on the climate change issues.

Switzerland to help India cut down greenhouse emissions

NEW DELHI: With India striving for a low carbon inclusive growth — even as it facilitates speedy clearances for infrastructure projects — the government is looking at Switzerland to cut down its construction-induced Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The on-going Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) aims to reduce the energy consumption in new commercial, public and residential buildings and "disseminate best practices" for their construction, Swiss government officials said here. BEEP contributes to strengthen the objectives of government on energy conservation.

Speaking to The Times of India, Swiss Ambassador Dr Linus von Castelmur said Switzerland was pleased that the cooperation of the two countries on energy efficiency in buildings had already resulted in sizeable achievements.

"One recent milestone was the development of energy efficient design guidelines for residential buildings which have been endorsed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency of the Ministry of Power and launched recently as part of the government's 100 days agenda," he said.

Residential buildings in 2012 are said to have accounted for 20% of India's total electricity consumption which is expected to increase seven-fold by 2032.

In another project, Switzerland is supporting a research project on production of a new type of cement.

The Narendra Modi government also plans to develop 100 smart cities and other major infrastructure investments. As the demand for cement products increases, the pressure on India to contain its GHG emissions is also expected to rise.

According to Swiss officials, it is now possible to double the quantity of cement produced from the same quantity of limestone. The so called Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3) generates 30% less CO₂ emissions compared to traditional cement. A joint research on LC3 is being carried out by an international team of the Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne in Switzerland in collaboration with three Indian Institutes of Technology - IIT Delhi, IIT Madras and IIT Bombay - and a technology incu ..

India is the first country where LC3 is being tested, both in laboratory and in the field, on a large scale, said Swiss authorities. "India was selected for the size of its market and its growth potential, the wide availability of kaolin clays and most importantly the commitment of the Indian government to reduce CO₂ emissions," said a Swiss official.

According to Switzerland, Indo-Swiss bilateral cooperation is moving in line with India's emphasis on low carbon inclusive growth and its international voluntary commitment to reduce GHG emission intensity.

Cement production presently shares 5-8% of manmade emissions globally. "Switzerland therefore considers India's construction environment as a priority sector, aiming to improve energy efficiency in the building sector (residential and public), strengthen capacities of the urban governments for integration of low carbon strategies in urban planning and improving the resource efficiency of building materials such as cement," said a Swiss official.

अमेरिका के साथ होंगे छह समझौते

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की शुरुआत से शुरू हो रही पांच दिन की अमेरिका यात्रा के दौरान दोनों देशों के बीच छह अहम समझौतों पर दस्तखत किए जाएंगे। इनमें उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आपसी सहयोग और ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रमों को आगे बढ़ाने सहित शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में तीन अहम समझौते शामिल हैं। कैबिनेट ने बुधवार को इन समझौतों पर मुहर लगा दी।

प्रधानमंत्री के अमेरिका दौर से पहले बुधवार को कैबिनेट ने जिन छह महत्वपूर्ण समझौतों को मंजूरी दी है, उनमें शिक्षा क्षेत्र पर खासा जोर है। इस दौरान भारत के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान प्रतिष्ठान (एनएसएफ) के बीच 'ज्ञान' कार्यक्रम पर समझौता होगा। इसके तहत भारत के उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में प्रतिभाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए दोनों देश आपस में सहयोग करेंगे। वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी क्षेत्र में भारत की क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए बनाए गए इस कार्यक्रम को 'ग्लोबल इनीशिएटिव आफ एकेडमिक नेटवर्क्स' (ज्ञान) नाम दिया गया है।

इसी तरह ऑनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अमेरिका के साथ मिलकर 'स्वयं' योजना चलाई जाएगी। इसमें अमेरिका के शीर्ष शिक्षाशास्त्री और विशेषज्ञ वीडियो कार्यक्रम तैयार करेंगे, जिसके जरिये भारत में ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम चलाए जा सकेंगे। विभिन्न नए और पुराने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आइआईटी) के साथ सहयोग के लिए अलग



इन क्षेत्रों में सहयोग

- उच्च शिक्षा में आपसी सहयोग के लिए 'ज्ञान' कार्यक्रम
- ऑनलाइन शिक्षा में अमेरिका के साथ मिलकर 'स्वयं' योजना
- विभिन्न आइआईटी को सहयोग के लिए समझौता
- गैस हाइड्रेट पर भारत की मदद करेगा अमेरिका
- ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और जलवायु परिवर्तन पर सहयोग
- 30 मीटर टेलीस्कोप बहुराष्ट्रीय परियोजना में साझेदारी

आइएस के खिलाफ जंग में मोदी को साथ मांग सकते हैं ओबामा

वाशिंगटन, प्रेड : अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से इस्लामिक स्टेट (आइएस) के खिलाफ जंग में मदद मांग सकते हैं। सीरिया और इराक के बड़े हिस्से पर कब्जा कर चुके आतंकी संगठन के विरुद्ध अमेरिका वैश्विक गठजोड़ तैयार कर रहा है। नरेंद्र मोदी 29 सितंबर को बराक ओबामा से ह्वाइट हाउस में मुलाकात करेंगे। अगले दिन सुबह ओवल ऑफिस में दोनों नेताओं की आधिकारिक मीटिंग होगी, जहां पर आइएस के मुद्दे पर चर्चा होना तय माना जा रहा है। मोदी-ओबामा मुलाकात से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने माना कि दोनों नेताओं की मुलाकात के दौरान आइएस पर चर्चा होगी।

से समझौते पर दस्तखत होंगे। केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री रविशंकर प्रसाद ने कैबिनेट बैठक के बाद बताया कि इस दौरान अमेरिका के साथ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में भी दो अहम समझौते किए जाएंगे। दोनों देश गैस हाइड्रेट पर आपसी सहयोग के

संबंध सुधारने का सुनहरा मौका है मोदी की यात्रा

वाशिंगटन : अमेरिका के उच्चस्तरीय विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की अमेरिका यात्रा दोनों देशों के लिए संबंधों को सुधारने का सुनहरा मौका है। कानेजी एंडोमेंट फॉर इंटरनेशनल पीस के एश्ले टेलीस ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की आगामी यात्रा भारत और अमेरिका के लिए साझेदारी को मजबूत करने का सुनहरा मौका है।

लिए एक समझौता करेंगे, जिसके तहत अगले पांच साल तक भारत में गैस हाइड्रेड की पायलट परियोजनाएं शुरू करने से लेकर इनके विकास तक में अमेरिका मदद करेगा। एक और समझौते में ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और

