

Newspaper Clips

September 7, 2013

Hindu ND 07-Sep-13 P-8

Holy technology

A new machine designed by IIT, Delhi helps improve production and working conditions for *tulsimala* producers

Mohammed Iqbal

A technical design intervention by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, has helped the rural women in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, engaged in fabrication of *tulsimalas*, boost their production and earn a better livelihood by introducing advanced machinery. The IIT's help has benefited around 2,000 women in the region.

The Rural Technology Upgradation Unit of IIT, Delhi was recently contacted by Lupin Human Welfare & Research Foundation, a public service institution working in Bharatpur for its inputs into

old machines used by women for producing *tulsimalas*. The old machines involved high degree of labour with an uncomfortable sitting posture, while production of the product remained low.

Tulsimala production provides livelihood to women mainly in Kaman, Deeg, Nadbai and Kumher tehsils of Bharatpur district. The location of temple towns such as Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon and Barsana near Bharatpur ensures a good demand and consumption of *tulsimalas* throughout the year.

Women could fabricate 30 to 40 *tulsimalas* with the old

HINDUSTAN ND 07-Sep-13 P-5

आकाश प्रोजेक्ट में देरी का ठीकरा आईआईटी जोधपुर के सिर फोड़ा

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

उठे सवाल

नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की महत्वाकांक्षी आकाश टैबलेट परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन के तौर-तरीकों पर गंभीर सवाल खड़े किए हैं। कैग ने कहा कि मंत्रालय ने पर्याप्त तैयारी के बिना इस योजना को शुरू कर दिया। योजना में देरी के लिए आईआईटी जोधपुर को जिम्मेदार ठहराते हुए कैग ने कहा कि मंत्रालय को पहले उसकी क्षमता का आकलन करना चाहिए था। इतना ही नहीं योजना की आड़ में मंत्रालय के अधिकारी विदेशों का दौरा करते रहे, जबकि इसकी जरूरत नहीं थी।

मंत्रालय ने जुलाई 2010 में 1500 रुपये में टैबलेट देने की योजना बनाई। कैग ने कहा कि आकाश टैबलेट विकसित करने की योजना में शामिल एजेंसियों की क्षमता का आकलन करने में मंत्रालय से चूक हुई। योजना आईआईटी जोधपुर को सौंपी गई। जोधपुर ने टैबलेट की आपूर्ति का जिम्मा डाटाविंड को सौंपा, लेकिन न तो डाटाविंड तय समय पर टैबलेट तैयार कर आईआईटी

- मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय ने क्षमताओं का मूल्यांकन किए बिना सौंपा काम, जबकि कई अच्छे आईआईटी कतार में थे
- मंत्रालय के अफसर टैबलेट के नाम पर देश-विदेश के दौरों में व्यस्त रहे, हवाई यात्रा के नियमों की भी हुई अनदेखी

जोधपुर को सौंप पाया और जो टैबलेट सौंपे भी गए वे गुणवत्ता में सही नहीं निकले। इसके चलते आईआईटी जोधपुर एवं डाटाविंड में विवाद हो गया, जिसे सुलझाया नहीं जा सका। कैग का कहना है कि इन दोनों एजेंसियों की क्षमताओं के आकलन में सरकार विफल रही।

कैग के अनुसार आईआईटी जोधपुर को आकाश विकसित करने में मंत्रालय से चूक हुई। वह नया संस्थान था जबकि आईआईटी खड़गपुर, कानपुर, मद्रास तथा भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान बेंगलुरु भी कतार में थे लेकिन उनकी अनदेखी की गई।

RO, MoEF, HRD Min

IIT-Rajasthan arbitrarily chosen to launch Aakash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The CAG has slammed the HRD Ministry for the shortcomings in the ambitious Aakash tablet project, raising questions over "arbitrary" selection of IIT-Rajasthan to launch the scheme without carrying out an assessment of its capacity to undertake the work.

