IITian Parrikar set for third stint as CM

PANAJI: The first IITian to become the chief minister of a state in 2000, Manohar Parrikar's entry into politics was a masterstroke in talent spotting by the late Pramod Mahajan.

The IIT Bombay graduate in metallurgical engineering caught Mahajan's eye while working on a project for the BJP.

After initial reluctance, Parrikar took the plunge and is credited with raising the BJP's profile and bringing it to power in Goa for the first time 12 years ago.

In a state known for fragile governments, he had to demit the CM post in early 2002. Parrikar returned to power a few months later, but had to quit in 2005 after a few MLAs withdrew support to him.

Parrikar, 56, now set for a third stint as CM, is known for his clean image, administrative skills and grassroots leadership.

During his stints as CM, he had brought the International Film Festival of India to Goa. In 2001, IIT Bombay honoured its 1978 passout with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In the run-up to 2012 polls, he was the face of BJP.

DEcisive FACTORS

FOR BJP

- Clean image of its leaders, especially Parrikar
- No politics of kinship
- Hit campaign trail two months back; exploited mood for change

AGAINST CONGRESS

- Illegal mining and corruption in high places
- Politics of dynasty
- Many contenders for CM post
आईआईटी बने पर रहे बीएचयू की छाया में

वारणसी, बीएचयू प्रतिनिधि : फेडरेशन ऑफ सेंटरल युनिवर्सिटीज टॉपसे एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष प्रो. गिरीश चंद्र दामिती ने शेषकाणिक संस्थाओं पर सरकारी शिक्षकों के खिलाफ सोमवार को आयोजित प्लेस क्रॉस में उन्होंने स्पष्ट कहा कि सरकार की मंशा बताती है कि वह राष्ट्रीयता विश्वविद्यालयों दी व महत्त्व को खत्म कर विद्यार्थी संस्थाओं व विश्वविद्यालय के प्रवेश का मांग दुनिया करना चाहती है। उन्होंने आईआईटी बीएचयू की आईआईटी में तब्दीली पर अपना दर्जन स्वाभाविक र बसा कि तव्दीली तो होनी चाहिए लेकिन बीएचयू की छाया में। यह महामाया की थाट है, इसे संज्ञों की जरूरत है अलग करने की न ही उन्होंने आयोजित जाताई कि अगर इस तब्दीली से बीएचयू की परिवहन से आईआईटी अलग होता है तो यह महामाया की धर्म का अनुरूप नहीं होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि बीएचयू में तात्कालिक उत्पादन, जैसे संस्थाओं में पद की भाविक शिक्षक का व्यवस्था फाइनेंस पहुंचता है। नए-नए आईआईटी खोलने पर यह सवाल खड़ा किया और कहा कि यह हमले के स्वाध्यात्मक संस्थाओं में यद प्रो. गिरीश जंग दामिती

विश्वविद्यालयों की खायतता खट्टर करना चाहती है सरकार, यह गलत है। उन्हें भरने के बजाय सरकार गुप्तवाता पर ध्यान दिए विश्वविद्यालयों की संख्या बढ़ा सकती है। इसके परिणाम से अंग्रेज नहीं मिलेंगे। सरकार की नीतियों के कारण सरकारी एवं सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त विद्यालयों के दूर रही है और निजी शिक्षण संस्थाओं के माध्यम से शिक्षा का वास्तविक स्तर हो रहा है। कहा विश्वविद्यालयों को भी उच्च अंतर्दृष्टि उपलब्ध हो सकती अपने तथा उनके स्वरूप की निम्न भिन्न रूपों तथा विद्यार्थी विश्वविद्यालय का उत्पादन हो सकता है। कहा कि हालात नहीं सुधरें तो भारत में उच्च शिक्षा अनुपस्थितिएं उठाएँ दे। कहा विश्वविद्यालयों के श्वेत उपलब्धता का उत्पाद नहीं हो रहा है। परिपूर्ण स्वरूप भारतीय प्रतियोगिता की लक्ष्य हो। उन्होंने सरकार से आग्रह किया कि विश्वविद्यालयों के स्वरूप से ख़िलावट हो तथा जितने जितने उत्साह उत्पन्न करना जाए, उच्चतम संस्थाधन उत्पत्ति कराए जाए।
IIT, IIM में महिलाओं का दम लेकिन, इंडिया इंक की जस्तित मूर्ति करने के मामले में अब भी पीछे

