

Newspaper Clips

September 27, 2010

Hindustan Times, ND P-1
27-Sep-10

How AIIMS, JNU keep out deserving OBCs

hindustantimes
EXCLUSIVE

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NEW DELHI: Two premier higher education institutes, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), have been accused of discriminating against students from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category during admissions.

Kailash Mundhe, an OBC candidate, scored higher in this year's entrance test, than the lowest scoring candidate in the general category admitted to AIIMS's postgraduate course in dental surgery.

He got 91.48 per cent, while the lowest scorer had 91.1 per cent. Yet Mundhe was denied admission. How was this possible? It was because the AIIMS authorities have interpreted the government's reservation policy to mean OBC students can be allotted only those seats reserved for them.

Given the extremely limit-

ed number of seats at AIIMS, there was only one seat in the postgraduate dental surgery course that was set apart for OBCs. Another OBC candidate, whose marks were even higher than Mundhe's, got the sole seat.

"My percentage is higher than the last candidate selected in the general category," Mundhe has complained in a letter to AIIMS director R. C. Deka. "I have not been allowed to opt for admission under the general category."

Deka was not available for comment.

Though this contravenes a Supreme Court judgment which says quotas in educational institutions are aimed at ensuring minimum opportunities for members of deprived communities, and that reserved category students should be eligible for general category seats if their marks qualify them to do so, AIIMS continues to bar reserved category students — be they OBCs, scheduled castes (SCs) or scheduled tribes (STs) — from general seats in postgraduate courses.

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How AIIMS, JNU...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A Prime Minister-appointed panel headed by UGC Chairman S.K. Thorat had criticised AIIMS for this practice in 2007, but the institution has persisted with it.

Similarly, in end August, the Delhi High Court ruled against JNU for linking OBC admissions to the cut-offs for general category students.

The university has a rule by which the difference between the qualifying marks of candi-

dates admitted to seats reserved for OBCs, and that of the lowest scoring general category candidate should not be more than 10 per cent.

Thus if the cut off mark for general candidates is 65 per cent, no OBC candidate who has scored less than 55 per cent will be admitted, even if quota seats go vacant.

Against a quota of 27 per cent seats for OBCs, JNU has admitted only 15.9 per cent. It is set to contest the high court decision in Supreme Court.

Hindustan Times, ND 27-Sep-10 p-12

Ranchi venue for first sports varsity?

INITIATIVE Jharkhand govt proposes stadia built for National Games should be part of central sports varsity

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Politically unstable Jharkhand is offering Indian sports fans troubled by the multiple controversies dogging the Commonwealth Games a glimpse of how mega sporting events can be utilised for long term sporting gain.

The ₹700 crore stadia and facilities built for 34th National Games near Ranchi may soon form the core of India's first central sports university, under a plan the Centre and Jharkhand government are working on.

The Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) has submitted a "detailed project report" for the conversion of the National Games facilities into a sports university to the HRD ministry, government sources told *HT*.

The plan suggests opening Kendriya Vidyalayas near the proposed sports university and building greater linkages with schools to identify talented children and train them from a

STATE PLAN

- Jharkhand has submitted a "detailed project report" for conversion of Games facilities into a sports university to Centre
- Plan suggests opening Kendriya Vidyalayas and building greater linkages with schools to identify talented children and train them for sporting careers
- The proposed university will combine sports training with academic programmes – in subjects such as sports management, sports medicine and sports psychology

young age for sporting careers.

"The idea behind the plan is to utilise the massive stadia and facilities built for the Games to groom ordinary, poor but talented youth and children into sportspersons and other sports-related professionals of the future," an official said.

The genesis of the sports university proposal lies in a meeting taken by the chief secretary

of Jharkhand in October last year to plan for the utilisation of the National Games facilities after the event, sources said.

The state's political instability and court cases have meant that the National Games originally scheduled for 2008 have not yet taken place.

But the Jharkhand government and the CUJ are keen that the facilities be transformed into a central sports varsity once the Games — scheduled for December — are over, the sources said.

"The plan involves the CUJ hand-holding the proposed new university initially, during which the Games facilities will be incorporated into institutes that will a part of the CUJ. Over a period of five years, the Institutes will be amalgamated into a separate central sports university," a source said.

The proposed university will combine sports training with academic programmes — in subjects such as sports management, sports medicine and sports psychology — sources said.

Times of India ND 27/09/2010 p-1
(Education Times)

IIM-A, first Indian B-school to make it to the top 10 in world rankings

Manash Pratim Gohain/TNN

IT'S official. The flagship programme of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, (IIM-A) is among the top 10 in the world. According to the latest *Financial Times* (FT) Business School rankings for its Masters in Management programme 2010, the Indian B-school's two-year postgraduate programme (PGP) has been ranked number eight among 65 B-schools in the world.

With this, IIM-A not only becomes the first IIM to break into the top 10 of an international ranking, but also becomes the first Indian business school to do so in the FT rankings. Prior to IIM-A, years back, ISB, Hyderabad, made it to the top 20 thrice for its executive MBA programme.

This is the first time that IIM-A has participated in the assessment process of the rankings for its PGP programme. The primary parameter here is that candidates need not have prior work experience to join this programme. According to Samir Kumar Barua, director of IIM-A, the ranking is significant as "one has to first qualify for the FT rankings. We have been ranked for our two-year PGP programme, which requires no work experience."

