Deccan Herald ND
38/09/2012 p-8

IITs, medical institutes partner in Centre's bio-design alliance

CHENNAI: The Centre has initiated steps to build a "National Bio-Design Alliance" to facilitate twinning of Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs) with institutions of medical excellence in the country that will produce a "new breed of innovators" in biotechnology and medicine, Dr M K Bhan, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), announced here on Saturday.

Engineers now are "disconnected" from patients and public health programmes, while doctors are "disconnected" from science and its research pursuits.

"So, we want new institutions to effect that connectivity, wherein each IIT will get to partner with one are more medical institutions of excellence to also identify and bring forth socially relevant technological systems that will enter the domain of patients or public health systems," Bhan said here after Inaugurating the Health Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) a unique joint initiative of IIT-Madras and DBT under Union Science and Technology Ministry.

The HTIC, housed in the new IIT-Madras Research Park, is the fruition of this central initiative after the DBT cleared the proposal in September 2011. The Centre has so far sanctioned Rs 20 crore for the HTIC to set up the lab here, which is now a formal legal entity with a governing board and structurally integrated with IIT-Madras.

Dr Bhan, also a member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council, emphasised that a traditional institute or University "cannot bring about this connectivity" as IIT-Madras could do. Under this new initiative, the focus will be on researchers and professionals being "inspired by a medical problem in the community", said Bhan while unveiling HTIC in the presence of IIT faculty and experts.

"This is a social elevation lab in that sense," said Bhan. For instance, medical experts working on certain problems may require the engineering and high level computing skills of the IITs and HTIC will provide a platform for such partnerships, he noted. These new entities will be Section 25 "not for profit companies," within institutions like the IITs.
DH News Service

Proline to leverage varsities to drive growth

BANGALORE, DHNS: Proline India, Mumbai-based apparel company, plans to position itself in educational institutions in India leverage the demographic dividend and drive growth, according to its CEO Sandeep Mukim.

"We plan to open three stores in premier institutions like IITs, IIMs by March next year to sell our 'Proline Varsity' range of readymade wear. We see a lot of potential in this segment," he said, after launching a range of sub-brands targetted at multiple segments.

The company, which would be closing the current fiscal with a turnover of Rs 60 crore and hopes to achieve Rs 200 crore within five years, plans to open about 10 stores this year and another 50 over the next two years.

Proline aims to garner 15 per cent of the Indian knitwear business estimated at about Rs 1,200 crore and growing at a rate of about 15 per cent. It has a presence in West Asia and plans to extend its footprint to Sri Lanka and African countries soon. Mukim said the relaxation of FDI norms in multi-brand retail will have little impact on the apparel market as most of popular foreign brands already have a presence in India.
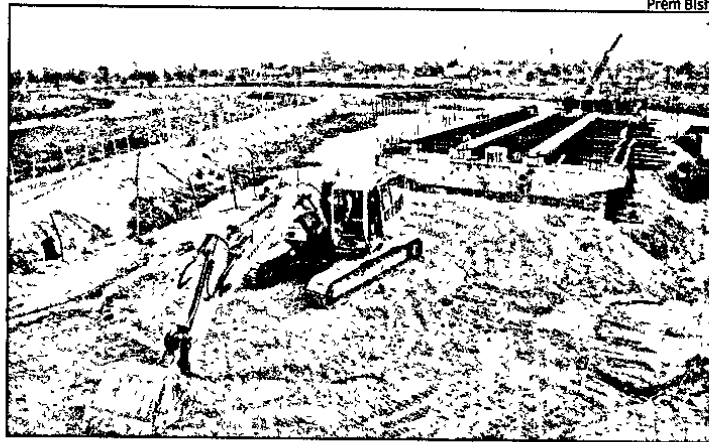
Times Of India ND 01/10/2012   P-8

Didn't approve Hindon bridge: IIT

Denies Claims By UP Govt, Says Gave Nod For Another Project

Ayaskant Das | TNN

Prem Bisht

Noida: IIT-Delhi has denied claims made by the Uttar Pradesh government that it had undertaken consultancy and design work for the under-construction bridge across Hindon River near Raj Nagar in Ghaziabad.

In reply to an RTI query, IIT clarified that the design plan for the bridge put up by Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) as proof of getting due approval of the project and its drawings from IIT actually pertains to the second phase of the Madhya Ganga Canal, consultancy work of which had been undertaken by the institute in 2010.

