

Newspaper Clips

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NASA launches moon explorer

Ladee spacecraft quickly runs into trouble but agency says probe on track

Nasa's newest robotic explorer rocketed into space late Friday in an unprecedented moonshot from Virginia that dazzled sky watchers along the East Coast of the US.

But the Ladee spacecraft quickly ran into equipment trouble, and while Nasa assured everyone early Saturday that the lunar probe was safe and on a perfect track for the moon, officials acknowledged the problem needs to be resolved in the next two to three weeks.

S Peter Worden, director of Nasa's Ames Research Centre in California, which developed the spacecraft, told reporters he's confident everything will be working properly in the next few days.

Ladee's reaction wheels were turned on to orient and stabilise the spacecraft, which was spinning too fast after it separated from the final rocket stage, Worden said. But the computer automatically shut the wheels down, apparently because of excess current. He speculated the wheels may have been running



LONG WAY AROUND: Unlike the quick three-day Apollo flights to the moon, Ladee will need a full month to reach Earth's closest neighbour

a little fast.

Worden stressed there is no rush to "get these bugs ironed out."

The Ladee spacecraft, which is charged with studying the lunar atmosphere and dust, soared aboard an unmanned Minotaur rocket a little before midnight.

"Godspeed on your journey to the moon, Ladee," Launch Control said. Flight controllers applauded and exchanged high-fives following the successful launch. "We are headed to the moon!" Nasa said in a tweet.

It was a change of venue for Nasa, which normally launches

moon missions from Cape Canaveral, Florida. But it provided a rare light show along the East Coast for those blessed with clear skies.

Nasa urged sky watchers to share their launch pictures through the website Flickr, and the photos and sighting reports quickly poured in from New York City, Boston, Washington, DC, Baltimore, New Jersey, Rhode Island, eastern Pennsylvania and Virginia, among other places.

The Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer or Ladee, pronounced "LA-dee," is

taking a roundabout path to the moon, making three huge laps around Earth before getting close enough to pop into lunar orbit.

Unlike the quick three-day Apollo flights to the moon, Ladee

Scientists want to learn the composition of the moon's atmosphere and how it might change over time. Another puzzle is whether dust actually levitates from the lunar surface

will need a full month to reach Earth's closest neighbour. An Air Force Minotaur V rocket, built by Orbital Sciences Corp, provided the ride from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility.

Ladee, which is the size of a small car, is expected to reach the moon on October 6.

Scientists want to learn the composition of the moon's ever-so-delicate atmosphere and how it might change over time. Another puzzle, dating back decades, is whether dust actually levitates from the lunar surface.

The \$280 million moon-orbiting mission will last six months and end with a suicide plunge into the moon for Ladee. AP

IIT-Roorkee chips in for historical park facelift

Vishal Joshi

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YAMUNANAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee (Uttarakhand), has approved the design of the Ashoka Edicts Park that will come up in Topra Kalan village of this district.

This means that project leaders can now apply for the government funds to construct the historical park, where replicas of Ashoka edicts will be installed.

The faculty of the premier institute has approved the



■ The replica of Barabar Caves in Bihar will be constructed at Ashoka Edicts Park in Yamunanagar district.

HT PHOTO

design after a comprehensive study of the preliminary project. Prof Satyendra Mittal from the department of civil

engineering and Prof Satish Chandra from the department of architecture have approved the design and they haven't

asked for much in return.

They only seek a token fee as they consider the efforts of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Yamunanagar-based social organisation The Buddhist Forum "to revive a forgotten chapter of the Indian history". Appreciating the in-depth study and planning, Mittal observed in his approval note that the project was in harmony with the ancient traditional architecture. He, however, cautioned the project leaders about the inflation factor while pursuing the project

which was not funded by any state agency.

Last year, the panchayat of Topra Kalan, around 15 km from Yamunanagar, donated 2-acre common land to build the park. It was a brainchild of TBF's Siddhartha Gauri, who has volunteered to protect Buddhist monuments in Haryana. He told HT that it was little known that the iconic Ashoka Pillar was originally erected in Topra Kalan before it was dismantled and taken to Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi by then Delhi Sultan Feroz Shah Tughlaq in 14th century.

Foreign varsities caution DU on four-year programme at LSR meet

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The new four-year undergraduate programme has triggered debates in various Delhi University circles. But in a first-of-its-kind seminar, Lady Shri Ram College discussed the programme with two foreign universities that have already implemented the system.

Officials from Trinity College, Dublin, and Hong Kong University discussed the pros and cons of the new system as well as the manner in which the transition was made in the respective universities.

