Newspaper Clips
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IIT-B may set up campus in New York

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay could soon have a second address—in New York.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) has invited IIT-B to submit a proposal to set up a campus in the Big Apple for applied science courses.

The Mumbai institute will fill a lacuna that the city’s five boroughs have had all these years—a world-class facility for applied science teaching and research with a strong bent towards applied engineering.

A committee at IIT-B is firming up the institute’s pitch, which will be sent to NYCEDC by April. The host city will make a capital contribution, in addition to possibly providing land and other considerations.

IIT Bombay director Devang Khakhar, invited by NYDEC to consider setting up a campus there, said the concept was being explored. “My team is working on a feasibility plan,” he told TOI.

IIT-B dean: Considering NY proposal seriously

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: IIT-Bombay may soon set up a campus in the Big Apple for applied science courses. New York mayor Michael Bloomberg has said the city must optimize its business strengths.

“The city is committed to finding the right partner and providing the support needed to establish such a facility because research in the fields of engineering, science and technology is creating the next generation of global business innovations that will propel our economy forward,” Bloomberg said.

“New York City has all the ingredients to complement an applied science and engineering hub—a highly educated global population, an unparalleled financial and business community to provide capital and support for new ventures and existing top-notch institutions performing cutting-edge research. We want to capitalize on those strengths,” he added.

Apart from inviting top institutes around the world to send in their offers, New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) has also broadened its hunt by allowing institutes wanting a presence in NY to apply under this scheme. IIT-Bombay’s dean (international relations) Subhasish Chaudhuri, said:

“The proposal is at a rather nascent stage. But we are considering it very seriously.”

NYCEDC, which has received responses from a select group of top schools from around the world bidding for the same project, is likely to assess all the expressions of interest in April and later work toward setting up the school in a year.

Terming this as a “once-in-a-generation opportunity”, Bloomberg said: “The impact of this initiative will be extraordinary.”
Kharagpur: One of the two tuskers that have terrorized Kharagpur for the last two days entered IIT-Kharagpur on Sunday, triggering panic and a lockdown that the elite institute has never seen in its history. All lights have been switched off and the campus shut to visitors.

Announcements were being made on loudspeakers for everyone in IIT-Kharagpur and the town itself to lock themselves indoors.

There is reason to be afraid. The elephants, who got separated from the herd last week, have already killed a man and critically injured an elderly woman. The one that attacked the woman is probably in IIT, say officials.

Chased by villagers and foresters, the elephants split on Sunday and used the highways to move towards Midnapore and Kharagpur towns.

The campus is on lights-out mode and all gates have been shut. Only one gate in the rear has been left open in the hope that the elephant will escape. “So far it has been futile. We have not been able to turn the elephants away,” said a ranger. TNN
US to consider reinstating
Tri-Valley students’ visas

Washington: The US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) has indicated that it is ready to consider reinstating the immigration status of those Indian students, who have lost their student visas due to the closure of a California-based “sham” university.

“We received a message from ICE on Sunday, in which they indicated that they would consider the possibility of reinstatement of their (students) visa status through I-539,” Susmita Gongslee Thomas, consul general, Indian consulate San Francisco said. I-539 is the form used by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for visa extension and change of immigration status.

When one is out of the visa status for one reason or the other under a particular law of the US and the individual is not in criminal violation, USCIS may agree to give the reinstatement of his or her status under this form.

Duped by the authorities of the Tri-Valley University, which has now been shut down, hundreds of Indian students, mostly from Andhra Pradesh, faced the threat of being deported back home after having lost their student visa status.

However, no immediate detail of ICE’s one-liner to Indian consulate in San Francisco was available. Thomas hoped that more details and clarification on this would be available from ICE early next week.

She said all indications are that this is not going to be a general amnesty and ICE would consider the request for status change or visa extension on a case by case basis. “It seems quite positive that they are willing to consider at least the possibility of reinstating of some of the students,” Thomas said.