GDA had submitted the design of the Hindon Bridge, duly stamped by a professor of the department of civil engineering of IIT-Delhi, to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a case filed against it and the UP irrigation department by environmental activists of the Rashtriya Jal Biradiri, an NGO. Activists have opposed construction of an artificial em-

Activists have opposed construction of an artificial embankment for the bridge

bankment for the bridge across the natural course of the river and dumping of debris into it.

IIT-Delhi has replied through the RTI (a copy of which is with TOI) that the design plan submitted by the GDA pertains to "a project with a completely different name — The Design of Madhya Ganga Canal, Stage-II (CW11179)".

In April 2012, the NGT had imposed a stay on the dumping of debris and waste material in the Hindon River after the activists expressed fear of environmental threat to the river eco-system resulting from construction of the artificial embankment.

Through an earlier RTI, too, IIT had apprised activists of having ever undertaken any consul-

tancy work for this particular project. Both GDA and the irrigation department have maintained in their respective affidavits submitted to the tribunal that the project and its drawings have the approval of IIT.

The IIT has further noted in its reply that the design for the Madhya Ganga Canal had been done 'as a consultancy project of the institute through Prof AK Keshari, department of civil engineering. It was started in March 2010 and completed in June 2010.'

Alleging the GDA and the irrigation department of having misled the tribunal on the issue of design approval, the petitioners have filed an application demanding for initiation of action against them under Section 340 of CrPC.

"In their affidavit, the letter number cited by the irrigation department as reference for approval from IIT-Delhi is actually a 'reference number' of one of their own documents. We have got this clarified through an RTI," said Vikrant Sharma of Rashtriya Jal Biradiri.

Just 3.5% of global research output from India

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: At a time when India is being looked at as the next big knowledge superpower, this could come as a shocker. Just 3.5% of global research output in 2010 was from India. In most disciplines, India's share in global research output was much below this overall average count.

Sample this: India's share of world research output in clinical medicine was a paltry 1.9% in 2010, psychiatry (0.5%), neurosciences (1.4%), immunology (1.8%), molecular biology (2.1%) and environmental research (3.5%).

In mathematics, India's share of world output stood at around 2% in 2010, while it was 17% for China. In case of materials sciences, India's

INDIA VS CHINA

Percentage of global research output

	India	China
Physics	4.6	19
Maths	2	17
Materials sciences	6.4	26
Computer sciences	2.4	15
Engineering	4.25	16.4

Source: Thomson Reuters study; Figures for 2010 (figures in %)

share of world research was at 6.4% in 2010, while China's stood at 26% — a rise from 5% in 1996.

While India's research on physics was 4.6% in 2010, Chi-

na's stood at 19%.

In 2010, India's largest shares of world research output were in chemistry (6.5%), materials science (6.4%), agricultural sciences (6.2%), pharmacology and toxicology (6.1%), microbiology (4.9%), physics (4.6%) and engineering (4.2%).

India is often referred to as the next big place for computer sciences. But the figures on its research are abysmally low. Only 2.4% of global research on computer sciences was from India in 2010 while the world share moved to three emerging research economies – China (15%), Korea (6.3%) and Taiwan (5.7%).

India's global share of research in economics stood at 0.7% in 2010 while in social sciences it was worse at 0.6%.

The biggest declines in volume of research between 1981 and 2010 were in plant and animal sciences (-2.2%) and agricultural sciences (-1.6%). The most significant expansions were in pharmacology and toxicology (+4.2%), microbiology (+3.2%) and materials sciences (+3.1%).

These are the findings of the study on India's research output and collaboration conducted by Thomson Reuters and recently submitted to the department of science and technology.

"India has been the sleeping giant of Asia. Research in the university sector, stagnant for at least two decades, is now accelerating but it will be a long haul to restore India as an Asian knowledge hub. Indian higher education is faced

with powerful dilemmas and difficult choices – public/private, access/equity, uncertain regulation, different teaching standards and contested research quality," the report said.

It pointed out that India's share of world output in engineering fell from 4.3% in 1981 to 2.2% by 1995. Later, India regained its lost share, increasing to 4.25 by 2010. However, even then, India was overtaken by China (16.4%), Korea (5.4%) and Taiwan (4.4%).

India, where agriculture dominates economic standards, had quite a large share in agricultural sciences that averaged 7.45% between 1981 and 1995, well ahead of other emerging research economies. Its share, however, fell to 6.2% in 2010.

NIT weak students may get more time to finish BTech

Neha Arora

■ letterschd@hindustantimes.com

JALANDHAR: Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) here is contemplating starting a "slow pace programme" for academically weak students to allow them to complete bachelor in technology course in eight years instead of the current limit of six years.

