Sheffield-IIT Delhi partnership

Sheffield University Management School, UK, has partnered with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur.

As per this tie-up, the institutions will jointly conduct various research projects.

The universities will be working together with the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA for a project titled ‘Next Generation Sustainable Freight Transportation’. Sheffield will also be working on analysing carbon trading with IIT Kharagpur.
Indian’s top global innovators

The eight Indian students who were declared winners of the India Initiative for Research and Innovation in Science (IRIS) will represent the nation at the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). This fair is going to be held in Phoenix, Arizona from May 12 to 17, 2013. Intel ISEF is a programme run by the Society for Science and the Public (SSP) in partnership with Intel Corporation. The premier global science competition provides an annual forum to pre-college students across the world to display their independent research.

These students will represent India at the world’s largest pre-college science fair, and the only global science competition for students in grades 8 to 12. Bringing together more than 1,500 young students from more than 70 countries, Intel ISEF 2013 is an opportunity for the best young minds in the world to come together to share ideas, showcase cutting-edge projects, and compete for more than US $3 million in awards and scholarships.

The winners are selected on basis of their creative ability and scientific thought, as well as the thoroughness, skill, and clarity shown in their projects. Each of the eight students will get an

Eight winners of IRIS will represent India at Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, 2013

ASUS Fonepad, the world’s first Intel Atom Processor based seven inch tablet.

This year, a total of 2036 IRIS project entries were received from across the country under 10 categories that included a range of solutions in the field of physical and life sciences, mathematics, engineering and social sciences. Of these, 111 projects were showcased at IRIS 2012 held in the Capital last year, six projects by the eight students were shortlisted to represent India at Intel ISEF.
India gets first English lifestyle mag in Braille

‘White Print’ To Roll Out From Next Month

Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

Mumbai: In a scene from Sai Paranjpye’s film ‘Sparsh’, a faculty member at a school for blind children, Shabana Azmi, demands to know of principal Naseeruddin Shah why the institute has not procured a single new book in Braille in the past three years. He, in turn, asks her to determine how many titles have been printed in that period.

Thirty years after the film’s release, little has changed. Academic textbooks, audio books and the odd newspaper in Hindi and Marathi are the few resources for visually impaired people. It is only now that a lifestyle magazine in English is becoming available to them.

‘White Print’, a new monthly out in May, will have sections on food, travel, gadgetry, even politics—everything that sighted people take for granted in the multiple publications that serve them. Where other periodicals have book reviews, this one will review audio books instead.

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A 24-year-old former public relations executive, Upasana Makati, has developed the monthly by getting journalists to moonlight and sourcing commercials for a segment few advertisers are aware of. Readers are invited to contribute content. The monthly will be printed at the Braille press of the National Association for the Blind (NAB) in Worli.

“It helps that NAB has a software to translate English into Braille. I do not have a team of writers or translators. We will find a way to get it to schools and colleges at subsidized rates,” Makati says.

NAB director Raman Shankar says printing costs particularly high. “Paper is very expensive. Ours is the only big press in Maharashtra that publishes textbooks. Reading options for the visually impaired are severely restricted owing to high input costs,” he says.

Secretary of NAB Joaquim Rapose says they have also printed the Quran in Braille. “A Hindi magazine named Deepshikha is popular. Yet, it is our talking books centre that is the star of the show. Here we have recorded 7,000 titles in 10 languages,” he says.
Only 18 out of 100 students passing out of schools enter college every year. This minority, too, suffers from unemployability blues because of an industry-academia disconnect. India's demographic dividend will remain unrealised if steps are not taken to make the 120 million students, who pass out of schools each year, job ready.

The Future of Learning

LOOK WHO'S GOING TO COLLEGE


Statistics

STUDENTS PASSING OUT OF SCHOOL
120 MILLION

THOSE WHO JOIN COLLEGE OF DEGREE, DIPLOMA COURSES
25 MILLION

THOSE NOT GETTING INTO COLLEGES
95 MILLION

EMPLOYABLE
5% OF GRADUATES
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN REGULAR COURSES
217.86 LAKH

NUMBER IN DEGREE COURSES
184.84 LAKH

NUMBER IN DIPLOMA COURSES
33.02 LAKH

S Skill to community college system

Such is the alarm caused by the industry-academia disconnect that Human Resource Development Minister M.M. Pallam Raju termed "stunting of students" as his biggest worry. After assuming charge of the portfolio from his predecessor Kapil Sibal last year.

Since then, the government has been trying to find ways to make the 30 community colleges, established in the North Eastern states, work. Under the revised framework, these institutions have been asked to focus on specific industry needs. The higher education minister said that community colleges would provide vocational courses to students after acquiring a secondary level education.
one-year, associate, or bachelor's degree after two years, and will
create for students the option of moving
to the regular degree courses.

Moreover, a National Vocational
Training (NVT) program has been started in consultation with states to help
school students in vocational training
through the VET program. These new
courses are being offered in various voca
tional areas and are expected to meet the needs of students in different voca
tional streams.

What's ready for vocational education
But the trend is that students
are willing to seek vocational courses
and are more aware of the potential of
trade. The analysis of the current situation indicates that the number of students seeking voca
tional courses is increasing. However, there is a need for better vocational training
institutions and better trained faculty.

In 2019-20, India had

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total students in colleges</th>
<th>Students in UC technical courses</th>
<th>Students in PG general</th>
<th>Students in PG technical</th>
<th>Students in diploma in distance mode</th>
<th>Students enrolled for PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the National Vocational Training (NVT) programs, there is a need for better vocational training
institutions and better trained faculty.

Additionally, the government has

- Increased the number of vocational training institutions
- Provided more funding for vocational courses
- Implemented new curriculum in vocational education

These measures have led to an increase in the number of students opting for voca
tional courses. However, there is still a need for better institutional support and more
trained faculty to fully utilize the potential of vocational education.

Limitations of vocational education

- Shortage of vocational institutions
- Lack of trained faculty
- Insufficient funding

To overcome these limitations, the government has

- Increased funding for vocational institutions
- Provided incentives for schools to offer vocational courses
- Developed new curriculum for vocational courses

These efforts have led to an increase in the number of students opting for voca
tional courses. However, there is still a need for better institutional support and more
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