Newspaper Clips
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Economic Times Kolkata 23.08.2011 P-19
PM Asks Scientists to Develop Soft Skills

RAKHIMAZUMDAR
Kharagpur
The Prime Minister has called for a massive effort from the country's scientific community to develop soft skills in managerial and technical software to power the next generation of growth and development.

Speaking at the 57th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, here on Monday, Manmohan Singh said: “While the country has experienced manufacturing, agriculture and information technology revolution, none of these can individually power India’s diverse growth needs but need to develop in tandem. Our scientific and entrepreneurial energies now have to be channelised to usher in a Second Green Revolution and find pathways to make green growth a profitable business enterprise.”

The PM also said the government will soon take up the recommendations of the Amil Kakodkar Committee on functioning of the IIT system which provides the country with a pool of technical manpower. “The committee has made a number of important suggestions and has noted, among others, that the number of PhDs coming out of IITs is far less compared to technology institutes in the US and China. It is important that the IITs take up the challenge of creating an advanced research-based innovation eco-system with the involvement of industry and national technology-related programmes,” he added.

Earlier, the director of the institute, Damodar Acharya, announced the institute’s move to set up a science park at a cost of ₹550 crore to foster research with help of industry on 10 acres at Rajarhat. Another ₹300 million will be spent on a brand new Centre for Advanced Research proposed to come up in Kharagpur which will focus on cutting-edge work in two key areas — bio-informatics and energy science.

Mani Bhaimik, an IIT KGP alumnus, who has distinguished himself in the area of laser technology, has decided to donate ₹150 million and 15 acres for setting up the advanced research institute.

At the convocation, the institute conferred honorary degrees of doctor of science on five eminent personalities from the world of industry and science. This included Sunil Mittal, chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Brijmohan Lall Munjal, chairman of Hero group, R Chidambaram for his work on India’s nuclear program and agriculture scientist, MS Swaminathan. On its diamond jubilee year this year, the institute conferred degrees to 1,666 graduates and another 245 PhDs. The Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, West Bengal Governor MK Narayanan and Shiv Nadar, chairman of IIT KGP’s board of governors, also attended the event. This year, the ongoing popular discontent over corruption and the Lokpal Bill also managed to cast a bit of its shadow on the convocation with one student of the institute going on a fast against corruption.

Hindustan Times Kolkata 23.08.11 P-4
City will shine again on education map, says PM

HT Correspondent
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KOLKATA Kolkatias once consid ered a great centre of learning and creativity, has lost its glory over several decades, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday.

Singh, however, compared Kolkata as a rising sun and showed a glimmer of hope saying: “I sincerely believe a new sun is rising on the east and Kolkata can once again regain its glory as India's window to Asia.”

Although the Prime Minister stopped short from blaming any party for the decline, it was obvious that his target was the Left Front, which had been in power in Bengal for more than three decades.

A few months ago when Singh came to Kolkata to campaign for the Assembly election, he had directly blamed the Left Front for the decline of Bengal and Kolkata. He said one of the greatest Indian who reflected India’s Asian identity and Asia’s link with India was Rabindranath Tagore. “His travels to the east helped India reconnect with its civilisational neighbourhood,” he said.

“The time has come to rebuild on this great civilisational heritage and to pool our wisdom, knowledge and experience to revitalise West Bengal’s economy, politics and society to scale new heights of human endeav our and achievement in the service of people,” Singh said.

He was speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of IIM Calcutta. The prime minister also urged IIM students to get involved in looking for solutions to the challenges that come in the country’s way in achieving 9% growth rate in the fifth five-year plan starting on April 2012.

He said a “business-as-usual” approach will not work if the Indian economy is to achieve its long-term 9-10% growth target, which is “very ambitious” in the backdrop of global uncertainties and the economic slowdown.

He said India has been transformed into one of the fastest growing emerging markets in the world.

“If we can continue to grow at this rate, we are well positioned to be the country with the third-largest GDP in the world by 2022,” the Prime Minister said.
First batch gets front row at IIT bash

Prithvijit Mitra | TNN
Kharagpur: IIT Kharagpur did not miss its date with history. Finally, four members of the first IIT batch, who were initially refused an invitation to the 1951 alumni meet that they were “short of space,” rubbed shoulders with the guests and other alumni at the diamond jubilee celebrations of the oldest IIT.

Four of the 12 surviving members of the first batch, who had walked into the IIT campus as its first students in 1951, returned to the campus on Monday. “We are happy to be a part of the celebrations. Even though late, the IIT has invited us for the meet. We attended the conveonation and then the lunch. We also visited the Patel Hall hostel where we spent those four years from 1951 to 1955,” said Mihir Biswas, one of the first batch students, who visited the campus along with batchmates Jnanomoy Majumdar, DC Mondal and Subhas Roy.

“We couldn’t have asked for more. Even after 60 years, all of us remain deeply attached to the campus. We are the ones who witnessed the birth of the IIT movement. So, it left us heartbroken when the invitation was initially refused,” said Majumdar.

TOI had reported how the first batch students felt rejected and humiliated by the institute which didn’t even respond to their offer of help in the preparations for diamond jubilee celebrations.

Last week, they received a call from the institute’s alumni association. They were asked to be present at the convocation and attend the lunch. “We had requested them to arrange for our accommodation, but were told the guest houses were full. It is understandable and we have no issues with that,” said Biswas.

