Friends of IISc family keep campus green, safe and alive

Deepika Burli | TNN | Mar 13, 2016, 08.32 AM IST


Bengaluru: Think Indian Institute of Science and one can picture researchers labouring away in labs waiting for their eureka moment. But away from the world of science and experiments is a group of 16 women striving to improve the quality of life on campus. From keeping the surroundings green to giving women a helping hand, they are doing everything to ensure IISc residents have it easy.

Founded in 2014, the IISc Families and Friends (IFF) is a voluntary initiative by a team of residents from different professional backgrounds. Their goals - a greener and cleaner campus, better amenities and living standards for residents and women empowerment. Members of the group live in IISc's residential quarters.

Pamela Kumar, IFF chief mentor and an engineer by profession, said, "We wanted to understand the needs of all the neighbourhoods within the campus. We asked them what they like most and what change would they want to see. After receiving inputs, we started creating a structure with three broad categories - cleanliness and maintenance, facilities, and women empowerment and cultural activities. We wanted to give residents of the premier institute a premier living experience".

On IISc's Open Day observed on March 5, IFF volunteers ran a campaign on effective waste segregation and management. In association with the Solid Waste Management Initiative for IISc (SWaMII), the group monitored waste segregation at multiple points. With over 80 student volunteers working closely with restaurants, cafes and the likes, IFF along with SWaMII successfully achieved the zero-waste objective - while the dry waste was sent for recycling, the in-house composting unit was utilized for the wet waste.
"Every Open Day, the campus is littered with garbage. It burdens our cleaning staff. Since our initiative was born, we have seen tremendous improvement," said software professional and resident of IISc, Bhama Sridharan.

IFF also collaborates with in-house restaurants and cafes, urging them not to serve food and beverages in aluminium or thermocol plates and glasses. They are asked to use bio-degradable plates and paper cups instead. The group also works towards providing a safer environment to the residents. Along with establishing a ticketing system to hear residents’ grievances, it works closely with administrative departments and sub-committees to spread awareness on security issues in and around the campus.

"Neither are we an official mandate of the institution, a channel to the director's office nor a representation of faculty families only," said Pamela Kumar. "We are a ground-level voluntary initiative who want to be the voice of all residents and and extend services to all friends and families of IISc," she added.

**Corporate India funding IITs for research projects**

NEW DELHI: Titan wants IIT Kanpur to help develop a system for non-destructive measuring of gold purity and is ready to pitch in with 25% project cost. SYNOPSYS India has committed about Rs 2 crore to IIT Kharagpur for developing next generation cyber physical systems and industrial internet of things while ESDCON is ready to part with Rs 11 crore upwards to an IIT that can develop more efficient vehicular and storage batteries.

US-based VJ Technologies, on the other hand, is interested in developing a state-of-the-art tsunami generator for studying coastal planning of built environment for key civil engineering and infrastructure projects with IIT Bhubaneswar while Ecosense Sustainable Solutions is pitching for an e-PV diesel generator to counter grid failure with a diesel and photovoltaic combination. More than Rs 156 crore and 160 project proposals have been committed so far by the industry across for India-specific research solutions under the Uchchart Avishkar Yojana (UAY), a mission that works also to meet 'Make in India' goals.

Queuing up behind various IITs are the various arms of Tata Group from Tata Motors and Tata Steel to TCS, besides UnileverBSE -0.16 %, Cummins, GE, Perkin Elmers, Edgewood, VJ Technologies and Aditya Birla group, among others.

In all, 25 ministries and departments have come together to cofund the range of innovative research projects.

The idea behind the UAY, being piloted by the human resource development ministry, is to promote innovation of a higher order that directly serves the needs of the industry and improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing while promoting a vibrant research ecosystem across IITs.

Thirteen of the 16 IITs are going to be part of this industry-academic collaboration, with IIT Madras taking the lead with 39 project proposals, followed by IIT Kharagpur at 21 and IIT Delhi with 19. IITs apart, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is also participating in the mission with 23 proposals submitted.