मोदी के व्रत का पूरा ध्यान रखेगा ह्वाइट हाउस

वाशिंगटन, प्रेड : अमेरिका यात्रा के दौरान भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के व्रत को ह्वाइट हाउस बड़ा मुद्दा नहीं मानता। ह्वाइट हाउस ने कहा है कि हम मेहमानों के रिवाजों का सम्मानजनक ढंग से ख्याल रखते हैं। अमेरिका की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद की प्रवक्ता कैटलिन हेडन ने कहा, 'हमें इस बात की जानकारी है कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी वाशिंगटन यात्रा के दौरान व्रत में रहेंगे। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति की मेजबानी में आने वाले सभी मेहमानों के रिवाजों का सम्मानजनक ढंग से ध्यान रखा जाता है।' उन्होंने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा मोदी की सफल द्विपक्षीय यात्रा की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं और हमें नहीं लगता कि व्रत किसी भी तरह का कोई मुद्दा बनेगा। ह्वाइट हाउस ने इस बारे में कोई विस्तृत जानकारी नहीं दी है कि 29 सितंबर को ओबामा के साथ डिनर में मोदी के सामने क्या रखा जाएगा। हालांकि, ह्वाइट हाउस हिस्टोरिकल एसोसिएशन का मानना है कि डिनर में क्या-क्या होगा, यह तय कर लिया गया है।

जलवायु परिवर्तन पर सहयोग की योजना है। अमेरिका सहित विभिन्न देशों की साझेदारी से चल रही 30 मीटर टेलीस्कोप परियोजना में भारत की साझेदारी को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी समझौते पर दस्तखत किया जाएगा।

Science, education focus of pacts with US

MoUs to be signed with US during Modi's visit get Cabinet approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

DAYS before Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for the United States, the Union Cabinet Wednesday cleared several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) India plans to sign with the US.

The Cabinet cleared India's participation in the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) Project at Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at a total cost of Rs 1299.8 crore from 2014 to 2023. The TMT will be constructed at a cost of US\$ 1.47 billion (in 2012 base

year dollars) by an international consortium comprising institutions from the US, Canada, Japan, India and China.

With its contribution, India will be a 10 per cent partner in the project. This will ensure that Indian scientists can use the state-of-the-art telescope for 25-30 nights per year.

The Cabinet also approved the signing of a Joint Declaration between the India's HRD Ministry and the



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National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US, to initiate a new programme — Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education. GIAN aims to tap the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with institutes of higher education in India. This will help augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms and strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities.

Further, the Cabinet cleared the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent between the HRD Ministry and the US Department of State for co-operation in the field of higher education for Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), a programme for online education. The SWAYAM platform server will be based in India and US universities will be invited to offer postgraduate academic programmes.

The new Indo-US Partnership for Online Education (IUPOE) programme will comprise a mechanism that

will enable the top US universities to create and share post-graduate online courses on the Indian SWAYAM platform. The cooperation programme will be integrated to strengthen the National Mission on Education in India.

The Cabinet also cleared the signing of an MoU between India and the US for co-operation in gas hydrates for a period of five years. Exchange of scientific and technical information will help Indian scientists enhance understanding of Indian gas hydrates and keep them abreast with international developments.

ALSO CLEARED...

WITHDRAWAL OF the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 from Rajya Sabha. The Bill was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD, which expressed concerns on certain provisions

INDIA-NEPAL AGREEMENT on electric power trade, cross-border transmission interconnection and grid connectivity. Nepal imports about 200 MW electricity from India annually. New cross-border transmission lines will more than double this

FILLING UP the post of mission director of the National Water Mission Secretariat through central staffing scheme

Higher education Bill to be withdrawn from Parliament

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to withdraw the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011, from Parliament in view of the reservations expressed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on certain provisions of the draft legislation. The Bill — which was pending in the Rajya Sabha — sought to determine, coordinate, maintain and promote standards of higher education and research, and subsume existing regulatory bodies in higher education including the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Educa-

tion, the National Council for Teaching Education and the Distance Education Council (DEC)

The Cabinet cleared a number of agreements to be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visit. One of them is a Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the U.S. Department of State for cooperation in the field of higher education for Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), a programme for online education. The SWAYAM platform server will be based in India and U.S. uni-

versities will be invited to offer postgraduate academic programmes with certification on the SWAYAM platform.

Besides, the Cabinet approved signing of a Joint Declaration between the HRD Ministry and the National Science Foundation of the U.S. to launch the Global Initiative of Academic Networks in Higher Education. It aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms, and further strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities.

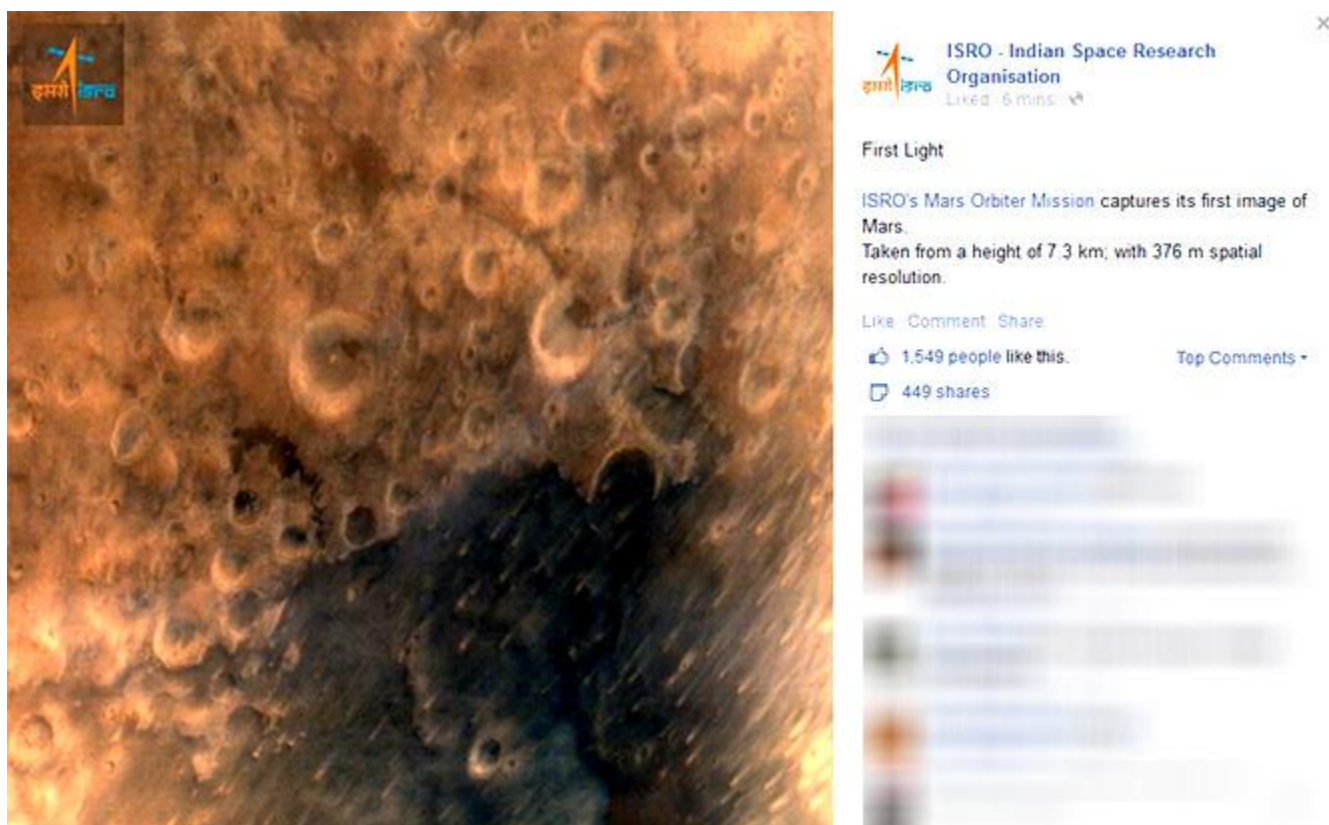
First pictures from Mars arrive, Mangalyaan 'doing well'