While Trinity College has been working with the four-year system since its inception, Hong Kong University (HKU) introduced the model in 2012.

“We have experienced that students who are part of a four-



■ **Amy Tsui, pro vice-chancellor of Hong Kong University, at Lady Shri Ram College.**

JASJEET PLAHA/ HT PHOTO

year system are more mature and more employable after they complete their courses,” said Jane Ohlmeyer, vice-provost, Global Relations, Trinity College.

Trinity College has taken feedback from a number of stakeholders, including employers, asking them what exactly

they would need from the graduate students.

Ohlmeyer, however, cautioned against rushing into the system.

“I hope the DU vice-chancellor has thought through the implications of moving into a new system so quickly because this is too good an opportunity

to be missed otherwise,” she said. She also highlighted the unique problem that these graduates will face in completing their post-graduate studies as there is no wider policy change to accommodate them.

For Hong Kong University, the experience was entirely different from that of Delhi University. While it also has courses similar to the foundation courses, all courses are not compulsory for all students.

The change was brought about as part of policy and the varsity was informed about it in 2005. From there on, a number of surveys and discussions were carried out to understand which way they had to move.

“It is important to understand what the foundation courses are setting. Basic information is not foundation,” said Amy Tsui, pro vice-chancellor, HKU.

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Will IITians teach in small towns?

THIS refers to the editorial 'Admissions on paper: Arrange IIT coaching in schools' (August 28). The observations made by you are both factually wrong and analytically incorrect. You have stated that for admissions to all Centrally funded institutions like the NITs, IITs and IIITs, there will be 40 per cent weightage for performance in plus two, 30 per cent in the main exam and 30 per cent in the advanced test. In the case of IITs, the board results and the main test will be given 50 percentage each.

I am a plus-two student studying in a public school and I am also taking weekend coaching from a reputed coaching institute in Delhi. The factual position is that under the new system, the board results will be given 40 per cent weightage for admission to NITs and other engineering colleges (main exam) but there is no provision for giving weightage to plus two marks in the advance test for admission to IITS.

Also, your suggestion that the schools should offer quality coaching in schools by inviting 'special faculty' is equally utopian. The faculty employed by the elite coaching institutes includes the best brains — IITians — drawing hefty pay packages. Will this 'special faculty'

आईआईटी तैयार कर रहा शोध छात्रों की जमात

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान द्वारा तैयार पीएचडी छात्रों के जरिये सभी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में शिक्षकों की कमी दूर की जा सकेगी

विनय उमरजी और
कल्पना पाठक

फैकल्टी को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए हमें भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) बिजनेस स्कूलों को मात दे सकता है। देश के इन प्रमुख प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों के अनुसार उनके समेकित डॉक्टरेट कार्यक्रम के जरिये अगले पांच वर्षों में शिक्षकों की कमी से जूझ रहे संस्थानों को मदद मिलने लगेगी।

आईआईटी रोपड़ के निदेशक एमके सुरप्पा ने कहा, 'फिलहाल हमारे पास करीब 70 पीएचडी स्कॉलर हैं। लेकिन हमें विश्वास है कि अगले पांच वर्षों के दौरान उनकी संख्या 300 होगी।' आईआईटी हैदराबाद के डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम में 2008 में महज 3 छात्रों ने दाखिला लिया था लेकिन फिलहाल उनकी संख्या बढ़कर 260 हो गई है। आईआईटी हैदराबाद के निदेशक, यूबी देसाई ने कहा, 'हमें उम्मीद है कि अगले पांच वर्षों के दौरान पीएचडी छात्रों की संख्या में हर साल बढ़ती होगी।'

पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों में करीब 41 फीसदी शैक्षणिक पद खाली हैं। इन संस्थानों में शिक्षकों के कुल मंजूर पदों की संख्या 5,356 है जबकि नियमित शिक्षकों की संख्या महज 3,158 है। आईआईटी बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय में सबसे अधिक 57 फीसदी शिक्षण पद खाली हैं, जबकि 50 फीसदी के साथ आईआईटी दिल्ली दूसरे पायदान पर है। इसके बाद आईआईटी खड़गपुर में 48 फीसदी और आईआईटी गुवाहाटी में 42 फीसदी शिक्षकों के पद खाली हैं। शेष चार आईआईटी संस्थानों में खाली पड़े शिक्षकों के पदों की संख्या 19 फीसदी से 38 फीसदी के बीच है। आईआईटी बंबई के डीन (फैकल्टी) एके सुरेश ने कहा,



