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In a batch of 450 students, IIM-Indore has 405 engineers

Press Trust of India

Indore

A MERE engineering degree is not enough; one needs an MBA tag too.
This thinking is reflected in the profile of the latest batch of IIM-Indore here.
This batch, enrolled for the flagship two-year Post Graduate Programme (PGP) for 2011-13 academic session, has 405 students with engineering background, out of the total 450.
"Fat pay-packets and growing interest in white-collar jobs are the main reasons for this trend," a senior IIM professor said.
"This trend of engineers opting for management courses is not new in the country... The engineers opt for management degrees to give a boost to their career," said Professor Prashant Salwan, who teaches Strategic Management at IIM Indore.
These days, majority of engineers, instead of working in a manufacturing facility, prefer to work in the management so that they can play a major role in policy and decision making, he said. "They do not want to dirty their hands," he said.
Anand Kumar of 'Super-30' coaching fame, termed the trend as unfortunate. If someone wanted to become a manager eventually, why should he/she seek admission to the prestigious IITs for engineering course, he asked.
The country was facing a shortage of qualified engineers and such students were doing injustice to those who could not get into IITs, Kumar claimed, adding that this trend should be curbed.
Panel mulls 50 research parks in 3 categories

Akhaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The blueprint for establishing 50 research parks in academic and research institutions in the country proposes to have three kinds of facilities based on different kinds of financial model.

The expert committee, headed by T. Ramasami, secretary of department of science & technology, based itself on the experience of the existing research park in IIT-Madras and came to the view that ‘one-size-fits-all’ model of research park might not work in India.

The committee said research park, to be set up in areas with vibrant industrial activity and substantial land prices, should be based on company models and market-driven parameters with investment of Rs 350 crore. The panel said 30% finance for this kind of research park should be sourced from the market, 30% money should come at the rate of 4%, and the rest 40% from the HRD ministry. Alumni strength of 5,000 is recommended, with a minimum support of Rs 10 crore from them.

The second type of research park should be established in areas where innovation is at an emerging stage and land costs are not all that prohibitive.

The third type of research parks should come in areas, where land costs are not high. Investment is pegged at Rs 75-Rs 100 crore, with delivery of outcomes within 15 years.
Student entrepreneurs from Delhi presented their business plans for societal development at the ‘Social Innovation Competition’. Vishakha Sharma reports

The concept of social entrepreneurship (SE) has been in India for many years now with NGOs, private companies and various other individuals working to bring about social change in sectors like education, health and rural. The popularity of SE today is gathering pace in the country.

In an initiative towards promoting the spirit of social entrepreneurship, Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AISEES) Delhi IIT, organised the ‘Youth to Business Forum 2011 (YBF)’ on July 27 to provide the youth with an opportunity to realise the dream of creating a successful venture.

The highlight of the YBF was the ‘Social Innovation Competition (SIC)’, for the young population to discuss their thoughts and opinions through revolutionary business plans based on the United Nations Millennium Goals. Participating students of IIT presented business plans, which is their endeavor to make the world a better place to live in.

Bhawana Mahajan, manager corporate communication, IISER Education, one of the organizers of the YBF, believes that SE is enabling business skills and motivation to take society to the next level.

“SE has always been important and relevant in a country like India. And it is catching up fast among the youth as they are more focused, independent and more aware about ethics and global trends,” she said.

Also, according to Mahajan, the youth today are better socially entrepreneurial, as compared to the previous generations as they are well connected. The older generations did not know much about the importance of SE.

Dhriti Roy, one of the finalists of SIC, gave credit to technology, which he said, has made the youth more aware. He said, “Earlier too, people were great social entrepreneurs with innovative ideas wanting to bring about social change. But, what lacked then was the availability of advanced technology, which the present generation is blessed with.”

Neelam Kataria, another finalist, believes that SE in India will keep on growing and push people towards caring about their society. Their efforts will certainly have a positive impact on people’s lives on a large scale.