Speaking about the importance of international benchmarking for institutions of higher learning, Barua is of the view that it helps in meaningful 'collaboration and synergy' with international peers. "Whenever we initiate international collaboration, our partners or would-be partners ask for rankings of our programmes. Though we knew we are on a par with our international peers, now we have the rankings to back us up."

To the credit of IIM-A, one-third of India's professional chief executives are from this school. Moreover, IIM-A is the only Indian business school to be accredited by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). "We are now eyeing the US equivalent — accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) as well," added Barua.

Interestingly, the top two schools in the list are the École Supérieure de

Commerce de Paris (ESCP Europe) — which was second in last year's list, and CEMS — The Global Alliance in Management Education, respectively. While ESCP has five campuses in Paris, London, Madrid, Berlin, and Turin, CEMS offers its programmes in 27 countries across four continents.

As to the significance of setting up offshore campuses to facilitate brand building and initiate global tie-ups, Barua feels that more than international campuses abroad, the priority should be to attract international students to Indian campuses.

"One of the parameters of the assessment for the FT rankings was the number of nationalities present in the cohort. We have none. So more than initiating offshore campuses, Indian B-schools should try and attract international students. In fact, we would now like to try and attract foreign students to the tune of 5% of our total admissions," said Barua.

However, according to India online editor of the *Financial Times*, James Fontanella-Khan, "Indian schools need to attract more foreign talent and faculty. They have only recently started doing so. This also explains why Indian business schools have not made it to the top rankings earlier. In a globalised world you need a global approach towards education." He further added, "If IIM is looking for success abroad, opening campuses in New York and London, international accreditation and high rankings will be essential."

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30,000 computers hit by malware, but N-plant safe: Iran

Tehran: The malicious Stuxnet computer worm has hit 30,000 industrial computers in Iran, officials said on Sunday, but denied the Islamic republic's first nuclear plant at Bushehr was among those infected.

So far, Stuxnet has infected about 30,000 IP addresses in Iran, Mahmoud Liayi, head of the information technology council at the ministry of industries, was quoted as saying by the government-run newspaper Iran Daily.

Stuxnet, which was publicly identified in June, was tailored for Siemens supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA, systems commonly used to manage water supplies, oil rigs, power plants and other industrial facilities.

The worm is able to recognise a specific facility's control network and then destroy it, according to German computer security researcher Ralph Langner, who has been analysing the malicious software. Langner said he suspected Stuxnet was targeting Bushehr nuclear power plant, where unspecified problems have been blamed for delays in getting the facility fully operational.

Siemens said its software has not been installed at the plant, and an Iranian official denied the malware may have infected nuclear facilities.

"This virus has not caused any damage to the main systems of the Bushehr power plant," Bushehr project manager Mahmoud Jafari said on Iran's Arabic-language Al-Alam television network.

"All computer programmes in the plant are working normally and have not crashed due to Stuxnet," said Jafari, adding there was no problem with the plant's fuel supply. He was quoted as saying the worm had infected some



VIRUS-FREE? The Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran

'Elements' behind army parade blast killed, says Tehran

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said on Sunday they had killed the "main elements" behind a bomb attack in northwest Iran, it was reported. Mohammad Pakpour, head of the corps' ground forces, said the Guards had killed many of those behind the "terrorist act", which took place in the city of Mahabad. "They were identified and chased by the Guards," he was quoted as saying. "On Saturday many of them ... were killed in an operation." He gave no further details about those that were killed. Iranian intelligence minister Heidar Moslehi said that the group behind Wednesday's blast, which killed 12 people and injured 80, had been arrested. **REUTERS**

"personal computers of the plant's personnel."

Echoing Jafari's denial, the deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation in charge of safety and security, Asghar Zarean, said neither the plant nor the organisation's computers were affected. **AFF**

DU PLACEMENT CELL FOCUSES ON THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR TO PROMOTE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. NEHA BHATIA REPORTS

IN addition to corporate houses, the Central Placement Cell (CPC) in Delhi University is inviting NGOs and research organisations this year. The last date for registration is October 15.

Elaborating on the initiative, SK Vij, dean, students welfare, says, "We need to encourage social responsibility and idealism among students. This is why, in addition to the corporate sector, we are eager to collaborate with NGOs, research organisations and the government sector. This year, we are working on increasing job prospects for

DU PLACEMENT 2010

research scholars, authors and those interested in working in the social sector. We also plan to focus on creating more job opportunities for differently-abled students."

Third-year regular students from all DU colleges can register by filling up the form available on the cell's website (www.placement.du.ac.in). The form can be submitted at the respective colleges or at the office of the dean of

students welfare with a demand draft of Rs 100.

The cell, which has entered into its third year, acts as a bridge between the students looking for opportunities and the organisations seeking to hire talent. Says Nupur Gupta, a chemistry student, "CPC acts as a platform for those who didn't get similar opportunities in their respective colleges."

Vij adds, "In the first year, 5,000

students and around 14 companies registered with us. Now the number has grown to 8,000 students and 28 companies. This year, we are expecting the participation of around 15,000 students and 50 corporates."

In the coming year, the cell intends to encourage engagement with students in the form of capacity building programmes. "We will gradually emphasise on personality development and conduct courses that prepare students to face the corporate world," shares Gurpreet Singh Tuteja, deputy dean, students welfare.