[ईडी ब्यूरो नई दिल्ली, वंकुवर]

देश के शीर्ष विज्ञान, टेकनोलॉजी विश्वकोशों ने हालांकि पिछले कुछ सालों में अपने छात्रों के बीच लड़कियों की संख्या में जबर्दस्त इजाफा करने से सफलता पाई है, लेकिन अब भी वे उड़ोग जगत के दिग्गजों की ताकत को उस हद तक पूरी नहीं कर पाए हैं।

आईआईटी में लड़कियों की संख्या पिछले 5 वर्षों में लगभग दोगुनी होकर कुल छात्रों का 11 पोसिटर तक पहुँच चुकी है। इसी तरह आईएसबी हैदराबाद में यह 29 पोसिटर और आईआईटी कोहिस्कोड में 36 पोसिटर तक पहुँच चुकी है, जो कि हार्वर्ड विज्ञान स्कूल के 39 पोसिटर आईएडी के काफी कम है। इसके बावजूद रोकृत करने वाली कंपनियों की शिकायत है कि वे काम की जाए लड़कियों का जो अनुप्रयोग बनाना चाहती हैं, उस लिहाज से उन्हें महिला गैस्जूएट नहीं मिल पा रही हैं। इससे आईआईटी संस्थान, जैसे आईआईटी कोलकाता (2013 की क्लास में 7 पोसिटर), आईआईटी आहमदाबाद (2013 की क्लास में 10.9 पोसिटर) इस मामले में पीछे है। आईआईटीआई बैंक के एचआर एंजिक्युटिव डायरेक्टर के रामकुमार ने कहा, ‘हमारे बैंक शीर्ष क्षेत्रों पर ज्यादा महिलाओं को जिम्मेदारी देने के लिए वचनबद्ध हैं।’

धीरे-धीरे घट रहा फासला
आईआईटी में महिलाओं (फीडबैक)

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आईआईटी (हैदराबाद)

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आईआईटी खड़गपुर का विस्तार केंद्र छतीसगढ़ में खुलेगा

खड़गपुर। देश के प्रथम भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर का विस्तार केंद्र छतीसगढ़ में जल्द प्रर्थक होगा। वृद्धि प्रमेरी डॉ. रमन सिंह ने इसके लिए राज्य सरकार की ओर से हर संभव मदद प्रदान करने का आश्वासन दिया है। इस संस्थान के जीर्ण प्रेरणा के तकनीकी प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों, राज्य सरकार की व्यापक परियोजनाओं और उद्योगों को विश्वसाय तकनीकी मांग-दर्जन मिल सकेगा। वृद्धि प्रमेरी अपने निवास पर भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान खड़गपुर के निदेशक डॉ.फेस्टर दामोदर आवार्त से चर्चा के दौरान उन्हें यह आश्वासन दिया।

आवार्त से चर्चा के दौरान उन्हें यह आश्वासन दिया:
Hundred Billion and Counting

India's IT industry can continue to empower more people, but only if policies are favourable

India's IT industry is set to cross a milestone: revenues will exceed $100 billion this year. This achievement is better appreciated when one recalls that just 20 years ago, its size was only about half a billion dollars. Now providing livelihood to about 10 million people (including 2.8 million directly employed), it is the largest recruiter in the organised private sector. It is also amongst the biggest foreign exchange earners for the country.

These figures convey the outstanding success of this sector; yet, its qualitative impact is, possibly of even greater import. First, it has transformed the global image of India and Indians: today both are seen as winners. Second, it has energised the country's higher education sector, especially in engineering and computer science. Third, it has contributed to social transformation by providing lucrative jobs to lakhs from small towns and even villages and gender equality through its extensive employment of young women. Finally, and most importantly, it has brought hope to young people, who—thanks to the opportunities in this sector—view the future with optimism. The IT industry has conveyed that success is driven by education and work, not by family background or 'connections'. In the context of what is happening in countries in our neighbourhood, the importance of such a message of inclusion and hope is obvious.