Some of the social business plans of students presented during the YBF were projects like ‘Green Agroenviro’ on solving problems that farmers face today which are directly or indirectly revolving around the core problem of poverty and education, and ‘Sanitation Hygiene and Environment’ whose objective is to provide cheap sanitary pads to rural/urban women, amongst others.
US warns Indian students against visa fraud rings

Indo-Asian News Service
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WASHINGTON: As another American university came under the scanner, the United States asked Indian students to be alert to the existence of “predatory visa fraud rings and fraudulent document vendors”.

“We are following the case closely and we’re in communication with the government of India,” state department spokesman Mark Toner said Saturday, a day after a raid on the University of Northern Virginia.

Based in Annandale, a Washington suburb, the unaccredited, for-profit private university has some 2,400 students of which 90% are from India, registered at three locations in northern Virginia.

The US embassy in New Delhi has briefed the external affairs ministry and the US department of homeland security and the state department have been in contact with the Indian embassy here, Toner said.

Declining to give details, the spokesman said “it’s important to note that a hundred thousand Indians are receiving a good education at certified US institutions each year, and we certainly welcome the contribution of Indian students wishing to study in the US”.

“And of course, we caution them to be alert to the existence of these so-called predatory visa fraud rings and fraudulent document vendors,” he said.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has warned the university it could withdraw the school’s authorisation to admit foreign students. Agency spokesperson Cori Bassett, however, would not say why the action was taken, saying it is part of a pending investigation.
GERMAN TRYST

Sommath Sarkar, DAAD WISE fellow, who completed his research at TU Dresden, Germany, feels Indian universities need to be more flexible in terms of research material. Diptiman Dewan reports

Somenath Sarkar of IIT Kharagpur was awarded the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) WISE (Working Internships in Science and Engineering) fellowship for summer internship at the Technische Universität Dresden (TU Dresden) for three months in 2009. A student of the five-year integrated MSc in Statistics and Informatics at the IIT, his love for Germany stemmed from its special place in the history of mathematics.

“The DAAD project required sufficient background in programming languages, which I had acquired during the course of my study at IIT Kharagpur. With inquisitiveness and curiosity to study the application of statistics in geospatial datasets, I decided to opt for a research project based on this topic,” says Sarkar.

The topic of his research was in geostatistics—a branch of statistics that focuses on spatial datasets, which is information identifying geographic location of features and boundaries such as oceans, natural features, and more.

“Take the example of an iron-ore deposit map. Ever wondered how the maps are made? It’s obviously not possible to dig thousands of square km to determine the distribution of ore deposit,” says Sarkar. As part of the research, Sarkar added new simulation features in a software developed by his supervisor called ‘The SigmaTH,’ which could be used to generate various geostatistical distributions and thereby help to visualise, understand and generate geographical maps.

Geostatistics is a fairly new area in India. One of the main challenges here, is the lack of resources even in the premier institutes on topics that are lesser known to the masses. The Universities in Germany, on the contrary, provide vast repositories on any topic one is interested in, besides also being more flexible in terms of the resources needed for research being made available, feels Sarkar.

The fellowship also brings fond memories of Germany. “Travelling from India, the first thing one notices is the scanty population. At the first go, language posed as a challenge as most of the announcements, motorway signs, directions, and instructions on products in supermarkets were in German. Even the lunch menu at the university canteens is in German. But it is a beautiful country with helpful people,” recalls Sarkar.
High School Standards = High Growth

A PPP model will strengthen our weak education base to meet the high-quality job requirements of the future

India is expected to be a major contributor to the world labour market in the coming years. However, as it has cautioned repeatedly, that, given the gap between skill attainment through the traditional education system and employability, the fruits of demographic dividend are doubtful. This thought got little attention, but is based on perception than facts in terms of effectiveness and research capabilities of the IITs and the IIMs.

Before delving into the debate, it may be useful to analyse the scenario over the past decade seeing that the trend emerged from IIT enrolment data despite its shortcomings. Actual enrolments have doubled, rising from 6.65 million in 2000-01 to 12.84 million in 2009-08. The highest concentration of enrolments in the period is found in Arts followed by Science. It is important to point out that while the percentage of total enrolments has gone down in Arts, the absolute numbers have risen from 3.88 million in 2000-01 to 5.88 million in 2009-08.