▶ शिक्षकों की कमी

- पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों में 41 फीसदी से अधिक शिक्षण पद खाली हैं
- इन संस्थानों में मंजूर कुल 5,356 पदों के मुकाबले महज 3,158 पद ही नियमित हैं
- आईआईटी भुवनेश्वर में सबसे अधिक 57 फीसदी शिक्षण पद रिक्त हैं
- आईआईटी दिल्ली में 50 फीसदी, आईआईटी खड़गपुर में 48 फीसदी और आईआईटी गुवाहाटी में 42 फीसदी शिक्षण पद रिक्त हैं

'हम अपने मौजूदा फैकल्टी के दम पर शैक्षणिक जरूरतों को पूरा करने समर्थ हैं। कभी-कभी अस्थायी आधार पर शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति भी की जाती है। शिक्षकों की संख्या पर्याप्त होने पर हम बड़े पाठ्यक्रमों को छोटे-छोटे भागों में बांट सकते हैं और इससे शिक्षक व छात्रों के बीच संपर्क बढ़ाने में भी मदद मिलती है। साथ ही इससे हम देश में शिक्षकों की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए अधिक से अधिक पीएचडी तैयार करने में समर्थ होंगे।' आईआईटी बंबई में विशेष पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए सहायक और विजिटिंग शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति होती है। इसके अलावा पोस्टग्रेजुएट (मास्टर और डॉक्टरेट) छात्रों को भी शिक्षण कार्य में लगाया जाता है।

आईआईटी संस्थानों का कहना है कि उनके द्वारा तैयार डॉक्टरेट स्कॉलरों की जमात से सभी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों को फायदा होगा क्योंकि वे यहां से फैकल्टी हासिल कर सकेंगे। कुछ आईआईटी संस्थानों में फैकल्टी पदों पर आवेदन करने के लिए डॉक्टरेट स्कॉलरों को अन्य आईआईटी संस्थानों में कम से कम तीन वर्षों का शैक्षणिक अनुभव प्राप्त होना चाहिए।

आईआईटी संस्थानों में कई वर्षों से डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे हैं। इन संस्थानों ने अब डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रमों में सुधार, छात्रवृत्ति और अनुसंधान सुविधाओं में निवेश बढ़ाकर छात्रों को इस ओर आकर्षित करने की कोशिश की है। देसाई ने कहा, 'अनुसंधान और पीएचडी पाठ्यक्रम की ओर अधिक से अधिक लोगों को आकर्षित करने के क्रम में छात्रवृत्ति में वृद्धि की जानी चाहिए। इसके अलावा आईआईटी संस्थानों को भी अनुसंधान उपकरणों में निवेश करने की जरूरत है। अनुसंधान सुविधाएं पीएचडी कार्यक्रम का एक अहम हिस्सा है। ऐसा नहीं है कि हमारे पास अच्छे उपकरण उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, लेकिन हम अब भी वैश्विक मानक पर खड़े नहीं उतरते। कुल मिलाकर इन कदमों के जरिये युवाओं को डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रमों के प्रति प्रोत्साहित किया जा सकता है।'

दिलचस्प है डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम के लिए प्राप्त आवेदनों की गहन जांच की जाती है। सुरप्पा ने कहा, 'जबतक अच्छी गुणवत्ता की परख नहीं हो जाती है आप एक भी नए छात्र को इस पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिला नहीं दे सकते हैं।' आईआईटी

गांधीनगर ने डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए कड़े मानक निर्धारित किए हैं ताकि इस पाठ्यक्रम में केवल गुणवत्तायुक्त बेहतर छात्रों को ही प्रवेश मिल सके। इस साल डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम के लिए चयन का अनुपात एक फीसदी से भी कम रहा है। आईआईटी गांधीनगर के निदेशक सुधीर जैन ने कहा, 'हम अपने पीएचडी दाखिले को लेकर काफी चयनात्मक प्रणाली अपनाते हैं ताकि आईआईटी गांधीनगर की स्थापित प्रतिष्ठा को ठेस न लगने पाए।'

आईआईटी गांधीनगर में डॉक्टरेट स्कॉलरों की संख्या 2010 में 28 थी जो बढ़कर अब 133 कर हो गई है। अगले 5 वर्षों के दौरान संस्थान में ऐसे छात्रों की संख्या बढ़कर करीब 150 होने की उम्मीद है। आईआईटी जोधपुर में इन छात्रों की संख्या महज 4 थी जो बढ़कर अब 70 हो गई है। आईआईटी जोधपुर के पीके कालरा ने कहा, 'अगले 5 वर्षों के दौरान यह संख्या बढ़कर 250 हो जाएगी।' इस साल आईआईटी गांधीनगर में डॉक्टरेट के 66 स्लॉटों के लिए करीब 8,000 आवेदन प्राप्त किए गए। इस प्रकार आवेदन में करीब पांच गुना वृद्धि