Financial Express ND p-2
27-Sep-10

DoT says 4G to make headway in India by '13

fe Bureau

Mumbai, Sep 26: An evolution technology providing about 20 times faster download speed than 3G will arrive in India within the next three years, assured Vijayalakshmi Gupta, member (finance), department of telecommunications (DoT).

Speaking at the 6th 3G India 2010 conference, organised by Bharat Exhibitions here recently, Gupta said, "Soon after the success of 3G auctions, we have proactively started exploring 4G technology. Trai has already floated consultation papers regarding 4G. The technology is likely to make headway into India by around 2013," she added.

Talking about 3G, she said that it will drive the next round of sustainable growth for the Indian market through convergence of entertainment, infotainment and voice communications into a single device. "The key drivers of 3G growth in India will be innovative content, improved customer services and increased affordability of handsets," added Gupta.

The exponential growth witnessed in Indian telecom sector has made it stand strong with a subscriber base of over 688 million as well as overall teledensity of 58%. Commenting on the post 3G era in the Indian telecom industry, she said that after 3G rollout, while video-on-demand and other live streaming

services are likely to gain prominence among the high revenue generating customers, enhanced bandwidth may also lead to increased usage of existing mobile (value added services) VAS.

"Video content will definitely be an important driver on 3G. Video services will contribute to ARPU as well as drive data and bandwidth consumption. A robust video content supply chain and understanding of how to sell video content is a must for every operator to increase VAS ARPUs," said Jai Maroo, director, Shemaroo Entertainment.

Currently, the VAS market is worth around Rs 12,000 crore, generating approximately 10% of wireless industry revenues. The share of VAS in wireless revenue is likely to increase to 12-13 % by 2011. This growth would be driven by increased operator focus on VAS due to continuous fall in voice tariffs, increased penetration of feature rich handsets, availability of vernacular content and increased user adoption of VAS applications.

However, growth of VAS will also pose considerable challenges before 3G players across the value chain like product development, network deployment and management, sales and marketing. Significant research is required so as to generate a greater customer pull for VAS.

Our IITs are world-class, our ITIs aren't

Saravpreet Singh

FARMERS in India are not made; they are born. The occupation and everything that it entails is a matter of involuntary inheritance for its practitioners. Nearly two-thirds of the country's population is engaged in agriculture and most of it is not employable in any other sector for lack of adequate opportunities and the necessary skill-sets. That is part of the reason why any steps towards turning India into a significantly industrial economy from a predominantly agrarian one are fraught with seemingly insurmountable difficulty.

Agricultural practices in the emerging economies are very labour-intensive in comparison with those in the developed economies. Farming is almost always a family enterprise and farm labour a hereditary profession; so the required training is acquired as a part of the growing-up process and

needs no institutional support at the macro level. Training of manpower for industrial work, on the other hand, requires sustained creation of infrastructure and sufficient supply of manpower trained to train further.

The government has drawn up ambitious plans to set up more ITIs and duly upgrade the existing ones in order to tap them as the primary nursery of a skilled workforce. The industry, too, hires unskilled and semi-skilled workers and imparts them the specific skills needed in particular areas of work, thereby playing the role of a trainer at a mass scale itself. However, private industry is guided by real economics and is usually inclined to invest only so much in training and skill development as is required to meet its short-term requirements and is

highly cost-sensitive. Cheaper labour available for hire outside is inevitably preferred to training people in-house. The domestic power industry's reliance on semi-skilled Chinese workers for projects being executed by Chinese companies in India is a case in point.

It is, therefore, necessary to heavily industrialise the hitherto industrially virgin pockets of the country and suitably incentivise employment generation as well as training. Better remuneration than what agriculture can offer, would be a

definite way to draw greater talent to industrial work and, in turn, assist in achieving optimum industrialisation and economic strength.

The author is MIB 2009-11 student of Delhi School Of Economics

SETTING UP MORE ITIs AND UPGRADING THE EXISTING ONES IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

We have to fix our education system

Swati Chaudhary

INDIA had always been viewed as an agrarian economy, what this meant was that the agricultural sector and its allied activities had been for the longest time the mainstay of the Indian economy, providing the lion's share of contribution to the GDP and employment to more than 60% of India's labour.

However, change seems to be slowly creeping into the economy now. Agriculture has now lost its position of being the largest contrib-

utor to the GDP, although it is still provides employment to about half of India's workforce. This is perfectly in

FEW WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT SKILL SETS TO BE 'EMPLOYABLE' IN THE INDUSTRY

sync with the trend of development that happens in other countries, albeit with a little difference. What happens generally is that as a country develops, there seems to be a shift of labour and resources from agriculture to manufacturing, and once the economy becomes a high income one, the services

sector becomes the most important contributor to both the GDP and employment. But India seems to have by-

passed the manufacturing field and directly arrive at the services field. It has now become a knowledge economy from an agrarian economy.

While our competence in services might be reassuring, the picture is incomplete at best. Despite the astounding number of graduates that we spin out each year, very few have the right skill sets to be 'employable' in the industry, services or otherwise, so that on the job training becomes imperative. This is clear signal that somewhere our education system fails the students. Perhaps it is time to fix this.