“I think it will be case by case basis, because earlier we had clarified that there is nothing like the general amnesty. It would be case by case, because they feel that there might be some students who are in criminal violation of the immigration,” she added.
SHORT CUTS

Archaeological sites found using Google Earth

A n Australian archaeologist claims to have identified nearly 2,000 potentially important sites in Saudi Arabia using Google Earth. David Kennedy, a professor of classics and ancient history at the University of Western Australia, says with the help of satellite images from Google Earth he has pinpointed 1,977 archaeological, including 1,082 teardrop shaped stone tombs in the Arab country. "I've never been to Saudi Arabia. It's not the easiest country to break into," New Scientist magazine quoted Kennedy as saying. Instead, Kennedy said, he scanned about 1240sqkm in Saudi Arabia using Google Earth. From their birds-eye view he found 1,977 potential archaeological sites.
As survival becomes easier, our brains shrink to make us smarter

Washington: Human brains have shrunk over the past 30,000 years, puzzling scientists who argue it is not a sign we are growing dumber but that evolution is making the key motor leaner and more efficient.

The average size of the brain of modern males — homo sapiens — has decreased about 10% during that period — from 1,500 to 1,359 cubic centimeters, the size of a tennis ball. Women’s brains, which are smaller on average than those of men, have experienced an equivalent drop in size. These measurements were taken using skulls found in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

"I'd called that a major downsizing in an evolutionary eye blink," John Hawks of the University of Michigan told Discover magazine.

But other anthropologists note that brain shrinkage is not very surprising since the stronger and larger we are, the more gray matter we need to control this larger mass. The Neanderthal, a cousin of the modern human who disappeared about 30 millennia ago, was far more massive and had a larger brain.

Psychology professor David Geary of the University of Missouri said these traits were necessary to survive in a hostile environment.

Geary and his colleagues used population density as a measure of social complexity, with the hypothesis that the more humans are living closer together, the greater the exchanges between group, the division of labor and the rich and varied interactions between people. They found that brain size decreased as population density increased.

"As complex societies emerged, the brain became smaller because people did not have to be as smart to stay alive," Geary said.

But the downsizing does not mean modern humans are dumber than their ancestors — rather, they developed different, more sophisticated forms of intelligence, said Brian Hare, an assistant professor of anthropology at Duke University.
Traffic jam? This car turns into plane in just 30 secs

London: Fed up with traffic jams? Here’s some good news — ‘the flying car’ is on its way. An American company, Terrafugia Transition, based near Boston, is to soon start manufacturing “the flying cars”, called the Transition Roadable Light Sport Aircraft, which can be transformed from a car to a plane in just 30 seconds.

The Transition can fly at 185kmph and reach 105kmph on the road; on the ground, with its wings tucked up and in, it can fill up with petrol at a normal filling station and fits in an average size garage, the Sunday Express reported.

“The flying car” is set to go into production this year and is expected to cost between £125,000 and £160,000, say its developers.

Richard Gersh, of Terrafugia, the US company which makes the vehicle and hopes to sell 200 a year, said: “This is an aeroplane first and foremost. The idea is you can drive it to and from a regulation airport. Fully fuelled, you can fly it for a range of 400 to 450 miles. We have 100 orders so far. There are still some minor changes that need to be made because it has to meet both road and aviation standards. However, we expect to be delivering at the end of this year.”

According to the CEO of the company, they have successfully test-flown “the flying car” as many as 28 times.

“It has been very successful. We have got a very good handling vehicle and our test pilot said that the flights were just remarkably unremarkable — it just flies like a really nice, little airplane,” CEO Carl Dietrich told Canadian TV. He also said that this car would also ease problems for pilots who currently face problems like weather.
Bat-winging drone bomber clears hurdle

Los Angeles: A robotic, bat-winged bomber designed to take off from a US aircraft carrier has passed its first test in a debut flight in California, the US navy said.

The X-47B jet, which looks like a smaller version of the B-2 stealth bomber, stayed in air for 29 minutes and climbed to 5,000ft in a test flight on Friday at Edwards Air Force Base, according to the navy and defense contractor Northrop Grumman.

Military leaders see the plane as part of a new generation of drones that would be able to evade radar and fly at much faster speeds than the current fleet of propeller-driven Predators and Reapers used in the war in Afghanistan.

INVISIBLE TO RADAR

"Today we got a glimpse towards the future as the US navy's first-ever tailless, jet-powered unmanned aircraft took to the skies," Captain Jaime Engdahl, a programme manager for the warplane project, said in a statement.