About 100 of the total 160 proposals involve industry funding of Rs 1 crore upwards. The new and renewable energy sector has maximum industry backed proposals so far, followed by heavy industries, communication and ICT, and health applications.

As agreed in the IIT Council meeting held in October 2015, the programme will bring in government funding for industry-sponsored, outcome-oriented research projects. The funding formula involves the industry contributing at least 25% of the project cost.
Build...don't destroy: Kanhaiya could learn from IIT Bombay


Last week I was in Mumbai where Anil Dharker’s Literature Live was launching 1962: The War That Wasn’t by Shiv Kunal Verma. The tremendous impact of this book across all sections of society was obvious from the terrific response it has been getting in the media, and it reflected in the turnout for the launch where the audience was spilling out into the isles. Next day the show moved to another location, IIT Bombay, situated at Powai, where the same ceremony was to be repeated in front of an audience that was drawn entirely from the student community.

After the rather unfortunate hullabaloo in the media where events in JNU that should have been confined to the dustbin had been catapulted onto the national stage, I was a little apprehensive as to why students who were not even born in 1962 would be interested in the India-China war. But I was in for a surprise.

Kunal’s book makes fascinating reading and depicts in detail the tragic blunders that were made by both political leaders and military commanders who seemed clueless yet arrogant about how a war or an infiltration by enemy forces should be fought. Half a century after the tragic events, this book sets one major record straight, it was not the Chinese who ran all over us, it was our own leadership that betrayed our men who, as General Thimayya rather bluntly put it, ‘were cannon fodder’ for the enemy.

I was also sharing the stage with an 84-year old former Canberra pilot, JM Nath, who as a Squadron Leader in 1962 was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. Three years later, during the conflict with Pakistan, with half a stripe more added to his rank, Wing Commander Nath was given a second MVC, making him the most decorated officer in the annals of the Indian Air Force.

The two launches were followed by discussions, moderated expertly by Ayaz Memon (who is a household name for those who follow cricket in this country). Nath’s contribution added considerably to the occasions. The former reconnaissance pilot literally relived his various sorties in which he repeatedly flew from his base in Agra across to the Galwan Valley, Aksai Chin and then across the southern edge of Tibet all the way to the Lohit Valley in the east. Time and again, Nath brought back detailed photographs of what the Chinese were up to and yet the photographic evidence was ignored.

I kept looking to see how the young IIT boys were reacting to the panelists. There was pin drop silence and they were sitting on the edge of their seats listening to each and every word! First there was Dipti Bhalla reading extracts from the book, dwelling on the incredible story of Subedar Dhashrath Singh from Rajput who despite 28 bullets in his stomach, was saved by a Chinese nurse just because he was from ‘Allahabad’ where she had done her nursing studies. Ayaz was fascinated by Nath’s accounts as having someone from 1962 on the panel was like seeing the war in real time.

‘It’s incredible,’ he would repeatedly say, ‘I cannot believe the amount of research that has gone into this book. Finally the truth has been told… we can now acknowledge the enormous sacrifice of our soldiers.’

During the question and answer sessions hands shot up. There were excellent, pointed queries that were surprising from boys who had not read the book. They wanted to know why the Air force was not used in the war. Were we really not prepared and if we were why did we lose? Who were responsible for the debacle and could it have ended differently? Why did soldiers have to die needlessly, and the army morale take a blow, when we have probably one of the best armies in the world?
The session went on till Ayaz literally had to say –last two questions please– it was past 9.30 pm and the event had started at a little before 7 pm! I wonder if JNU would have such a book discussion.

Later we were taken, by Shrey, Siddharth and the other students who had organized the book launch, to their canteen for dinner. What struck me most about the students was their discipline and mannerisms. Polite, engaging and curious, they talked about what they wanted to do for the country. One student was studying the effect of climate change on the Eastern Himalayas and what it could do to glaciers and the rivers. They spoke about their dreams in research and putting their engineering skills to use and the fact that India needed to make use of its engineers and pay them well in exciting high tech jobs as too many were leaving for abroad. They were aware of the privilege of being selected in one of the best universities in India and would not take it for granted.