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/specials/coverage/marsorbitermission/marsorbitermission/isro-releases-first-mars-photo-clicked-by-mangalyaan-more-to-come/sp-article10-1268141.aspx>

They are here! Mangalyaan's first offering to India is out in the open.

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) released on Thursday the first image of Mars clicked by the indigenous Mangalyaan, which took India to soaring heights a day ago by slipping into the Red Planet's orbit on the country's maiden attempt.

Isro said the photograph it posted on its Facebook page and Twitter account was taken from "a height of 7300 km; with 376 m spatial resolution".



And more will come. Isro chief K Radhakrishnan is in Delhi — with hard copies of all the snaps clicked by Mangalyaan — to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

All the photographs will be released after their meeting in the afternoon.

The photographs bear a testimony to the fact that Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), which helped India join an elite club of successful Mars explorers, is in 'good health' and performing its duties well.

MOM, according to Isro scientists, started sending its first high-quality images of the Red Planet late on Wednesday.

"Images are clicked. Data is downloaded. Process is going on," a top Isro official had told HT, confirming all is well.

The snaps were expected to arrive in the afternoon on the momentous day, but there was no news about them till evening, causing some concerns.

Gives India platform to go to any planet, could make science pretty cool to kids



Special to
EXPRESS

AMITABHA GHOSH

Ghosh is a NASA scientist who has worked on six Mars Missions

WASHINGTON, DC,
SEPTEMBER 24

AT NASA, we call it the seven minutes of terror: seven minutes refers to the time the spacecraft takes to descend through the Martian atmosphere. During these seven minutes, the spacecraft is on its own: if there is a technical problem during the seven minutes, by the time ground con-

trollers can respond, the spacecraft has already crashed on the surface of Mars.

Although Mangalyaan did not land on Mars, the tension at Mission Control was perceptible and reminded me of the times I have experienced the seemingly unending wait for confirmation of success or failure to arrive from Mars. The jubilation that erupted in the Control Room is similar to the eu-

phoric scenes we experience at Jet Propulsion Lab when a mission is successful. Having being involved with six missions to Mars with NASA, I relived my experience of incredible tension followed by exhilaration through the success of Mangalyaan.

For, it was fascinating to see the reaction outside the Indian Space Research Organisation, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gives India platform to go to any planet

way it seems to have united India: what could have been an esoteric science experiment turned to a national celebration with the Prime Minister in attendance and a nation breaking into applause.

Despite a wide and deep Information Technology sector, India is largely perceived as a destination where work is outsourced because of cheap labour, not because of superior or equivalent capability. Core or critical R&D projects from the West are rarely outsourced to India because of quality and reliability concerns. Mangalyaan's success can firmly change that perception. This is largest intangible benefit of the mission. Its success is an instant validation of the fact that India is capable of executing large and complex technology projects.

The United States stunned the world by landing humans on the Moon: and for perhaps half a century, this fact comes up in casual conversations at dinner tables and coffee houses. Though in a different century, a successful Mangalyaan can have a somewhat similar effect about India: it is now also a country that succeeded in sending probes to Moon and Mars on her first attempt.

The success also upgrades India's capabilities in deep-space navigation and communication. It gives ISRO a platform to go to any planet — Moon, just 384,000 km away, is in our backyard; Mars is at an average distance of 225 million km — and so, effectively, a veritable platform for the future, to go to any planet in the solar system.

It's in this context that its other potential benefit needs to be seen. The US space programme was and still is a reason many students choose the STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and technology career tracks. The superiority of US's technical base is not because of its defence budget or technology industry; the superiority is, in large measure, the result of the ability of the US to attract, train and retain the best talent in the world to work in its technology companies, in the defense sector, in higher ed-

ucation and in space exploration.

The hidden crisis in India is the crisis in technical talent. True, India still graduates a lot of engineers but the best leave to pursue management. This fact has huge implications in terms of building the India of the future: in terms of leading and staffing R&D, engineering projects and faculty positions in universities. An IIT Director once mentioned in a private conversation that if the present trend continues and the brightest young brains in India stay away from technology, India will be reduced in to a state of technology capability akin to what existed shortly after Independence.

The success of Mangalyaan can perhaps cause an incremental internal change in mindset in India and motivate young talent to choose a career track in engineering or sciences. Perhaps, the young will see that it is pretty cool to be an engineer or scientist working with ISRO on frontier problems or working at a government or private R&D lab. Of course, to retain talent, policy makers still need to reassure the young generation that a career in science and Technology is rewarding.

Mangalyaan has indeed demonstrated the rich payoff of taking risk and thinking big.

When allocating funds, the Government and the private sector in India have been surprisingly risk-averse. This risk averse philosophy is perhaps the reason why India lags in IP generation and in technology, why Indian corporates do not invest in the world class products in engineering and in pharmaceuticals. India's massive IT companies still rely on "incremental" innovation and the security of labor arbitrage as a business model and not on disruptive change that is the hallmark of Google and Apple. Incremental Innovation results in R&D money distributed over multiple projects without the intention to cause disruptive change that will result in business advantage.