Northrop is building the navy bomber under a $362 million contract awarded in 2007. With no pilot on board, the experimental aircraft was operated by a joint navy and Northrop team on the ground.

The plane "flew a racetrack pattern over the dry lakebed with standard-rate turns," the navy said.

It will be years before the X-47B joins the naval air fleet, with the first tests on a carrier scheduled for 2013, Northrop said.

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A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Change, innovation and motivation are the three fundamentals that will revolutionise education in the 21st Century. A thinker, mathematician and painter, Dinsh Singh, who took over as vice-chancellor of Delhi University in October 2010, feels it is time for institutions and universities to change and evolve. Unless and until we reorient our mindsets, he says, we will not be able to understand and cater to the real needs of students.

Singh feels the mindset of teachers, as a section of educators, is too caught up in the past. While on the one hand he agrees that we should draw lessons from the past, we cannot remain stuck into our capital. It is time to create a future capital and be innovative.

Singh, who is currently engaged in a 15-year effort to reform mathematics education in Indian schools, attributes his real learning to peer interactions in college and not to classroom learning. In fact, he questions the very relevance of "classrooms" in the 21st Century.

While Indian universities are churning out thousands of graduates through rigorous classroom learning, he says, they are not producing industry-ready professionals. As a consequence, he adds, the machine-tool industry has started setting up its own enterprises to train people with real-world job skills. This makes it clear that there is a need for institutes and universities to upgrade the curriculum to equip graduates with relevant job skills.

Singh stresses that institutes should encourage liberal thinking and open-mindedness among students so that they can explore options and identify their "inner" calling. In fact, instead of a conventional lecture structure, the future is in open universities and open learning. "They are inclusive in nature, accommodating the need of every individual. Well-known institutes, on the contrary, tend to have a system that thrives on exclusion."

Citing an example, he quipped, "I can imagine Ramanaidu, the mathematical genius of India, walking into DU and I doubt he would have come for the vice-chancellor of the university not being able to appoint him as professor because he lacks a formal university education."

Referring to new tools of learning, Singh feels that instead of being too cautious, the world of academia should realise that the internet can not only create incredible networks, but also build repositories of knowledge. Emphasising that real learning takes place outside of the classroom in the form of peer interactions and from assimilation of real-world wisdom, he reiterated that individual learning is the key to knowledge.

Education is more of an inner journey of the self. The role of guru or teacher is only to arouse curiosity in the mind of one who seeks knowledge, he adds, adding: "a guru can guide and navigate the person, but it is the person who has to think and act."

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Samsung to tap education sector with B2B solutions

JAYASHREE MAJI
New Delhi

SAMSUNG has set its sights on tapping the potential of the growing B2B segment, with a stated target of $100 million (Rs 455 crore) during 2011, specifically targeting solutions for the education sector.

It will also boost its B2B business by integrating its IT and mobility solutions this year. Samsung's total sales in the IT and mobile division was $38 million (Rs 173 crore) during 2010.

"This year, we plan to move the IT B2B business to the next level by having a comprehensive product offering across mobility, display computing and printing segments that should help us notch up sales of $100 million across various verticals that we are targeting. The education sector should contribute around 25 per cent to our B2B business," said the country head of mobile and IT of Samsung India Electronics, Ranjit Yadav.

Yadav said that the company would be targeting high-end schools with both IT and mobility solutions. It will have 15 channel partners in nine cities. "In the first phase roll-out of our plan, we plan to focus on nine cities — Delhi/NCR, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Ahmedabad," he said.

The company will be supplying Samsung tabs, its rival to the iPad, which can be used by teachers for classroom teaching, maintaining records and marking students.

As part of this initiative, Samsung plans to

Back to school
- Samsung will target high-end schools with IT and mobility solutions along with partners
- It will supply Samsung tabs for use by teachers in classroom teaching and maintaining records
- The company plans to target 20,000 plus educational institutes in nine cities
- It has also unveiled an interactive e-board that enables latest teaching applications

@mydigitalfc.com
A flying car that is ready for production this year

It can change from a car to a plane in 30 seconds, fly at 115 mph and reach 65 mph on the road.

and is expected to cost between £125,000 and £160,000 pounds, say its developers.