The septuagenarians reached the campus by car at 10 am on Monday. They head straight for the Patel Hall and re-lived old memories. After a quick lunch, they headed for Tagore Open Air Theatre where Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the diamond jubilee celebrations.

IIM-A incubator to start ₹100 crore green fund

By Deepti Chaudhary

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad’s (IIM-A) incubation centre is starting a ₹100 crore fund that will back start-ups developing technology related to sustainable energy.

The Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIEE) is collaborating with the ministry of new and renewable energy, the Union government’s investment fund Technology Development Board (TDB) and the UK’s BP Plc for the Indian Fund for Sustainable Energy (INFUSE).

“While we incubate start-ups in the renewable energy space as well, we can’t really help them graduate to the next level as their capital requirements are high,” Kunal Upadhyay, chief executive, CIEE, said by phone. “Through this initiative, we will be able to support them further.”

INFUSE, a rare private-public-academia partnership, will incubate, build and support sustainable energy start-ups financially and through mentoring. The fund will be announced at an event at IIM-A on Thursday.

Upadhyay said the fund will back start-ups from across the country, including firms not incubated at CIEE. The IIM-A incubation cell, which has a cleantech portfolio of around 10 firms, will act as an investment adviser to the fund, seeking out emerging ideas and technologies for the start-ups it invests in.

INFUSE will hand-hold entrepreneurs through pilot studies and help them scale up their technologies with equity investments of up to ₹6 crore.

The fund has raised commitments for about ₹50 crore so far from the renewable energy ministry and TDB, and expects to raise the remaining corpus in two-three months.

“We will not have a spray-and-pray approach. The plan is to fund good ideas and take them forward,” said Upadhyay.

Shradha Sharma, founder of YourStory.in, which tracks start-ups and has the largest database of fledgling firms in the country, said India suffers a noticeable scarcity of entrepreneurs in the renewable energy space.

Few entrepreneurs venture into this area because of a lack of a support system such as those available for the e-commerce, mobile value-added services and information technology sectors, she said.

“If they (INFUSE) do very early-stage investments, it’s going to be a huge step for the sector as investors tend to shy away from these firms because they are often pre-revenue and have long gestation periods,” Sharma said.

India has substantially strengthened its renewable energy plans in the past few years. The government now aims to add 17 gigawatts of renewable energy generation capacity by 2017, which will require up to ₹33.8 billion (nearly ₹1.55 trillion) in new investments.
PM feels Hazare heat at IIT-Kgp

HT Correspondent

According to the prime minister's visit, when an IIT-Kharagpur post-graduate student of structural engineering refused to accept his degree from Singh, "I can't take the degrader. Today, I'm fasting in support of Hazare," said Shashi Shekhar Singh, the student in question.

The prime minister spent the second and final day of his trip to West Bengal visiting IIMC and IIT-Kharagpur. While at the IIT, 40-60 students staged a rally outside the campus gates in support of Hazare. Singh himself, brought up the topic of the lokpal bill at a programme at the IIM in the morning.

"The bill needs to be supported by improvements in the pace and quality of judicial processes. Speedy trials and timely judgments will do a great deal to discourage corruption," Singh said from the podium of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the IIM.

"We need to revamp the existing government procedures thoroughly to reduce discretion and make the basis of decision making as transparent as possible," he added.

The prime minister also said he had asked a group of ministers (GoM) to look into the issue.

"At a time when the entire country is being swept by the wave triggered by Anna Hazare, the PM chose not to mention the anti-graft crusader at all.

CONTINUED ON P4
PM’s afraid of the masses
IIT Kharagpur students say their professors do support them, but unofficially

Divya Pal

Ritesh Singh, a third-year Computer Science student at IIT-Kharagpur, was one of the many students who boycotted the institute’s convocation ceremony on Monday. According to Ritesh, who also works as the coordinator for India Against Corruption, this was just a way to tell India’s PM that the students support Anna Hazare. “Students refused to attend the convocation ceremony because we believe that before India’s PM honours us, he should honour himself by listening to the masses. The number of people who have resolved to go on a fast to support Anna is staggering. But the PM doesn’t seem to care. Nor has he given any statement on the Lokpal Bill. We are disappointed with this.”

But didn’t the students feel that speaking to the PM about their concerns could have been a better option than boycotting the event? “Unfortunately, he doesn’t hold Q&A sessions no matter where he goes. I don’t know if he is afraid of the masses. But he simply doesn’t interact with the people. And we couldn’t have shouted while he was addressing the gathering.”

Going by the information Ritesh got, the institute’s authorities were also requested not to hold a Q&A session with the PM. “This could have happened because they feared that Anna’s supporters could create problems. We want the PM to take a stand. Frankly, PM is really not the issue. The focus is, and should be on the Lokpal Bill.”

As far as the support from the authorities of the institute goes, Ritesh claims that several professors have encouraged the students’ efforts, unofficially though.”