दर्ज की गई। सुरप्पा ने कहा, 'हम इस पाठ्यक्रम में बेहतरीन छात्रों को दाखिला देना चाहते हैं। पीएचडी कोई सामान्य काम नहीं है बल्कि इसमें उच्च गुणवत्ता की जरूरत होती है। हम अपने पीएचडी पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए बेहतरीन छात्रों की तलाश जारी रखेंगे।'

बहरहाल, पीएचडी दाखिले में वृद्धि होने के बावजूद आईआईटी संस्थानों का कहना है कि शिक्षण और अनुसंधान के लिए युवाओं को प्रेरित करना अब भी एक चुनौतीपूर्ण काम है। देसाई ने कहा, 'हालांकि छात्रों में अनुसंधान के प्रति रुचि अब भी बरकरार है, लेकिन पूरे परिवेश में बदलाव की दरकार है। दूसरे शब्दों में पीएचडी स्कॉलरों के लिए अधिक से अधिक रोजगार के अवसर सृजित करने की जरूरत है।'

जहां तक छात्रवृत्ति का सवाल है, आईआईटी संस्थान उद्योग के मानक पर खड़ा उतरते हैं। आईआईटी गांधीनगर में एमटेक पूरा कर चुके डॉक्टरेट स्कॉलर को 21,000 रुपये से 31,000 रुपये के बीच छात्रवृत्ति मिलती है और 20 फीसदी आवास किराया भत्ता दिया जाता है। आईआईटी गांधीनगर में बीटेक पूरा कर चुके डॉक्टरेट स्कॉलरों को 19,000 रुपये से 29,000 रुपये के बीच मासिक छात्रवृत्ति मिलती है जबकि 20 फीसदी आवास किराया भत्ता दिया जाता है। इसी प्रकार आईआईटी रोपड़ में पीएचडी स्कॉलरों की मासिक छात्रवृत्ति करीब 18,000 रुपये है। आईआईटी हैदराबाद में छात्रों को पहले साल हर महीने 18,000 रुपये और दूसरे साल 20,000 रुपये मासिक छात्रवृत्ति मिलती है। आईआईटी और नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट टेक्नोलॉजी में संभावित पीएचडी छात्र मुहैया कराने की प्रवृत्ति से छात्रों की मांग जैसी समस्याओं को दूर किया जा रहा है। जैन ने कहा, 'हम देशभर से पीएचडी छात्रों की भर्ती करते हैं। हमारे कई पीएचडी छात्रों ने आईआईटी से एमटेक या बीटेक किया है।'

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Watch-like device to alert family members of women in distress

Sandeep Joshi

NEW DELHI: It's not known if Q's Bond watches inspired real-life gadgets, but the Anil Kapoor-Sridevi blockbuster *Mr. India* has inspired a watch-like device — that can be used to ensure women's safety.

With the push of a button, the device will alert the user's family members about her location and also email audio and video clips of the distress she may be going through.

While in the Shekhar Kapoor-directed movie, protagonist Anil Kapoor stumbles upon a device that makes him disappear, the GPS-enabled 'electronic personal safety device' (ePSD), the project undertaken by the Department of Electronics and Information

Technology (DeitY), would come with a host of tamper-proof features that a criminal would not be able to deactivate or tamper with. "The project aims at the development of an affordable personal security device which could be in the form of a wrist watch that works on a standard operating system with inbuilt software applications to alert family, friends and police along with the GPS location of the victim," says the concept note of the project.

Further elaborating on the functions and nature of the project safety device, the note says: "The victim can send SOS in distress condition along with the live GPS tracking data to the family members."

The USP of the ePSD would

be that the device would allow the user to activate an alert system with four different kinds of triggers, helping them in different scenarios.

The device would come with shock motion detection sensors and anti-tamper strap technology that no one would be able to deliberately deactivate or destroy, the note adds.

For the project — "Design and development of an affordable electronic personal safety device" — a project review and steering group (PRSG) comprising domain experts drawn from leading technical and R&D institutes has already been set up.

The DeitY has selected IIT-Delhi as its partner to implement the project over a period of 12 months.

Pioneer ND 09/09/2013 P-2

ITS to make Noida-Greater Noida E-way safer

Approved by IIT-D, system to cost ₹43 crore

ANUP VERMA ■ NOIDA

In order to monitor and manage traffic flow on Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Noida Authority has approved the Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) in the city. The design was approved by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi last month. It aims at minimising accidents making the Expressway safer.