Richard Gersh, of Terrafugia, the US company which makes the vehicle and hopes to sell 200 a year, said: "This is an aero-plane first and foremost. The idea is you can drive it to and from a regulation airport. Fully fuelled, you can fly it for a range of 400 to 450 miles.

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unremarkable — it just flies like a really nice, little airplane," CEO Carl Dietrich told Canadian TV.

He also said that this car would also ease problems for pilots who currently face problems like weather which sometimes doesn't allow them to take off or land.

"This vehicle allows a pilot any time, if the weather changes, to drive to the nearest airport, fold up their wings and drive safely under the weather," he said.
Taking stock of Indian management research

The dismal number of research papers by Indian B-schools neither matches global standards, nor the country's potential

Nirmalya Kumar

The mission of post-graduate educational institutions, business schools included, is to impart cutting-edge knowledge. This knowledge is generated through research. But what really constitutes research in a business school?

If a student does not support academic research, then attracting the best faculty is impossible.

To assess the state of business research in India, we examined data on authorship of research by India-based authors for the period 1990-2009. We chose a widely accepted list of 46 journals that are typically used for ranking research in business schools in their annual global MBA rankings (www.b.com). Using the ISI Web of Science database, we counted the number of articles published by Indian authors in these journals during the timeframe that listed at least one author with an affiliation to an institution in India. We then divided the research into two categories: for example, if an article with three authors was based in India, we counted the authorship as 1. If all three authors were based in India, the score would be 3.

The results show that Indian business schools are not producing research of sufficient quality. The majority of papers are published in lower-tier journals. Only a small number of papers are published in top-tier journals.

In conclusion, if India is to go from being an imitator to an innovator, we need our leading academic institutions and faculty to produce world-class research, and not be satisfied simply with producing good students through a competitive selection process and competent classroom instruction. This is an imperative for the country, given the large number of students who aspire to go into management.

Houstone, we have a problem

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Govt should fund education, leave running to private firms

By MAHURIMA NANDY & BHARGAVI KURUR

The government will deliver its budget for 2011-12 later this month amid inflationary and fiscal concerns. The budget should provide a platform for entrepreneurs and new businesses to create new jobs, as well as allow for greater participation in the global market.

WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE THE FINANCE MINISTER?

Provide the funds and let the private sector do the operations and delivery.

KRISHNAN GAHAN,
Entrepreneur

Nurture skill and education instead of funding institutes. Fund students.

MANISH SAHARWAR,
Chairman, Telesense Services

Benefits for corporations who are investing into hardcore R&D, like tax breaks and property rights, should be retained in India.

POORNIMA SHENOY,
President, India Semiconductor Association

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R VAGDAM

NEW REALITIES

The government will deliver its budget for 2011-12 later this month amid inflationary and fiscal concerns. The budget should provide a platform for entrepreneurs and new businesses to create new jobs, as well as allow for greater participation in the global market. It is seen as a win-win for PPP. In young entrepreneurs will come.

I agree with Manish that there should be a smart allocation of budgetary funds and there should be support for corporates in specific areas where India has strategic advantages. Coming from the watches industry, India can work on a specific hub for specific industries worldwide, particularly when the Chinese manufacturing sector has grown astronomical levels and shows no sign of slowing down.

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Mint 07.02.11
Tech colleges cheer cloud education

Constant innovation at IT companies is compelling engineering colleges to introduce specialised courses in cloud computing, which will in-turn help their students to be in demand.

The action around campus placements is picking up. And this time, engineering colleges or IT-schols are bracing for the rush. At present, the buzzword to the US $10 billion Indian software industry is "cloud computing," and our home-grown technical institutions realise that. While many have already introduced specialised courses or full semester cloud computing modules on their way,

Renowned names like IITs, Birla Inst. of Technology, NITTTR, and IIMs comprise the importance of cloud computing in their educational curriculum and research projects, along with the infrastructural support that cloud can provide.

Talking the latest example, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi is about to launch a cloud computing course in cloud computing from the current semester. It will also be introducing cloud computing in the educational curriculum from the current semester for its 460 odd students in the college. Professor Amrit Prakash, assistant professor at the institute says, "Students are very keen to learn cloud computing and the demand has come from their employers to learn innovative technology. We are enthusiastic to use the cloud platform for research as well as education." The institute uses Amazon services as a proxy to work on servers on the Internet.