Incremental Innovation results in

short term technology transfer agreements without the foresight to develop in-house capability. Hopefully, Mangalyaan's success will motivate the private and government sectors to take risk.

While it is important to enjoy the grand moment, it is important to stay anchored to reality. Mangalyaan will be still be cheaper than an American mission, but perhaps not a tenth of the price as is being advertised. First, NASA and ISRO might have different methods of accounting for manpower cost: NASA uses full cost accounting where all man-hours are billed to the project whereas for ISRO, the cost breakdown is not apparent. Second, for cost comparisons, the missions should have equivalent configuration and complexity: MAVEN and Curiosity are more complex missions than Mangalyaan. Third, NASA has its share of cheaper missions. Thus, in 1997, the Mars Pathfinder Mission landed a rover on Mars for \$175 million: expensive by a factor of two, but more capable than Mangalyaan since it landed a rover on Mars with this bare-bones budget.

There is a perception that Mangalyaan would be able to meaningfully dwell on the question of life: at best, Mangalyaan will be able to measure methane in the Martian atmosphere: the question of life is, in the words of Carl Sagan, "an extraordinary claim" and "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence". And, Mangalyaan does not have the instrument suite to deliver the extraordinary evidence required.

Maybe some of today's science students, watching the success of Mangalyaan, will be inspired to staff tomorrow's ISRO and be ready to search for extraordinary evidence.

(Ghosh leads Rover Operations on Opportunity Rover as Chair of the Science Operations Working Group of the NASA Mars Exploration Rover Mission. Opportunity has been traversing Mars for the last 10 years. All views are personal.)

Modi Speech Inspires Students to Explore Space Research Options

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech lauding ISRO scientists for putting India on the world map with the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) struck an instant chord with the student community, even inspiring them to explore careers in space research.

As the Mars Orbiter entered the red planet's orbit on Wednesday, an emotional Modi in a speech, egged on every college and school to spend at least 5 minutes to savour the moment, just as they celebrate a cricket match victory.

Modi drew from Rabindranath Tagore's famous line "Where the mind is without fear..." to inspire the students. "He made an emotional appeal to the youth of the nation, urging them to innovate and not be afraid of risks," said Akash Gupta, a first-year PGP student from IIM Calcutta.

Hridayesh Lal, a standard 10 student of Ryan International School, New Delhi, said he is inspired to explore space research. "The mission will create a spark in the minds of students to be part of follow-up missions. I hope I can be part of such a mission one day," he said.

Aerospace engineering student Hari-ni Padmanabha, studying at Jain Col-



lege Bangalore, said the field gives her vast opportunities to explore her learning into space, research, life on Mars and the possibility of a study to place similar satellites into other planets as well. Celebrations erupted in IIM Bangalore as well, which was basking in the glory of its noted alumnus K Radhakrishnan, chairman of ISRO. Radhakrishnan is an MBA student from IIM Bangalore's PGP batch, 1976.

Unnat Jain, a final year undergraduate student of electrical engineering at IIT Kanpur, said he got goose bumps when he heard Modi's speech.

"He rightly said 'we have dared to reach out into the unknown,' and I hope we would keep daring and achieving the near impossible," Jain said.

Rupak Thakur, a final year B-Tech

HRIDAYESH LAL
Student, Ryan International School

The mission will create a spark in the minds of students to be part of follow-up missions. I hope I can be part of such a mission one day

student at IIT Kharagpur, said Modi had stressed on global companies to come and manufacture in India earlier. "I hope this can attract spacecraft manufacturers to look at India as a key market," said Thakur, also a member of IIT's entrepreneurship cell.

The PM's speech connected with school students as well. "The achievement has led to restoring the pride of many Indians, especially the youth," said Paavni Jain, a Class 11 student of Sanskriti School in New Delhi, who liked Modi's cricket analogy.

Aadit Ralph, a class 3 student of Don Bosco High School Mumbai, said he will never forget the PM's lines: "Unless you enter the waters you don't learn to swim." And he hoped India would be the first to enter other orbits as well.

Indian Express ND 25/09/2014 P-3

EDUCATIONAL TOUR 900 STUDENTS WILL TRAVEL ABOARD THE TRAIN TO NORTHEAST FROM DECEMBER 20-30

Gyanodaya Express chugs on, despite DUTA allegations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI SEPTEMBER 24

BRUSHING ASIDE allegations of financial irregularities in running the Gyanodaya Express, Delhi University announced that its educational train trip would take students on yet another journey — to the Northeast this year.

Begun as the 'College on Wheels' project in 2012, this will be the fourth edition of Gyanodaya Express.

As many as 900 students will be given the opportunity to travel on Dharodhar-Gyanodaya Express from December 20-30. Through a special certificate course arranged by the university, students will be given basic working knowledge of eight different lan-

guages spoken in the Northeast, registrar Tarun Kumar Das said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Around 100 students will be given special training to acquire basic working knowledge of eight different languages of the Northeast under special certificate courses to be run by DU," Malay Neerav, media co-ordinator and joint dean of student welfare, DU, said.

The students, who will be accompanied by around 100 teachers, will be selected from colleges on the basis of project proposals and will be divided into groups of 11-15 with a mentor each. Each group will have at least one member from the Northeast.

The projects are to be based on ideas that aims to provide a deeper understanding of the re-



Begun as the 'College on Wheels' project in 2012, this will be the fourth edition of Gyanodaya Express.

gion's richness and its contribution towards the well-being of the nation, Das said.

During the trip, students will get to meet representatives of local universities as well as senior

functionaries from the Northeastern states, Das said, while adding that issues related to citizenship, national integration and ideals propounded by eminent leaders would be addressed.

"During the halts, students will have a chance to meet representatives of local universities as well as senior functionaries of the Northeastern states, including governors and other dignitaries," Neerav said.

In a recent white-paper, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) accused vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh of being involved in financial and administrative irregularities in DU, including trips organised on the Gyanodaya Express.

"In 2012 the vice-chancellor

introduced another of his pet projects, the 'Gyanodaya Express' without either discussion or decision by the statutory bodies. No evaluation was made of its usefulness either before its introduction or afterwards. But crores of rupees have been spent on each trip. According to information provided in response to RTIs on the subject, the costs for two trips were Rs 198,30,408 (2012) and Rs 148,82,182 (2013) respectively," the white-paper reads.

"At a time when the university is planning another of these trips, we urge the visitor or the Ministry of Human Resource Development to intervene to make the university answerable about the source of funds for the last trips," Nandita Narain, president of DUTA, said.