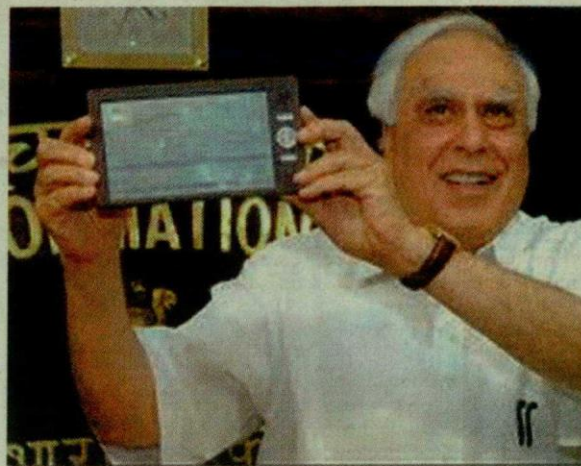
In its report tabled in Parliament, the Government auditor observed that IIT-R had told the Ministry that around 90 per cent of the tablets supplied by Datawind between August and November 2011 were rejected by it due to complaints in the device such as heating and they being slow.

"The Ministry decided to launch the Aakash through the IIT-R without ascertaining their capacity to undertake the work. This adversely affected the project delivery. It also placed Rs 47.42 crore at IIT-R disposal without carrying out a prudent assessment," it said.

"This raises issues of financial propriety. This adversely affected the project delivery along with an avoidable expenditure of Rs 1.05 crore," the report said.

Under the Aakash tablet project, the Government has plans of distributing the low-cost access-cum-computing device (Aakash) at a cost of Rs 1,500 or USD 35 to students and teachers for educational purposes.

CAG said documents suggest that the Ministry did not provide any justification for selecting IIT-R to execute the order and thus its selection was arbitrary. "The audit view is further borne out by the fact that IIT-Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Bombay and IISC,



Bangalore had participated. However, they were overlooked and a relatively new IIT-R was selected ahead of others," it said.

CAG said IIT-R was

awarded the project when it was operating from temporary premises but the "important observation of the Finance Division was ignored."

EDUSAT failed to achieve objectives

CAG pointed out that country's first thematic satellite EDUSAT failed to achieve its objectives due to deficiencies in actual implementation and inability to have a robust management structure.

The EDUSAT programme, launched by Department of Space in 2004 to facilitate distance education in remote areas, envisaged a total investment of Rs 549.09 crore comprising direct investment of Rs 282.76 crore towards the launch of the spacecraft and further expenditure of Rs 266.33 crore on establishment of ground network.

"It was observed in audit

that the EDUSAT failed to effectively achieve its objectives due to deficiencies in planning for the network connectivity, content generation and failure to have a robust management structure...The Objectives of implementation EDUSAT could not be met fully even at the end of its life," the CAG said in its report on Department of Space.

The CAG noted that none of the 35 States and UTs achieved the envisaged level of 1,200 interactive terminals for colleges and universities while in 13 States neither the networks nor interactive terminals were established.

Indian Express ND 07-Sep-13 P-11

CAG slams HRD Ministry over Aakash project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

SLAMMING the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry for its management of the Aakash tablet project, a CAG report tabled in Parliament on Friday questioned the ministry's decision to award the project to the 'new and ill-equipped' IIT Rajasthan (IITR). The CAG report also pulled up IITR for incurring 'unfruitful expenditure' in the project.

The Aakash project aims to provide \$35 tablets to students for educational purposes.

Saying that the ministry failed to exercise "due diligence in implementing the project", the report said the 'arbitrary' selection of IITR was the reason why "the delivery schedule of tablets was adversely affected".

The report also slammed the ministry for not carrying out a feasibility study before undertaking the project. It stated that while established IITs like IIT Kanpur, Bombay, Madras, Kharagpur had participated in preliminary discussions on the

project, they were overlooked and instead "IITR, which was relatively a new IIT, was selected". It also said official records do not provide "any justification for selecting IITR".

While the HRD ministry, which was then led by Kapil Sibal, had originally awarded the project to IITR, it was eventually transferred to IIT Bombay after differences arose between IITR and the tablet manufacturers, Datawind.

The report also pulled up IITR for "unfruitful expenditure" of more than Rs 1 crore and pointed out that PCs and tablets worth Rs 20.67 lakh procured by the institute were not transferred to IIT Bombay. IITR has also been pulled up by the auditor for appointing a retired MHRD officer as advisor for three months for Rs 0.50 lakh and allowing him to work for only 15 days in a month when such clauses were not mentioned in the advertisement for the job.

The report added that Rs 47.72 crore was released by the ministry to IITR in an imprudent and hasty manner between October 2010 and March 2011.