Looking ahead, it is clear that the Indian IT industry will face many serious challenges: technological, managerial and geopolitical. Competition from other countries will intensify, and supply-side constraints increase. Human resources, infrastructure and a comparatively adverse business environment—thanks mainly to unpredictable interpretation of tax laws by overzealous, collection-driven officials—will pose problems.

Yet, there are also growing opportunities: new areas of work, emerging markets, new technologies, innovation in product, process and business models. Amongst the most exciting of these are opportunities within India. Many of these have the potential of doing good while doing well, contributing to social benefit even as profits are made.

In this area of, societal applications of technology, the possibilities in India are immense and limited only by imagination—and sometimes by regulatory barriers. The national e-governance programme (NeGP) provides many examples of how technology could be used to bring greater efficiency, transparency and even accountability in government activities, especially those related to citizen services. Birth and death certificates, land records, tax payments, passport issue and renewal, and a whole range of other services have been IT-enabled. Service delivery at doorsteps is facilitated through community computer centres in over 1,00,000 villages, and there is already action underway to roll out fibre-based broadband connectivity to 2,50,000 panchayats.

More widespread access to citizen services will also be provided via mobile phones, whose availability will soon be near-universal. Like the IT industry’s $100 billion milestone, mobile telephony too will soon cross a landmark: of one billion cellphones. India’s mobile telephony services have witnessed a gravity-defying trajectory with Indians taking to mobiles as they have to nothing else before. Users have themselves contributed to inventing new ways of utilising the handset: from making it double up as a torch, to that unique Indian innovation of an intentional missed call.

Now threatened by seemingly thoughtless court judgments, high levies and a fixation on government revenues—as opposed to public good—growth was earlier driven by companies who crafted new business models and by supportive government policies. These resulted in the world’s fastest-growing market and the lowest tariffs.

A plethora of start-ups are devising innovative applications to be delivered on mobiles. As the population of smartphones grows, an even larger number of interesting services and applications will be created. There are also many new ideas to make the mobile handset more versatile: for example, as a device for medical diagnostics and tests, with data being sent in real time for immediate analysis. As the next generation of telecom networks are rolled out, transmission of data and pictures will be facilitated, opening up new possibilities for remote delivery of health and other services.

The biometric ID, a massive task undertaken by Nandan Nilekani and his team at UIDAI, opens up a range of services, driven by the capability of verifying a person’s identity in real-time. Location-based services now on cellphones will provide a new impetus to developers, financial inclusion, cash transfers and verifiable service delivery.

Other initiatives include direct current-based systems that utilise solar power being worked on by Ashok Jhunjhunwala and his team at ITM-Madras, which could save 25% energy as well as cost, and new uses of social media for rural development and innovation, conceived of by Shekhar Kapoor and others from the National Innovation Council.

In the present gloom and doom, when mistrust, inaction or knee-jerk reaction, and low tolerance thresholds rule the roost, we need to celebrate these achievements of the tech community. The exciting prospects can provide huge social benefit and economic gain.

For this, the technology sector needs strong policy and financial support, a conducive business environment and liberation from bureaucratic control. Government must move beyond paying mere lip service to the potential of technology and leverage it to truly transform India.
What they don’t teach you at Indian B-schools

In emphasising western theories and concepts, management education is curtailing innovation.

Baba Prasad

This last Sunday, I watched a show on CNBC called Lessons in Marketing Excellence. Essentially, it featured the final round of a competition for B-School students across India conducted by CNBC and Hindustan Unilever Limited. The four finalist teams were asked to address the problem of how to help the Indian Railways innovate. As thebright students in their dark suits made their presentations, they unwittingly offered several lessons for why we lack innovation and leadership in India. The show especially provided an ironic commentary on how the education we provide in Indian business schools and the work done by the vast majority of Indian business are boxing us in and curtailing even a tendency to innovate.