IT Microsoft aims to train 1m girls

S SHYAMALA

Chennai

MICROSOFT India launched the Women in Tech initiative on Wednesday aimed at bringing in more women into the Indian IT industry. The initiative is an extension of the software giant's global diversity thrust.

Along with partners, Microsoft will train and mentor one million girls and women in the next 12 months. These will include school students, young women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) colleges, IT professionals and entrepreneurs. NIIT is the primary learning partner for Microsoft and it has initiated customised offers at discounted rates for women.

As part of the plan, Microsoft would reach out to 1.5 lakh girls across 1,000 high schools during the next year. Moreover, the company will engage with

All for her

■ There are 616 million women in India, close to half being in the below-25 age bracket

■ Nasscom has a Girls in Technology (GIT) scheme to encourage entrepreneurship

■ Google has an initiative to improve women's awareness about online usage

7.5 lakh women in STEM courses in the next 12 months. While over 2.5 lakh IT professionals will be trained, about 2,500 entrepreneurs and aspiring candidates will be mentored during the year. Further, Microsoft Ventures will mentor 30 women entrepreneurs and help them connect with the broader start-up ecosystem, in order to accelerate their business.

Turn to P6

IT is largest employers of women in the country

From P1

Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman of Microsoft India said: "Today, the IT industry in India has about 1 million women. Our Women in Tech initiative aims to double that number in the next few years. In the first year, our partners and we will train and mentor the next one million women and help them join, grow and succeed in the IT industry."

IT is among the largest employers of women in the country, comprising over 34 per cent of the workforce. Moreover, they form the major chunk at the entry level, said Sangeetha Gupta, senior vice president, research, events and communications at Nasscom. The problem is not in hiring women but retaining them, she added. After marriage, they tend to drop their careers. The industry body has started specific programmes to accommodate more women employees and entrepreneurs in the sector

Nasscom has introduced the Girls in Technology (GIT) programme to evangelise the women entrepre-

and mentored after career breaks and for larger managerial roles. The company has regular training programmes on the same, he added.

The global internet giant Google has embarked on an initiative to improve women's awareness about online usage. The company has joined hands with actor Farhan Akhtar's NGO Mard to create awareness about online usage and gender equality.

Rajan Anandan, vice president and managing director at Google India, said: "Easy and quick access to information can transform lives. India is on its way to having the second largest internet population in the world but usage of internet amongst women in India is lower than most countries in the world. There are 616 million women in India. Close to half of the women are in the below 25 years age bracket. Empowering the young women population with information and internet-related tools could transform India's future."

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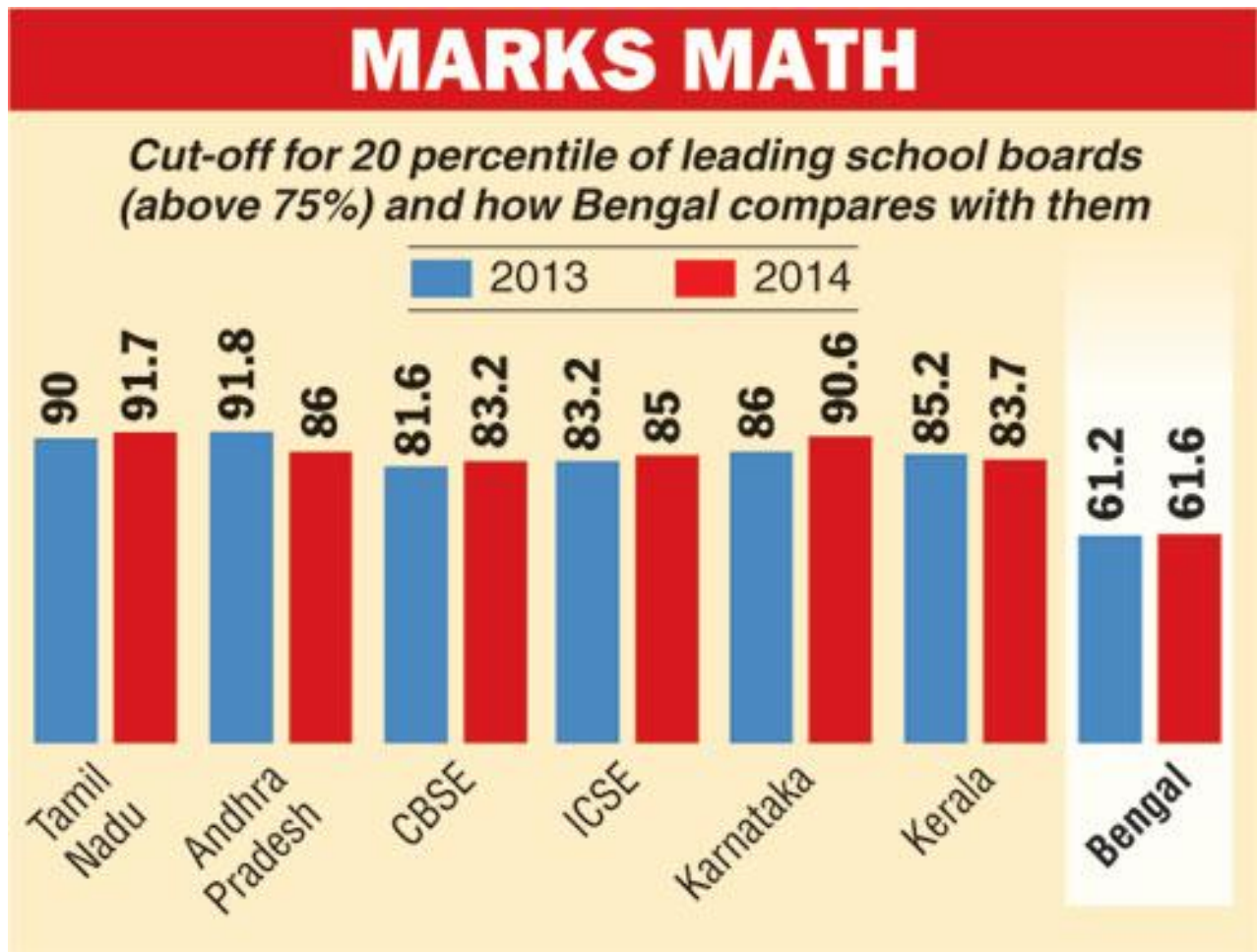
Nasscom has introduced the Girls in Technology programme to evangelise women entrepreneurs

neur landscape in India. Aimed at encouraging and promoting women entrepreneurs, this initiative works to bring more girls into the technology ecosystem by conducting technical workshops, tech talks and hackathons.