The announcement to this effect was made by the Authority this week. The



Traffic officials monitoring traffic through ITS Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

project will cost an estimated ₹43 crore borne by the Noida Authority itself.

The whole system will be monitored from a Police Control Room located at Sector

14A. There will be staff to keep an eye on vehicular movement on the E-way to help ensure smooth flow of traffic.

The system will be fully computerised. The control

room will be later shifted to the building of Noida Authority at Sector 96.

According to a senior official of Noida Authority, the proposed system will improve surveillance, reverse driving, overloading. It will cut short travel time, operational costs and incident reaction time besides improving traffic regulation. "A total of 96 cameras will be installed on both sides of 24 km stretch, out of which 48 will be Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) while 48 will be fixed cameras on 1 km distance on the entire carriageway. Apart from this, 24 Video Incidence Recording System (VIRS) and 24 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras will also be installed on every 2 km

distance, which will help in recording incidents and recognising number plates of vehicles instantly."

It will be able to inform road users about rerouting and road closures. It would comprise metrological data system, an emergency call box, CCTVs, moving cameras and Automatic Number Plate Reader cameras and variable message signboards, he said.

Rama Raman, CEO, Noida Authority, said, "We have finalised the system. There were some objections from Central Road Research Institute which have been kept in mind while approving the proposal. The move will help in ensuring better traffic system connecting Noida and Greater Noida.

Hindustan Times ND 09/09/2013 P-10

Nalanda varsity teachers to get \$55,000 a year

HTSPECIAL

Arun Kumar

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PATNA: The teaching staff of Nalanda University, an international institute whose chancellor is Nobel winner Amartya Sen, will draw an annual salary of \$50,000-55,000 (around ₹30 lakh, at a fixed value of ₹55 to the dollar). The salaries are comparable to those of the Indian School of Business, where senior-most professors get

between ₹24 lakh and ₹36 lakh a year.

"The package of faculty members is expected to be \$50,000-55,000 (equivalent to ₹27.5 lakh to ₹30 lakh on a fixed dollar value of ₹55)," said Nalanda University vice-chancellor Gopa Sabharwal, who left for the US on Sunday to discuss the modalities of recruitment in accordance with international standards.

The university is set to start the

recruitment process next month. For the two proposed schools — the school of historical sciences and the school of environment and ecology — that the university will start

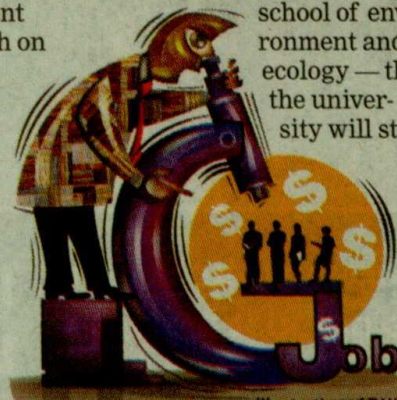


Illustration: ABHIMANYU

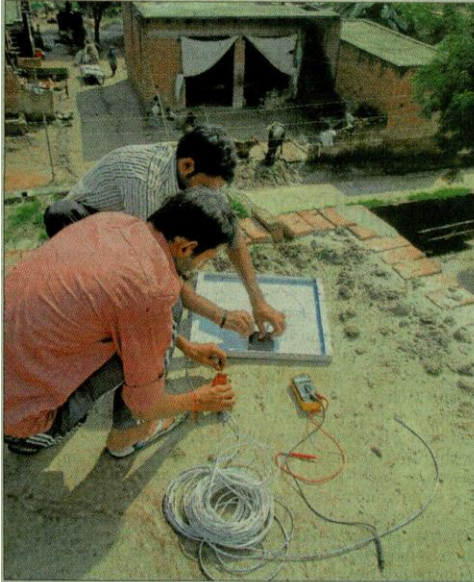
with, it has planned to hire around 20 people to teach for now.

After the appreciation of the dollar the university has kept the option of declaring the dollar price. "All South Asian universities do it, and so will we. Left to the international price of the dollar, it could play havoc with the university's budget," she said.

"I will visit Yale University, which will cooperate with Nalanda University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign," she said.

Cost saving

Youths offer energy solution in two UP villages



A solar panel being installed in a UP village.

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Nitin Kumar Saini and Suruchi Jain, both recent graduates from the Delhi College of Engineering (now DTU), already have job offers from a major infotech firm in Bangalore. But what stimulates them is not the anticipation of joining their first job but their solar power project, which is being run at two villages in UP.