I could not help comparing these young men to the students that shout anti-India slogans in JNU. Could Kanhaiya have fitted in here? These students were years younger, their courses tougher and they had to complete it in five years. They were conscious of the fact that after the five-year slog they would have to earn a living that could justify the sacrifices made by their parents. Time and again, the word ‘nation building’ would find its way into the conversation.

It made me realize that Kanhaiya at 28 was more into politics and smooth speeches than studies. Students in JNU can afford to spend weeks and years debating at an annual fee of Rs 400. Is it really fair?

Just before our session the auditorium had been used to facilitate the girls studying in the university as it was World Women’s Day and a program was held for all the women studying and teaching there. Each carried a box of goodies prepared by the boys. There was a simplicity and a sense of purpose behind everything that was happening at the IIT.

On the other hand Kanhaiya is being questioned on how he can speak about the “dignity of women” by Kamlesh Narwana who said that in June last year she had her only encounter with him and it was not pleasant. She saw Kanhaiya urinating on the road in the JNU campus and when she objected to it he called her a psycho and threatened her and said he had a right to urinate in public! In her interview with Indian Express she said, “I am dejected and pained to see how my JNU community has ganged up to create false revolutionary. I want to ask, do you really understand the D for Dignity of a female, Mr Kanhaiya? Unzipping your private part in public and urinating on a road….”

It is sad to see this kind of alleged uncouth behavior for one who dreams big. In the larger interest of this country, perhaps Kanhaiya should spend some time in IIT Mumbai. The leftist ideology, he follows, is dead and destructive, one just has to see what has happened to West Bengal in the last 30 years to know that revolutions lead to mindless violence and little else. The remnants of communism live on only in India. I wish JNU would realize this.

**US oriented IIT systems has given India TCS & Banglore: Ross Bassett**


Bassett, an associate professor of history at North Carolina State University, has spent the past 13 years looking at some of the 850 Indians who studied engineering -including 305 doctorates -at MIT over a century. Bassett traces their stories in his new book, The Technological Indian.14 March 2016, 12:51 PM IST
When American engineer turned-historian Ross Bassett visits India, he sees connections to the renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) everywhere - buildings like Kanchenjunga and Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai, in companies like TCS and Datamatics, and even in everyday brands like Bisleri. All of these were created with the involvement of MIT alumni.

Bassett, an associate professor of history at North Carolina State University, has spent the past 13 years looking at some of the 850 Indians who studied engineering -including 305 doctorates -at MIT over a century. Bassett traces their stories in his new book, The Technological Indian.

His study throws up some nuggets: the first Indian went to MIT as far back as 1882; most Indians who went before Independence were from Mumbai, Pune and Gujarat; and a number of industrial families as well as government officials sent their sons to MIT in the mid-20th century in a break from humanities focused Oxbridge. Bassett spoke to Vaishnavi Chandrashek the influence of American technical education:

Why did you look at MIT?

It hosted only a fraction of Indian students who went to the US. I sampled Indians who had gone to Stanford and Berkeley, and I came to the conclusion that MIT was more interesting; more prominent Indians went there. Even if a relatively small number of people attended MIT, the effect of that has been multiplied by who they were. So when you have someone like Adi Godrej or Aditya Birla, they would be successful no matter what, but it says something that they had their choice to go anywhere and they chose MIT. You show that in the late 19th century, Bal Gangadhar Tilak's newspapers Kesari and Mahratta helped Indians look to American education.

It's consistent with what we know of Tilak that the Mahratta had this global perspective... The Mahratta saw the source of India's problems as the failure to compete in technology. The textile industry was developing at that time in western India, and Tilak and his compatriots made the intellectual case on the need for worldclass education.