Organisations have to be focused and conscious about including more women in the workforce, said Prashant Bhatnagar, director, hiring and staffing at SapientNitro India. Women need to be trained

IIT generosity faces stress in miserly Bengal

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY



New Delhi, Sept. 23: The IITs yesterday relaxed the eligibility criterion for undergraduate admissions but the change is likely to benefit students from boards like the CBSE and the ICSE and the southern states, not their fellow aspirants from the east, including Bengal.

Academics said going by the pattern of board results of the last two years, more students from the larger boards or boards less conservative with marks stood a better chance of making it to the top tech schools, provided they cleared the JEE-Advanced with a decent rank.

The IIT Council yesterday lowered the basic eligibility criteria from the top 20 percentile from higher secondary boards. Now, the criterion for admissions to IITs next year will be a place in the top 20 percentile or an overall score of 75 per cent in Class XII exams — whichever is lower — for general and OBC students.

Because of the lowered cut-off, the pool of aspiring engineers would widen from states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and larger boards such as the CBSE, ICSE where the cut-offs for top 20 percentile for 2014 were between 83.2 and 91.7 per cent.

But those from state boards like that of Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand were unlikely to benefit because the top 20 percentile from these boards scored between 57 per cent and 63.6 per cent in their higher secondary exams.

In other words, the percentile system would still apply for the majority.

Students from the Northeast, too, are unlikely to benefit from the lowered cut-off. In Tripura, for example, the cut-off for the top 20 percentile for the state's higher secondary board was 51.2 per cent.

A student's percentile score is obtained by dividing the number of examinees ranking below her by the number that took the exam, then multiplying by 100.

“The new eligibility criteria will broaden the scope. But some of the conservative boards will remain unaffected while more students from the bigger boards will get a chance,” said Anurag Mehra, a professor at IIT Bombay.

“There are variations in the examination system and award of marks. No board can be compared with another. But students from larger boards would benefit.”

The Joint Admission Board of the IITs had earlier recommended the relaxation after many who had scored over 85 per cent in their Class XII board exams failed to secure seats in the tech schools despite doing well in the JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced, the two-tier entrance test.

A member of the IIT Delhi faculty said the change would make it tougher for underprivileged students from certain boards.

IIT-B students have to pay a heavy price for their mischievous acts

<http://www.mid-day.com/articles/iit-b-students-have-to-pay-a-heavy-price-for-their-mischievous-acts/15630153>

Students have revealed that they have paid anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 10,000 in fines for varying offences, and complain that the institute has not even provided a set of rules to follow

Getting caught in acts of mischief and paying fines are part and parcel of college life for most students, but the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has taken it to an extreme, with reports emerging of student paying hefty fines anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 10,000 for varying offences.



The institute is known to have fined students anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 10,000, for offences varying from alcohol consumption to damage to property. File pic

In the latest edition of the institute's student magazine Insight students have highlighted the excessive fines they have had to pay for misdemeanours ranging from alcohol consumption on campus to feeding dogs inside the hostel premises.

“It is not uncommon for students to be charged anything between Rs 1,000 to Rs 10,000 depending on the seriousness of the offence. What makes this worse is that there's no particular formal list of rules the students are expected to adhere to.

When we'd asked the authorities to draft one, we were told that what an IITian should and should not do should be self-evident to the students,” said Anshul Avasthi, chief editor of the magazine.

He added that while there are no statistics on the highest monetary fine levied on a student on campus till date, there have been articles printed previously, stating that a student caught consuming alcohol within the campus was fined Rs 10,000.

Students have questioned the need for such heavy penalties, as they not only blow a hole in students' already restricted finances, but also seem to have failed to deter others from breaking rules.

Pertinent questions

‘Can the severity of an offence really be assigned a monetary value? If not, why was this system put in place anyway?’ and ‘is this system achieving the goals it had set out to?’ are just some of the questions that students have raised in the magazine.

According to them, fines were never collected from students before April 2007. “Previously, a student who was found violating any institute rule was either let off with a warning or had to face senior authorities in serious

cases. As the cases began to grow numerous, the authorities came up with a monetary penalty to serve as a middle path,” states the article.

But, they have also pointed out that the fines end up pinching them considerably, especially with middle-class students who cannot afford to pay thousands in fines. They added that several students have been known to lie to their parents in order to find the money to pay the fines, defeating the entire purpose of the penalty.

In the magazine, students also asked senior professors to explain what purpose the fines serve, and whether they have reduced the number of transgressions committed at the institute, but the professors had no answer either.

U A Yajnik, dean of student affairs, told mid-day that monetary fines were decided upon by the institute so as to avoid taking academic action against students who were found flouting the rules.

“We didn’t want anything to affect the career of any student, and, therefore, this decision was taken. Even to put students on social service as punishment seems to bring about little change,” he said.

Yajnik added that as of now, a proposal has been made to the management, to initiate a conduct report for every student, along with an academic report. “This report will record the behaviour of the student while on campus, and can be submitted to the employers during placement season,” he added.

- See more at: <http://www.mid-day.com/articles/iit-b-students-have-to-pay-a-heavy-price-for-their-mischievous-acts/15630153#sthash.sX90n6Zc.dpuf>

IIT Delhi to have a new MBA Curriculum

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/iit-delhi-to-have-a-new-mba-curriculum-1411555180-1>

The Department of Management Studies (DMS), IIT Delhi, announced to launch a new curriculum for MBA programme in an event organised at the IIT-Delhi campus on 20th September 2014.

The chief guests at the event were Dr. R. P. Singh, Chairman, BoG, IIT Guwahati, (Ex-Chairman, Power Grid Corporation) and Shri Arup Roy Choudhury, CMD, NTPC, the Guest of Honour. They inaugurated the ‘MBA Curriculum Review Stakeholders’ Consultation Workshop.

Dr. Shveta Singh, Faculty, DMS IIT Delhi, added, “The reviewed curriculum will help in improving student learning and overall programme effectiveness. This will give the much needed confidence to the students to compete with the best of their peers globally.”

The new curriculum at IIT Delhi (Department of Management Studies) for the MBA programme is likely to be applicable from the academic session beginning July 2015.

It is important to have changes and development in curriculum as per the changes and requirements of the outer world. In order to keep up with the outer world.

IIT-K to tie up with foreign institutes

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

KANPUR: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) is planning to promote research and other activities in collaboration with institutes based in different countries.

In a recent move, the IIT-K is working on tying up with institutes in Finland and Norway.