It all started as a college project in their final year of BTech (electrical) nearly two years ago while researching on various applications of solar energy. But it was accentuated by an able guidance of a senior NASA scientist who motivated them — along with three other students from the college — to take the project to rural India and put it to practical use.

Power cuts

"There is a vast disconnect between rural and urban India. There are steep power cuts

there, people don't have access to electricity for most part of the day and when they generate their own power through diesel-propelled generators, it costs them dearly. So solar energy is a saviour," says Nitin.

Funds problem

Now, after generous capital investment by Dr Kumar Krishen, who works at Texas-based Johnson Space Center in National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the five-member team including Nitin and Suruchi, zeroed in on two villages — Bhaju in Samli district and Tuglakpur-Khamheda in Muzafarnagar district.

In August this year, three team members Anuj Pal, Nitin and Suruchi went to the villages and spent four days there to set the ball rolling.

It was no mean task as the project needed the green signal of village pradhans before

things could even be discussed. After this, 10 houses were chosen in both villages for setting up solar panels for their pilot study.

After the panels were set up, each of them can light one fan, one LED torch, a CFL bulb and a mobile charger. The villagers were also apprised with technical knowhow while the usefulness of solar energy was explained to them, which is not only environment-friendly but also affordable.

"We calculated that their monthly spend on mobile charge alone was Rs 100-120 a month because of high cost of power, but after this, they can set up a mobile charging panel at a cost of Rs 360-375 that will last for many years to come," says Suruchi.

Well, this was just the beginning. The team has written the project report, which will soon make it to a reputable research journal. In the second

phase of the project, they are geared to set up solar power well and solar power refrigerator.

Energy bank

Solar power well will be an energy bank in the middle of the village where farmers can come and charge their mobile phones, whereas solar power refrigerator will provide cooling just as a fridge to their crops and vegetables to prevent them from getting rotten before time.

"Both projects are in the stage of research and we are evaluating the cost-saving aspect. When everything is finalised, we will roll it out," says Nitin.

The IT job which Nitin and Suruchi will join next month will not put the project in abeyance. Instead, it will give us financial independence to run the project even more aggressively in the times to come, adds Nitin.

Capitation fee demanded by pvt colleges illegal: SC

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8

PRIVATE technical and medical colleges demanding capitation fee from students is illegal and unethical, the Supreme Court has said and asked the Centre to make laws to put an end to such practices which deny admission to meritorious financially poor students in those institutions.

"Collection of large amount by way of capitation fee running into crores of rupees for MBBS and post-graduate seats, exorbitant fee, donation etc, by many of such self-financing institutions, have kept the meritorious

financially poor students away from those institutions," it said.

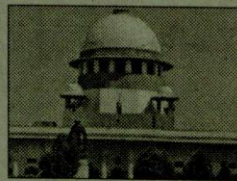
"Pressure, it is also seen, is being extended by various institutions, for the additional intake of students, not always for the benefit of the student community and thereby serve the community, but for their own betterment," a bench of justices K S Radhakrishnan and A K Sikri said.

The court said that quality of education has gone down in private colleges which are turning into students financing institutions. It said that government agencies need to introspect on the issue to bring proper legislation. "We cannot lose sight of

the fact that these things are happening in our country irrespective of the constitutional pronouncements by this court in TMA Pai Foundation case that there shall not be any profiteering or acceptance of capitation fee etc.

"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 said.

The court said that mushrooming of large number of medical, engineering, nursing and



pharmaceutical colleges has definitely affected the quality of education in this country, especially in the medical field which call for serious introspection.

"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," it said.

Reports appear every now and then that many of the private institutions which are conducting medical colleges are demanding lakhs and sometimes crores of rupees for MBBS and for post-graduate admission in their respective colleges, it said.

The bench also referred to recent cases in which CBI had to charge sheet the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and President of Medical Council of India to emphasise that all is not well even at the government level.

CBI's investigation "reveals a sorry state of affairs, which is an eye-opener for taking appro-

priate remedial measures in future so that medical education may attain the goals envisaged by the IMC Act and the Regulations and serve the community", it said.

"CBI had to charge sheet none other than the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, itself which depicts how the educational system in this country is deteriorating.

"Many of regulatory bodies like MCI, AICTE, UGC etc. Were also under serious clout in the recent years. CBI, in the year 2010, had to arrest the President of the MCI for accepting bribe to grant recognition to one medical college in Punjab," it said.

Body for students' abroad visits soon

MHRD reaches out to MEA to get Students Emigration Authority Management in place

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

In the absence of any data on number of students going abroad for higher studies, the Human Resource Development Ministry (MHRD) has approached the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) to constitute Students Emigration Authority Management.