Lack of original Indian thinking

Almost 15 years ago, I had just graduated from Wharton and was cutting my teeth as a young B-School professor at Purdue University. Pankaj Chandra (a fellow-alum of Wharton although many years my senior) who was at IIM-A (and is now Director of IIM-Bangalore), invited me to a conference on operations management that he was organising in India. I accepted but had to cancel out at the last minute. However, a senior colleague at Purdue went and, when he came back to the U.S. I asked him how it had gone. He told me that he was struck by the fact that both in methodologies and in applications, the conference was completely West-orientated. The only presentation that had Indian "roots," he said, was a paper that discussed how to optimise scheduling jali-cooker operations in a Bangalore Darshani restaurant. It is sad that more than a decade later, the same disease plagues our B-Schools and, consequently, our management thinking in the business world — a lack of original Indian thinking. I am hardly advocating a B-school version of Indian nationalist sentiment, but one must surely pause to ask if we are teaching our students to reject a language they know well and to instead put on a voice and idioms that they only half-know.

People and Colour

When one imagines India, the highlights are universal: People and Colour. Does it signify anything for our business world that the B-School students, including women, were without exception dressed in dark "business" suits? Where were the bright colours that India exudes? Dark business suits perhaps proclaim one's arrival into an elite club. But wearing ties and stifling suits are also metaphors for the dark state of management education and thought in India in particular, but generally all over the world. As we seek to close the door on such cloistered-thinking, Shashi Tharoor's Hindu-practising colonialist ironically present a solution: To say "Darwaza band karo," they practised "There was a battered crow!"

Why do I call these presentations symptomatic of the stifled innovation and struggling strategy that is dogging Indian business? One of the central questions of the Indian Railways case that the students analysed was: "How does IR innovate to generate revenues, build capacity and increase market share?" Or as the show host put it, "Suggest innovative strategies to increase revenues for the Railways." Look at the presentations and the solutions that the students put forth after one whole month of research. Why wasn't there even one bit of colour in what was supposed to be a marketing presentation? Of course, when I say colour, I use it symbolically to imply freshness in thought. Again let me make it clear — I do not hold only the students responsible for the wan thinking. In fact, we — management educators and stuffy sultans of strategy in the corporate world — are the ones who have brought this about. Did we see one video of a train compartment; hear one audio interview of a passenger, or an employee? No. These presentations evicted colour, but they also evicted the sense of people that is India. Instead of exploiting the aesthetic resonance of train travel, we heard long-winded statements in boring voices from behind told podiums. Why? Because we have taught them that that's how to be leaders. In this country, of all places, we seem to have forgotten the power of storytelling and the rich repertoires we possess. And we call these "Lessons in Marketing Excellence.

The solutions proposed also primarily fed off the data in the case and worked at marginally increasing revenues from the operations. One team suggested that the addition of a new class between Second Class and 3-Tier AC would generate additional revenue because Second Class passengers would choose the newly introduced class that was higher-priced. The Railway officials on the panel of judges dismissed it saying that when they introduced 3-tier AC between 2-tier AC and Second Class, rather than Second Class passengers opting to go up to 3-tier AC passengers opted to go down. Another team proposed looking at three Indias — India-1, India-2, and India-3 — in terms of paying power, and suggested a focus on India-1. Promptly the Railway executives said that ignoring the largest and least wealthy India-3 category would not fit into the mission of the railways. In short, solutions like this kept bumping against the fact that the Indian Railways has both a social mission and a business vision. Such solutions focused on tinkling existing operations, and consequently were only incremental. The point is that there was no demonstration of any out of the box thinking. While the team from FMS did propose a few refreshing, although small alternate streams of revenues, it is telling that they did not win the competition.

Alternatives

OK, let's take a step back and ask ourselves another question: In what other way could the students have approached the Indian Railways case given to them? Let's start at the basics. What strikes me most about Indian Railways is the consistency with which they have maintained the design of the train and the architecture of the railway station. If Mahatma Gandhi came back and looked at the Indian train today, he would not find it very different from the ones in which he travelled across the country about a hundred years ago. And they certainly haven’t changed much from the trains I used to take several decades ago as a young school kid going for the summer holidays from Mumbai to my grandparents’ house in Tumkur, near Bangalore. How would it have been if the students had started with thinking about how to change the basic structure of the compartment? Not incremental recommendations about providing "pillows and blanket sets", but something more whole, more fundamental. What if they had examined the restructuring the bathrooms on the trains? For decades, with the help of the Railways, the Indians have been defecating across the face of the nation. Can we change that, and perhaps monetise the solution? How about using the waste to generate fertilizers or energy? What are the pluses and minuses of that? Alternately, would a redesign of the compartments with lighter material lead to fuel savings? Would the cost savings? What safety risks would the lighter compartment bring? Another thought: How about building better railway stations and creating a whole new, beautiful retail space in the station? Can we convert that precious space of the "railway station" which is mostly located in the central areas of the city into a "third place" — the office and home? What revenues could be derived from the retail stores that will populate the "new cool railway station," the "third place"?