Naval, another IITian, who was present at the site of the protest, says, they were instructed by the cops not to be anywhere near the PM’s route to the institute. “Humko latthi charge ki dharmi di gai thi. But thankfully, no student was hurt,” he says. Another student, on condition of anonymity, told us that the students were told by the institute’s authorities not to carry black flags. “We were asked not to do this as we could get blacklisted. The authorities had categorically mentioned that the institute would take no responsibility for any student who got arrested. So to some extent, students were pressurized.”
Degree chhoti cheez hai, yeh andolan zaroori hai

IIT Kharagpur's Shashi Shekhar Singh tells us why it was more important to support Anna's campaign than receiving his degree from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

For Shashi Shekhar Singh, a civil engineering student from IIT Kharagpur, supporting Anna's anti-corruption campaign was far more important than getting his M Tech degree at the 57th Convocation at his alma mater from chief guest PM Manmohan Singh on Monday. That's why this IITian didn't mind giving the convocation a miss. Even though he was in Kharagpur, he thought it was better to utilise the event as a means to spread the word and express his solidarity towards Anna's campaign. Shashi, who has allegedly been quoted as saying, “I will not accept my degree from the Prime Minister”, states he is neither against any political party nor any particular individual, and that nothing can deter him from accomplishing his goal. “Degree ka kya hai, woh toh hai bhi mil sakti hai. Degree bahut choti cheez hai. Aur yeh andolan zyaada zaroori hai. Kisi party vishesh ke liye andolan nahin hona chahiye bas vyavastha parivartan ke liye andolan hona chahiye. This is what Mahatma Gandhi believed in and now it is the responsibility of the youth to ensure that it happens as per his dream.”

Shashi's birthplace is Bihar; but he insists he should be referred to as an Indian exclusive of his regional ethnicity. Having witnessed unethical activities in his native state, Shashi speaks about the changes that Bihar has witnessed courtesy “vyavastha parivartan”. “These things used to happen earlier. Lekin ab wahan pe vyavastha parivartan hai. It is corruption - a social evil - which has seeped into the system and the way we seem to have grown used to it, is what needs to be eradicated. This can't be done till we work towards it together. We are not against anyone; we are in support of Anna. If Bihar can improve, I'm sure India can also become a better place.”

An engineering professor by profession, the 30-year-old Shashi (who teaches at MJ College of Engineering in Hyderabad) hasn't told his family about his support for Anna's anti-corruption campaign. “Frankly, I don’t want to tell my parents. It would be great if they get to know about it through people. I haven’t done anything wrong for which I need to be scared. As I have been saying, I don’t call Anna’s campaign a protest. I’m simply supporting Anna. I’m all ready for Jail bharo andolan, which anyone who believes in Anna should. Anna has shown us the path and this is not the time to backtrack or to retrace our steps.” Is he planning to come to Delhi and urge IIT-D students to support Anna? “I’m sure IIT-D students will also join the anti-corruption campaign. Abhi wo kum jagi hai aajin lekin jagenge zaroor.”
Where have all the teachers gone?

The nation faces a shortage of 1.5 lakh engineering teachers. A look at the state of academics in this context.

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA

Higher education in the country, particularly engineering education, is facing a crisis. It is pulling a student with half the teacher strength it requires.

The government pressed a red button the other day when it was revealed in Parliament that the nation faced a shortage of more than three lakh teachers in its institutions of higher learning. In engineering education alone, the shortage is 2.5 lakh and a half.

The finding, revealed in the recent government assessment of faculty shortage, has come as a shock. What is more shocking is the increase in the shortage to 54 per cent from the 40 per cent a few years ago.

The government has swung into action by allowing institutions to hire expatriate Indians to make up for the shortage. The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has permitted the 15 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), premier engineering institutions in the country, to appoint non-resident Indians (NRIs) and people of Indian origin (PIOs) as permanent faculty as part of measures to tide over the teacher shortage. Foreign nationals, however, are not given permanent appointment.

But is this a viable solution? Experts say it is only a stopgap measure.

The Lok Sabha was told a fortnight ago that 1,690 teachers were required immediately to fill 1,591 vacancies in the National Institute of Technology (MIT) and 1,522 for the 30 National Institutes of Technology (NITs). But that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Some 30-50 per cent of the teaching posts are vacant in top engineering institutions. The situation is worse in hundreds of private engineering colleges.

A recent assessment made by an eight-member committee appointed by the Kerala government revealed that hardly one-fifth of the engineering institutions in the state met the stipulations of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Of the 24 engineering colleges, the committee inspected at random, only five were found to have met most of the stipulations.

AICTE ratio

The AICTE currently stipulates a 1:1.4 teacher-student ratio for engineering institutions. "That itself is a very high figure from a healthy academic perspective," said a senior professor of NIT, Calicut. Plans are afoot to bring down the AICTE-stipulated student ratio in engineering institutions to 1:1. The ideal teacher-student ratio, experts say, is 1:10, which is the international standard.

The Central engineering institutions, including the NITs and the IITs, started facing the faculty shortage with a 27 per cent increase in number of seats for other undergraduate classes over three years from 2008 to 2010. This increase resulted in a cumulative increase of 64 per cent in faculty requirement, which remains unfilled for various reasons.

The lack of recruitment of supporting or non-teaching staff in recent years has compounded the problem. The ratio of teaching and supporting staff is 1:1.1 in Central engineering institutions.

When the student intake doubled in recent years with the increase in seats and courses, not a single appointment of supporting staff was made in the past two years at the NIT, Calicut. The result is the faculty is being forced to spend part of their time on clerical work, leading to a loss of much academic vigour. And the ultimate loser is the student.