IIT-K director Dr Indranil Manna would visit these countries along with President Pranab Mukherjee and would explore the possibilities of entering into agreement with the institutes in two countries in connection with the promotion of research.

Dr Manna said a deputation of scientists of IIT-K would interact with academicians of renowned institutes during their visit on October 9 and October 10.

8 Reasons Why Stanford University Is An Awesome Place To Go To School

<http://www.businessinsider.in/8-Reasons-Why-Stanford-University-Is-An-Awesome-Place-To-Go-To-School/articleshow/43272320.cms>

For the first time in years, [Stanford University took the top spot in Business Insider's latest list of the Best Colleges in America](#), knocking the Massachusetts Institute of Technology down to number two after a four-year reign.

The California college is now also the [most selective college in America](#), as well as [the top "dream college"](#) for students applying from high school. To help understand why everyone wants to go to Stanford, here are eight reasons why it's such an awesome place to go to school:

1. Even though students study a lot, they still make time for an active social life

While Stanford is undoubtedly one of the top academic institutions in the world, that doesn't prevent students from having fun when they're not in the library.

Students gather every fall quarter for Full Moon on the Quad - a drunken welcome from upperclassmen to the new freshmen - and check out the Greek scene with Sigma Alpha Epsilon's Back to School kickoff or Kappa Alpha's roaming Nomad Party.

The school has an active Greek life and on-campus social scene for just about anyone, but students will also explore off campus in the surrounding Bay Area.

2. Stanford athletic teams are dominant in a number of sports



Justin Edmonds/Getty Images

The Stanford women's basketball team dominates their conference.

For the 19th year in a row, [Stanford took home the NADCA Directors' Cup](#) last year - given annually to the school with the most overall success in collegiate athletics.

Some highlights from 2013 include Stanford football's repeat win of the Pac-12 Conference title - in a season that had the Stanford Cardinals dominate rival Cal 63-13 in the "Big Game" - and women's tennis winning the NCAA national championship.

[5 Reasons Why Stanford Had A Better 2013 Than Any College In The Country >>](#)

3. Stanford has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country-and incredible weather year round



[Via Wikimedia Commons](#)

Stanford's Memorial Church is a centerpiece of its California campus.

Known affectionately as "The Farm," Stanford's more than 8,000 acre campus is one of the largest in the United States. Mission revival style architecture dominates Stanford's landscape, including its historic Main Quad.

Some of Stanford's most iconic structures include the non-denominational Memorial Church and Hoover Tower, the tallest building on campus.

The California university also has the added bonus of great weather - unlike elite east coast schools, it's nice out west most every day.

4. Students participate in lots of fun annual traditions



[Via Flickr](#)

The Stanford Marching Band is almost entirely student-run.

Stanford's most notorious tradition is probably Full Moon on the Quad, an inter-class kissing event where freshmen and seniors interlock lips on the night of the first full moon. As [The New York Times reported last year](#), students will often wear "bingo boards" to keep track of the various types of kissers they're seeking out for the night.

The school also has a quirky tradition for its unofficial mascot - a "tree" (pictured above) - that changes every year based on a unique design by a member of Stanford's marching band.

5. Stanford academics are top-notch and professors are among the best in the fields



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

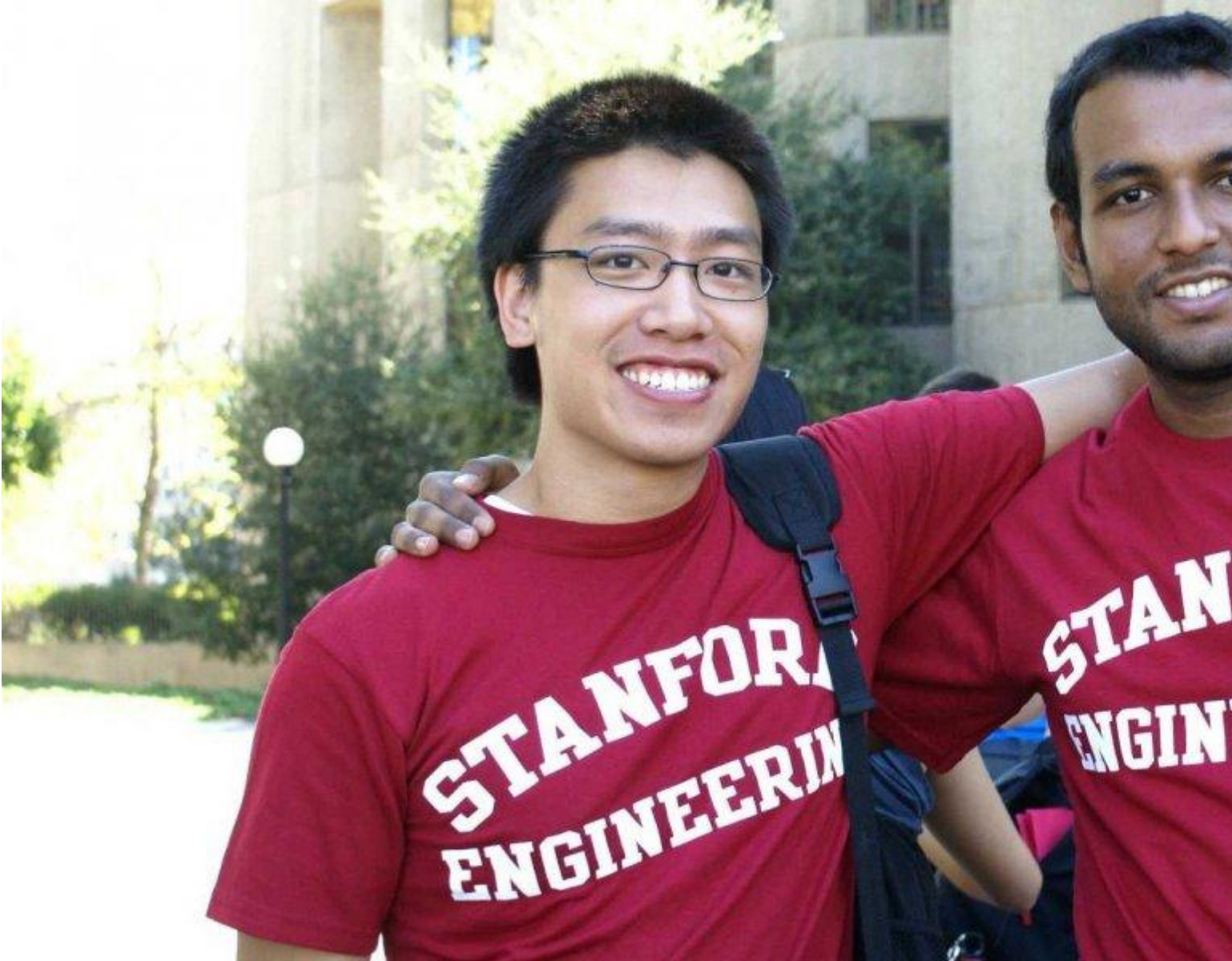
Stanford economics professor Alvin Roth has a Nobel Prize in economics.