Stratjacketing approaches

The stratjacketing approaches we teach in B-School and promote in the Indian corporate world are not going to help pose or answer such questions. Innovation requires breaking bounds not just in application, but also — and more importantly — in thought. Paradigms should shift not just in the effect, but in fact, should be — again more importantly — the cause for innovation. Would it be heresy to teach B-School students that Porter's framework and the concept of positioning is not all that there is in strategy, that the core-competence approach despite its brilliance has limited application, that Blue Ocean for all its attractiveness does not tell you what to do when your blue water is bloodied by lean and mean sharks? Would it be heresy to teach them that all these approaches to strategy are necessary but not sufficient conditions for strategic success? Would it kill us to teach them that we need to stop thinking of organisations and businesses as mere machines to which we apply formulas and frameworks, and instead think of the next frontier in strategy where we will have to worry less about how we are breathing, humans who have stories to create, live, and tell.

Till we find our self-confidence, our own voices, and brand Indian ways of innovation that go beyond the stereotypical jugad that seems to be our only answer to innovation, we will have to remain content withaping others and making the same mistakes that the others made — others, who incidentally are not brighter than us. Till that time, no original innovation will come out of India.

It's now time to ban the crowness of B-Schools and executive cadets. The time is now to also proudly bring in the colourful faces, the mawas, the mawthas, the bulbul, and the whatever. Are we ready?

(Baba Prasad is president & CEO, Vivekin Group & Visiting Professor of Management, IIIT-Hyderabad.)
A US delegation of 16 members headed by Dr Elizabeth Clark, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers, US visited Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

Addressing the delegation, Prof M Aslam, VC, IGNOU, stated that distance education is a modality that provides immense benefits not only to the learners but also to the whole society.

Prof Aslam said that social work is now a global profession. Even though social workers have common core values, yet social work is practiced differently in different countries. Across nations, there may be similarities in social problems, but the focus of concern can differ within borders. As a result, competency in social work requires an understanding of the global context of rights and social justice.

Prof Gracious Thomas, Director, School of Social Work, IGNOU said that School of Social Work aims to meet the education and training requirements in the areas of Social Work. The School has addressed certain areas of concern like HIV/AIDS, counseling, philanthropy and correctional social work by offering several programmes.
Robot ‘cheetah’ sets speed record

Washington: A four-legged robot known as the ‘Cheetah’ lived up to its name on Monday, setting a new land speed record for legged robots by running at 18 miles per hour (29 kmph) on a treadmill at a laboratory in Massachusetts, its developer said. 

The Cheetah, being developed by Boston Dynamics with funding from the US military’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is part of a program aimed at achieving theoretical and experimental advances in the science of robotics.

The Cheetah broke a land speed record for legged robots that was set in 1989 when a two-legged robot at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ran at a speed of just over 13 mph (21 kmph), Boston Dynamics said in a statement.

Alfred Rizzi, chief robotics scientist at Boston Dynamics, said the goal is ultimately to get the Cheetah running much faster and in an outdoor environment.

“We designed the treadmill to go over 50 mph (80 kmph) but we plan to get off the treadmill and into the field as soon as possible,” Rizzi said in a statement.

“We really want to understand the limits of what is possible for fast-moving robots.” Reuters
Title: AIIMS SUICIDE: PANEL TO VERIFY STUDENT'S EXAM RESULTS

Hindustan Times

Author: HT Correspondent

Location: NEW DELHI: T

Article Date: 03/07/2012

AIIMS SUICIDE:
PANEL TO VERIFY
STUDENT'S
EXAM RESULTS

The AIIMS director has formed a group of senior faculty members to verify whether the result of Anil Meena had been prepared as per prescribed rules.

Statement by AIIMS