February 9

Rajasthan Patrika, ND 09/02/2014-P.1

Newspaper Clips
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Deccan Herald, ND 09/02/2014-P.6
उच्च शिक्षण प्रणालियों में हो रही आत्महत्याएं
क्यों साथ छोड़ रहे ये हों?

उन्हें मोक्षार्थी महाराज दे

एक युवा की कहानी...
सार-सम्भाल ने बदले हालात

हार्ट में आत्महत्याएं

राजस्थान पत्रिका, ND 09/02/2014-1
UGC finds 77 universities have let NAAC certificate lapse

CHENNAI: Two premier universities in Tamil Nadu - Anna University and the University of Madras - don't have the mandatory NAAC accreditation. That probably explains why many of the two lakh-odd students passing out of engineering, arts and science colleges in Tamil Nadu face problems in getting jobs or admission to higher studies.

That the two big institutions don't have the stamp of quality that an accreditation gives came to light when the University Grants Commission prepared a list of universities and their accreditation status ahead of the admission season. UGC found that 77 universities across the country, including eight in TN, have let their NAAC accreditation expire in 2014. Of this, 29 have applied for re-accreditation. In Tamil Nadu, Anna University and Madras University are among those that have let their accreditation expire.

M Anandakrishnan, chairman of IIT-Kanpur's board of governors and former Anna University vice-chancellor, said, "Some institutions haven't realized that in the last four or five years, employees, foreign universities and foreign embassies have been inquiring whether the institution the candidate comes from is accredited. Universities are ignorant as to why accreditation is essential," he added.

Nascom regional director K Purushothaman said NAAC accreditation is a "certification of credibility" that companies recognize while recruiting candidates.

The 150-year-old University of Madras, commonly referred to as the parent university in the state, has been functioning without accreditation for nearly two years. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council awarded an 'A' grade to the university with a cumulative grade point average of 86% the last time. The university's accreditation expired on March 2012.

University vice-chancellor R Thandanav said that the previous administration had failed to apply for the re-accreditation on time. "As soon as I took charge I applied for re-accreditation. We are allowed to apply for the process within a year after the validity expires." He said that a team from NAAC is expected to visit the university from March 3 to 7. "We don't expect any problem in getting the accreditation after the team's visit," Thandanav said.

Anna University, which has more than 250 engineering colleges affiliated to it, has been functioning without an accreditation since February 2007. University officials said administration changes, including the splitting of the university into four Anna Universities of Technology and the formation of Anna University-Chennai as a unitary university in 2007, and the consequent merger of the five universities in 2012 led to delays in applying for re-accreditation.

S Ganesan, registrar in charge of Anna University, said, "We applied for re-accreditation recently. We are waiting for the NAAC team's visit. But, it has been cancelled thrice for administrative reasons. The meeting has been set up in June or July now." The government has made accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions to ensure quality. Still 133 universities in India that are eligible for accreditation have not yet applied to undergo the process.

Anandakrishnan said that many of the institutions postpone the accreditation process because they are unable to conduct a self review. "The accreditation criteria have completely changed now, and is more based on teaching, learning and governance parameters. Institutions are afraid of not making a good grade, so they try to postpone the process at least during a particular person's governance."
NEW DELHI: The Telangana Bill cleared by the Union Cabinet has several infrastructure sops for the Seemandhra region, which did not find a mention earlier, a move seen as a bid to placate people opposed to the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

The residuary state will have a Petroleum University, National Institute of Disaster Management, steel plant in YSR district and a metro rail network, says the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Bill.

Efforts will also be made to upgrade Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati airports to international standards.

These are part of the 32 amendments, which the Centre will move when it is tabled in Parliament.

The residuary state will also get an IIM, IIT, IIIT, NIT, IISER, tribal university, central university, an AIIMS-type super-speciality hospital-cum-teaching institution and an agricultural university by 2023.

Telangana will have a Tribal University and a Horticulture University, according to the proposed 13th schedule of the Bill.