The author is MIB 2009-11 student of Delhi School Of Economics

A PECKING ORDER FOR MBAs

America rules the roost
BUSINESS SCHOOLS do not much like being ranked by outsiders. In recent years several have boycotted the lists drawn up by pesky media organisations, such as *The Economist*. But prospective students love these lists. Before plonking down \$100,000 for a two-year MBA, they like to have some idea of what they are getting. Insiders at *Bloomberg Businessweek* joke that the magazine's ranking of MBA courses is its "swimsuit edition": like the issues of *Sports Illustrated* with scantily-clad women on the cover, it sells well.

A new ranking of full-time MBA programmes by *The Economist* finds that these are difficult times for business schools, especially European ones. MBAs who graduated in 2009 earned less than those who graduated the previous year. That had not happened for ages. Starting salaries of new MBAs from IMD, a business school in Switzerland, fell from \$127,000 to \$114,000. Those at the London Business

School dropped from \$117,000 to \$101,000. European MBAs still outearn their American counterparts, mainly because they are typically older and more experienced. But the gap between the two has narrowed. Starting salaries for graduates of many American schools have

held steady. The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business tops *The Economist's* ranking (which measures everything from the quality of the faculty to the students' career prospects). Spurred by the dearth of jobs in finance, its careers advisers have been steering

graduates into unfamiliar terrain, such as government and the non-profit world.

The number of MBA programmes is rising sharply, especially in developing countries. No one knows exactly how many there are. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accredits more than 600. In India there may be millions of business students. With so many courses around, the only way for students to differentiate themselves is to aim for the most prestigious schools. As more and more MBA programmes spring up, Asian students are less likely to head westwards to attend a second-tier school.

Across the world the number of female MBA students remains stubbornly low. Overall, women outnumber men by a third at American and European universities. But less than a third of MBA students at the schools that *The Economist* surveyed were women. Sadly, that has barely changed since the ranking began almost a decade ago.

Best in the business

Global full-time MBA ranking

2010	2009	School	Country
1	4	University of Chicago: Booth School of Business	US
2	6	Dartmouth College: Tuck School of Business	US
3	3	University of California at Berkeley: Haas School of Business	US
4	5	Harvard Business School	US
5	1	IESE Business School: University of Navarra	Spain
6	2	IMD: International Institute of Management Development	Switzerland
7	7	Stanford Graduate School of Business	US
8	9	University of Pennsylvania: Wharton School	US
9	14	HEC School of Management, Paris	France
10	12	York University: Schulich School of Business	Canada

Source: Which MBA?, *The Economist*

Business Standard ND27/09/2010 P-11

DUKE UNIVERSITY PLANS TO SET UP CAMPUS IN INDIA

The institute will start with a business school that will offer a diploma programme

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi

US-based Duke University – ranked 14th in the QS World University Rankings – is planning to set up a campus in India. However, the university management is yet to decide on the location. According to sources, it is looking for around 25 acres to set up its campus either in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh or Pune.

"We will start with a business school in the campus that will offer a diploma programme. This is a part of our plans of having a globally dispersed campus. We are looking at China and India and the campus in China is already underway," said Jaivir Singh, advisor to the dean of the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University.

The expansion is part of the varsity's plans of setting up its global campuses in Dubai, Russia, China and India.

Duke university is one of the first international institutes to announce its plans of establishing its India campus after the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) gave its approval to allow foreign universities to set up their campuses in India in March.

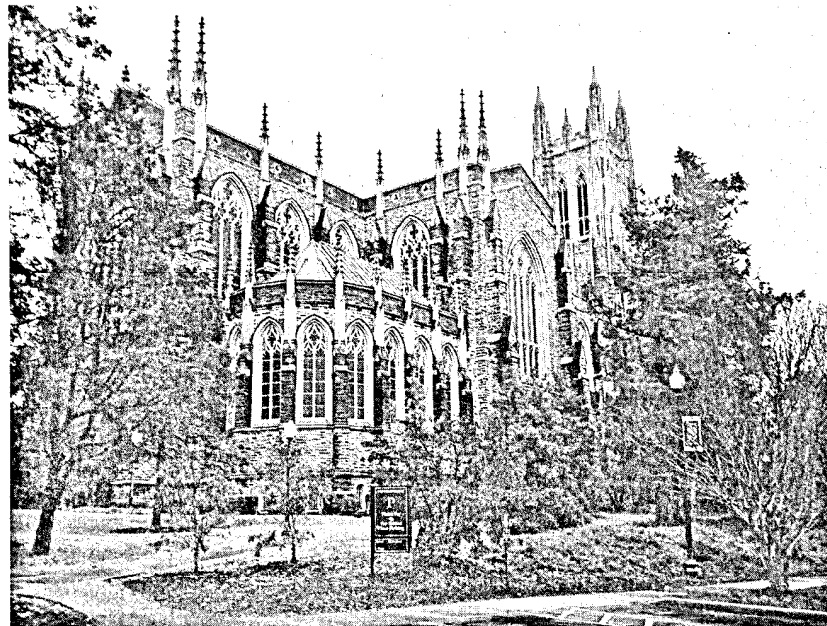
However, the Foreign Education Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010 is still pending in Parliament. The bill, which was to be taken up during the monsoon session of Parliament, would now be taken up during the winter session.

According to the bill, any foreign varsity entering India will have to create a \$12-million corpus fund and profits will not be allowed to be expatriated to shareholders. The universities would also have to reinvest 75 per cent of profit in the school or university and the rest would become a part of the corpus fund.