This will make it mandatory for students to declare funding, place and course(s) to help the Government monitor and keep a track on "everything", especially the outflow of Indian currency which is estimated about Rs 32,000 crore in last academic session. Although there is

no specific data about the black money involved, sources said that maximum investment in India came through Mauritius due to the money-laundering racket.

Sources said the Centre was interested in having a proper data bank mainly to monitor the outflow of money and check paying capability of family, etc. The HRD Ministry has asked the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to include this Students Emigration Authority Management in the Draft Emigration Management Authority, Bill 2013.

As of now the Ministry's record is based on "as per information publicly available" which puts the number of Indian students studying in the United States (USA) and Australia in 2012 at 10,0270 and 36,326 respectively. There is no data at all on Indian students studying in other European countries, Russia, and other Asian countries.

HRD official said that the

A software module is being rolled out in cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Amritsar, Kolkata, Kochi, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow and Goa



draft Emigration Management Bill, 2013 of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs includes a provision to constitute an Emigration Management Authority (EMA) that would capture data of emigrants including separately for students.

"The students would be required to intimate the EMA before leaving India. They would also have to declare the source of

funding with their fee structure, place of accommodation (whether hostel or private) and other minute details that would enable the Centre to monitor flow of students as well as money," official said. In addition to that, the Government will issue guidelines for the students seeking admission for studies in foreign countries in the wake of racist attacks in some countries.

The Government has woken up from the deep slumber following an estimation made by the Commerce Ministry that Indian students' investment abroad during the last financial and academic year could be Rs 32,169 crore. Where the total FDI in education in the country recorded a little over Rs 3000 crore spanning over 12 years till September 2012.

To attract more investments in terms of intake of students from abroad, the Centre has directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) for permitting 15 per cent supernu-

merary seats for foreign students including NRIs/PIOs in universities and colleges in India. The Home Ministry has directed the MHRD to develop a foreign students information system (FSIS) to enable the Government to monitor the activities of students studying in various educational institutions across the country. All educational institutions have to provide information mandatory to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in implementation of the proposed system.

A software module has been developed to facilitate online filling of particulars of foreign students including their academic and financial activities by the respective educational institutions in the prescribed format. To start with, the project is currently being rolled out in important cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Amritsar, Kolkata, Kochi, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow and Goa.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

Dollar education in rupees

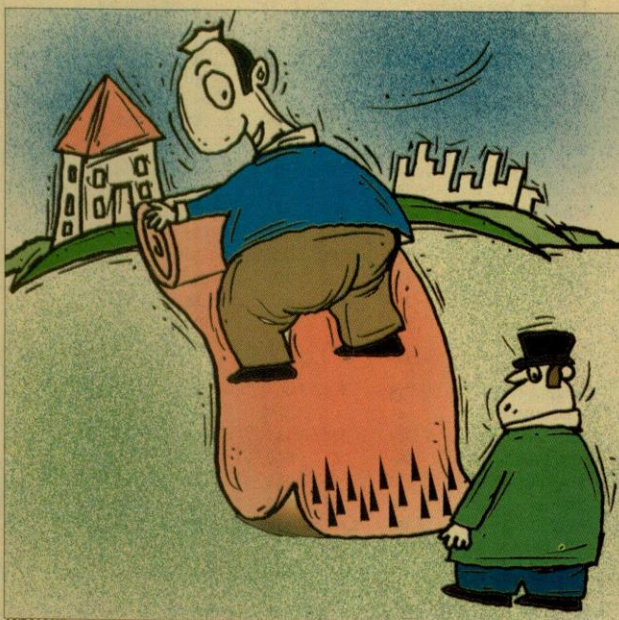
Given the recent fall in the value of the rupee, speedy enactment of the Foreign Education Providers Bill becomes all the more important

KR SEKAR &
ROHIN KAPOOR

RAHUL, a Delhiite, has performed exceedingly well in his senior secondary examination and is excited to join a prestigious undergraduate programme at an Ivy league university. He and his parents are least bothered about the weakening of the rupee against the dollar and its negative impact on the cost of overseas education. This is not due to his affluent background but because he will be pursuing the programme at the Gurgaon campus of the foreign university. This dream of thousands, may be millions, of Indian students aspiring for world-class foreign education at rupee cost may soon become reality if the government has its way.