The NIT management has formed a three-member committee headed by dean (faculty) AS Ghosh to work out the modalities on extending the time limit by two years.

NIT director SK Das said the proposed programme would result in identification of academically poor students based on their performance in exams in the first two years of the course.

"Currently, if students fail to get 30 out of 50 credits in first year, they are promoted to second year," Das said. "If the students fail to fetch 60 credits (including those obtained by clearing supplementary exams) at the end of the second year, they are not promoted to fifth semester. Such students are then reverted to first semester on the condition that they will not flunk in any of the exams else their names will be struck off." He said such students were currently allowed to clear their supplementary exams within six years of their admission.

"Under the slow pace programme, these students would be allowed to enter the fifth semester even if they fail to secure 60 out of 100 credits and continue to be upgraded to the next level," said Das.
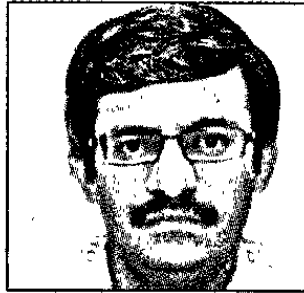
"From the fifth to the eighth semester, they will be allowed to choose theory subjects according to their academic capability from among the total number of available subjects for every semester," he said. "This will lessen their academic burden. The remaining subjects can be taken up and cleared later on."

"As these students will study two to three subjects less than regular ones each semester, it has been decided in principle to increase the duration of the BTech course to eight years so that the remaining subjects can be taken up and cleared."

INTERVIEW VINEET JOSHI

'CBSE continuously experiments to improve education system'

The school education in India took a challenge to move away from the traditional form of learning. Best brains in Central Board of Secondary Education, (CBSE) are at work to ensure that Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) is successful. Vineet Joshi, CBSE chairman spoke to HT on a range of issues. Excerpts:

CBSE is adopting new methods as it continues to play a crucial role in the education system. What are the new challenges?

CBSE continuously experiments to improve education system. For instance Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) programme. It was introduced in 2009 and has done well. There are a few areas that need to be fine tuned and can be done in an organised manner. For the success of CCE, we require 100% commitment, from schools, teacher, parents and stakeholders. Teachers understand

Vineet Joshi.

CCE but parents have to support teachers.

Has grading system become better over marking system that existed prior to 2009?

We find that merits of grading system far outweigh the demerits, if any. There is a challenge of replacing marks with grades in a system which has been primarily marks oriented and dominated. The perceptions will change once stakeholders understand the merits and appreciate them.

In August, you joined hands with Pearson Foundation, a private foreign education company. How will this help CBSE?

We have signed a MoU to form a centre for assessment, evaluation, and research. This will evaluate CBSE's examination system, undertake research on schemes implemented and those to be implemented and also develop research based resources to help teachers.

Early this year, you unveiled a vision plan for the year 2012. Can you elaborate on that?

It is not a vision but activities that schools should strictly follow and implement the guidelines set by CBSE. The CBSE has a monitoring system and an effective mechanism to monitor it. You may call it a vision, because we want all stakeholders to be part of the process. For example, this year we plan to introduce 'Sports Journalism' and have assessed the vocational course on 'Fitness and

Gym Operations' at the +2 level.

You mentioned about importance of every stakeholder's role. Parents are one of them. They seem confused with CCE?

There is no confusion. Parents are aware of CCE. However, their involvement in school and their child's affairs has to be more, as it would be beneficial for harnessing the full potential of CCE system. We have told the heads of schools to have interactions with parents on a regular basis. Schools should utilise the vast resource of parent interactions for quality enhancement of schools.

Is CCE the best system?

As I have already said, CBSE regularly evaluates its system. We have launched CCE and is doing well. There is system in place for evaluating performance. CBSE is always receptive to new ideas and suggestions to make education robust and effective.