How did MIT influence the IITs considering that it was involved with only two institutions - IIT Kanpur and BITS, Pilani? Other IITs were set up with other countries.

It seems to me that the IITs made a decision to unify their system of education and converged on the American better or worse, the American system had a more powerful hold over Indian engineering educators than the Russian, British or German system, especially post-war. Even in simple things like using American, or MIT, textbooks.

Why for worse?

The American-oriented IIT system has given India TCS and Bangalore, and people who are able to successfully work in an American environment. The negative side is that it's led a number of Indians to come to the US. What is known as brain drain is testimony that people who'd had this kind of American education found it easier to use in the US than in India. A form of engineering education that was not so American-oriented could have led to different results.

What was different about the MIT American model?

In the early 20th century, MIT introduced a very scientific approach to engineering, an approach that is entrepreneurial and competitive. But it was really after World War II that MIT gained cachet as people saw what technology could do. That MIT helped develop radar and afterwards got so much government funding. IITs have not had the funding that the
US research system has had. The American model is very resource intensive.
There's also more emphasis on scientific culture, on abstractions, than in the British or German system. That's part of what India has taken from the American model. It's good in a way but the JEE doesn't ask you if you're interested in building things - in the actual doing of engineering rather than the solving of science problems.

Recently, we've seen IITians who studied in the US rise to run global companies. Is their success an Indian or American triumph?

Both. It's a triumph of Indian individuals but it's a little questionable whether India as a country triumphs. That's why I use the term "technological Indian" not "technological India" because, especially in the last 20-30 years, technological Indians have developed and been able to achieve great things but exactly how India has benefited is a little less clear.

Any recent trends in MIT's Indian graduates?

This year, MIT had 843 applications from Indian citizens, the largest of any country ... I did a little study to find out where Indian graduates of MIT end up now - there are two major poles, one is Wall Street and the other Silicon Valley. I guess you could say (Indian graduates) have a good sense of where the action is and where the best places for returns on their ability are, though I don't know if that's necessarily the optimal position for society.
US-Inspired IIT Centre to Deliver Smart Projects

By C SHIVAKUMAR

Chennai: With new projects including smart cities coming into focus, the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras is preparing a blueprint to set up a Centre of Excellence in Construction Engineering with assistance from the state government.

The Centre for Urbanisation, Buildings and the Environment (CUBE) being proposed by IIT-Madras would be modelled on the lines of General Services Administration of the United States which provides comprehensive solutions for products and services across the government.

The aim is to use information technology for improving planning in construction industry. CUBE will initially require seed funding which would be provided by the state government and possibly by the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation, sources said.

Centre for Urbanisation, Buildings and the Environment (CUBE) would prepare the concept note with the help of Tamil Nadu Investment Development Board consultants, and is likely to get the backing of the CMDA and Tamil Nadu Housing Board.

The focus of the centre will be on applied research for innovative technology and policy based solutions in partnership with the government, academia, private sector and other stakeholders. It will work towards exploiting the huge potential for innovation in materials and processes, developing smart cities, urban planning and transport and environment stability.

Centre for Urbanisation, Buildings and the Environment would be set up as an autonomous society with support from the IIT and the government. It is learnt from official sources that the government is against setting up CUBE as a centre of the IIT as it will not provide flexibility in hiring and resources mobilisation.

The key activities of the Centre of Excellence would include development of new technologies and implementation of pilot projects, environmental analysis of mega projects besides providing a networking platform for State civil or construction engineering institutions.
आईआईटी संस्थानों की फीस तीन गुना बढ़ेगी

उत्तर प्रदेश

कानपुर | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

आईआईटी संस्थानों की फीस तीन गुना बढ़ाने की तैयारी की जा रही है। माना जा रहा है कि अगले सत्र से बढ़ी दरें लागू हो जाएंगी। अभी आईआईटी कानपुर में सालाना फीस 80 हजार है और अगले सत्र से 2.40 लाख रुपये हो जाएगी।