The shortage of faculty affects the students in many ways. When a single teacher teaches more, students are often assigned a single project, leading to a lack of attention from teachers and an eventual dilution in quality.

Besides, the choices before the students for elective subjects are considerably reduced.

T.K. Sreenath Babu, Professor and Head of Training and Placement at NIT, Calicut, says recruiters from core engineering industries often give due weight to students who have done good projects. The faculty shortage has a direct bearing on the quality of projects on all engineering college campuses.

Ashalatha Thampuran, Principal of Mohandas College of Engineering and Technology, Nedumbassery, says the faculty shortage was felt more in the middle-level cadre. The AICTE stipulates a faculty cadre ratio of 1:2 in the order of professor, associate professors, and assistant professors.

"There are no problems to fill the top-level posts of professors and principals as we get enough retired hands. The shortage at the entry level too is not felt so keenly as in the middle level, where people well positioned in the industry cannot be attracted to a teaching job," Dr. Thampuran says.

Although the AICTE has made M.Tech. degree mandatory for faculty, most private engineering colleges are yet to abide by it. The AICTE has given two more years to the colleges, knowing full well that there are not enough hands with M.Tech to teach.

Of the 121 engineering colleges in Kerala, hardly one-fourth offer M.Tech programmes. In the wake of a new AICTE stipulation and an appeal by Union Human Resource Minister Kapil Sibal, many institutions are making efforts to start postgraduate programmes. But the State’s universities have not been considerate. Several colleges were denied permission to do so.

For example, when the M.E.S. College of Engineering, Kuttippuram, applied for two postgraduate programmes, permission was given only for the computer science course and not for electronics and communication.

The faculty shortage is the worst in these two branches in almost all engineering colleges. The reason is simple. Those who graduate in them are much sought after by the industry.

Unattractive pay is another reason for the dearth of faculty in engineering colleges. Although the AICTE has stipulated a pay scale, not all private engineering colleges have implemented it.

"Only good pay can attract good people from the industry to teaching," V.H. Abdul Salam, Principal of the M.E.S. college, says.

P. Suresh Kumar, Principal of Government Model Engineering College, Thrissur, says the faculty shortage is not felt in the engineering colleges run by the State government. "The problem is mostly confined to the private sector," Dr. Kumar says.

When private engineering colleges, particularly those started in recent years, are worried about meeting the AICTE stipulations, including on faculty strength, top institutions such as the IITs and the NITs are worried about the dwindling quality of their research.

"Right now, we don’t have a mechanism to measure the quality. And that is where we survive," says Vinodh Paleri, Professor and former Head of the Department of Computer Science, NIT, Calicut.

Dr. Paleri, who had worked at Purdue University, U.S., one of the top 20 technical institutions in the world, says that as a professor at the NIT, he gets three times the workload that he used to get at Purdue. "Shortage of hands leads to an increasing workload for the faculty. When the faculty is so overloaded, the students suffer at all levels. And research is the worst casualty," he adds.

It is this lack of quality at higher level academics, particularly doctoral and post-doctoral research, which deprives India of technical institutions of international repute.

"We have IITs. But they are known only for churning out the best undergraduates. Good institutions worldwide are measured in terms of research — in terms of the number of Nobel laureates they create and patents they win," Dr. Paleri says.

Even when the country’s education managers talk volumes about enhancing the quality, little is often done to walk the talk. That was, perhaps, why the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) observed a couple of years ago that hardly 25 per cent of the students passing out from the country’s engineering institutions were employable.
ANNA EFFECT

Academic interest up in corruption studies

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA & UTPAL BHASKAR

The intense public engagement with Anna Hazare's campaign against corruption along with the attendant media coverage is having an unintended side effect. Academic institutions across the country are seeing rising interest in the issue as a research subject.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore, has included corruption as a new elective.

"The response from students as well as corporate executives coming for short-term courses is very enthusiastic," said Siddhartha Rastogi, professor of economics at IIM Indore.

The Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA) and the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) in Delhi are all seeing proposals from students who want to focus on the issue as part of their course work.

By the end of September, IIM Indore's Rastogi said he will rationalize the elective and "include the Anna Hazare movement in the context of the Lokpal".

"This is kind of history in the making and we need to incorporate it," he said. "In future, this will be a great research subject."

IIM Indore's students have also conducted a survey across six IIMs on graft, the Lokpal Bill and the government's response.

Of the nearly 600 respondents, 81% didn't like the government version of the Lokpal Bill as opposed to 5% who supported it. At least 61% backed the Jan Lokpal Bill, while 17% opposed it. The others had not read the Bill.

At Delhi University's FMS, students took part in a 3-hour session on Tuesday to discuss Brand Anna.

"Anna was projected as a new product in the market and (the discussion was about) how she managed to dent the image of existing market players like the Congress party," said Anubhav Kanodia, a second-year student at FMS.

Corruption is like a wound and "Anna is working like a balm, hence, he and his movement interests all", said Harsh V. Verma, a professor at FMS.

"We don't want to stop here. We will write papers, do deeper research and come out with a case study," Verma added.

"From my point of view, Anna is a successful brand. Transparency International (TI), an organization that seeks to fight corruption, said there has been a rise in interest among researchers. "The number of students approaching us for internship on corruption has doubled in 2011 from last year," said Anupama Jha, executive director at TI. "Many of them are law students."