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रमों की बढ़ रही मांग, सीटों की भरमार

कल्पना पाठक

आम धारणा के विपरीत इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा का कारोबार बढ़िया प्रदर्शन करता नजर आ रहा है। पिछले साल पोस्टग्रैजुएट (पीजी) इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में सीटों की संख्या 160 फीसदी बढ़ी और इस तरह के संस्थानों की तादाद भी साल-दर-साल आधार पर 100 फीसदी बढ़ी है।
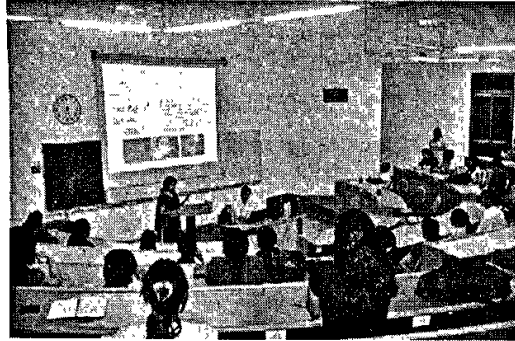
अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक वर्ष 2012-13 में 888 सीटें जोड़ी गईं, जबकि पिछले साल 342 सीटें बढ़ाई गई थीं। इस साल 10 नए पीजी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान खोले गए, जबकि पिछले साल इस तरह के 5 नए संस्थान खोले गए थे।

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थान आंध्र प्रदेश, हरियाणा, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में खोले गए। इन सभी प्रदेशों में 2-2 नए पीजी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान खुले, जबकि केरल में इस तरह का एक संस्थान खोला गया।

इस उद्योग पर नजर रखने वालों का कहना है कि पीजी इंजीनियरिंग की सीटों में इजाफा इस तरह के पाठ्यक्रमों में दाखिले के लिए आवेदन करने वाले छात्रों की संख्या में अचानक आई उछाल की जरूरत पूरी करने के लिए किया गया क्योंकि इन राज्यों के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में शिक्षकों की ढेर सारी रिक्तियां हैं। मसलन, आंध्र प्रदेश में इस साल 71,045 छात्रों ने पीजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉमन एंट्रेंस एग्जामिनेशन (पीजीईसीईटी) के लिए आवेदन किया, जबकि एक साल पहले इस परीक्षा में शामिल होने के लिए 36,000 छात्रों ने आवेदन किया था।

इसके अलावा एआईसीटीई के नए निर्देश के मुताबिक इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के शिक्षकों की योग्यता कम-से-कम पीजी की डिग्री होनी चाहिए। पिछले साल तक बड़े पैमाने पर शिक्षकों के ऐसे पदों पर बी टेक ग्रैजुएट विराजमान थे।

इस उद्योग के विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक पिछले दो दशकों के दौरान पोस्टग्रैजुएट की पढ़ाई करने वाले छात्रों की संख्या में तकरीबन 50 फीसदी की कमी दर्ज की गई है। नतीजतन बहुत सारे शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में शिक्षकों की भारी कमी पड़ गई है। अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष के दौरान केवल आंध्र प्रदेश के 700 से ज्यादा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में

एआईसीटीई के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक वर्ष 2012-13 में इंजीनियरिंग की 888 सीटें बढ़ाई गईं, जबकि पिछले वर्ष 342 सीटें बढ़ाई गई थीं

तकरीबन 70,000 पदों की रिक्तियां भरनी पड़ेंगी।

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा में जो नई रुचि जगी है, उसकी एक वजह यह भी है कि अगले साल से निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज भी शिक्षकों के लिए छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के मुताबिक वेतन की पेशकश करेंगे। इसका यह अर्थ हुआ

▶ बढ़ी जरूरत

- ■ पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थान आंध्र प्रदेश, हरियाणा, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में खोले गए

- ■ एआईसीटीई के मुताबिक इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के शिक्षकों की योग्यता कम-से-कम पीजी की डिग्री होनी चाहिए

- ■ आंध्र प्रदेश के 700 से ज्यादा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में तकरीबन 70,000 खाली पदों को भरना पड़ेगा

कि ऐसे शिक्षकों का शुरुआती मूल वेतन 36,000 रुपये होगा। दूसरी तरफ वर्ष 2012-13 में 5 पीजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज बंद हो गए, जबकि वर्ष 2011-12 में 7 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज बंद हुए थे। इस वजह से इस साल 342 सीटों का नुकसान हुआ, जबकि पिछले साल 576 सीटों का नुकसान हुआ था।

दूसरा पहलू

लेकिन प्रबंधन शिक्षा और अंडर-

ग्रैजुएट इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा कारोबार की हालत अच्छी नहीं है। वर्ष 2012-13 के दौरान 82 प्रबंधन संस्थान खोले गए, जबकि पिछले साल इस तरह के 146 संस्थान खोले गए थे। इस साल 7,740 सीटों का इजाफा हुआ, लेकिन पिछले साल 14,340 सीटें बढ़ाई गई थीं।

