Odd-even gone, city doesn’t know why air not clear yet

Is There A Need For Change In Approach? Experts Debate

FIVE TAKES ON POLLUTANTS

New Delhi: If these (steps) didn’t reduce pollution, what would have been the rationale behind announcing an odd-even scheme, a day after the odd-even scheme ended?

The odd-even scheme is designed to reduce traffic congestion and thereby reduce air pollution. However, the scheme only affects vehicles registered in Delhi and does not address the pollution caused by non-local vehicles and industries.

The scheme is also criticized for being unfair to residents who depend on public transport and those who have only one car.

Two public health experts—Melina S. Magunapola, senior research associate, Public Health Foundation of India, and Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, member of the steering committee of the pollution control board—have suggested a different approach.

Melina S. Magunapola, a senior research associate at the Public Health Foundation of India, has suggested that the scheme is not a permanent solution to the problem of air pollution. She has recommended that the government focus on reducing pollution levels in the long term by implementing policies such as promoting public transport, using clean fuels, and reducing industrial emissions.

Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, member of the steering committee of the pollution control board, has suggested that the scheme is only a temporary solution and that the government needs to focus on long-term solutions such as reducing pollution levels in the long term by implementing policies such as promoting public transport, using clean fuels, and reducing industrial emissions.

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Long hours of study not the success mantra for IITs: study

Is there a correlation between the number of hours spent on studying and the ranks secured in IIT entrance test? A good JEE rank depends not just on the time spent, but also the innate ability of the candidate. This is what a survey of the 2015 batch of IIT-Bombay students done by Insight, the student newspaper of IIT Bombay reveals.

The survey reveals that barely five per cent of the candidates among top 100 rankers spent more than 12 hours a day to crack the JEE while 18 per cent of students above rank 5,000 spent the same amount of time in their preparation everyday. Among the top 2,500 rankers majority of them spent minimum of 4 to 7 hours a day for JEE preparation. Among those who ranked below 5,000 in JEE, over 40 per cent spent between 4 to 7 hours daily.

The survey, which is inspired by Harvard Crimson’s Freshmen Survey, was conducted on the 2015 batch on diverse topics like their background before entering the IIT, political and religious beliefs and their plans for post-graduation.

Among the 875 newcomers 254 participated in the survey.

Among the top rankers very few people spent more than 12 hours of preparation dismissing the general assumption that students need to study long and not waste any time.

IIT-H announces fellowship in healthcare entrepreneurship

The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has announced setting up of interdisciplinary Centre for Healthcare Entrepreneurship and fellowship in healthcare entrepreneurship.

According to a release here on Wednesday, the one-year fellowship training programme for healthcare entrepreneurs is conceptualised, administered and mentored by an international team comprising entrepreneurs, top U.S. and Indian
academicians, and biomedical industry. The training will be hands-on in a simulated entrepreneurial journey, and will be followed by an opportunity to incubate, giving access to technological expertise at IIT-H.

**Stipend**

It will provide exposure to local and global VC partners and form cross-disciplinary founding teams of medicos, engineers and designers.

Candidates with a background in any engineering discipline or medicine with a passion for entrepreneurship in healthcare are eligible to apply for the fellowship, and all fellows will be paid a stipend of Rs. 50,000 per month during the training period.

At end of training, those shortlisted will qualify for an incubation grant. More details of the programme can be found at the website http://hc.iith.ac.in, the release stated.

**IISc inks pact with French centre for research beyond ‘god particle’**


BENGALURU: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), on Wednesday signed an agreement for the creation of an International Associated Laboratory in collaboration with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and other French and Indian institutes.

The collaborative lab under the International Associated Laboratory will see Indian and French particle physicists plan to join forces in efforts to unravel mysteries that even the finding of Higgs boson or 'god particle' as its popularly described.

In July 2012 the particle physics laboratory CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Geneva announced the discovery of the Higgs boson in an experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

"While the discovery completed our current picture of elementary particles and forces among them, the majority of the mass of the universe is not visible to us and thus one of the aims of current research in particle physics is the hunt for this dark matter at the experiments at the colliders as well as those in the skyl," a statement issued by the French Consulate read.

Both Indian and French theoretical physicists, as well as experimental physicists working on experiments will work
together to advance understanding of new physics beyond the standard model, Higgs boson and dark matter, which will provide extraordinary opportunities to Indian scientists.

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HRD ministry to focus on three key budget announcements

By Prashant K. Nanda
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With no education bills in the pipeline, the human resource development (HRD) ministry has a new task at hand—to work on three key budget announcements on a priority basis.

Progress on the three announcements—setting up 20 world-class universities, a higher education finance agency and a digital academic repository—is being monitored almost on a fortnightly basis. Ministry officials said that there is a “clear direction from the top to deliver on these announcements within a stipulated time frame”.

