

## Newspaper Clips September 26, 2013

Indian Express ND 26-Sep-13 P-3

### **OUTSOURCED**

INDIA'S premier engineering institutes, it seems, are not tech-savvy enough to have come up with a website that is in keeping with the times. With global rankings on everyone's minds, the IITs have been asked to pull up their socks and bring out one single website that details all possible information in line with ranking parameters. The institutes, which churn out top league computer engineers, will, however, be outsourcing the job through a tender soon. Incidentally, a pan IIT website run by IIT Kanpur has been around for a while to fill the void but is apparently not up to the mark.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 26-Sep-13 P-4

## अवीवमेंट

# गूगल मार्केटिंग कॉन्टेस्ट में आईआईटी-बीएचयू के छात्र एशिया में चौथे स्थान पर

गूगल ने हाल ही में अपना मार्केटिंग कॉन्टेस्ट शुरू किया था। इसमें दुनिया के 100 देशों से करीब 50 हजार छात्रों ने भाग लिया था। महाद्वीपों के आधार पर कॉन्टेस्ट को विभाजित किया गया था। एशिया पैसिफिक जोन में बनारस हिंदू यूनिवर्सिटी - आईआईटी के छात्रों को चौथा स्थान मिला है। उन्हें 22वीं ग्लोबल रैंकिंग दी गई है। इस टीम में पुष्पेन्द्र द्विवेदी, के. विशाल कुमार, दिव्या भार्गवी, प्रतीक हुंडेकर और संतोष इनीयावन थे। टीम इंचार्ज प्रो. पीके मिश्रा ने बताया कि एडवर्ड फाइनलिस्ट्स में पहुंचने वाली कुल 2200 टीमों में 12 हजार छात्र थे। पूरी दुनिया में प्रथम स्थान यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फिलिपीन्स को मिला। वहीं एशिया पैसिफिक जोन में प्रथम स्थान एशियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट को दिया गया। क्षेत्रीय विजेताओं को गूगल के ऑफिस में दो दिवसीय ट्रिप और कम्प्यूटिंग डिवाइस दिए जाएंगे।

Statesman ND 26-Sep-13 P-2

# India needs more ITIs than IITs: Modi

**SHAFIQUE ALAM**

*shafaquealam@thestatesman.net*  
Gandhinagar, 25 September

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Narendra Modi, has emphasised on skills development among youth and said India needs more ITIs than IITs.

Addressing a national conference on skill development yesterday, organised by the department of Labour and Employment of Gujarat government, Mr Modi said there is a large gap in demand and supply of labour in India.

"There are a large number of unemployed people in the country while there is demand for skilled labour. It is unfortunate that no one seems concerned to bridge the gap," he said

adding that the country needs more technical institutions like ITIs rather than IITs.

"We know only a section of people manage to get higher education and a large number of students drop out of colleges. Where do these dropouts go? We need to focus on these young people who can contribute in shaping the future of the nation," the chief minister said.

Mr Modi said technology has brought many changes to the world hence the country has to see its development in the global perspective.

He further said the Gujarat government has taken the initiative to declare diploma (after 8th) and 2-year ITI pass-out equivalent to 10th

and 12th Class paving the way for only serious students opting for higher studies.

The chief minister expressed concern over the condition of people involved in skilled/semi-skilled jobs. "It is strange that the worth of a skilled labourer is not valued. But it is the common man, the skilled labourers, who run the country and not the Babus and netas," he said.

John Blomquist, economist with South Asia Region of World Bank, said India has great opportunity and potential in the field of skills development. "The focus should be on nutrition, education and cognitive development of children so that their skills are utilised in a good way," he said.

Around 5,000 people including, academicians, businessmen and students joined the programme. Akash Verma, a student at ITI, Chittorgarh, said due to financial constraints he could not continue his higher education and enrolled in the technical course.

"I joined ITI programme for AC mechanic programme because of financial constraints. Another reason was because my father has an AC shop which will help me get a job," he said adding that such technical institutes are benefiting hundreds of students.

At present there are 263 government ITIs and some self-financed technical institutes in the state which caters to around 7,86,794 students.

# Soon, tougher norms for pvt varsities

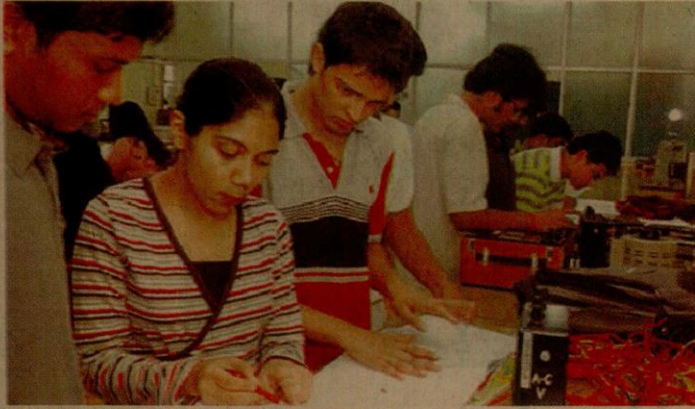
Committee formed to revisit UGC Act says these should not be allowed to take students for a ride

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 25 September

Private universities may soon have to legally vest all their movable and immovable properties in the name of the university; utilise their incomes and property only for their growth and development and maintain accounts in the name of the university (not in the name of the sponsoring body/trust) by following standards set by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the ministry of human resource development.