यही नहीं इस साल 101 प्रबंधन संस्थान बंद कर दिए गए, जबकि पिछले साल बंद होने वाले प्रबंधन संस्थानों की तादाद 124 रही थी। इस वजह से इस साल 6,090 सीटों का नुकसान हुआ, जबकि पिछले साल 5,609 सीटों का नुकसान हुआ था।

दिल्ली के एक प्रतिष्ठित बिजनेस स्कूल के निदेशक कहते हैं, 'संस्थान खोलना और बंद करना एक तरह से खेल बन गया है।

देश में संस्थानों की मंजूरी एक अलहदा किस्म का रैकेट बन गया है और एआईसीटीई को चाहिए कि वह प्रबंधन एवं इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों को धड़ाधड़ मंजूरी देने के काम से ऊपर उठे।'

उन्होंने कहा, 'एआईसीटीई की भूमिका समग्र है। लेकिन यह एक विनियामक की भूमिका निभा रहा है। परिषद तकनीकी शिक्षा को गुणवत्तापूर्ण बनाने की अपनी जिम्मेदारी भूल गया है। एआईसीटीई तब भी सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाते जा रहा है, जब बाजार में ज्यादा सीटों की जरूरत नहीं है। इस चलते देश में पेशेवर शिक्षा मुश्किल दौर से गुजर रही है।'

इस साल तकरीबन 95 अंडर-ग्रैजुएट इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज खुले हैं, जबकि पिछले साल 178 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज खोले गए थे। दूसरी ओर इस साल 12 संस्थान बंद कर दिए गए, जबकि पिछले साल 28 संस्थान बंद किए गए थे।

The UPSC civil services (Main) exam is scheduled to be held in October. It is that time of the year when lakhs of aspirants are wrapping up their preparation, while getting ready for the final examination.

Civil services continues to be one of the most coveted professions in the country, believes Vijay Dev, senior IAS officer.

Dev, who pursued engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, but decided to join the services, says, "At that point of time, opportunities were limited. Engineering, medicine, law and civil services were the only sought-after professions. Now, with liberalisation and globalisation, a range of avenues have come up."

However, he maintains, despite ample opportunities in various fields nowadays, civil services is an all-time favourite with the youth. But, the structure of services has changed in the last 20 years and needs further revamping. Today, the services are not about the royalty and stature of a bureaucrat, it is more about accountability and contributing to society.

"The ambience in which we work today has changed from the past. These are times of new technology and of greater transparency. The entire world, at present, is like an inter-connected village, where you constantly

STUDENT'S CHOICE

AMITABH YADAV

MA (final year) Sociology, School of Social Sciences, JNU

Civil services continue to attract the youth even today. This is due to a number of factors, which include the kind of power one assumes in administrative services, the opportunity to work for society, direct contact with the public as well as the stature that one cannot get even after doing an MBA or pursuing engineering or any other profession for that matter. I along with my batchmates have covered 80-90% of the syllabus. It is revision time for us, with the exam scheduled to be held on October 5

update information and systems at your end," says Dev.

According to Nila Mohanan, (IAS 2007), deputy commissioner, New Delhi and an IAS topper (rank 13) in 2006 civil services examination, an increasing number of fresh graduates are applying to appear in the civil services exam. A lot of students after gaining their degrees in medicine and engineering want to try out the administrative services. "Of late, more IIT graduates are aspiring to test their aptitude for the country's top services," she informs.

According to GSG Ayyangar, joint secretary (operation), National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID),

ministry of home affairs, the premise of the administrative services, being part of the national machinery today, involves officers who can put in their maximum to bridge the gaps in society. The exposure, while being on-the-job, is such that they can have a positive influence in the building of the national framework.

"The desire to enter the services has not got diluted over the years, though more options have come up in the public and private sectors. The number of applicants for the UPSC is an upward graph. Over the years, the character of the services has changed from the authoritative bureaucrat system to a more people-centric and citizen-friendly approach," says Ayyangar.

Talking about the popular fields within the UPSC in the current scenario, Dev says, the trend virtually remains almost the same, with Indian Administrative Services (IAS) and Indian Foreign Services (IFS) as top-level targets, followed by Indian Revenue Services (IRS) and Indian Forest Services (IFS).

"Following these two, several of them also wish to get into the Indian Police Services (IPS), customs, income tax and railways. Some 10-15 years ago, a large number of aspirants wanted to join the foreign services for global exposure, but this is gradually changing with as many takers for police and revenue services," says Ayyangar.