Swati Attavar, an undergraduate Indian student at Cambridge University in the UK, said she was interested on a dissertation on corruption and that was why she approached TI. "Among Indian students in our university, this is a subject of huge debate," said Attavar, currently on a break in Bangalore. "I think soon people will take it up as an academic debate."

Youngsters do realize that corruption is a big issue and they are at a loss to find a role model. They found Anna as a model and are following him and his ideas even though many of them don't understand the nitty-gritty of the subject," Jha added.

Santosh Kumar Patra, a professor at MICA, said students at the institute have shown an increased interest in academic discourse on the subject, besides participating in anti-corruption rallies. No papers have emerged from this yet.

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IT sector to log growth of 16-18% in FY12: Nasscom

Sector slated to bring in about $68-70 billion in revenue

fe Bureau
New Delhi, Aug 23

DESPITE economic uncertainties in the US and Europe, India’s software body Nasscom is confident of a 16-18% growth rate of the country’s information technology (IT) industry with the sector slated to bring in about $68-70 billion in revenue. The growth in the domestic market is estimated at 15-17%, with revenues of about $19-20 billion.

This assumes significance as the industry body had presented a conservative outlook of 16-18% growth in IT exports in 2011-12 in the wake of the slow economic recovery in the US and uncertainty in the European region in February this year.

Though Nasscom president Som Mittal maintained a cautious outlook, he said: “There is no reason for us to be worried... We have spoken to customers and they are looking at expanding into geographies and bringing newer solutions to the market”.

As for the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry, a Nasscom and Crisil report noted that India is positioned as a knowledge services powerhouse, with 70% share of the $2.9-billion global industry. The industry has also generated employment for almost 70,000 people in over 100 firms.

“In the last decade, the industry has grown 16 times in size, to reach $16.9 billion (including domestic) in FY11. In addition to fuelling India’s economy, direct and indirect employment creation is estimated at 4.5 million,” said Nasscom president Som Mittal.

In fact, India is the leading BPO destination, accounting for over 37% of the total global sourcing BPO revenues, followed by Canada and Philippines.

However, Nasscom’s former chairman and non-executive vice chairman of the country’s largest BPO Genpact, Pramod Bhasin said: “Competition from China and the Philippines is a serious issue as the calibre of students coming from their colleges is better than ours.”

Further, lower profitability, billing rates, fiscal incentives and data security were also cited as factors having a negative impact on the industry.

The Nasscom-Crisil report—called ‘India Knowledge Services Industry’—added that led by financial services and healthcare, the knowledge services outsourcing industry in India is expected to grow at a 22.2% CAGR over FY2010-15 to a $5.6 billion market. While business research would continue to be the most widely adopted service line with a 39.4% share, representing a $2.2 billion opportunity, the share of data analytics is expected to increase from 18.5% to 20.6% ($1.15 billion) over the period.

Legal Process Outsourcing is also expected to record robust growth to a $1.3 billion market by then.

The report emphasised that this represents the next wave of outsourcing as organisations push the envelope to exploit cost efficiencies by outsourcing elements of their core operations as opposed to outsourcing of supporting business processes.

“These include services like market research, business research, data management and analytics as well as outsourcing of legal process outsourcing, each of which is critical to a cohesive decision making process,” the report said.
TIGHTER NORMS

Journalists may soon need law degree to report on Supreme Court

BY NIKHIL KANEKAL
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NEW DELHI

The new Supreme Court reporting norms, if enforced, will result in 80% of the journalists who have been covering proceedings being disqualified. The Supreme Court can bar any correspondent from coverage without offering any reasons under the new rules.

Issued by the court on Saturday, the norms require that permanent and temporary accredited print journalists have a professional law degree and at least seven years of experience. Electronic media reporters need, apart from the law degree, at least three-and-a-half years of experience. The circular did not set a deadline for the norms to come into force. Court officials didn’t throw light on when the circular would come into effect, when asked on Tuesday.

The new norms follow instances in which faults were found in coverage.

Two of these arose from coverage of the Vodafone tax dispute. Vodafone lawyer Harish Salve complained to the Supreme Court that a Press Trust of India (PTI) report on 10 August had misquoted him. Salve had argued that Vodafone could “avoid” tax as tax avoidance was permissible under law. Indian income-tax authorities have alleged that Vodafone evaded tax by structuring its $11.2 billion transaction to buy out Hutchison’s Indian cellular business through tax-saving routes. Salve spent more than a day demonstrating to the bench the difference between tax avoidance and evasion, and that his client had acted in accordance with law.

The court sought a response from PTI on an application made by Salve after the agency’s report.

On 18 August, PTI’s lawyer Shyam Divan issued an unconditional apology to the court, Vodafone and Salve. Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia’s three-judge bench asked PTI to file a detailed affidavit explaining whether its reporter was present in the court at the time Salve made his argument. The court reportedly observed that norms for journalists needed to be revisited in light of the incident and what it said were other recent inaccurate reports.

Previously, Kapadia had expressed displeasure at a 15 December news report in a national daily that said the judiciary wanted to retain 1% of the Rs 5,000 crore deposit made by Vodafone to the court’s registry. The report suggested that a “cash-strapped” judiciary was trying to source funds from “novel” methods such as these. Kapadia had then said: “People write whatever they want.” But the court did not initiate any action against the reporter or the newspaper.