Foreign universities, however, will have the right to form their own fee structure and admission rules.

Duke University said investment will not be an issue as it already satisfies the criteria set by the proposed bill.

In fact, Duke university is also looking



The university plans to set up centres in Dubai, Russia, China and India, as part of its global expansion plans

at setting up a campus in South Africa and South America by the end of this calendar year. Like Yale, Brown and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), it is also in talks with the MHRD on partnering the upcoming 14 innovation universities. Yale and Brown, however, are not looking at setting up an India campus.

"We would like to partner the innovation universities in the space of information technology, science and the qualitative side of

engineering that will make the youth employable. However, our immediate plans are to consolidate all our programmes in the country under one roof," Singh added.

It has a collaborative arrangement with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) to develop and deliver customised corporate education programmes besides its Talent Identification Programme (TIP) that offers a summer educational model in either Java for Video Games or Engi-

neering Problem Solving.

The varsity plans to restart its programme with IIM-A in May 2011 in New Delhi.

Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Higher Colleges of Technology of the United Arab Emirates and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to create a new international Master of Environmental Management (MEM) degree programme.

Business Standard ND27/09/2010

P-11

Business schools venture into greener pastures

CHITRA UNNITHAN
& PRAVDA GODBOLE
Ahmedabad/ Pune

Business schools across the country are gearing up for a greener future — setting up the infrastructure for recycling waste and reducing carbon footprint.

From simple steps like planting more trees every year and using energy efficient bulbs, the institutes are taking up projects to install solar panels for their energy requirements or rainwater harvesting to save water. They are ensuring that the campuses become more sustainable for the future.

Indian Institute of Bangalore (IIM-B), for instance, has cut its water bills to a great extent by judicious water management practices.

"We are into rainwater harvesting as part of our overall water management system.

This will reduce our utility bills for water and electricity." We are also driving a programme of recharging groundwater (recharge wells in Phase I around 22nos each having capacity of 16KL) which will help us manage and sustain groundwater as a local source of water," said Sankarshan Basu, faculty, IIM-B.

Other initiatives taken by IIM-B for reducing costs and sustaining environment include using biological blocks for urinals that reduces flushing water, solid waste management by using dry leaves, bio-gas plant using available canteen waste, steam generation for cooking in hostel canteen using solar heat, replacing CFL lamps with LED lamps in classrooms, replacing 40 watts tube lights with energy efficient T5 lamps and providing solar water heaters for residences and hostels.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) is also doing its bit for the environment. Recently, IIT-B, as part of its Green Campus Initiative, created a vermi-culture facility on its campus. The facility will use deep burrowing indigenous worms making for a healthy environment and cater to 24 families wherein all wet garbage can be recycled and turned into usable manure. The institute can either use it in its own cam-

pus or sell it. In the IIT Bombay campus, the hostels are set to compete in a green initiative and the best will be crowned the "most energy saving hostel" of the year.

Rooting for the green cause is another B-school, Universal Business School (UBS), coming up near Karjat, Mumbai. UBS, among other things, is building two dams to increase the water table in the region. It has also planned to get all its students undertake a project on ecological issues, as a part of their curriculum and to understand its value.

"Our architects will construct two bunds and establish two mini lakes, where rainwater can be harvested. This will help raise the water table in the surrounding areas. Our team has also designed the buildings in a manner where natural breeze forms a 'tunnel effect', for natural cooling of

the common areas," said Gurdip Singh Anand, principal founder and chairman, UBS.

"Apart from this we are in the process of planting 10,000 trees. We have also got in touch with certain petroleum companies to explore a partnership with them in counselling the village folk in the vicinity to stop their

daily practice of chopping wood from the hillside and switch to LPG cylinders at a subsidised rate. UBS also plans to use solar energy for their peripheral lighting," he said.

At IIM Lucknow (IIM-L) and IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A), rain water harvesting, use of solar energy and tree plantation initiatives are also on.

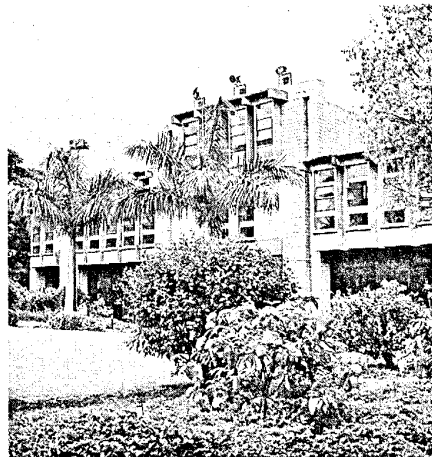
The IIM-L campus, spread over 200 acres of green area takes up plantations in the vacant patches. The institute has also taken up water conservation through different water harvesting means.

IIM Kozhikode (IIM-K) boasts of a sustainable rain-water harvesting mechanism to service the needs of the 96-acre hill-top campus which otherwise would face a water-crisis between the months of January and June.

The average consumption of water for IIM Kozhikode is well beyond one lakh liters per day, which is serviced by its rain-water harvesting mechanism.

"We are into rainwater harvesting as part of our overall water management system. This will reduce our utility bills for water and electricity"

SANKARSHAN BASU
Faculty, IIM-B



The green campus at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

ICRI to invest ₹35 cr in expansions

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi

The Institute of Clinical Research, (ICRI) plans to invest around ₹35 crore this year on restarting its Dehradun campus and upgrading its communication network.

