

# Newspaper Clips

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HT, Kolkata

## China leapfrogs India in scientific research

**DRAGON'S DECADE** Behind until 2002, China is now four times ahead, says a new study published in *Current Science*

**ht SPECIAL**

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**NEW DELHI:** India's science research activity has slipped to a fourth of China's over the past decade. The dramatic decline suggests that repeated government promises to focus on research are yet to bear fruit.

New analysis of comparative science research, which takes into account both quality and quantity, shows that India led China until as recently as 2002. But while India has almost stagnated since then, China has pushed ahead, and its research activity now stands at four times that of India's.

The analysis by Dr Gangan

### IN THE LEAD

**China** has overtaken **India** in terms of scientific research over the past decade

Chinese research is of a similar quality to India, but 4 times more in volume



**PM** had repeatedly warned that India was at risk of being over-

taken in terms of innovation

Prathap, director of the National Institute for Science Communication and Information Resources — India's apex agency for science research evaluation — is published in the latest issue of *Current Science*, the country's top science journal.

China began investing heavily in science research only in 1978, after the end of the Cultural Revolution, unlike India, which has had a robust science programme since the 1950s.

"The results are seen now," Prathap told *HT*. "Whereas India was once ahead of China, it has now been left far behind."

Prathap's analysis looked at both quality and quantity of research, and also reaffirmed the West's steady, but continuous, decline. He used the numbers of papers published in peer-reviewed journals as an indicator of the quantity of research. Prathap then divided the number of papers published by scientists from each country by the GDP of that country to arrive at a parameter indicating the quality of research produced.

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# China leapfrogs in research

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Finally, he multiplied the quality and quantity parameters to arrive at the composite measure of science research activity. China, he found, was producing research of about the same quality as India, but four times as much in terms of volume.

The decline over the past decade has ironically coincided with repeated warnings from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh over the past eight years that India risked losing out to China and East Asia in innovation.

“Over the past few decades, India’s relative position in the

world of science had been declining and we’ve been overtaken by such countries as China,” Singh had told the Indian Science Congress in Bhubaneswar in January 2012.

The UPA has started a slew of programmes, scholarships and fellowships to lure young scholars into science, and to encourage NRI scientists to return home. But despite repeated annual promises from 2000 by then PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, and subsequently by Singh, to raise India’s expenditure in science to 2% of the GDP, such funding languishes at just about 1% of the country’s economy.

# UGC picks fault with selection of secretary

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: After more than five years without a secretary, the University Grants Commission (UGC) shortlisted one person through an interview on Tuesday. However, on Thursday, the full commission raised objection with the process followed by the interview panel and asked UGC to start it all over again.

Sources said the commission has not pointed out any problem with the shortlisted candidate Akhilesh Gupta, a scientist with the department of science & technology, but with the entire process.

Many members pointed out that the interview board did not follow an important directive of the department of personnel & training that makes it mandatory for boards to have representatives from SC/ST or minority community. "It is an unprecedented situation for UGC and a big loss of face. UGC would have to advertise again, fresh applications would come," a member said.

## **Govt to tie up with Canadian institutes, set up colleges**

**NEW DELHI:** The government will set up 10 community colleges in collaboration with Canadian education institutes to educate adult illiterates and enable them to absorb skills required for jobs in the vicinity of their homes. "A roadmap for focused global collaboration is needed as with the IT revolution, and this would call for developing skills that would be required to service the world community," said Kapil Sibal, communications and IT minister during FICCI's Global Skills Summit on Thursday. **HTC**

# Supreme Court to hear plea against 69% quota

## 10 students seek direction to be enrolled in medical colleges

J. Venkatesan

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court will hear this coming Monday a petition challenging the Constitutional validity of the Tamil Nadu law providing for 69 per cent quota in employment and educational institutions on the ground that it exceeds 50 per cent contemplated in the Mandal Commission judgment.

In a petition, Ms. Gayathri and nine other meritorious students aggrieved by the 69 per cent quota have also sought a direction that they be admitted to medical colleges in the current academic year.

They stated that all the petitioners had scored very high marks, the first candidate securing 198.50 out of 200 and last candidate 198/200. They would have made it to medical colleges if the State had followed the 50 per cent reservation for open category students.

"The Backward Class Com-

• "Petitioners scored very high marks"

• "No objective criteria to confirm quota"

mission, which was directed by the Supreme Court in 2010, while disposing of the earlier petition, to assess the justifiability of 69 per cent reservation on objective criteria filed its report to the State Government on July 8, 2011. Without any objective criteria, the Commission simply confirmed 69 per cent reservation on the basis of the Amba Shankar Commission report, which was submitted in the year 1985 without any objective criteria in terms of the 'Nagaraj case', which does not permit the power to exceed the quantitative restriction of 50 per cent reservation.

"The conduct of the State of Tamil Nadu having exceeded the quantitative restriction of 50 per cent reservation as decided by this court and the

failure to identify creamy layer among the backward classes in the State alone resulted in a constitutional injury to the citizens of the State of Tamil Nadu against the Constitutional mandate, thereby denying a meritorious student to get admission to professional college in accordance with Constitution."