These and more rules have found their way into the new regulations framed by an expert committee chaired by PN Tandon and co-chaired by M Anandakrishnan to revisit the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003.

M Anandakrishnan, former vice-chancellor of Anna University and chairman of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, told *Business Standard* the draft regulations would be uploaded on the UGC (University Grants Commission) website next month. "There are a number of instances in which promoters start universities and then dispose of these they please. For some private players, setting up universities has



India has about 150 private universities across 20 states

become a real estate business. For many others, it has become a profit-making venture. In the wake of such practices, there needs to be regulation," he said.

Other members of the committee include Sarojini Thakur, chairperson, HP Private Educational Institutions; K Ramnarayan, vice-chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education; Leena Srivastava, vice-chancellor, Teri University; Sunil Kumar, chief secretary, government of Chhattisgarh; and K Chandrasekhar Pillai, former director, Indian Law Institute.

"Private universities are using the education sector as

a money-making opportunity. UGC does not want students and parents to be exploited. Therefore, it felt the need to revisit the regulations. It believes many private universities are not transparent," said a committee member.

Private entities, however, say they weren't consulted before the regulations were framed. "The process of framing these regulations has been initiated without consulting the universities. There is no representative of private universities in the committee working on these regulations. Therefore, it is requested member(s) of the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) be involved in this committee as representatives of private universities," G Viswanathan, president, founder and chancellor, VIT University, Vellore, and H

Chaturvedi, director of Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida,

**"There are a number of instances where promoters start universities and then dispose them the way they please. For some private players, setting up universities has become a real estate business. For many others, it has become a profit-making venture. In the wake of such practices, a regulation is required"**

M ANANDAKRISHNAN

Former vice-chancellor of Anna University & Chairman of IIT-Kanpur

and alternate president EPSI, said in a letter to UGC Chairman Ved Prakash (a

## WINDS OF CHANGE

- Private universities may have to legally vest all movable and immovable properties in the name of the university
- Utilise the income and property of the university only for its growth
- Maintain accounts in the name of the university
- Follow accounting standards set by the ICAI and the MHRD
- Private university players are upset with UGC for not consulting them on the new regulations
- UGC committee says draft regulations would be uploaded next month on website for comments

for comments."

Private universities say they want UGC to be transparent in formulating the regulations and to consult all the stakeholders involved. "The UGC wants us to legally vest all movable and immovable properties in the name of the university. But how is this possible in a case in which the promoter has mortgaged the land for a loan from a bank? This can happen only when the loan is repaid. We want UGC to consider our views in this regard. Not all private entities in education are here for profits," said the director of a private business-school.

Other rules being incorporated include conditions for establishing private universities, infrastructure, academic departments and faculty, maintenance of standards and accreditation from National Assessment and Accreditation Council and the National Board of Accreditation.

Private education entities said as the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011, which sought to subsume the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education was already in the final stages of being passed. The issues being included in the new regulations were already covered under that Bill. As such, framing these regulations to include additional matters of universities under the control of UGC could be considered a covert attempt to undermine the supremacy of Parliament.

copy of the letter is available with *Business Standard*).

Currently, India has about 150 private universities across 20 states. The committee formed to revisit the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, has only two state representatives.

Private universities say according to the UGC Act, 1956, the commission can only govern and regulate universities receiving aid from the UGC; private/unaided universities are out of its domain.

One of the members of the committee says, "UGC has the right to maintain the standards of all universities in the country. Whoever says UGC can't do so should put up his/her protest online when the regulations are up

Pioneer ND 26-Sep-13 P-5

# UGC raises bar for foreign varsities to tie up with India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry has issued a fresh set of guidelines for the twinning arrangement with foreign educational institutions in India and *vice-versa*. The new guidelines will, however, affect the prospects of the existing 'small-time foreign universities' already operating in India in collaboration with the private Indian institutions. On the other hand Indian institutes with Grade B accreditation can enter into collaboration with foreign players as this would give them ample scope to grow.

The notification issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) makes it mandatory for foreign institutions to be accredited with the "highest grade" in their homeland to be allowed for twinning arrangements in India. Which means an estimated over 100 such universities or institutions now operating through private MoUs or "Franchise" will be affected as UGC notification says that operations through "franchise" will not be allowed.

An HRD Ministry official said that violations of the rules could lead to termination of the MoU entered into for collabo-

**The foreign institutions offering programmes will have to ensure that education imparted by them in India are in conformity with the standards laid down by the respective Statutory Body concerned**

ration. The regulations would be called as The UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaborations between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutes) Regulations 2012.

The UGC notification said that no programme and research will be offered which is against national security.

"The foreign institutions offering programmes of study through collaboration or partnership or twinning will have to ensure that education imparted by them in India are in conformity with the standards laid down by the respective Statutory Regulatory Body concerned. Wherever foreign exchange is involved, the institutions would have to abide and comply with time to time instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India," added

the official.