It will set up a video conferencing network to connect all its national and international campuses, besides increasing the capacities of its Singapore and UK campuses.

"We have a batch of 120 students in the Singapore and UK campuses this year and the capacity will double next year. This will require an investment of almost ₹25 crore," said Shiv Raman Dugal, chairman ICRI.

The institute, which had closed its Dehradun campus sometime back because of faculty shortage, had started its Hyderabad campus last year and now plans to start its Chennai campus. ICRI has campuses in Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Dehradun, UK and Singapore.

It has tied up with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to offer new courses and through this part-

nership ICRI will setup the video conferencing network. The institute plans to offer 30 per cent of teaching exercises through this technology. MUSC will offer ICRI access to its library, course material and degrees so that students can login to month-old lessons and lectures.

"More than foreign tie-ups, we are looking at collaborating with the industry to produce employable youth. Hence, we have collaborated with Accenture to jointly develop a pharmacovigilance and clinical research programme customised to meet the growing industry requirements of the thriving sector," added Dugal.

The programme will enroll 300 students across ICRI's Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore centres and span across 6-12 months. The fee will be ₹2.5 lakh and will cover four modules: basics of clinical research, pharmacology, pharmacovigilance and regulations; case processing; aggregate report; risk management in pharmacovigilance and signal detection. A certification will be issued by ICRI in association with Accenture to successful candidates.

Indian Express, ND p-2 27-Sep-10 IIT prof, 3 women get Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KANPUR, SEPTEMBER 26

FOR his outstanding contribution in the field of drug design, Professor Sandeep Verma of the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) has been named for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2010 in Chemical Sciences.

The major achievement of Verma, 44, includes developing of artificial chemicals to model biological proteins. The artificial chemicals help identify the root cause of diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. "This award is a major achievement of my life, and it will vastly boost my efforts," he said.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology is awarded annually by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for outstanding contribution in chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, geology, mathematics and medicines. CSIR Director General Samir Brahmachari said for the first time, three among the nine recipients will be women.

Among other recipients are Swapan K Pati, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, G K Ananthasuresh, IISc, Bangalore and Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

Indian Express, ND 27-Sep-10
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Opening options

Reforming the UPSC 'optional paper'
is a good move. But don't stop there

FOUR lakh people appeared for the civil services preliminary examination in 2009. A thousand or so eventually made it through to various tenured positions in the Union government, a uniquely minuscule success percentage. Those hopeful lakhs had to deal with a "general studies" paper, on such crucial questions as why fluorescent lamps use mercury, the proximate reason Ahmed Shah Abdali invaded India, and what the Greendex is. But in case this paper doesn't sufficiently test one's grasp of Bournvita-quiz-contest arcana, there's also the "optional paper" where a candidate can demonstrate his grasp of geology, animal husbandry, or philosophy. Naturally this has been subverted over time; few of those who take the biology option will have trained as biologists, most will have been told that it is a "scoring paper", increasing their chances of surviving the dreaded "normalisation" or scaling of results.

This system's clearly not optimal, though it has been in existence since before the oldest 2011 applicant was born, since 1979, and survived one major reorganisation in the '90s because it was "performing its

screening function." Possibly, but there's little doubt that it was also creating enormous costs: for one, three lakh-plus of India's brightest would devote their energy to becoming artificial, prelim-exam experts on some subject rumoured to be higher-scoring. And it is far from clear whether screening for those who successfully game the system is a good idea.

Which is why the plan to replace the optional paper with an aptitude exam is both welcome and overdue. The nature of the replacement isn't yet known but there's no doubt it will both lighten the workload of the average applicant and increase the system's efficiency and fairness. It may also revive more thoughtful ways of determining candidature, like the long essay. But reform shouldn't stop there. As long as we have an examination dedicated to picking out bright generalists that so many people do participate in, their efforts shouldn't be wasted; as with the IIT's entrance examination, other institutions, state services and the private sector, should be encouraged to use the results too. And, eventually, their requirements should be taken on board in any further redesign.

Doctors from IITs

IN THE era of convergence, the IITs are set to transcend the 'premier engineering institution' tag and become an assembly line for doctors as well. With technology playing a key role in medical education, the odds are stacked in favour of this experiment. Nonetheless, questions are being raised about the efficacy of the inter-disciplinary expansion

By Kavita Chowdhury
In New Delhi

FOUR out of seven Indian institutes of technology (IITs) have slipped in the world university rankings this year. The other three have risen a few notches but are nowhere near the top 100. At such a time, the decision to allow the premier engineering institutes to impart medical education, including MBBS courses, has sparked a fierce academic debate.

The IIT Council — which governs the technical institutes — announced the proposed introduction of the multi-disciplinary approach on September 11. The council is headed by Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal. While the IITs got the nod to offer medical courses, there is a rider: they will need approval from the Medical Council of India (MCI).

The rationale put forward by the IIT Council for offering the MBBS degree is that with nearly 70 per cent of medical education being technology based, an inter-disciplinary approach is essential. IIT-Kharagpur, for instance, has for long had a postgraduate course in medical science and technology. Though it has not clicked, the situation

'Science, medicine & engineering overlap'

may change with the institute planning to begin work on setting up a full-fledged hospital.

IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Barua said: "This is an enabling clause for the IITs to get into the medical sector." Spelling out the rationale, he explained: "At the postgraduate level there is a lot of overlapping between science, medicine and engineering."

IIT-Guwahati wants to venture into the field of brain research because it is already conducting biotechnology and electronics courses. Barua said: "After all, even the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) offers all branches of education, including medicine. The boundaries of research are increasingly becoming fluid."

This argument has been bolstered by several panels on higher education, including the recent



IS THE WRITING ON THE WALL CLEAR? Students hang out at the IIT-Delhi campus.

LINGERING DEBATE

Experts have spoken both for and against the proposed fusion.

AYE

- Boundaries of research are becoming fluid. An inter-disciplinary approach is essential, with nearly 70% of medical education becoming technology-based
- Science, medicine and engineering overlap at the PG level. For instance, IIT Guwahati wants to venture into brain research
- The inclusion of medicine will add to competence rather than erode the IITs
- Students will get knowledge in engineering which they can utilise to develop low-cost equipment
- The proposed medical colleges will start an outreach programme to provide healthcare advice in villages

NAY

- IITs are foremost in engineering education but have no expertise in other fields. They will not be able to maintain the standard. For instance, IIT Delhi's MBA is ranked at 35th position
- Any hiccup in the proposed medical wings would impact the IIT brand name
- People working in specialised institutions have a certain mindset, which will be difficult to change
- The IITs are reeling under faculty crunch. Instead of consolidating, diversification into new branches could erode the core
- Technology is a tool for medicine and not a part of profession

Yashpal committee, have called upon the IITs and IIMs to have a "multi-disciplinary approach" to education. The Yashpal committee report has urged these institutes to keep their unique features intact, but also function as full-fledged universities by offering courses in humanities, arts and medicine streams.

However, an IIT-Delhi profes-

sor rejected the suggestion of the engineering institutes expanding into medical education. He said: "The IITs cannot be MIT, which offers engineering, medicine, law as well as arts. If you want us to be an MIT, you should have emphasised on all disciplines right from the beginning."

He said though the IITs were the foremost institutes in engi-

neering education, they had no expertise in other fields. "If they have to start imparting medical education, the institutes will have to start from scratch and will not be able to reach the number one position."

The professor cited the MBA course being offered by the IITs. "In the recently announced rankings of MBA institutes in the country, IIT-Delhi was ranked a lowly 35th. The original MTEch course was converted to MBA only because it would sell more. But see where our ranking is today. Our mandate is technical education. IIMs have the mandate of management education. You cannot tamper with the brand name of the IITs," he said. "If AIIMS decides to start teaching engineering, it will figure somewhere between the 20th and 30th position. It must also be understood that the people working in these institutions have a certain mental framework and that will not change," the IIT professor argued.

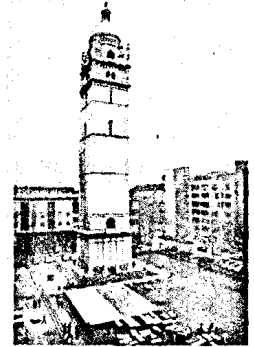
But IIT-Bombay director Devang Khakhar favoured "broadening" the disciplines offered at the institutes. "In fact, we should be questioning why unlike universities abroad, medicine is taught in separate institutions in India." In his opinion, the inclusion of medicine would be competence-building rather than the erosion of the institution.

IIT-Kharagpur was the first institute to evince a keen interest in charting the inter-disciplinary course. In 2000, it launched the three-year masters in medical science and technology (MMST) programme for MBBS graduates.

Institutes in UK and US lead the way

WHEN the IITs roll out medical courses, they will find themselves in distinguished company. Some of the leading engineering educational institutions in the UK and the US offer studies in medicine and its related fields.

■ The Imperial College London first diversified after St Mary's Medical School merged with it in 1988. The Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) was formed in 1997 with the merger of St Mary's Medical School with Charring Cross and Westminster Medical School, Royal Postgraduate Medical School and National Heart & Lung Institute. Unlike other med schools which are



THE TORCHBEARER: Imperial College, London.

part of a life sciences department, the ICSM belongs to its own faculty of medicine.

■ In the US, the California Institute of Technology (aka Caltech), ranked second internationally in 2010 by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, offers an eight-year BS/MD programme in conjunction with the University of California San Diego Medical School.

■ The Georgia Institute of Technology also has a master's programme in medical physics. ETH Zurich or the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ranked among the top universities, offers an M.Sc. in biomedical engineering, which brings together engineering, biology and medicine.

Kunal Doley in New Delhi

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CAN the IITs launch medical education programmes? Yes.

They have, or can mobilise, and govern/manage the necessary resources — faculty, infrastructure, labs, library, clinics, etc. Likewise, it will be possible for medical institutions to launch engineering or technology programmes by mobilising and managing the necessary resources.

Should the IITs launch medical education programmes? Not advisable.

Why? One can expect that such programmes will be less effectively run than when offered by the traditional system of medical education (i.e. medical colleges with attached hospitals).

By design, the IITs are supposed to provide educational leadership in their chosen education programmes and are not meant to stand being Number Two.

So they should consciously avoid launching initiatives in which they are not seen or will not be easily seen as 'leaders'.