Central law needed to monitor higher tech, med education: SC

UTKARSH ANAND

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE Supreme Court Friday asserted the "extreme necessity" for a central law to rein in unethical practices in higher technical and medical education in the country to keep up the standards of education and ensure students do not become the source to fund such institutions.

A Bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and A K Sikri expressed concern over mushrooming medical, engineering and pharmaceutical colleges, compromising on quality of education in name of autonomy. The court called upon for "serious introspection" with regard to state of affairs, particularly medical education.

"Private medical educational institutions are always demanding more number of seats in their colleges even though many of them have no sufficient infrastructural facilities, clinical materials, faculty members, etc. Reports appear every now and then that many of the private institutions conducting medical colleges are demanding lakhs and sometimes crores of rupees for MBBS and post-graduate admission in their respective colleges," pointed out the Bench.

"Central Government, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Central Bureau of Investigation or the intelligence wing have to take effective steps to undo such unethical practices or else self-financing

institutions will turn to be students financing institutions," it cautioned.

The court's observation is significant in the wake of the pending review petition by the government and the MCI against the scrapping of the common medical entrance test. The majority verdict had ruled in favour of the autonomy for the medical colleges, particularly minority institutions, but the dissenting judge Justice Anil R Dave had highlighted the necessity of having a common test.

The court's observations came as it dismissed a petition by private Rohilkhand Medical College and Hospital, Bareilly, challenging the decision of MCI on July 13 this year for increased intake of students for MBBS students.

Deccan Herald ND 07-Sep-13 P-6

ISRO to unveil Mars Orbiter Mission next week

BANGALORE: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will unveil the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) on Wednesday, kick-starting its much-anticipated mission to Mars.

Mom is scheduled to be launched during October 21-November 19 using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C25 (PSLV-C25) and will carry five payloads.

An official note issued here on Friday said: "The spacecraft, with all the payloads, has completed the Thermo-Vacuum Test that extensively tests the spacecraft under simulated environment space. At the same time, PSLV-C25 launch campaign has also commenced at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota and the first stage with the strap-ons has been assembled."

The launcher is likely to be ready for integration by October 10. After leaving the earth's orbit in November, the spacecraft will cruise in space for about 10 months before finally entering the Red Planet's orbit.

The spacecraft will be placed in an elliptical orbit, the nearest point of which from Mars' surface will be 500 km and the farthest point will be 80,000 km.

The 1,350-kg spacecraft will carry five instruments/payloads totalling a mass of 15-kg selected by the Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (AD-COS), to study the Martian surface, atmosphere and mineralogy.

Checking for methane, mapping the Martian surface and sending data from the optical imaging payload are among the important activities of the mission.

DH News Service

HT Lucknow

IIM-L collaboration with New Zealand varsity to focus on agri-biz management

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: The Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow (IIM-Lucknow) has signed a memorandum of understanding with New Zealand's Lincoln University under which both institutions will support each other in the pursuit of excellence in global business education, with a special focus on agribusiness management and sustainability.

IIM-L and Lincoln University will closely collaborate for research, executive education programmes and faculty and student exchange programmes. Collaborative case studies would be developed, which would be then used for teaching purposes. A series of faculty research workshops is also in the offing.

The two institutions may, in the future, also jointly design and implement executive education programmes in areas of mutual interest.

The MoU was signed by the New Zealand-based varsity's international strategy and marketing director Julia Innocente Jones and IIM-L director Devi Singh in the IIM campus on



■ IIM-L director Devi Singh and Julia Innocente Jones from New Zealand's Lincoln University after signing the MoU on Friday.

Friday.

At the ceremony, Jones said, "India and New Zealand are basically agri-economic countries. This collaboration would result in identification of many areas for knowledge-sharing, especially in this field." Jones expressed appreciation for the quality of students that come from India, saying they ranked high in terms of intelligence and academic expertise.

Singh, elaborating upon the potential of the collaboration, said, "New Zealand as a nation has a very strong agro-based economy and with more focus put on professional education

ABOUT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

- The Lincoln University is one of eight government universities in New Zealand, with a history stretching back over 125 years.
- It has a very strong and direct link with the New Zealand economy, and with people responsible for fuelling the economy.

in this field, this tie-up can go a long way. Given the unique position of Lincoln University, new areas of research and student exchange would definitely exciting to work on."