आईआईटी संस्थानों में घट रहे संसाधन को बढ़ाने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय फीस बढ़ाने की तैयारी कर रहा है। आईआईटी कानपुर के चेयरमैन आरसी भार्गव ने कहा कि मौजूदा समय के मुताबिक आईआईटी की फीस बहुत कम है।
आईआईटी के रिसर्च शोकेस में
आकर्षण का केंद्र बनी स्मार्ट बोटल

नई दिल्ली, (व्यूरो): इंद्रप्रस्थ
इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इनपोर्शन टेक्नोलॉजी
(आईआईटी) दिल्ली में शनिवार को रिसर्च शोकेस का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें छात्रों ने अपने इनोवेशन को प्रस्तुत किया। इसमें आईआईटी दिल्ली से एमटेक कर रही दो छात्रों द्वारा बनाई गई स्मार्ट बोटल ने सभी को सबसे ज्यादा आकर्षित किया।

आईआईटी दिल्ली से एमटेक और पीएचडी कर रही दो छात्राओं ने एक स्मार्ट वॉटर बोटल बनाई है। एमटेक कर रही मनीषा अग्रवाल ने बताया कि यह स्मार्ट वॉटर बोटल मोबाइल ऐप के जरिये मोबाइल और स्मार्ट वॉच से जुड़ी हुई है। मनीषा के मुताबिक उनके द्वारा बनाई गई बोटल हर बार आपने कितना पानी पीया, इसका हिसाब रखने के साथ हर व्यक्ति को उसकी जरूरत के हिसाब से हर दिन कितना पानी पीना जरूरी है, इसके बारे में भी बताएगी। मोबाइल कंप्यूटिंग में पीएचडी कर रही सोनिया ने बताया कि बोटल को इस्तेमाल करने वाले व्यक्ति को अपने बारे में जानकारी ऐप में डालनी होगी।
‘Education stunts imagination’

In a recent interview with Aditi Tandon, Prof CNR Rao spoke on the pathetic condition of science & research in India.

New Delhi: Bharat Ratna recipient Prof CNR Rao feels Indian science is in a lamentable state with the country losing its competitive edge in the world. Chairman of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council, Rao continues to be a strong critic of the way the Indian science and technical education system is fashioned.

“The Chinese aim is to be number one in science, ahead of even the US. They are now producing 22000 PhDs annually as against 8000 which India is producing. China also has the highest number of science and engineering graduates anywhere in the world. South Korea has recently emerged as the leading competitor in the quality of science being produced. India will find it very hard to compete unless we change our education system now and inculcate from school level a love for the sciences,” Rao says.

A known inventor himself, Rao, who is also National Research Professor, says the Indian system of education discourages imagination and places avoidable premium on cramming. He bemoans the state of Indian research on lack of investments, saying 50 top scientists of the country recently petitioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi to set right the education sector by ensuring respect for teachers and appreciation for scholarship. He says India is spending on science what former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was spending in her times. India’s spending on science research is less than 1 per cent of the GDP as against South Korea’s 6 per cent.

Asked what ails Indian science research, Rao says, “Except in Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi’s times, science hasn’t been part of our value system. Money making has become our priority and creative urges have suffered. I would like to share with you the story of 19th century inventor Michael Faraday. Faraday was a book binder who fell in love with science after hearing three lectures of Humphry Davy. He took notes of those lectures and presented the book to Davy asking him in return for a lab job. Faraday got a job in Davy’s lab but only as chief bottle washer. The rest is history.”

Faraday went on to discover electromagnetism and benzene. It is said if Faraday had made his discoveries in the 20th century, he would have received four Nobels.

Prof Rao spoke to The Tribune on the sidelines of a recent function at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi where he delivered a talk on the quality of science in India.