In a politically interesting move, the government also proposed that Steel Authority of India should examine the feasibility of establishing an integrated steel plant in YSR district, formerly known as Kadapa. The district was named after former chief minister Y S Rajeshkehar Reddy. The YSR Congress, led by his son Jaganmohan Reddy, has staunchly opposed the bifurcation of the state.

SAIL will also examine within six months from the formation of the new state the feasibility of establishing a similar steel plant in Khammam in the Telangana region.

According to the amendments that will benefit Seemandhra, the Centre will also examine the feasibility of a metro rail facility in Visakhapatnam and the Vijayawada-Guntur Tenali Metropolitan Urban Development Authority within one year from the date of bifurcation.

The Centre will also take measures to establish rapid rail and road connectivity from the new capital of the successor state of Andhra Pradesh to Hyderabad and other important cities of Telangana.

The amendments have put a timeline for considering and taking a decision on several infrastructure projects.

A decision on the already announced plans on having a railway zone for Andhra and a rail coach factory for Telangana will have to be taken within six months of the bifurcation.

A one-year deadline has also been set to examine the feasibility of the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor along the lines of the existing Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor.

DH News Service
Indian-origin academicians lead top global institutes

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: The club of Indian-origin academicians taking up key roles in the best international institutes is getting bigger. And Sanjeev Kulkarni, an Indian-American, recently appointed as dean of the Princeton University Graduate School is its latest member.

Last month, Indian-American professor Rakesh Khurana joined the prestigious club after being appointed dean of Harvard College.

In 2010, Nitin Nohria made the country proud after he became the first Indian-origin head of the prestigious Harvard business school. In the same year, University of Chicago's Booth School of Business named Sunil Kumar as its dean.

"This is a natural consequence of the inflow of Indian-origin academicians in the US universities some 20-25 years ago. Their progression in their respective institutes is now reflected in their career growth," Kumar told HT.

Sri Zaheer, dean at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, believes the US provides a meritocratic environment that has helped immigrants from different nationalities to rise to top ranks. "I hope in this process all of us who have a soft spot for our home countries can act as bridges," Zaheer said.

Soumitra Dutta took over as the dean of Cornell University's management school in 2012. Although opening a campus in India is not part of his future plan, he wants to build stronger links with researchers.

"This trend has essentially been born out of Indians being skilled, hard working and global and also because America is a country that judges you by your skills," Dutta said.

"Some of the best Indian students come here for higher education, particularly for research. India needs to have more research varsities," says Narayananamurti Venkatesh, who became the dean of School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1998.

He became dean of Physical Sciences at Harvard university in 2003.
Math is like sport. Training is tough but the win’s wonderful

Who would have thought that the longest-running scripted TV show in the world, ‘The Simpsons’, contains hidden math messages inserted by the writers themselves? British science writer Simon Singh discovered this, and has documented the story in his recent rib-tickling book ‘The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets’. Singh, a physicist and math lover, has worked with the BBC, made television shows and documentaries, taught in schools — including a stint at the Doon School, Dehradun — and written popular books on code breaking, famous math puzzles, debunking homeopathy and the Big Bang. On a visit to Delhi recently, he met up with Subodh Varma to talk about a range of subjects, including math & alternative medicine.

‘The Simpsons’ has got hidden math? It sounds weird! How did you discover this?
I have always loved watching TV. And Simpsons is a favorite. In one of the episodes, Homer is hiding behind a bookcase because his sisters-in-law have come for a surprise visit. There, he finds a mysterious portal. He goes through it to find himself in a 3-D world where well-known math equations appear to fly by him. I did some digging and found that five of the key script writers have math or physics degrees from Harvard. Two of them have PhDs! So I went and met with them and talked to them. That’s how the book came by. A very large number of people love The Simpsons show. I want them to start loving math too.

Why does math cause so much fear among students?
In the school I went to, a teacher taught us math for eight successive years and my love originated there. So, whether math is loved or hated depends largely on the education system, and the teachers. Unfortunately, something has gone wrong somewhere. In England, for instance, there are no takers for physics in schools. The authorities saw this trend and said, “We have to make physics easy!” So they took out all the math from physics! The students found it comfortable but when they hit real physics at the university, they were flummoxed. In the early years in school, interest in math and science is rising because of some policies but as you get to higher classes the interest declines.