The time frame to wrap up the projects is the next six months—well ahead of the next annual budget, two government officials said requesting anonymity.

“The ministry is ready to spend ₹5,000 crore on creating 10 world-class universities at the government level,” said the first official.

The ministry will soon approach the expenditure finance committee “for obtaining approval of ₹5,000 crore and it is expected to be ready by May-end,” the second official added.

In his budget speech on 29 February, finance minister Arun Jaitley said that the government will provide “enabling regulatory architecture” to 10 private and 10 public institutions “to emerge as world-class teaching and research institutions”.

India has been faring poorly in various global rankings of educational institutions. Just two of its higher educational institutions are in the top 200 QS World University Rankings in 2015-16 as against 48 in the US and 30 in the UK.

“This is a new priority for the HRD ministry. Before the second anniversary of the National Democratic Alliance government (on 26 May), the HRD ministry looks to make some real progress in terms of getting final nod from the cabinet and the expenditure finance committee of the government,” said the second official.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been asked to make separate regulations applicable to a new class of educational institutions, which would form the distinct category—“world class institutions”—an internal note of the HRD ministry said.

Besides, UGC has been asked to make regulations for central government-funded and 25 deemed universities that can be converted into world-class institutions. “The UGC has formed a committee for the above purpose and draft regulations are expected to be ready by the end of this month,” the ministry note underlined.

Internal consultations are also made with regard to enabling regulatory structure for 10 public educational institutions like central universities, IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), IIM (Indian Institute of Management), IIT (Indian Institute of Information Technology) and IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) etc. to emerge as world-class teaching research institutions,” the note underlined.

This means that while some of the existing government institutions will be supported to become world class, in the private space both green field and brown field institutions will be allowed to apply and compete to get that tag.

Rupamanjari Ghosh, vice-chancellor of Shiv Nadar University (SNU) in Uttar Pradesh, said that her institution supports the move, and that SNU will be one of the young institutions to “compete” for the distinction in the private space.

Ghosh, however, said authorities need to carefully draft the regulatory requirements to make them “learner centric faculty driven” institutions. She said five key factors—a contemporary curricula, faculty profile, research grants, diversity and placement of students—will be key to achieving the goal.

Similarly, the implementation of the proposal for setting up a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), has been fast tracked. As per the ministry note, a draft expenditure finance committee note has already been circulated among different ministries for views before the HRD ministry moves the cabinet for a formal approval.

HEFA will be a quasi-sovereign body which will tap bond markets and then lend the proceeds to educational institutions to fund future expansion and upgrade plans. HEFA has been allocated an initial amount of ₹1,000 crore in the budget.
To prep students for new economy, B-schools revamp their curricula

Entrepreneurship workshops, global exposure are all part of the course now

DEEPA NAIR  
Mumbai, May 4

From compulsory courses on entrepreneurship to commerce and design thinking, the digital revolution and the rise of the e-commerce sector has forced most leading business schools to evolve their MBA curricula.

Ranjan Banerjee, Dean, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), said apart from the fact that there are more e-commerce jobs today, the digital ecosystem is a systemic part of business, including areas such as information management, finance and marketing. Keeping this in mind, SPJIMR recently launched a course in digital marketing, created in collaboration with industry representatives.

IIM-Indore did a major review of its curriculum in 2015 and introduced a new one for the 2015-17 batch.

"Separate workshop courses on entrepreneurial orientation, innovation and design thinking were introduced in the new curriculum."

"Digital marketing and e-commerce-related topics are part of many of the core courses," said Prof Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director, IIM-Indore.

IIM-Kozhikode is also offering elective courses on entrepreneurship and new ventures in the second year. Apart from that a 20-hour 'Entrepreneurship Workshop' is compulsory for all students.

Prof Sourav Mukherji, Dean of Academic Programmes, IIM-Bangalore, said the current post-graduate programme (PGP) at the institute has greater emphasis than ever before on entrepreneurial thinking.

Job creators

"As more young Indians now seek to become job creators, and with Bangalore being the national capital for start-ups, we have made entrepreneurship education a part of our PGP. We have a world-class entrepreneurial development centre, the NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, which nurtures budding entrepreneurs and student-run ventures," Mukherji said.

B-schools have also increasingly been focussing on providing a global exposure to their students. In 2014, IIM-B launched new international field courses and dramatically raised the number of PGP students who travelled abroad for study, from 34 per cent of the batch to 64 per cent. In 2015-16, this number touched over 90 per cent.

"Given that a global perspective is imperative in today's interconnected world, we place a great deal of importance on increasing emphasis on globalisation of our programmes, our research and our impact. Such exposure prepares our students for leadership in the world economy," added IIM-B's Mukherji.

Similarly, Banerjee said since last year, SPJIMR has also been sending all its MBA students to the US for a one-month compulsory programme.