Private publishers and coaching institutes have successfully propagated their products and services. Additional reading ends up unnecessarily pressuring the students. If the basic concepts are clear, students just need extensive practice to excel in their board exams.
In letter to HRD Minister Smriti Irani, 600 teachers speak out against ‘anti-national’ act

The letter, written by UGC member Inder Mohan Kapahy among others, has been sent by BJP-backed National Democratic Teachers Front (NDTF).

Smriti Irani. (PTI Photo)

Over 600 professors from universities across Delhi Friday wrote to Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani, expressing their “concern” over the February 9 event at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and terming it an “unpardonable anti-national” act.
The letter, written by UGC member Inder Mohan Kapahy among others, has been sent by BJP-backed National Democratic Teachers Front (NDTF).

“We write to express our concern at the diabolically planned attempt by politically motivated groups to foment trouble and turmoil amongst students of various universities to destabilise the existing structures of governance.

“The Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, dissent and presenting alternative paradigms but it is equally true that what happened on 9th February 2016 at JNU does not fall within the aforementioned parameters,” the letter stated.

“There may be an argument on strict legalistic terms as to what constitutes seditious, but it is crystal clear that what happened in JNU was an unpardonable, anti-national act which has to be both condemned and curbed,” said the NDTF.

“A dominant majority of students and teachers is totally opposed to the anti-national and unpatriotic activities of such groups who are hell-bent on causing avoidable tensions and turmoils in the social fabric of India,” the organisation said.

In an apparent reference to JNU Students’ Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, who was arrested on charges of sedition over the event, the teachers said, “Those who raise such slogans and those who protect them with convoluted arguments, swear by the right of freedom and dissent provided by the same Indian Constitution.”

**Kher says JNU refused to screen his film, varsity denies charge**

Actor Anupam Kher Friday alleged that the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has refused to screen his film Buddha in a traffic. Accusing the university of “stifling freedom of speech and expression”, Kher said that he was told that the university cannot allow the film to be screened owing to the present atmosphere at the campus.

The university said no request from Kher has been received by them for the screening of any film. *PTI*

**IIM to tie up with IIT, start incubation cell**


Lucknow: Lying virtually defunct, the entrepreneurship cell of IIM-L is expected to get a fresh lease of life. In a joint venture with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, the institute will establish an incubation centre to promote entrepreneurship among budding managers.

Discussed in the board of governors (BoG) meeting on Saturday, the collaboration would give a boost to entrepreneurship and make students job-creators and not job-seekers.

Later, while addressing graduating students at the convocation, BoG's chairman Jamshed J Irani said entrepreneurship and innovation were the flavours of the season. "During my graduating year, five decades ago, industry was the favourite. Nehru had, at that time, called industry the temples of modern India and all graduating students competed with each other to get into industries," he said, adding that in the '70s and '80s, it was the turn of medicines and everyone wanted to be a doctor.

Its results, said Irani, could be seen in places like US and UK which have benefitted from Indian students becoming medical practitioners. "India hopefully has benefitted from this," said Irani.
In the 20th century, he said, technology, IT, and ITES were the favourite domains. "Everyone decided to go into software so much so that there was a software bubble in the world which burst around the beginning of this century. Things have now stabilised, but ITES is still a popular destination. Now we are entering into a new flavour, entrepreneurship and innovation," said Irani.
IITs ready for start-up marathons

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 11 March

Here’s one more way to celebrate the spirit of start-ups. As many as 600 start-ups along with many investors are expected to turn up for marathons being organised across Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) this weekend. Among others, co-founders of Snapdeal Rohit Bansal and Kunal Bahl are slated to attend the IIT Delhi event.

IvyCap Ventures, a venture capital fund management company, along with IIT alumni associations, is behind the two-day event, where start-ups and investors will interact on the sidelines of the race.

The IvyCap Marathon 2016 - spread across New Delhi, Guwahati, Ropar, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Patna - is one of the biggest events to bring together budding start-ups, IIT alumni, investors, venture capitalists and corporate leaders, said Vikram Gupta, founder and managing partner of IvyCap Ventures. “The idea is to aid these start-ups in being part of the overall ecosystem in India.”