Different benches of the court have, in the past, pointed to inaccurate or sensational news reports. However, Mint could not immediately ascertain the immediate reasons for the revision of the norms.

A.I.S. Chennu, secretary general of the court, the senior most official on the administrative side, did not have time to meet this reporter on Tuesday for clarity on reasons for revising the norms.

The court’s media officials said reporters could make requests that would be forwarded to decision makers.

Justice Dalveer Bhandari, the Supreme Court judge in charge of granting accreditation to journalists, could not be reached on phone. His staff said he would not be available to comment till later this week.

A media law expert said India has an open court system that inspires confidence among people on the judiciary’s functioning.

“Ins India, unlike in the US, the press has no independent right under the freedom of expression. The Journalist exercises his right as a citizen of this country under Article 19 (1)(a) and also acts as a trustee of the public’s right to know. In certain situations, he might get more access than others, but technically under our open court system that shouldn’t be necessary,” said the expert, who did not want to be named.

“Everyone can have access as it’s meant to be a check on the judges. It’s a check on the system. What is to stop me if I go into a court as lay person and write about something which I think is worthy of sharing with the public? As long as I’m not distorting the proceedings, there should be no problem,” this person said.

The Supreme Court has expressed its appreciation for the role played by the press in its annual reports. “Supreme Court attach great importance to the role of media and complementary to that of judicial organ in a democratic polity. In order to strengthen this partnership, the court took certain initiatives for mutual benefit,” said the 2008-09 report as it elucidated programmes organized by it to train court correspondents.

A February 2002 report in Frontline magazine cited a Supreme Court judgement that contained a defence of the freedom of the press. “Public trial in open court is undoubtedly essential for the healthy objectivity and fair administration of justice. Trial held subject to public scrutiny and gaze naturally acts as a check against judicial caprice or vagaries and serves as a powerful instrument for creating confidence of the public in the fairness, objectivity and impartiality of the administration of justice.”

There are currently 14 permanent accredited correspondents in the Supreme Court and approximately 80 temporary accredited journalists, according to the court’s officials.

Print and electronic media journalists will also need to have at least 7 years and three-and-a-half years of experience, respectively.

Editors react

Newspaper and television editors said the requirement for a law degree might be excessive and that the unilateral provision in the norms to withdraw accreditation was not desirable.

“Reporters need not have a law degree to report on the Supreme Court. They need to have strong news sense and an acquaintance of legal nuances,” said Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief, Times Now.

“The new norms seem overly restrictive and will make it more difficult for the media to cover the Supreme Court properly,” said Siddharth Varadarajan, editor of The Hindu. “While I share the concerns of the honourable judges that court proceedings are sometimes not reported, the solutions in proper editorial supervision by our newspapers and TV channels, rather than by specifying, with mathematical precision, the onerous qualifications court reporters must possess in order to be given access to a court room.

“In the absence of access, there may actually be a greater likelihood of inaccurate reporting as journalists will be forced to rely on official accounts of courtroom proceedings by lawyers representing their clients,” he said.

Sanjay Gupta, editor, Dainik Jagran, published by Jagran Prakashan Ltd, said: “As an editor, I will anyway not hire a fresh graduate on Supreme Court judgements. However, I don’t think there should be a prerequisite for reporters to have a degree in law. If reporters have adequate experience and are reporting judgements intelligently, and if the editors don’t have an issue, I don’t think it’s fair for the court to then have stringent norms.”

“I don’t want to comment much on the revised norm to withdraw the accreditation without giving any reason. Withdrawal of accreditation should be a bilateral dialogue between the authority and the newspaper. The editors have a right to know when a particular correspondent’s accreditation is withdrawn,” he added.

Abhilasha Ojha contributed to this story.
World has 8.74 million species

AASHIMA DOGRA
LONDON, AUG. 23

There are 8.74 million species in the world, give or take 1.3 million, and around 90 per cent of them remain undiscovered, according to the calculations of a group of pioneering scientists. They are the first ones to offer a precise figure for the total number of living species in the ecosystem; for decades this crucial statistic has been considered to lie anywhere between three and 100 million.

“This work deduces the most basic number needed to describe our living biosphere,” says author Boris Worm of Dalhousie University, Canada. “If we did not know—even by an order of magnitude (1 million? 10 million? 100 million?) — the number of people in a nation, how would we plan for the future? It is the same with biodiversity.”

This new study does point to a more workable range by considerably narrowing it. It has also revealed that after 250 years of rigorous taxonomy, only 14 per cent of species on land and nine per cent in the oceans have been recorded.

“The immense effort entering all known species in taxonomic databases makes our analysis possible,” says co-author Derek Tittensor of Microsoft Research and the UN Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre. “As these databases grow and improve, our method can be refined and updated to provide an even more precise estimate.”

This prediction was made from statistical analysis based on a simple approach: number of higher taxonomy categories are linked to number of species within them. The scientists spotted this consistent pattern, they call “former predicts the latter”, in the classification and simply extrapolated to get the number of species in each kingdom.
Higgs boson may be a mirage, say scientists

SCIENTISTS chasing a particle they believe may have played a vital role in creation of the universe indicated they were coming to accept it might not exist after all.