The petitioners said for more than 16 years, with a continuous and periodical interim orders granted by this court, extra seats were created for such of those forward community students affected by the 69 per cent reservations until academic year 2011. There was no further direction available to the affected persons since the Supreme Court disposed of the writ petition on July 13, 2010 without

deciding any opinion on the validity of the impugned legislation providing for 69 per cent reservations, in Tamil Nadu alone.

They said when they approached the Madras High Court, it had held that it had no power to issue direction to those candidates who come well within the cut-off mark of 50 per cent reservation, as such direction could be issued only by the Supreme Court. Hence the present writ petition.

While seeking a direction to declare as unconstitutional the quota law, they sought a suitable direction to grant admission in medical colleges to those petitioners who had secured marks in the merit list for admission to medical colleges coming within the quantitative restrictions of 50 per cent reservation for academic year 2012- 2013 before September 30, the last date for medical admissions.

# उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में पिछड़े और दलित छात्रों से होता है भेदभाव

प्रतिभा शुक्ल

नई दिल्ली, 6 सितंबर। सफदरजंग अस्पताल के वर्धमान महावीर मेडिकल कालेज में अनुसूचित जाति के छात्रों के साथ भेदभाव के आरोप सही पाए गए हैं। इस मामले की जांच कर रहे अनुसूचित जाति आयोग के अध्यक्ष पीएल पुनिया ने चौंकाने वाली जानकारी दी है। उन्होंने बताया कि दलित छात्रों को जानबूझकर फेल किया गया। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया है कि केवल सफदरजंग ही नहीं देश के तमाम अन्य बड़े संस्थानों में भी दलित व पिछड़े छात्रों के साथ भेदभाव किए जाते हैं। आयोग ने केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से सिफारिश की है कि दलित छात्रों को भेदभाव से बचाने और उन्हें बेहतर माहौल देने के लिए उपाय किए जाएं। इसके लिए आयोग ने सुझाव दिए हैं। आयोग ने जांच रपट प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में जारी की है। दोषियों के

खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी और पीड़ित छात्रों को मुआवजा दिलाने की पहल भी की जाएगी।

प्रोफेसर भालचंद्र मुंगेर की अगुआई में बनी जांच समिति इस मामले की जांच कर रही थी। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग को दी। आयोग ने रपट जारी करते हुए आरोप लगाया है कि वर्धमान महावीर मेडिकल कालेज और उसके सफदरजंग अस्पताल में अनुसूचित जाति के छात्रों के साथ भेदभाव हुआ और उन्हें जानबूझकर फेल किया गया। अनुसूचित जाति के कई छात्रों को उनके विषयों में बार बार फेल किया गया। आयोग ने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान (आईआईएम), अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) और केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय जैसे देश के नामी सरकारी केंद्रों में भी दलित छात्रों से भेदभाव किए जाते हैं। एम्स

में अनुसूचित जाति के छात्रों के साथ भेदभाव किए जाने की भी शिकायतें मिली हैं। उनकी पड़ताल भी कराई जाएगी।

जांच समिति के अगुआ प्रो मुंगेर ने बताया कि मनीष सहित कई छात्रों के साथ न केवल भेदभाव किया गया बल्कि उनके साथ अपमान जनक बर्ताव भी किया जाता रहा है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि समिति ने वर्धमान महावीर मेडिकल कालेज में दलित छात्रों के साथ भेदभाव के लिए संकाय सदस्यों और अधिकारियों को दोषी पाया है और उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने सहित कई अन्य सिफारिशें भी की गई हैं। जिनमें पीड़ित छात्र को मुआवजे की मांग भी शामिल है। क्योंकि कई छात्र पांच बार तक फेल किए गए हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि जो लोग इस भेदभाव के आरोपी हैं उनके खिलाफ अलग से मामला दर्ज

कर कार्रवाई की जाएगी। पुनिया ने कहा कि जांच में दोषी पाए गए लोगों के खिलाफ उल्पीइन के मामले दर्ज करवाए जाएंगे। इसके अलावा मनीष नाम के पीड़ित छात्र को 10 लाख रुपए का मुआवजा देने की मांग भी की गई है।

पुनिया ने कहा कि केवल एम्स और सफदरजंग अस्पतालों में ही नहीं कई अन्य शिक्षण संस्थानों में दलित छात्रों के साथ इस तरह का भेदभाव होता है। इसलिए हमने प्रोफेसर भालचंद्र से अपील की है कि वे आईआईएम, एम्स, आईआईटी जैसे संस्थानों में भी भेदभाव का पता लगाएं। क्योंकि इनके शैक्षणिक केंद्रों ही नहीं छात्रावासों में भी भेदभाव व उत्पीड़न के आरोप लगते रहे हैं। जाति सूचक शब्दों का अपमान जनक तरीकों से उपयोग कर भी छात्र परेशान किए जाते रहे हैं।