Science is a broad category and comprises four verticals whose combined share has actually risen over the last 15 years. Within Science, there has been highest growth in enrolments in engineering than natural sciences and medicine.

While the debate on education has often focused on quantity versus quality, it bears to be noted that even the quantity is not sufficient to ensure a smooth transition of labour from agriculture to manufacturing and services. The higher education system, in its present structure and content, is ill-suited to meet the desired skill requirements of the millions, particularly in the countryside. Additionally, institutions of higher learning of various streams are found concentrated in particular regions, implying that students have to migrate of other regions in order to pursue their studies. It puts an unbearable financial burden on families, preventing aspiring students from pursuing their further studies.

The other aspect of quality of education and training provided also needs to be thoroughly explored. Barraging the top league institutes — namely, the IITs, IIMs and a few other government-run colleges and universities — the quality of students does not quite match up. Corporates constantly complain of the complete skill mismatch between job requirement and qualification of applicants. In other words, though the applicant pool may appear to be large, the number of qualified and eligible applicants is significantly smaller. This implies that although there are millions who graduate through private-run colleges, they really don’t stand a chance to compete in the global marketplace.

Let us for a moment forget about higher education and examine the education system at the school level — and the pathetic state it is in. Only 58% children in standard V in rural India can read a standard II-level text; the proportion of standard I children who could recognize numbers 1–9 declined from 69% in 2009 to 66% in 2018; children in standard V who could do simple division problems also dropped from 36% in 2009 to 33% in 2010. This is the sorry state of affairs of India’s school system. In addition, the dropout rate is extremely high. An NCAER study reveals the astonishing fact that 50% students drop out after class X. Secondly, the quality of teachers is abysmal. This, coupled with a high rate of teacher absencism and lack of incentives for students to stay in school, ensures a very weak foundation.

If one analyses government schemes, what is revealed is a complete disregard of problems in the middle and secondary levels. Given that most students get acquainted with streams such as science, commerce, etc., during these formative years and make their decisions based on their knowledge and understanding of the subject, it makes all the more sense for the system to be more efficient at these points. The problem — and this forms the crux of the issue — is that we need to first make sure that the foundation is strong. We need to ensure that the system of education at the middle and secondary level is strengthened. It has to be a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach.

All this bears additional significance when viewed in the context of maintaining a high growth rate. Sustaining a high growth rate over the next few decades does not appear possible with a sizeable chunk of the labour force lacking basic educational qualification. At some point, the lack of a qualified labour force is going to start showing up in higher input costs that will affect growth.

Additionally, while China’s gross enrolment ratio — the number of individuals in the 20–24 age group actually going to college — stands at 23%, the comparable figure for India is 13%. Granted, per-capita income of the Chinese is significantly higher than India’s, expect the rate to increase as income rise without taking any steps is not advisable. A sustained high growth, the dream of many policymakers, will not be possible without a skilled and educated workforce. So, the need of the hour is that there is a strong need to revamp the education system in the light of future skill needs and better employability following a public-private partnership model.

(The author is director of NCAER-CMIE)
आईआईटी इंजीनियर जा रहे आईआईएम

इंडिया। आलोचक इसे अकादमिक असमंजस भी करार दे सकते हैं, लेकिन देश के नये इंजीनियर बेहतर भविष्य के दर्शाए खोलने के लिये प्रबंधन संस्थानों की सीखियाँ जढ़ने में अब जरा भी नहीं हिचकर रहे हैं।

शिक्षकों का मानना है कि इंजीनियरों के रहस्य में आए इस आमूलचूर बदलाव की स्वाभाविक वजह मोटी नतीजों और सफल कार्यवाही नीतियों का बढ़ता आकर्षण है। इंडिया के भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान के जारी ताजा आकड़े हैं जो इस चलन के दबाव की गवाही देते हैं।