But they stressed that if the so-called Higgs boson turns out to have been a mirage, the way would be open for advances into territory dubbed "new physics" to try to answer one of the great mysteries of the cosmos.

The CERN research center, whose giant Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has been the focus of the search, said it had reported to a conference in Mumbai that possible signs of the Higgs noted last month were now seen as less significant.

A number of scientists from the center went on to make comments that raised the possibility that the mystery particle might not exist.

"Whatever the final verdict on Higgs, we are now living in very exciting times for all involved in the quest for new physics," Guido Tonelli, from one of the two LHC detectors chasing the Higgs, said as the new observations were announced.

CERN's statement said new results, which updated findings that caused excitement at another scientific gathering in Grenoble last month, "show that the elusive Higgs particle, if it exists, is running out of places to hide."

The centre's research director Sergio Bertolucci told the conference, at the Indian city's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, that if the Higgs did not exist "its absence will point the way to new physics."

Under what is known as the Standard Model of physics, the boson, which was named after British physicist Peter Higgs, is posited as having been the agent that gave mass and energy to matter just after the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago.

As a result, flying debris from that primeval explosion could come together as stars, planets and galaxies.

In the subterranean LHC, which began operating at the end of March 2010, CERN engineers and physicists have created billions of miniature versions of the Big Bang by smashing particles together at just a fraction under the speed of light.

The results of those collisions are monitored by hundreds of physicists not just at CERN but in linked laboratories around the world which sift through the vast volumes of information generated by the LHC.

Scientists at the US Fermilab near Chicago have been in a parallel search in their Tevatron collider for nearly 30 years. Last month they said they hoped to establish if the Higgs exists by the end of September, when the Tevatron closes down.

For some scientists, the Higgs remains the simplest explanation of how matter got mass. It remains unclear what could replace it as an explanation. "We know something is missing, we simply don't quite know what this new something might be," wrote CERN blogger Pauline Gagnon.

"There are many models out there; we simply need to be nudged in the right direction," added Gagnon, an experimental physicist. — Reuters
MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Technically correct

THE LOWDOWN

Mechanical engineers are the doers - the innovators who design and build the machinery and systems that keep the world running. They work on everything from cars and motorcycles to aircraft and spacecraft. Mechanical engineering is a broad field that covers everything from the design of engines and power plants to the development of new materials and manufacturing processes.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Design and develop new products and systems
- Analyze and optimize the performance of existing products
- Work on projects ranging from small-scale prototypes to large-scale production runs
- Collaborate with other engineers and designers to ensure that projects meet specifications

STUDY OPTIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering

SKILLS/TRAITS

- Ability to think critically
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work in teams
- Attention to detail

GETTING THERE

- Complete a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Consider pursuing a Master's or Doctorate degree for advanced positions

INSTITUTIONS AND URLS

- Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University
- Department of Mechanical Engineering, Delhi Technological University

PROS AND CONS

Pros:
- Job opportunities in many different industries
- Strong demand for mechanical engineers
- Opportunities for international travel

Cons:
- High level of technical knowledge required
- Potential for long working hours

FASTER PATHS TO A MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CAREER

- Pursue a pre-engineering program
- Consider enrolling in an associate degree program in mechanical engineering

Clockwork

- 12:00PM: Breakfast at the hotel
- 1:00PM: Meet with the design team
- 2:00PM: Site visit at the construction site
- 3:00PM: Lunch at the hotel
- 4:00PM: Tour of the factory
- 5:00PM: Meeting with the business team
- 6:00PM: Dinner at the hotel

The Payoff

- Effective problem-solving skills
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work in teams
- Strong communication skills
Now, just light a bulb to switch on your broadband

London: Imagine that by simply turning on the light bulb in your room, you can also switch on your wireless Internet connection at home.

Well, it’s a reality now, thanks to a leading British physicist of Edinburgh University who claims to have developed a technology which can send data through the same connection as a normal lamp.

Prof Harald Hass says the invention, dubbed D-Light, can send data faster than 10 megabits per second, which is the speed of a typical broadband connection, by altering the frequency of the ambient light in the room. He says that other possibilities of the device — which he has dubbed “Li-fi”, or Light Fidelity — include sending wireless data from “white space” in your TV spectrum or unused satellite signals.

By replacing old-fashioned incandescent models with LED bulbs he has claimed he could turn them all into internet transmitters, the ‘Daily Mail’ reported. It has new applications in hospitals, airplanes, military, and even underwater. Aeroplane passengers could

ONE-STOP SOLUTION

in theory be able to surf the Internet from signals beamed out of the lights on board, according to the physicist.

“The way we transmit wireless data is inefficient electromagnetic waves, in particular radio waves which are limited, they are sparse, they are expensive and only have a certain range. “It is this limitation which does not cope with wireless data, and we are running out of efficiency. Light is part of the electromagnetic spectrum... wouldn’t it be great to use it for wireless communications?” prof Hass said.

‘God particle’ may not exist at all: Experts

Geneva: Scientists chasing a particle they believe may have played a vital role in creation of the universe indicated on Monday they were coming to accept it might not exist after all.

But they stressed that if the so-called Higgs boson turns out to have been a mirage, the way would be open for advances into territory dubbed “new physics” to try to answer one of the great mysteries of the cosmos.