You are saying that teaching methods are flawed?
It is one big factor. The standard method is this: the teacher teaches in the class and then you go home and try to solve the problems on your own. If you get stuck, there is no teacher to help. Shouldn’t it be the other way around — students should be solving problems with a teacher guiding and helping them. Now, with the rise of educational videos like the excellent Khan Academy ones, students can get help while solving math problems. In fact new technologies have opened new opportunities. A computer can know that you are getting stuck at the steps that involve, say, division or fractions. So, it will tell you — “Ok, let’s go back to the division chapter and run through it again”. Isn’t that wonderful?

How do you generate confidence among students?
Once, I was giving a lecture at a school. I said the usual thing — math is great fun, you will enjoy it etc etc. After me, Marcus du Sautoy (professor at Oxford and famous math/science popularizer) got up and said the reverse — math will make you miserable, stressful, frustrated, but once you go through all this, you will feel great. Nowadays, I have shifted to using the du Sautoy approach. Doing math is like training for a sport. The training part is tough and monotonous, but when you win a game or a race, it’s wonderful.

You wrote a controversial book debunking traditional medicine and homeopathy. Is it really bogus?
Look, if you say that sucking ginger helps relieve throat irritation, I have no objection. But in most cases it goes far beyond this. My family members get all kinds of concoctions from India. How do I know what chemicals are there in those desi concoctions? I don’t know how they will interact with the medicines already in the system. At worst, it is dangerous; at best, it will help for minor things. I can understand that there in India, where many people don’t have access to modern medicine, or are too poor to pay for it, they will try out traditional remedies. But why in England? I think there it is a middle-class fad that believes in a sort of cosmic ‘lap of nature’ feeling, nothing more. Mind you, pharmacy companies also play dirty; pushing all kinds of irrational drugs. So, one has to be careful.
IIT-D test drive a success, biogas-fuelled car a reality

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: The latest models launched at the 12th Auto Expo 2014 are by now common knowledge among vehicle enthusiasts but few are aware that IIT Delhi has successfully tested India’s first biogas-fuelled passenger car.

Compressed biogas was tested on a regular CNG car for over 15,000km. The best news was for the environment — the emissions were lower than CNG. Also, existing CNG vehicles need not undergo any modification to be compatible to CBG.

The water-scrubbing-based biogas upgrade and compression/bottling system developed at the campus is now patented with IIT-D, promising a green and low cost fuel for automobiles and cooking. The project is being developed by Biogas Development and Training Centre, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi, and is being sponsored by ministry of new and renewable energy.

“IIT-D has developed a small scale biogas upgrading system using water scrubbing technology (20 m3/h system). The system consists of a water scrubbing column and methane-enriched biogas compression system. Commercial viability of the biogas purification and bottling plant can be attained above 500m3/d capacity. Its payback period ranges from one to four years depending upon capacity of plant, cost of raw material for gas production and selling price of CBG,” Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, heading the project, said.

There is no significant change in mileage of the vehicle fuelled with CBG (24.11km/kg) as compared to CNG (24.38km/kg).

Vijay added, “We tested the regular CNG car on CBG for more than 15,000km. The fuel economy and mass emission of the vehicle fuelled with CBG with 93% methane and compressed natural gas were evaluated. Emissions such as CO, HC and NOx are found to be marginally higher with CNG than CBG.”

Worldwide, biomass accounts for over two-thirds of all renewable energy supplies. Among biomass sources, biogas is a interesting option with a large potential, offering many exciting possibilities to supplement existing fuels, thereby reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

“The total potential of biogas from all sources has been estimated to be 48,382 million cubic metres a year. Assuming 50% of total upgraded biogas is used in transport sector and 50% in cooking sector, bottled biogas can fulfill 43.4% of the total transport sector demand and 41.7% of cooking sector needs,” Vijay said.
IITs are great, but they don’t create Nadellas

Is there some dismay that the new CEO of Microsoft is not an IITian? IITs mass produce excellence, but ‘lesser’ institutions seem to chip in with brilliance. Mr Satya Nadella is one such product. What is remarkable is that in this era of relentless pursuit of individual careers and hopping on to disparate job contents, Mr Nadella has stuck with one company to persevere for 22 long years, to be a titan. Pedigreed IITians have only managed to become big, maybe in larger numbers, on the wings of a generic brand value.