A few Tech schools projected the importance of adding cloud in their educational curriculum much earlier. Vasudeva Varma, associate professor, National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), Hyderabad, has written about cloud computing through the journey of the institute. "We are conducting a cloud computing course for the last three years—which is very popular. This was perhaps the first course in India on cloud computing. About 100 students take this course every year. The number of students has been growing. It is not a compulsory course, but it is very popular among students."

He further elaborates that this course was developed taking inputs from Yahoo Cloud Computing group. Many industry leaders from Yahoo, Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Pratik Shah gave lectures in the course. It is a full semester course which expands over a few month period.

Even professor Anjan Kumar from IIT Madras shares, "Institutes of higher learning like IITs have high-performance computing requirements in almost every area of research e.g. aerospace engineering, astrophysics and ocean modelling, computer vision, data mining, etc. Cloud computing provides access to virtualised resources as a proxy service on the Internet."

The recruitment angle

It is evident that specialised training on cloud would help in better jobs for these freshers. H. Varma, vice president, Cloud Platform Group, Yahoo, feels that the trend of institutes looking at cloud computing started a few years back. The major change which has happened now is that the faculty and students are getting more involved in research on cloud computing. "They are also keen in introducing it in the curriculum of the cloud platform."

Vasudeva from IIT-H agrees, "The industry has seen a shift in the curriculum of IT companies from cloud computing and it is getting more and more popular. The students will benefit from this move. The companies will also benefit from this move."

THE FACULTY AT ENGINEERING COLLEGES IS GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN RESEARCH ON CLOUD COMPUTING. Hence, they are SLOWLY INTRODUCING IT IN THE EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM OF THE STUDENTS.

A few tech schools have already introduced cloud computing courses in their curriculum, which will help their students in getting jobs. However, some institutes are still in the process of introducing cloud computing courses.

According to Professor Anjan, "Cloud computing is a new area of research and it requires a lot of work in terms of setting up the infrastructure and teaching the students. However, the faculty and students are showing a lot of interest in this area."

The placement officer from an institute says, "We have seen a rise in the number of students interested in cloud computing. The companies are also showing a lot of interest in cloud computing."

However, some institutes are still in the process of introducing cloud computing courses. "We are still in the process of introducing cloud computing courses," says Professor Anjan. "We are conducting a cloud computing course for the last three years—which is very popular. This was perhaps the first course in India on cloud computing. About 100 students take this course every year. The number of students has been growing. It is not a compulsory course, but it is very popular among students."

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The faculty at engineering colleges is getting more involved in research on cloud computing. Hence, they are slowly introducing it in the educational curriculum of the students.
INTERVIEW: PROF DOMINIQUE TURPIN
PRESIDENT AND Nestlé PROFESSOR, IMD, SWITZERLAND

'We have the global mindset that no other B-school in the world has'

IMD, 'International Institute for Management Development', known for its World Competitiveness Yearbook, has a long history of providing executive education. Founded in 1950, IMD was created in a merger between IMI and IMEDE, two independent business schools. Today, it has grown beyond a business school and has become a global meeting place for executives from all over the world, delivering the best in "real world" learning. In an Interview with Vikram Chaudhary of The Financial Express, Prof Dominique Turpin shares IMD’s India plans and why the business school is not just a business school. Excerpts:

What brings you to India?

Our focus, as you know, is executive education. We have customers all over the world, as in India, so I regularly visit the country to meet them. IMD has a strong focus on training and developing general management and leadership skills. We select experienced candidates for both the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Executive MBA. Our focus is to have a broad international group of participants attending the courses to ensure that no nationality dominates. I also met the IMD alumni during this visit to India, as we have IMD alumni clubs, one in Mumbai and the other in New Delhi.

Apart from that, we had a roundtable of CEOs to get some advice as to what should be our strategy for India.

Since India will soon be opening up the higher education sector, would IMD be interested in setting up a campus in the country?

No. We are a very small business school, having 60 odd professors, so it will be suicidal for us to set up campuses in new locations. IMD intentionally does not set up branches in other countries but bring the participants together in Lausanne, Switzerland, to stimulate cross-cultural interaction. IMD is actually the global meeting place for executives from all over the world. Last year we had some 8,000 executives, representing over 90 nationalities, coming to IMD to attend one of our programmes, or we went to teach in their country. I must add that out of our 50 odd professors, only two are Swiss.