आईआईएमआई के पोस्ट श्रेणी� उप्रोफेसर ओप्रोफिट्र के नवे वैषयिक वर्ष 2011-12 के 450 में से करीब 405 विश्वासि की अकादमिक प्रोफेसर इंजीनियरिंग को है, जबकि उसमें प्रबंधन और व्यापक विषय की पूर्वभूमि वाले विश्वासियों की कुल संख्या महज 15 के आसपास है। आईआईएमआई में रणनीतिक प्रबंधन पद्धति वाले प्रोफेसर प्रशासन सालवार बदलते हैं, देश में इंजीनियरिंग के बाद प्रबंधन को पढ़ाई की प्रवृत्ति एकदम नयी नहीं है। इंजीनियर स्वाभाविक रूप से शानदार पारा के लिये प्रबंधन को उपाधि हासिल करने के लिये आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।

सालवार के मुख्य भीतर तीर देखा जा रहा है कि ज्यादातर इंजीनियर विस्तृत निर्माण उपक्रमों में नीतियों के मुकाबले प्रबंधन के नीति निर्माण और विरामक पदों पर आसान होने लगते हैं। हालांकि, वह ज्यादा वास्त्विक समय के वजह से प्रबंधन के सामान्य प्रकार के पथ में कहीं नहीं है। लेकिन देशभर के शीर्ष प्रबंधन संस्थानों में इंजीनियरिंग की पूर्वभूमि वाले विश्वासियों के बढ़ते दबाव के मंदिर यह आईआईएमआई के प्रोफेसर का कहना है कि आजकल के युवा ऐसे नीतियों के दूरी बना रहे हैं, जिनसे उनके हाथ गंदे हों। इसलिये वे मैनेजर की सफलता को पारस्परिक भावी नीतियों को तरीके देते हैं। सालवार कहते हैं कि कई भार ऐसा भी होता है कि विद्यार्थी परीक्षाओं या समाज के दबाव में इंजीनियरिंग को पढ़ाई कर तो लेते हैं। लेकिन इसके बाद उन्हें लगता है कि वह इंजीनियर के मुकाबले मैनेजर के पहली रोल में बेहतर तरीके से फिट हो सकते हैं।

उपर, एक तबका ऐसा भी है जो देश में इंजीनियरों के तेजी से मैनेजरों में बदलने के बढ़ते चलन की तीन तीन नहीं मानता। इनके आनंद फूला भी इसी तबके को नमुना दर्शाते हैं, जिनका स्थानिक कोर्सचित्र संस्थान सुपर 30 अभियानों के साथ में विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं का भारतीय प्रांतीय को संस्थान में दाखिले का सपना पूरा करता आ रहा है।
लघु उद्योगों के लिए अग्रणी संस्थाओं की मदद

नई दिल्ली • सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि इन उद्योगों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाओं को सही कार्यान्वयन के लिए देश के अग्रणी संस्थाओं का सहयोग लिया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने आईआईटी दिल्ली, एनसीएआर और आईआईएफटी जैसे देश के अग्रणी संस्थाओं को आमंत्रित किया है। दरअसल मंत्रालय राजीव गांधी उद्यमी मित्र योजना को ज्यादा सशक्त बनाने के लिए इन संस्थाओं की सहायता चाहता है। इस योजना के तहत ट्रेनिंग संस्थान खोले जाएगे। मंत्रालय ने युवा उद्यमियों को ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए दो योजनाएं चला रखी हैं। इन योजनाओं के तहत मंत्रालय आधारभूत ढांचे के लिए धन भी मुहैया कराएगा। (प्रेदेश)
खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में 5 लाख दक्ष लोगों की जरूरत: रावत

राज्यमंत्री

मंत्रालय आईआईटी और कृषि शोध संस्थानों के साथ काम कर रहा है काम

भविष्य की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए बड़ी संख्या में कार्यकर्ता करने की जरूरत है और हम इस और ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

उद्योग जगत के अनुसार खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में 358 अरब डॉलर तक हो जाने का अनुमान है जो फिलहाल 181 अरब डॉलर हैं। इस लिहाज से इस क्षेत्र में दक्ष कार्यकर्ता की कमी जरूरत है। फिलहाल, क्षेत्र में 1.30 करोड़ लोग कार्यरत हैं। खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में शोध की कमी के बारे में पूछे जाने पर हरीश रावत ने कहा कि हम इस और ध्यान दे रहे हैं।
एक ही प्रवेश परीक्षा 2013 तक!

विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग में किया गया था एक समिति का यथार्थ गठन

नई दिल्ली। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने कहा है कि उनका सपना है कि 2013 तक इंजीनियरिंग और विज्ञान संकायों में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एक ही अखिल भारतीय प्रवेश परीक्षा का अयोजना हो। सिब्बल ने यहां कहा कि मेरा वास्तविक सपना 2013 तक है, जब मुझे पहली अखिल भारतीय प्रवेश परीक्षा करानी चाहिए।

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग में सचिव टी. रामासामी को अध्यक्षता में छात्रों के चयन और प्रवेश के लिए समान प्रशिक्षा के तौर पर तरीकों पर फिर से गोर करने के लिए एक समिति गठित की गई थी।

राष्ट्रीय पात्रता परीक्षा का उद्देश्य छात्रों के मन से यन्त्रज्ञानिक और विज्ञानी तनाव को घटाना है। सिब्बल ने कहा कि अपना काम पूरा कर चुके रामासामी ने एकल परीक्षा पर लोगों की राय जानने के लिए एक अध्ययन किया और जवाब यह है कि भारत में 80 प्रतिशत लोग यह चाहते हैं। एक सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी पारी ने इसके लिए ना नहीं कहा।

घोटालों से भारत की छवि हुई धूमिल : सिब्बल

नई दिल्ली। दूसरे संचार मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल का कहना है कि दूसरे संचार क्षेत्र में भी घोटालों और राष्ट्रमंडल खेल घोटाले जैसे हालिया घटनाओं से न केवल भारत की छवि धूमिल हुई है, बल्कि देश में एफडीआई (प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश) प्रवाह भी प्रभावित हुआ है। सिब्बल ने कहा कि हमें इस साल केवल 25 अरब डालर एफडीआई मिला है। प्रतिशत में यह कमी गई है, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि यह एक अस्थायी चरण है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार इससे अधिक प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश आसानियों करने वाले देशों में भारत बाहर फेंक दिया जा रहा है।
रुड़की आईआईटी करेगी बिल्डिंग मेटेरियल की जांच

गाजियाबाद, लोस। शालीमार गार्डन बिल्डिंग में हुए बादशह के बाद जीडीए द्वारा कराई जा रही बिल्डिंग मेटेरियल की जांच रुड़की आईआईटी की रिपोर्ट पर निर्भर हो गई है। जीडीए इस बिल्डिंग की जहां इंजीनियरों की बिल्डर के साथ भूमिका व नकली से अधिक निर्माण की जांच कर रहा है।

वहाँ रुडकी लैंब व नेशनल टेस्ट लैंब डेरी बिल्डिंग निर्माण में लगाई गई सामग्री की जांच कर रहा है। उसके लैंब की रिपोर्ट बिना घटिया करा रहा है। मगर लैंब की रिपोर्ट बिना घटिया सामग्री की पुष्टि नहीं हो सकती। जीडीए की अभी तक की जांच में बिल्डर द्वारा स्वीकृत नकलों से अधिक निर्माण व कई इंजीनियरों की इसमें लापरवाही की पुष्टि हो चुकी है। जीडीए उपाध्यक्ष एनके चौधरी ने बिल्डिंग की जांच का जिम्मा ऑपरेटर आर्पी पांडेय का सौप रखा है।

बता दें कि क्रांति एसोसिएट्स नामक बिल्डर शालीमार गार्डन एक्स्टेंशन टू में चार मंजिला लैट का निर्माण कर रहा था। 16 जुलाई को चार मंजिला इन राजकीयों के गिर जाने के बाद चार मजदूरों की मौत हो गई थी।

चौकाने वाली बात यह है कि बिल्डर ने इससे पूर्व 8 बिल्डिंगों में लैट का निर्माण शालीमार गार्डन एक्स्टेंशन परसौडा के सामने डी ब्लॉक, सुर्यनगर चंदनगढ़ आदि क्षेत्रों में भी निर्माण किया है।