This brand has been finding greater acceptance on Wall Street or in IT start-ups and less in premier engineering or scientific research institutions. In these six-plus decades of IITs, in an era of ever-expanding scientific ken, the branded alumni ought to contribute to cutting edge technologies and seminal scientific papers. We would then be not seeking vindications through the success of men of Indian origin elsewhere.

R Narayanan
Ghaziabad
GREAT BRAINS STUDY ALIKE

TOP SHOTS Indians heading global firms have strikingly similar Bio-data, especially in terms of academics

Press Trust of India

The educational background of global business leaders that India has produced has a striking similarity — most of them obtained their Bachelor’s in India and got their Master’s in Business Administration from premier institutes in the country or the US.

The latest to join the list of Indian origin persons holding top posts at global corporations Satya Nadella’s credentials resonate with this trend.

Nadella holds a Bachelor’s degree in electronics and communication engineering from Manipal University, a Master’s degree in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Others in this league include, PepsiCo Chairman Indra Nooyi, Reckitt Benckiser Chief Executive Rakesh Kapoor, Ajay Banga President and Chief Executive of MasterCard, Anshu Jain of Deutsche Bank.

Nooyi got Bachelor of Science degree from the Madras Christian College, later an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management (Calcutta) and a Master’s degree in Public and Private Management from Yale University.

Jain studied economics at Shri Ram College of Commerce in Delhi and holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Reckitt Benckiser’s Kapoor has a Chemical Engineering degree from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, and an MBA from XLRI-Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, India.

While, Ajay Banga of MasterCard has a degree in Economics from St Stephen’s College in Delhi and MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Experts are of the opinion that Indians’ focus on good education and ability to work in difficult situations is aiding to this rising trend and more and more Indians could rise to top positions at global companies in the near future. The technical skills and the behavioural patterns of Indians executives make them very much adaptable to any kind of situation they come across.

According to experts this trend in higher education in Asia’s third largest economy is wide spread.

FRIENDS FROM INDIA

Experts believe that Indians’ focus on good education and ability to work in difficult situations is aiding to this rising trend

INDRA NOOYI
PepsiCo Chairman
Bachelors: Science from the Madras Christian College
MBA: Indian Institute of Management (Calcutta, now Kolkata)

AJAY BANGA
CEO, MasterCard
Bachelors: Economics from St Stephen’s College, DU
MBA: IIM, Ahmedabad

ANSHU JAIN
Co-CEO, Deutsche Bank
Bachelors: Economics from SRCC, DU
MBA: From University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Narendra Modi’s poll promise: an IIT and IIM in every State

Calls knowledge most potent tool to fight poverty

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, February 9

The BJP will set up prestigious institutions such as IITs, IIMs and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in every State when it comes to power, said Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the party’s prime ministerial candidate.

Students’ access to such prestigious institutions and to education is limited and “this is our biggest challenge,” he said at the ninth convocation of SRM University at Kattankulathur, 35 km south of Chennai.

According to him, it is unfortunate that even after 65 years of Independence, there has not been much focus on education, which is important not only for an individual’s progress but for economic development and nation-building. “We need to renew our commitment to education and commit ourselves to educating every child.

“We should not be left behind any other country in terms of coverage or quality of education,” he said in a 30-minute speech which was a mix of English and Hindi.

Modi said this is an era of knowledge, which is the most potent tool to fight poverty, and there is no reason why India should lag behind in education.

The nation has the brightest minds and a number of philanthropists, he pointed out.