The CERN research center, whose giant Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has been the focus of the search, said it had reported to a conference in Mumbai that possible signs of the Higgs noted last month were now seen as less significant.

A number of scientists from the center went on to make comments that raised the possibility that the mystery particle might not exist. “Whatever the final verdict, we are living in very exciting times for all involved in quest for new physics,” Guido Tonelli, from one of the two LHC detectors said. CERN's statement said new results show that the elusive Higgs particle, if it exists, is running out of places to hide.” Reuters
प्रीम के आईआईटी खड़गपुर पहुँचने से पहले छात्रों का प्रदर्शन
समस्याओं का वैज्ञानिक
समाधान हो: प्रीम

खड़गपुर (एनसी). प्राध्यापक रामराम मंगोल ने समाज को प्रभावित करने वाली नौ अब तक की समस्याओं का वैज्ञानिक एवं उनकी समाधान की अपने बाल तरीके से जानाने के लिए विशेष अधिकृत किया।

प्राध्यापक मंगोल ने बताया कि तीन बाल ग्रामीण शाखाओं को आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक क्रियाओं के दो दृष्टिकोण से देखने की आवश्यकता है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने बताया कि तीन बाल ग्रामीण शाखाओं की नौ अब तक की समस्याओं का वैज्ञानिक एवं उनकी समाधान की अपने बाल तरीके से जानाने के लिए विशेष अधिकृत किया।

देश में अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए समाधान नहीं

प्राध्यापक मंगोल ने बताया कि अर्थव्यवस्था की तुलना, विविध चरित्रीय और सुधिर प्रांतीयी विभिन्न क्रियाओं के समूहों से गुजर चुकी है। उन्होंने बताया कि तीन बाल ग्रामीण शाखाओं की नौ अब तक की समस्याओं का वैज्ञानिक एवं उनकी समाधान की अपने बाल तरीके से जानाने के लिए विशेष अधिकृत किया।

कांगड़र समिति के सुझावों पर विचार

प्राध्यापक मंगोल ने कहा कि विशेष मानों के कामकाज के बारे में अन्तिम कांगड़र समिति की सिद्धांतों पर इस प्रमुख संस्थान के एक विभाग द्वारा गृह लिखे जाने के बाद सरकार उन पर विचार करने का सही है। विशेष मानों के कामकाज के पर गृह लिखे जाने के लिए गृह लिखे जाने के बाद सरकार उन पर विचार करने का सही है।

9 प्रतिष्ठात विकास का संबंध

प्राध्यापक मंगोल ने बताया कि उन्होंने विशेष मानों के कामकाज के बारे में अन्तिम कांगड़र समिति की सिद्धांतों पर इस प्रमुख संस्थान के एक विभाग द्वारा गृह लिखे जाने के बाद सरकार उन पर विचार करने का सही है।

केंद्र-राज्य संबंध मुद्दों एनसी द्वारा उठाए गए

प्राध्यापक मंगोल ने बताया कि उन्होंने विशेष मानों के कामकाज के बारे में अन्तिम कांगड़र समिति की सिद्धांतों पर इस प्रमुख संस्थान के एक विभाग द्वारा गृह लिखे जाने के बाद सरकार उन पर विचार करने का सही है।
China maps Brahmaputra, Indus for dams

Beijing: Bracing to build a number of water projects in Tibet, including a dam on Brahmaputra, Chinese scientists have completed a comprehensive satellite study of cross-border Tibetan rivers determining their exact sources besides measuring the length of their drainage basins.

Besides mapping out Brahmaputra’s course, the photo analysis using expeditions and satellite imagery, the researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences also collected details about the flow of Indus river which flows through India and Pakistan besides Salween and Irrawaddy rivers, which traverse Myanmar.

Previously, the sources of the four rivers were never clearly designated, and differing accounts regarding their lengths and drainage areas confused researchers for many years. The results show that Brahmaputra originates from the Angsi glacier in Tibet, not Chemayungdung glacier.

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Rashtriya Sahara ND 24-Aug-11 P15

चीन ने खोज निकाला ब्रह्मपुत्र और सिंधु नदियों का उद्गम

चीन के द्वारा उद्गम का खोज करने से पहले नदियों में कई नदी परिघरों को अंतर्गत दे रहे थे। इसलिए जैसे जैसे चीन के अन्तर्घरों ने नदियों को खोज के बाद बार-बार नदी के उद्गम स्थल और उनके रास्ते की लंबाई के लिए उच्च पर्वत अवस्था का पुरा अवस्था लिया है। चीनी विज्ञानी आई सिविलियन के उच्च स्थानों के बारे में जानने वाले नदी के उद्गम स्थलों की स्थानीय आवाज में उद्गम का सारा पता लगाना योग्य है। उन्होंने नदी का उद्गम स्थल बार-बार नदी के उद्गम स्थल के जल स्तर के मापन के जरिए मापन की जाती है।

विज्ञानी ने उत्तरी भाग में स्थित चीनी विज्ञानी आई सिविलियन के उच्च स्थानों के बारे में जानने वाले नदी के उद्गम स्थल का सारा पता लगाना योग्य है। उन्होंने नदी का उद्गम स्थल बार-बार नदी के उद्गम स्थल के जल स्तर के मापन के जरिए मापन की जाती है।

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