It is common knowledge that the MHRD had formulated the Foreign Education Providers Bill in 2010 to permit foreign universities to set up campuses in India. The Bill, however, has been awaiting Parliamentary nod for a long time. Given the existing situation, we now understand that the government is in the process of finalising regulations that seek to achieve the objectives defined under the aforesaid Bill. This development has been confirmed by the education minister while replying to a question in Parliament. The Bill, in its current form, had placed certain conditions, such as a minimum corpus of ₹500 million and restriction on ploughing back of profits on foreign universities desirous of setting up a campus in India.

In the past few years, some of these onerous conditions have been a subject of intense debate in the industry. As per some industry experts, such conditions will put off some of the most prestigious



ASIT BAGCHI

global universities to invest in the Indian market. We will have to wait and watch as to how many of these conditions are prescribed under the proposed regulations.

These regulations have become all the more important for an Indian student eyeing overseas degrees given the recent fall in the value of the rupee. To quote statistics, the rupee has depreciated by about 9% in the last month itself with analysts predicting new lows in the near future.

Further, the monthly average value of rupee versus dollar in the last one year indicates a fall of nearly 13% in value.

The accompanying table clearly indicates that the cost of pursuing an MBA from Stanford University

has gone up by around 17% due to the weakening rupee. Please note that the additional burden on the student is even more significant as social costs of living have not been included in this calculation.

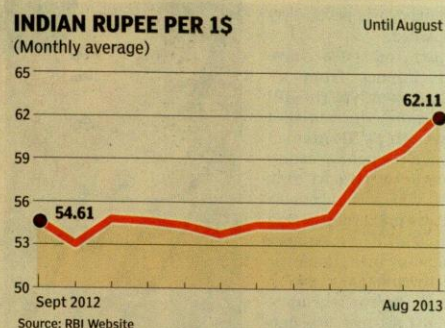
In today's tough economic situation, this is bound to impact the plans of the aspiring middle class seeking overseas education for their wards. The proposed regulations can thus provide a breather by providing access to quality higher education at an affordable cost and transform the entire landscape of higher education system in the country. The foreign universities are expected to introduce global best practices in pedagogy, curricula, research and training. In order to meet the new bench-

mark, the domestic education players would be forced to improve the quality of their service offerings also. In addition, the domestic campuses of foreign universities would also help the government in keeping a check on brain-drain as most of the academically brilliant students, who currently pursue education overseas, generally tend to accept foreign job offers.

In the past, institutions such as Duke University, Virginia Tech, University of Southern California and many more have openly expressed their interest in setting up a campus in India. Such institutions are expected to revive their India plans on notification of the proposed regulations. With over 50% of the populations below 25

years, annual enrolment of over 21 million students in higher education and GER of around 18% the country offers an attractive proposition for such institutions. We believe this is certainly a step in the right direction and is expected to reap rich benefits in the long run. We would ideally like a law to be passed and enacted that will supersede the proposed regulations in order to lend more comfort to the foreign institutions planning to invest in the Indian market.

KR Sekar is partner with Deloitte Haskins & Sells, and Rohin Kapoor is a senior manager with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt Ltd. Views are personal



COMPARISON OF TUITION FEES

(Session 2012-13 and 2013-14)

	Aug 23, 2012	Aug 23, 2013	Diff
1 \$/₹	55.19	64.68	9.49
Tuition fees for MBA at Stanford University (in \$)	57,300	59,550	2,250
Equivalent (in ₹)	31,62,387	38,51,694	6,89,307
Increase in fee attributable to exchange rate fluctuation (in ₹)	5,43,777		

Source: Stanford Website and Deloitte Analysis

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 9, 2013;Section: Times Nation;Page: 10;

Yogendra, UGC continue to trade charges

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The HRD ministry's decision to remove Yogendra Yadav as member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has turned into a battle of words as the noted political scientist said he was not the first academician affiliated to a political party to be member of an academic body.

Humayun Kabir, who later became education minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet, was chairman of the UGC. Historian Irfan Habib, a card carrying member of CPM, was chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research and Javed Alam, who played a crucial role in making Students Federation of India, the CPM's student wing, a force in Himachal and was also part of the state secretariat, was made chairperson of the Indian Council of Social Science Research during UPA-1.

M L Sondhi, another ICSSR chairperson with strong political links, was part of the Jan Sangh and later the BJP. Before he joined P V Narasimha Rao's cabinet as FM, even PM Manmohan Singh had a short stint as UGC chairperson.

On its part, the ministry said the decision to ask Yadav to resign from the membership of UGC was taken in May-June and was not related to the commission's decision to set up Inter-University Centre on teacher education in Kakinada, the parliamentary constituency of HRD minister M M Pallam Raju. The decision to have IUC was brought before the full commission only in July. The ministry insists that its decision, even if delayed, was correct.