This might well become a yearly event.

IvyCap focuses on investing in early and growth-stage companies in sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, e- and m-commerce, and food-based businesses, etc. In addition, IvyCap is working towards building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem across educational institutions.
जेईई के लिए एक एंट्रेंस टेस्ट की योजना टली

नई दिल्ली | केंद्र सरकार ने जेईई के लिए एक एंट्रेंस टेस्ट की योजना को टाल दिया है। आईआईटी, एनआईटी और इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों के लिए यह एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट आयोजित किया जाना था। नेशनल अथॉरिटी के गठन का मामला भी लंबित रखा गया है।
20 educational institutions to be helped to become world class: Smriti Irani


NEW DELHI: Ten educational institutions each in the public and private sectors would be supported to make them world-class, HRD Minister Smriti Irani said today, as Rajya Sabha members expressed concern that Indian institutions did not figure in the global top ranking list.

She also said that national ranking framework was being designed and some standards being set up for Indian institutions, with over 5,000 of them adding themselves to the framework.

Irani said the government has announced in the latest budget that 10 institutions each in the public and private sectors will be supported to make them world class.

Replying to a private member's bill seeking to regulate private professional educational institutions moved by CPI(M) member K K Ragesh, she said "unfortunately, many in this House and across the country will accept that education has become more or less a pursuit of certification and less about pursuit of excellence."

Regarding the exorbitant fees charged particularly by the private engineering and other colleges, she said a regulatory mechanism was already in place to keep a check on such institutions and the issue was being further addressed in the proposed New Education Policy (NEP).

She also said that UGC had last year identified 21 fake universities in the country and a public notice was put up warning students about them.

"Irrespective of us giving strict guidelines, if any violation brought to our notice, the regulator in the state concerned does take action against those institutions. There is a measure already in place," Irani said.

To ensure that technical courses are offered at lower fees for disadvantaged communities, she said the government would launch 'SWAYAM', a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform from the next academic year.

Stating that regulatory powers for technical institutions rested with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), she said the law had provisions to penalise those institutions that charge higher fees than permitted.

She further said that the recommendations of the national fee committee, headed by Justice Sri Krishna, has already been approved by the AICTE.

The Minister said the two regulators - AICTE and UGC, have started "Know Your College" initiative, a mobile app, giving details of registered academic institutions and professionals engaged.

"If any institution is lying or misleading the public with regard to information, but they have registered with regulators, then the concerned student or citizen or parent can bring it to the notice of the regulator and the regulator takes the appropriate action," she added.

T Subbarami Raddy (Cong), Basawaraj Patil (BJP) and Bhupinder Singh (BJD) also participated in the debate.
Blue Star in talks with IISc, IIT-Mumbai to come out with breakthrough products


Blue Star is in talks with renowned professional institutes such as IIT-Mumbai and IISc-Bengaluru for a tie-up to develop new innovative products, reports a business daily.

"We are in talks with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, IIT-Mumbai, the proposed IIT-Vijayawada and School of Architecture, for tie-up to come out with breakthrough products," company’s Executive Director and President (AC&R Products Business) B Thiagarajan told reporters in Bangalore.

Thiagarajan said that the talks are at preliminary stages, and something could happen by June or July.

"The talks with IIT-Mumbai is slowly taking place. Some correspondence has taken place with IISc. A couple of meetings has taken place with the School of Architecture located at Delhi," he told reporters.

Thiagarajan said that Blue Star is working on developing solar-powered air-conditioners (ACs) and indigenising controls and other parts used in inverter ACs as part of its collaboration with IIT-Madras.

The collaboration is meant for research requirements, curriculum development, faculty exchange and student internships, among others, he said.

Thiagarajan also said that Blue Star is increasing its investments in new product development and other R&D works to stay competitive in the market.