Indian management institutes are evolving, have you thought about tie-ups with them so as to be like a mentor to them, considering that your research levels are quite good?

Not really. The reason being that our model is quite different from global business schools. We are not a university. We don't get any money from the government, we just focus on developing global talents for big corporations. Rather we were founded to develop general managers for international corporations.

What makes you different?

Well, it is the global mindset we have. For instance, if you go to a US business school, it'll teach you the US perspective of how to run a business, to do the business the American way. But at IMD, you learn the Japanese way. But Switzerland is such a tiny country, and that's why we have the global mindset that no other business school in the world has. We can offer Indian companies the perspectives that they would not find in India.

What is the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook all about?

IMD, for more than 30 years now, has been ranking different economies on competitiveness. The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) is reputed as being the worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of nations, ranking and analyzing how an economy manages the totality of its resources and competencies to increase the prosperity of its population. We have 86 criteria and these criteria are spread into four categories—economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure. Now there are people in the West who are looking at both China and India. In fact, if they have a million dollars more, where would they like to invest in, China or India? So, our report helps them understand where to spend.

The WCY found that in overall rankings India is at the 11th position while China is at 10th. Although India outperformed China in business efficiency, what brought India down in overall rankings is infrastructure. And this is one aspect where India should focus more. When I landed in New Delhi, I saw this huge airport comparable to the best in the world, but there was no dedicated highway to reach the downtown. "Well, the next time he comes to New Delhi, he may not feel the same at the Airport Express Line of the Delhi Metro would be functional, and India may catch up with China in the years to come", but the Chinese do it differently, if there is a big airport, there is also a big highway. To develop the infrastructure is critical to develop the economy.

The culture of entrepreneurship is on a rise in India, and various acts are also encouraging it. The numbers are far behind China's. What, in your opinion, are the reasons?

You find entrepreneurs in every country. But the question is how supportive your government is, can your government make the life of an entrepreneur easy? A major reason India lags behind China is bureaucracy, which doesn't make it easy for a business to start—it takes days, months to begin a business in India. While on the other extreme, you go to Singapore and in a matter of hours you can start a company.

Being a marketing professor, can you share how to be a successful entrepreneur, or on a larger scale, how to build a global brand?

First of all, you need an innovative idea, because if you are doing what everybody else is doing, then you have a problem. Then you need to invest in creating awareness for the product, otherwise nobody will know that you exist. Once you have a successful start, then it's really necessary to keep innovating. For instance, when the iPod came, there were new versions, say, every six months or so. On the other hand, there is Levi's, which is now fading in Europe, when you talk to teenagers, they say, "Oh that's a brand of my father, my grandfather", why, because Levi's is not innovating itself. And then you have to have passionate employees, so much so that they turn into brand ambassadors. Lastly, you should invest in growth, but mind you, growing too fast is not a good sign, because you have to invest equally in growth as well as innovation. And once you turn successful, the challenge is not to turn complacent.
‘India is our only campus abroad’

As international B-schools test Indian waters to set up their campuses, Schulich Business School, part of Canada-based York University, has already tied up with India’s GMR Group to build a campus in Hyderabad. Schulich Dean DEZSÖ J HORVÁTH tells KALPANA PATHAK the one in India campus is the school’s only full-fledged campus abroad. Excerpts:

When will your campus be up and running?
We have acquired 25 acres land in Hyderabad to set up a full-fledged campus for a global MBA programme, the same as we offer at our Toronto campus. Around 15 acres of this campus is for school and 10 for recreational activities on campus. We will be operational in September 2012 with a student capacity of 60 which will increase by another 60 in the subsequent two years. So by 2013 we will have 180 students in India. Opportunities offered to students at the Toronto campus will be available here as well. We have partner schools overseas in countries like France, Korea, Thailand and China, but India campus will be the first full-fledged campus abroad.

Does this mark an end to your association with SP Jain Institute?
Yes and no. We have been associated with SP Jain Institute of Management and Research for over three years now. While we will deliver the MBA programme through our Hyderabad campus, we may look at carrying on our relationship with SP Jain through other research and exchange programmes. They have been a very good partner and we would like to take this partnership forward even if its in other ways.