HT Indore

HOME-GROWN TECHNOLOGY

IIT-I students unveil radio telescope made on campus

Nida Khan

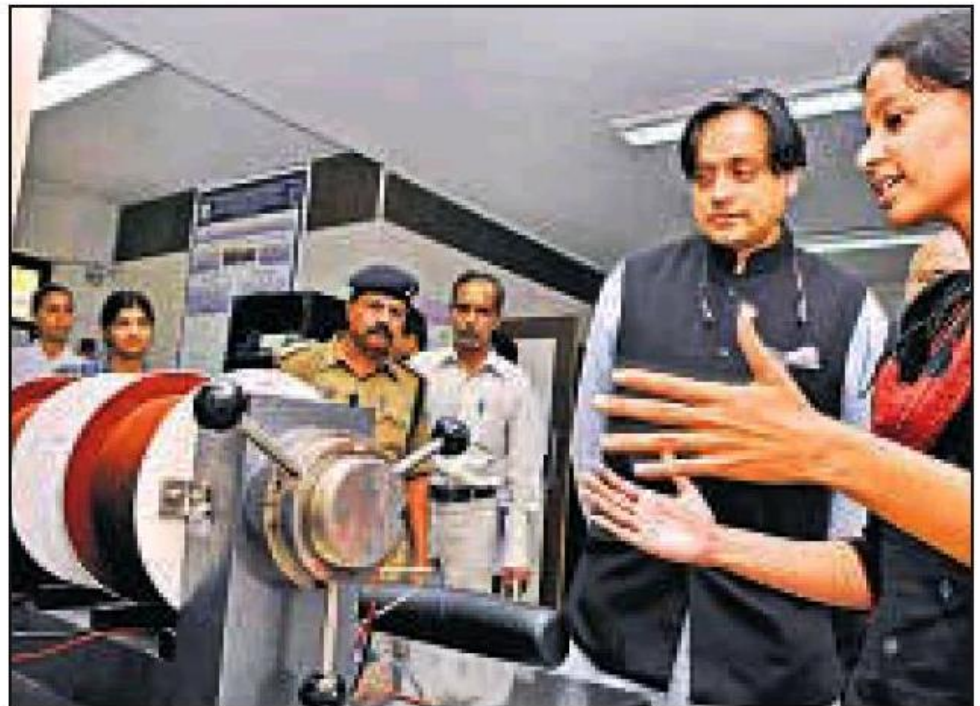
■ Nida.khan@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT-I) has added one more feather to its cap. On Friday, the institute unveiled a state-of-the-art radio telescope developed on campus. Union minister of state for human resource development (HRD) Shashi Tharoor inaugurated the unique telescope, first by any of the 16 IITs in the country, at the PACL campus.

“We built the telescope in less than six months. The two main aspects of the telescope are that the entire design and support system of the telescope was built right here at IIT-Indore,” said Siddharth Malu, head of the Physics department and also the principal researcher of the project.

Radio telescopes are typically large parabolic antennas used singly or in an array. The institute would use the device, for detecting diffuse emission from the largest structures in the universe. The instrument, is said to be the third biggest radio telescope in the country.

“It is impressive that the stu-



■ **Shashi Tharoor inspects the radio telescope.** AMIT K JAISWAL/HT PHOTO

dents have come up with something so commendable in such a short span of time. Not only does it show the talent which the students possess, but also the great potentials our country has,” said Tharoor while praising the achievement of IIT-I.

Assuring the students that the sector of research and development will see a better output in years to come as the government plans to increase its percentage in GDP, from 0.98% to 2%, Tharoor

said, “People often ask why no Indian university gets featured in the top-250 universities of the world, the lack of emphasis on R&D is definitely one of the chief reasons.”

Explaining the nuances of the radio telescope, Malu said, “We aim to make another dish in the coming six months and some 8-10 dishes in the coming year. The coming months will see an enhanced version of the device with better performance.”

» **MAKE USE OF JUGAAD, P3**

HT Chandigarh

Nitin Nohria joins Tata Sons board as non-exec director

NEW DELHI: Nitin Nohria, dean of Harvard Business School, has been appointed non-executive director of Tata Sons. He is an IIT alumnus and holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). **PTI**