Tata Motors-IIT Bombay signs MoU to create technological needs of future auto Inc


The five year MoU aims at ensuring the engineering needs of the future automotive industry. Under this MoU, joint R&D projects will also be undertaken for development of new technologies in various engineering domains. ETAuto | 11 March 2016, 1:20 PM IST

NEW DELHI: Tata Motors and IIT Bombay have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a technological partnership in areas of mutual benefit and interest.

The five year MoU aims at ensuring the engineering needs of the future automotive industry. Under this MoU, joint R&D projects will also be undertaken for development of new technologies in various engineering domains.

Speaking on this association, Gajendra Chandel, Chief Human Resources Officer, Tata Motors, said, "With the rapidly changing Business landscape, it is imperative for us to foresee and plan for a world-class, competent, talented and innovative workforce to retain our competitive edge. This partnership is a step in this direction, where we intend
bridging the academic excellence with the business know-how from the industry. We are looking forward to pushing the boundaries of collaboration to develop industry-ready resources. This also supports the Government's "make in India program" preparing the Indian Industry to compete at a global platform.

Speaking on this occasion, Professor Devang V Khakhar, Director, IITB, said, "The partnership will enable joint basic research in specific areas which will feed into the future products of Tata Motors as well as advanced training of Tata Motors personnel. The faculty and students will greatly benefit by exposure to current industry practices and the roadmap of the future growth of the industry. We look forward to advancing knowledge as well as industry practice through the collaboration."

This partnership will involve Tata Motors to not only build its functional expertise through research collaboration but also contribute to strengthening the industry readiness of the talent stepping out of campuses through curricula building, live projects and various engagement interventions.

**E-Summit 2016 - Live Coverage From IIT Delhi**


16:51

--Thank You for staying with Pixr8--

16:49 Ending the session with Rohit advice:

Starting a company is like asking a girl out! If you think too much you'll never do it!

16:48 Snapdeal will profitable Next year

Over a next period of time we will surely be profitable! We want to have the 20M daily users by 2020.

16:46

"The real value of your business grows over time but the market sentiment is not specific! We are more excited with the service rather than the sentiment."

16:43

I think online to offline is going to be a mega-trend in the near times!

16:38

To be taken seriously, I and Kunal used to wear COATS so that people don’t think we are very young and think, "at least they are wearing coats", laughs.

16:35

At our ages, we used to be pretty dumb! But now when I see even the college kids, they are very aware of the culture!

16:29 Culture of Snapdeal

Our core values are:
• Be Relentless
• Being Curious about everything, how has been the user doing, fastening up the delivery service
• Always doing the right thing
• Being Humble, no matter where you reach!

16:25

"For instance we are currently working on a feature which will create a much friendly environment for the user. A person buying hair-gel knows that it will be consumed up within two months or so! Hence the app will provide a notification or a pop-up saying- Swipe right to reorder or left to cancel to save him the pain of going through all the products again!

That's how we focus on removing the friction for seamless user experience!"

16:21

For the year 2016, we are focusing on eliminating friction and unreliability to the customer's experience and also create a personalized user experience!

16:17

Even though growing at such a very fast pace, we want to maintain the culture of having flexibility of taking fast decisions and improvising!

16:11

The form and shape of our business will keep evolving with the market!

16:10

Any company cannot stick to a particular Business model for-ever!

16:09

Moving from a deals business to selling business was quite a step for Snapdeal : Rohit

16:06

As for the starters, we sold the coupon for our startups! Believe me sitting outside a restaurant for selling and eating, both are totally different scenarios!

16:03

Being relentless is one of the most important thing of being an entrepreneur!

16:00 Rohit Bansal at IIT Delhi
"It was hard for me to get out of IIT Delhi", laughs. "Its feels quite good to be back anyways", says Rohit Bansal.

15:55 Next "A Fireside chat"

With Rohit Bansal (Founder, Snapdeal)

15:19

"We made random calls around the globe, just randoms and thats how we got to expand globally!" :Harshit