Your programme fee at Rs 30 lakh is pretty high. Do you think Indian students will have an appetite for your MBA programme?
Yes we charge high fee. But our MBA is value for money. It is not about how much you charge but how much your students generate after five years of graduation. Schulich is ranked among the highest when it comes to value for money in an MBA programme.

In any dimension we match any best B-school in the world today. Schulich’s MBA programme has been rated among the top 10 in the world as per The Economist’s 2010 rankings, and 6th among non-US schools by Forbes. We have had a good response from Indian students as we have taken the second batch of students now. We see the demand for a good management programme only increasing.

Foreign universities may have to deposit $10 million as corpus to come to India. Your take on that.
It is not yet clear if this money has to be paid in cash or one just needs to provide a guarantee for the same. While it may frighten away a lot of international universities which wish to come to India, for us it is not a deterrent. Whatever happens we will be here in India. I am a good fund raiser and I know the Canadian government will support us.

Q&A

DEZSÖ J HORVÁTH
Dean, Schulich Business School
IIM-A TO SPREAD WINGS ABROAD

The institute will look for rented premises to launch programmes in Dubai or Singapore

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) may have an international campus in Dubai or Singapore or both, by 2013. A senior faculty member from the institute told Business Standard the matter is being deliberated currently. The institute has decided it will go solo.

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) had in October 2009, received an in principle approval from the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) to set up campuses abroad.

Samir Barua, director, IIM-A said the institute so far has been hesitant on an international campus due to faculty shortage and concern on the quality of students.

"We need a good faculty pool to launch a full-time management programme. We will also look at the cost structure and a local partner. We do not want to draw money out of our corpus to expand internationally," said Barua.

IIM-A at present has around 95 faculty members and needs another 30 faculty members. "Once we have 105 faculty members we would be in a comfortable position to have another campus," added Barua.

Last week Financial Times ranked IIM-A's post graduate programme in management for executives, 11th in a list of 100 top B-schools in the world. In September 2010, IIM-A had been ranked eighth for its two-year post graduate programme in management (PGP) in the Financial Times Masters in Management 2010 ranking from among 71 programmes.

"International ranking will certainly help as we go international. We plan to rent a faculty abroad and tie up with a local partner for the infrastructure. The fee charges would take care of the operating expenses for the campus. To begin with the class size would be 40 students," added Barua.

The MHRD, had in October 2009, allowed IIMs to go abroad but only as a collective brand. Some IIM directors, however, felt it would affect the individual brand identity of their campuses, and had made known their fears to the MHRD.

"WE WILL LOOK FOR LOCAL PARTNER. WE DO NOT WANT TO DRAW MONEY FROM OUR CORPUS FOR OUR CAMPUS ABROAD"

— SAMIR BARUA
DIRECTOR IIM-A

Around six years ago, IIM Bangalore (IIM-B) was the first among IIMs to think of an international footprint—Singapore. The idea of a campus in Singapore, however, was turned down by the then HRO minister Arjun Singh who felt there was a need to meet domestic demand first.

IIM Bangalore on the other hand said, it is still figuring out what is the appetite for its MBA, internationally. "There is no clear strategy yet. As of now we have some partners with whom we are doing some international programmes but no plans have been firmed up for an international campus yet," said Pankaj Chandra, director, IIM Bangalore.

IIMs have maintained that along with an international presence, they want to have a mix of international students and their global linkages will help them achieve this.

They are however, confident that an IIM campus abroad will be financially viable since the fees will be of international standards and therefore much higher than Indian fees. Indian institutes with campuses abroad generally go for a two-cycle approach, which involves setting up operations through a rented place for two years and branching out to their own campuses in three years time.

"Starting with rented premises helps the institute get quickly off the ground and also allow it time to understand and study the geography to set up a campus or expand," points out an IIM director.
IGNOU, IIT-B conduct ‘Digital Drishti’ workshop

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Indira Gandhi National Open University’s Advanced Centre for Informatics and Innovative Learning in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay conducted a “Digital Drishti Workshop” here earlier this week.

The workshop provided basic computing and Internet surfing skills to the visually-challenged using free and open source software.