It may be wiser for the institutes to consolidate and strengthen their existing programmes in science, engineering and technology, rather than launch themselves into areas (such as medicine, law, auditing, performing and visual arts, media, etc) which are already well established by other specialised institutions.

The administration of medical pro-

THEY CAN DABBLE WITH MEDICINE BUT IT WILL BE GOOD IF THEY DON'T

COMMENTARY



by M.
Thenmozhi

grammes within the current institutional arrangements will not be easy.

The counter question is: Do the IITs have the cultural foundation to handle large scale variety in programmes?

The IITs are special niche institutions set up to fulfil the needs of higher technical education. Venturing into related interdisciplinary areas will strengthen the system more than venturing into too many diversified areas, particularly when there are spe-

cialised institutions catering to such needs.

What have the IITs done so far in relation to medical education?

The IITs have strong biomedical and biotechnology faculties and are offering masters-level programmes in these areas since many years and have launched undergraduate programmes in the recent past.

Recently, IIT Madras launched the MTech and MS/PhD programmes in clinical engineering in partnership with Christian Medical College, Vellore, and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram.

It is a unique programme with a clear focus on producing excellent human resources, research and technologies in a niche area that obviously requires such a partnership and not standalone efforts.

Specific programmes, both taught and researched, can be identified for being launched through such partnerships instead of full-fledged standalone medical education programmes.

There are arguments that reputed institutions in the West have demonstrated considerable success in offering technology, medical, arts, humanities, science, commerce, and social science programmes within the same campus.

But in India, we are yet to demonstrate a strong, all-inclusive intellectual culture in our higher education institutions.

It does seem to be a chicken and egg paradox as to which should come first — the institutions or the culture? Not easy to answer, but given our long history in higher education of all types, perhaps it is time for us to demonstrate culture first — the kind that the rest of the world will look upon with pleasant surprise and respect.

Until then, it would be wiser for the specialised educational institutions to work on a collaborative mode on interdisciplinary areas and thereby enhance their contribution to society.

(M. Thenmozhi is president of the All India IIT Faculty Federation)

Business Line ND 27/09/2010 P-6

B-schools divided on the merits of seeking recognition

G. Naga Sridhar

Hurry up and Wait! - This frequently used command is symbolic of the paradoxical demands that people may face sometimes.

Business schools in India seem to be in a similar position on the issue of seeking regulatory approvals/recognition.

Consider the case of the Indian School of Business (ISB), ranked 12th among business schools globally by the *Financial Times*. It also has high brand value in the world of corporate placements. But it is not recognised by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

ISB is not alone. Even other well-known business schools such as those run by Icfai and The Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) fall in the same category.

Last month, the IIPM was in the news when the University Grants Commission issued a notification stating that IIPM was not recognised and "does not have the right to confer or grant degrees as specified by the UGC," such as the Master of Business Administration, the Bachelor of Business Administration and the Bachelor of Computer Applications.

However, an IIPM functionary says that the institute has a tie-up with MS University which grants the degrees to its students. Many B-schools are adopting a similar route to avoid the rigmarole of seeking approval.

While the face-off between the regulating agencies and the business schools is not new, it is interesting to see how important regulatory approval is from the management student's perspective.

For students of premier schools (such as ISB) and other established brands, the regulatory nod and a Government-recognised degree may not make a big difference as their own degree carries weight in the job market and industry.

ISB graduates, who pay about Rs 20 lakh as fee, are only given diplomas which, however, carry weight in the placements process.

And ISB has no plans to seek recognition from the Government either. "The ISB's one-year post-graduate programme does not fall under the ambit of the AICTE's current regulatory mechanism for business schools and hence we have not applied for approval," Ajit Rangnekar, Dean, ISB, told *The New Manager*.

"The ISB has been established as a world-class institution and is now recognised among the top business schools in the world. We have set in motion the process of getting

► *'While it is argued that management education is driven by market demand, education goes haywire in the absence of guidelines to protect the interests of various stakeholders.'*

global accreditation. At the same time, the ISB continues to abide by the law of the land," he says.

The Icfai, however, feels that AICTE recognition would augur well for the brand, which is doing 'quite well'. "The Icfai Business School (IBS) is moving forward to seek regulatory approval from the AICTE for all its seven campuses in Gurgaon, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune and Ahmedabad," S. K. Sarma, Director, IBS Hyderabad, said. "These IBS campuses meet with all the AICTE requirements except for the ownership of land and buildings. Hence, we are focused on the expeditious procurement of land and construction of our own campuses in these cities," he adds.

The group, which has about 4,000 students, has already acquired land in Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad while procurement is in the advanced stages in Pune, Mumbai and Gurgaon and is likely to be completed in the next three months.

"We plan to complete the construction of buildings by end-2011 and get AICTE approval for the academic session starting 2012," says Sarma.

According to Dr Venkata Ramana Vedula, Dean, School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad, certain parameters or guidelines are vital to shape management education as there are over 2,000 business schools of which about 60 per cent are standalone (private) schools.

"While it is argued that management education is driven by market demand, education goes haywire in the absence of parameters/guidelines from the Government to protect the genuine interests of various stakeholders," he says.

The guidelines need to be differently structured to cater to the peculiarities of standalone schools (private), autonomous institutions (such as ISB), institutions of national repute (such as the IIMs and the Central Universities) and private schools affiliated to various universities, argues Dr Ramana.