Too few SRMs

“Why are there only a few SRMs? Why can’t such institutions be established in every nook and corner of the country?” he said, and added that the private sector is eager to enter the field but requires an enabling environment.

It should be given a free hand, he added. However, institution-building has to begin with the government, Modi said.

“It is our commitment to establish an IIT, an IIM and AIIMS in every State,” he added.

Emphasising entrepreneurship development, Modi commented on Hyderabad-born Sathya Nadella’s recent appointment as Microsoft’s CEO.

Do a Nadella

“You must dream to reach the heights of Nadella. Create companies like Microsoft, Apple and Google in India, own them and manage them.

“Do whatever you can to make India innovative and competitive,” he said.

According to him, India’s advantage is the demographic dividend, with nearly 65 percent of the population below the age of 35.

“Give our youth the strength and opportunity, they will do in 60 months what we could not do in 60 years,” he said.

Modi urged students to strengthen their skills and think big.

“When the Japanese are thinking of improving their bullet trains, we are still thinking of adding bogies to our trains,” he said.

Honorary doctorate

SRM University conferred an honorary doctorate degree on Avinash Chader, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Director-General, Defence Research and Development Organisation, for his contribution to science.

This year, 10,290 students graduated in engineering, medical and health sciences, and science and humanities courses.
Soon, a contraceptive for men

Vanita Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: For those who consider using condoms as one of the most inconvenient ways of deriving intimate pleasures, there is some good news. A male contraceptive to be taken as an injection — one shot effective for 10 years — is expected to hit the market soon. Scientists at IIT Kharagpur are in the final stages of developing the drug and planning its restricted monitored launch in few districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

If successful, the invention would bring about a radical change in the contraceptives’ sector. “The contraceptive called Reversible Inhibition of Sperm Under Guidance (RISUG) would generate positive electrical energy when injected in the body. The positive charge of the drug would cancel the negative charge of the sperms making them incapable for fertilisation,” explained Dr Sujoy Kumar Guha, professor at the School of Medicine, Science and Technology who is also in-charge of the project.

The non-hormonal, polymer-based contraceptive is injected into the vas deferens, the muscular tube that begins at the lower end of epididymis and passes upward along the side of the testis. “The contraceptive’s effect will remain for 10 years, may be even more,” Guha said.

The team working on RISUG has also come out with two of its variants — RISUGadv and RISUG-PH. RISUGadv has been granted patent in Europe and is being clinically studied on human volunteers in some parts of Europe for its effectiveness as a combined contraceptive and prostate cancer preventive.

“RISUG-PH, is in the animal trial stage and indirect evidence shows it can cure baldness, particularly crown baldness,” Guha said. RISUG is expected to cost Rs200-300, depending on market forces, whenever it is launched.
First self-publishing MA offers DIY education in UK

The University of Central Lancashire in northern England has announced the launch of what it describes as the world’s first degree in self-publishing.

The MA will begin in September, and course leader Debbie Williams believes it will help “legitimise” self-publishing. “Things have definitely changed. In the last two years, self-publishing has stopped being a dirty word, and is a legitimate option for authors,” she said. “Even the biggest authors are looking at it now.”

Despite the negative light in which self-publishing is viewed by some — Jeffrey Archer recently said “it doesn’t work, don’t do it. The only person who reads it is the person who gets it published” — while Sue Grafton has characterised DIY’ers as “too lazy to do the hard work” — the university pointed to research from the books data company Bowker, which found that around 390,000 titles were self-published in the US in 2012, up 59% on 2011 and a massive 422% on 2007. Digital self-publishing also continues to boom, accounting for 40% of self-published titles in the US in 2012, up from just 11% in 2007, according to Bowker.

“Self-publishing is becoming a global phenomenon,” said Williams. “Everyone has a book in them — and many of us have a manuscript sitting in the drawer; unsure what to do with it. Think of all the literary treasures that have never had the chance to see the light of day because their authors were put off by the traditional publishing model. Our new MA will help guide these individuals through the process to help them realise the dream of seeing their book in print.” The idea of launching a self-publishing MA was sparked by demand, she said, and would-be students are already applying.