The aim of the initiative was to provide “digital vision” with the assistance of software driven spoken tutorials. Participants were provided with an overview of Linux-based screen readers for the visually-challenged.

The workshop enabled participants to operate basic Internet functions to increase their employability.

Social networking sites such as Facebook were also accessed.
IIT student falls from hostel roof, dies

DEHRA DUN: An IIT student died on Sunday after he allegedly fell from the roof of a hostel located inside the premises of the institute at Roorkee in Haridwar district of Uttarkhand.

Prima facie it did not appear to be a case of suicide, police said adding the body had been sent for post mortem.

Twenty-year-old Manish Kumar, a second year student of IIT Roorkee, allegedly fell from the fourth floor of the Radhakrishnan Bhavan Hostel where he was staying.

The family had been informed about Manish's death, police said adding investigations were on to ascertain the exact cause of the death.

- PTI
India, Norway for joint polar research

R. Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: The potential for enhancing collaborative polar research between India and Norway is immense. This was the message of the Indo-Norwegian meeting titled ‘Pole to Pole’ on February 3, which included an exhibition and a seminar, and was organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in collaboration with the Ministry's National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, and the Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø.

Such collaborative research, the scientists of the two countries believe, will yield new insights into the effects of climate change and, indeed, the Polar Regions are referred to as nature’s laboratories. Geology, glaciology and bacteriology were identified as the key areas for future collaboration in polar science at the end of the meeting that discussed possible areas for joint exploration and investigations.

After three decades of Antarctic research — India’s first expedition to Antarctica was in 1981 — India expanded its polar research by undertaking its first Arctic expedition in August 2007 and setting up its Arctic research station 'Himadri' at Ny-Alesund in the Svalbard region of Norway in 2008 to mark the International Polar Year (IPY). India established its first Antarctic research station Gagotri in 1983 and the second permanent station Maitri in 1989. It is establishing its third Antarctic station at Larsmenn in East Antarctica.

Unlike the Antarctic, Norway has a sovereign right over the Svalbard region, which is governed by the Svalbard Treaty of 1920. The Treaty today has 40 member countries. India signed the Treaty in 1923 which gives it the right to establish a research station there.

India and Norway are the nearest neighbours in Antarctica and have been carrying out joint research in the past.

**Different climate**

The present initiative will take the collaboration further by widening the scope to include studying the Arctic region, which has a fundamentally different climate from Antarctica, as well. While the Antarctic is all solid, the Arctic is an ocean surrounded by landmass.

Inaugurating the meeting, Pawan Kumar Bansal, the Minister of Science and Technology, thanked Norway for the support in India’s polar research endeavour and said that there was a wide gap in our understanding of the Arctic which was hindering a much needed bi-hemispherical approach to polar sciences. The objective is to carry out studies similar to what has been done in the Antarctic in the last 30 years.

It is, in fact, known that the Arctic is undergoing dramatic climate change. According to Nalan Koc of the Norwegian Polar Institute, the Arctic summer is disappearing and one is already seeing the impact of climate change from the observed loss of sea ice.

According to her, temperature anomalies in the fall in the Arctic during 2005-08 have been greater than 5°C, which could affect weather patterns even away from the Arctic.

The Norwegian Minister for Research and Education, Tora Åasland, who also addressed the gathering, said: "We are now both in the Antarctic and the Arctic." Speaking to The Hindu later, she said: "India has been doing polar research for many years, not the least because of the Himalayas, the third pole. And Indian research in polar questions, like air pollution, ocean pollution, changes in the glaciers and changes in the behaviour of animals, are the ones that Norway is also interested in. And that's the reason why the two nations have found each other."

**Unique natural system**

At the Indian station in Svalbard, research is being done on long-term monitoring of Kongsfjorden, a unique natural system where saline water input from the Atlantic mix with the fresh water melt from the Arctic glaciers.

Svalbard's geology is also unique where a complete geological column extending from Precambrian is exposed. Investigations are also being carried out on aerosol and precursor gases over the Arctic region, diversity of Arctic cyanobacteria, crustal formation studies and assessment of the flora and fauna of the Arctic.

"We intend to come out with a composite geological map of the Arctic," said Rasik Ravindra, the head of the NCAOR which operates and manages the Svalbard research station.