Similarly with increased number of Indian institutes offering twinning courses with foreign players, the Commission favoured an institute in India with a Grade B accreditation to enter into collaboration with a foreign institute. "At the time for agreement for collaboration, Indian educational institution shall have accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council with a grade not less than B or its equivalent grade," the notification said.

Indian educational institutions already having a collaborative arrangement would comply with these regulations within a period of six months, the notification said. Besides, the Indian institutes collaborating with foreign institutes shall have experience of at least five years offering educational programmes at the level of degree and post graduate diplomas.

Technical institutes would not come under the purview of the regulations while Government institutes would be exempted from accreditation for the purpose of these regulations. At present about 50 foreign institutes are operating in India through twinning arrangement.

# UGC notifies twinning norms

## Looks To Maintain Standards In Foreign Collaboration Set-Ups

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** As top grade foreign educational institutions have shown little or no interest in setting up campuses in India, the University Grants Commission on Wednesday notified regulations that will allow Indian institutes with grade B accreditation to collaborate with foreign educational institutions.

Incidentally, the notification was published on the day the PM left for the US to attend the UN General Assembly. UGC's notification was necessitated as increasingly, Indian institutes with grade B accreditation have



**GLOBAL CHAPTER:** Violation of rules could lead to termination of the MoU and even blacklisting

started collaborating with foreign institutions. "The idea is to regulate such arrangements to protect the interest of students. We would

not allow dilution of standards," a UGC official said.

Foreign institutions which enter into partnerships should be accredited with the highest grade in their homeland, the notification said. "At the time of agreement for collaboration, Indian educational institution shall have accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council with a grade not less than B or its equivalent," it said.

Indian institutions already having a collaborative arrangement shall comply with these regulations within six months, it stated. Foreign educational institutions

will have to abide by the conditions prescribed by the Indian government from time to time. Indian institutes collaborating with foreign institutes shall have experience of at least five years in offering programmes at degree and postgraduate diploma levels. Violation of rules could lead to termination of the MoU and even blacklisting, the notification said.

Technical institutes will not come under the purview of the regulations while government institutes shall be exempted from accreditation. Around 50 foreign institutes are operating in India through twinning arrangement.

# JNU mulls UG courses in science, arts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi

JAWAHARLAL Nehru University is mulling to offer undergraduate courses in sciences and humanities with a proposal already been sent to UGC for approval.

The university, which currently offers only language courses at under-

graduate level, has submitted a proposal to the University grants commission regarding setting up of a school of undergraduate studies.

“Under UGC’s innovation universities scheme, we have submitted a proposal for trans-disciplinary research projects along with which we also suggested for starting a school of

undergraduate studies,” JNU’s vice chancellor S K Sopory said.

“The idea is at its nascent stage and discussions at university level is in progress over its feasibility,” he said.

The innovation university scheme seeks to promote innovative ways of learning and support bold and big ideas that require

substantial assistance and flexibility.

Sopory, however, said that the setting up of such a school can be possible only if provided with funds.

“There are certain constraints. Undergraduate programmes in the university cannot be started without sufficient funding. We are waiting for UGC’s response,” he said.

# Kerala univ invents safety devices

Narayani Ganesh | TNN

**Kerala:** Help is at hand for the vulnerable, especially women, the elderly and children, say scientists Krishnashree Achuthan and Suja Devi Vijayagangadharan, researchers at the Amrita Centre for Cyber Security that is part of Mata Amritanandamayi’s Amrita University in Kollam district, Kerala.

Research here is largely oriented towards practical applications — the Amritamitra safety device is one such invention that is to be announced during Amma’s 60th birthday celebrations.

The personal safety device — designed at the suggestion of Mata Amritananda-

damayi — is just 3.5 cm x 3.5 cm and can be carried around without attracting undue attention. The trigger may be built into the device or placed on the body— for instance, behind the ear or tucked at the waist.

The device will enable one to trigger communication with family and police when in distress. The device will remain inconspicuous to the offender and yet be easily activated by the victim with multiple options to ensure stealthy and secure communication. It has the ability to record conversations, communicate immediately with the press of a button, use sms and voice calls to multiple destinations, and automated

information transmission to the nearest police station, hospitals, fire stations for immediate help. The device will also be able to video-tape events in the near future. It can work in indoor and outdoor environments with minimal power consumption.

Another device to be inaugurated on September 27, is Amritaspandan, a wireless device for heart patients that will alert the wearer and those on an alert-list like a hospital and family members of an impending heart attack or failure, also transmitting the location of the person.

A slew of other initiatives and projects are to be announced on September 26-27 by the Mata Amritananda-

mayi Math including a scheme to adopt 101 villages throughout India, which is being called the Amrita Self-Reliant Village Programme (Amrita Swasraya Gramam) where Ammachi Labs will set up e-learning facilities and efforts will be made to provide for education, skills development and healthcare.

A Rs 50 crore project will take off for relief work in Uttarakhand. Also to be announced are breakthroughs in cancer research by the Amrita Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine, and a tablet-based programme for literacy called Amrita RITE.