Stanford is home to some of the best professors in the world, with top academics in a range of subjects. The [university currently counts several Nobel Prize winners among its faculty](#). Among [its best academic programs](#) are computer science, chemistry, and practically every engineering discipline.

In part due to its proximity to Silicon Valley, Stanford sometimes features courses taught by true tech luminaries, such as a current business school class led by ex-Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.

[The 10 Best Professors At Stanford University >>](#)

6. Stanford offers great value and helps students who need financial aid



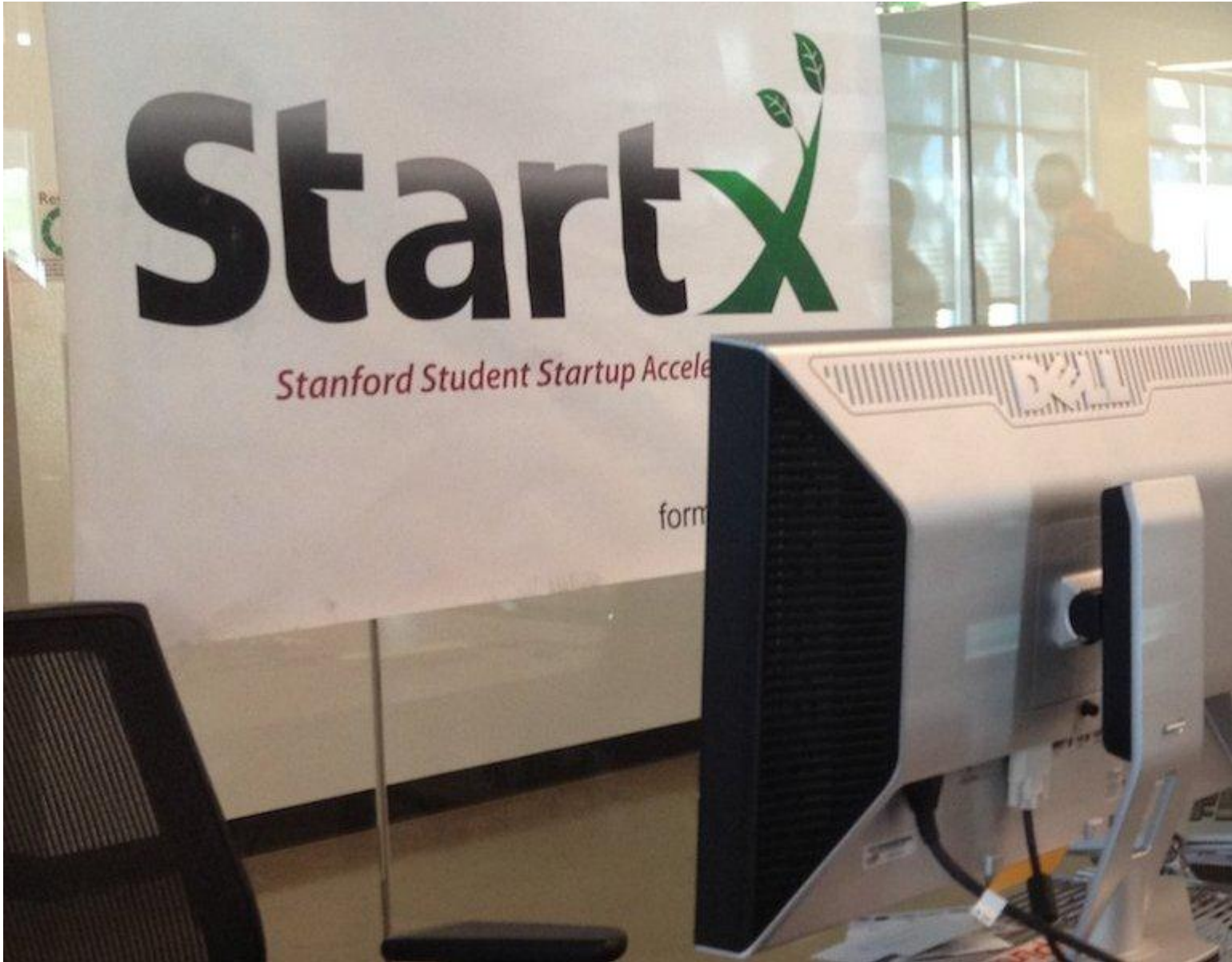
[StanfordEng / Flickr](#)

Two Stanford engineering students pose on campus.

Stanford recently placed in the top five for [U.S. News and World Report's latest list of the Top Value Colleges](#) - a ranking that combines schools' affordability and education quality.

Although the [school advertises its total cost at more than \\$60,000](#), with need-blind admissions and nearly 50% of students on some sort of financial aid, Stanford should be affordable for most every student. That is, if you can get in.

7. Stanford does a great job of encouraging student entrepreneurship



[Via Flickr](#)

StartX is a Stanford-connected startup accelerator.

When Stanford students have a great idea for the next big company - something they have a history of - they don't have to look much farther than their own school for help. One avenue for funding is StartX, [a Stanford student-started incubator that is now run by the university](#), offering money and support to accepted startups.

Stanford's alumni network is solid in pretty much every industry, but might be strongest in nearby Silicon Valley, where recent graduates are behind some of the buzziest companies.

Snapchat started life in CEO Evan Spiegel's Stanford fraternity house, while Clinkle founder Lucas Duplan had the largest seed round in history while still a student at the school. Stanford alumni are also at the helm of some of the biggest companies in the world, including Google and Yahoo!

[9 Incredibly Successful Startups That Were Born At Stanford >>](#)

[The 25 Most Successful Stanford Business School Graduates >>](#)

8. Stanford alumni go on to make a lot of money.



[Bloomberg Television](#)

Stanford alum Peter Thiel is a billionaire.

After graduation, the average Stanford student will take home a salary of \$62,900 in their early career, [according to data from PayScale](#). By comparison, the average starting salary for a recent college grad nationwide hovers closer to \$45,000.

Stanford is also [one of the top five schools in the world](#) for producing undergraduate alumni billionaires and [only Harvard can count more millionaire](#) alumni.