> Over the years, the character of the civil services has changed from an authoritative bureaucrat system to a more people-centric and citizen-friendly approach

With the UPSC civil services (Main) scheduled to be held in October, Vatsala Shrangi finds out why the world of bureaucrats still holds a charm for the Indian youth

For the People

AT A GLANCE

- Civil Services (Main) consists of nine papers — one each in English, Indian language and essay and two in general studies and four in optional subjects
- Candidates should be updated on national and international affairs. It is imperative to track national and world events including social issues, scientific, political, economic and legal developments
- Aspirants should read a couple of national dailies and news publications
- Candidates, in the first few minutes, should try and glance through the entire question paper for a fair idea of where to begin and how to divide time
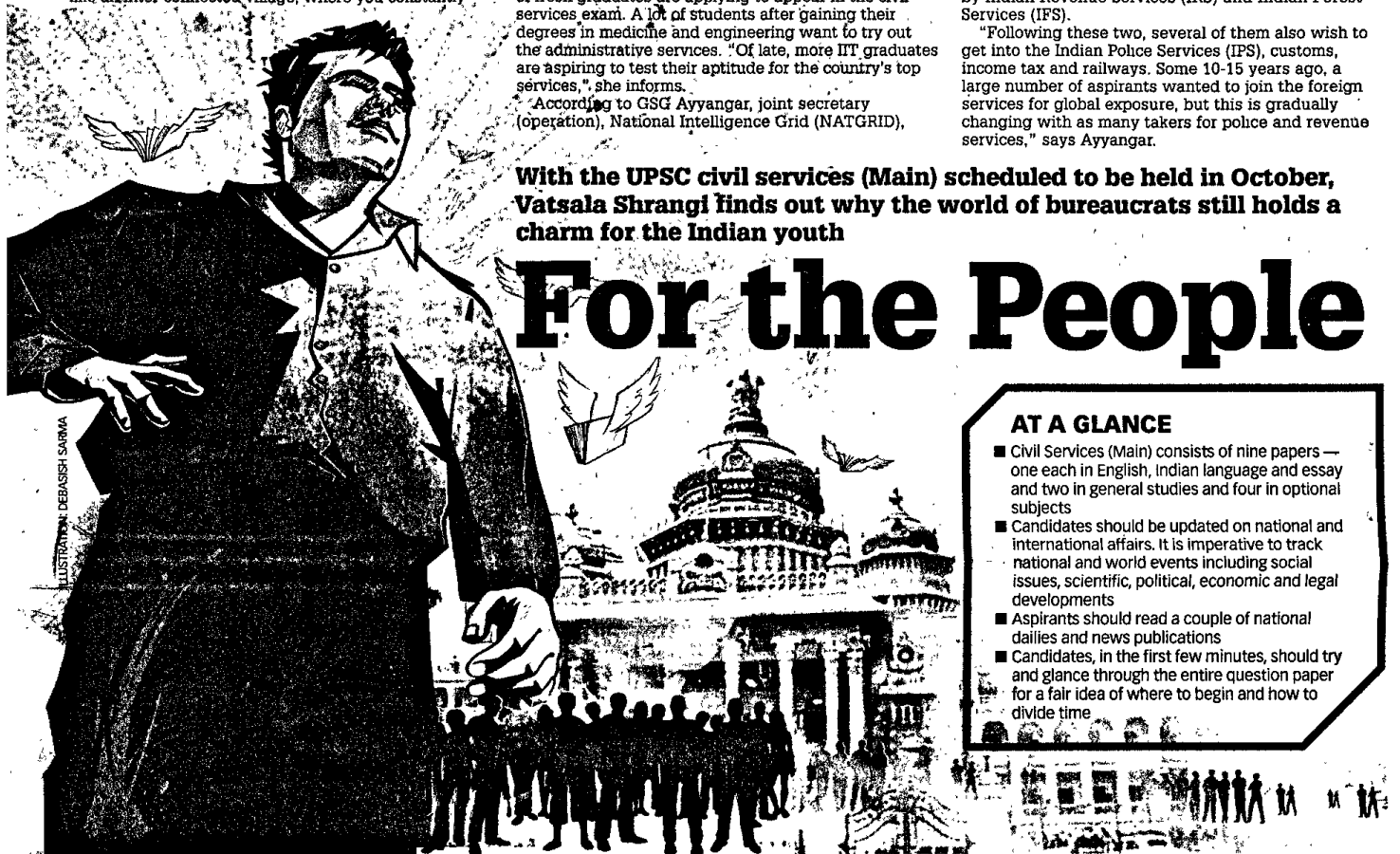
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