AICTE’s mandate for US-based E-journals may cost Rs 1,800 cr to Engg colleges

By Vikas Vaidya

WITH All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) making it mandatory for engineering colleges to purchase E-journals from particular agencies of United States of America, around Rs 1,800 crore revenue would be transferred to the agency, it is feared. Many of the colleges in India have sent letters to AICTE Chairman, questioning the rationale and propriety of shortlisting only US agencies and shelling out such a huge amount for E-journals.

The colleges have asked AICTE if it is mandatory to purchase E-journals of given packages from the particular agency notified by AICTE. If so why should it be made mandatory to purchase such a large amount of E-journals for upcoming new colleges? The financial implication of these packages ranges from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 30 lakh per year per college. This means, there is a transaction of Rs 1,800 crore. The money would be transferred to US agencies from our education system only through 6,000 engineering colleges. Implication on Management Institutes is separate.

Colleges have also claimed that by subscribing to many quality journals which are available at a much cheaper cost, the remaining amount could be fruitfully utilised for promoting and strengthening research and other facilities for Under Graduate students.

Pramod Pampatwar, Director, Technical, Jhulelal Institute of Technology who took the lead in protesting the move, approached Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) to know how they are dealing with the issue. He came out with the information that VNIT is not paying any money for the link of (Contd on page 2)
E-journals of IEEE and this is being taken care off by IIT Delhi where a link is available for the Education in India and all IITs and NITs share these link. Sufficient downloading required for research fellows is also available to them. All IITs are primary members and all NITs are secondary members and it is available to some private colleges also.

If a faculty is registered with IEEE he is charged 35 dollars a month with limited downloading facility. To start with, the research culture is to be embedded in our institution and this option is better than what is proposed by AICTE, he stated. Some colleges have pointed out that on the issue of huge amount of expenditure they have to incur on setting up and running the institute. Hence, it is legitimate for all the colleges to look into justified avenues of cost savings which otherwise amount to wastage of precious money. Some colleges have suggested that E-journals can be shared like IIT-NIT pattern.
Govt plans to give more an education

BIG IDEAS Mulls unprecedented scholarships for school toppers

Prasad Nichenametla

NEW DELHI: In what could change the face of higher education in the country, the government has been presented with two ambitious plans.

The first proposes that tuition fees of the top 10% performers passing out of school into undergraduate courses be paid for by the government. That means eight lakh students would benefit, irrespective of caste, religion, economic status and discipline (arts, commerce, science).

The annual benefit to a student would range from ₹2,000-5,000 for a conventional degree in a government college to ₹50,000 as charged by the IITs. The selected students would be free to study whatever they wanted in any state-run institution of their choosing.

According to estimates, more than 80 lakh students appear for 10+2 boards every year with about 8 lakh of them coming from CBSE.

Fees, or part of it, in select accredited private institutions could also be covered.

The financial requirement for the landmark proposal taking scholarships to an unprecedented level is to be worked out.

A related plan proposes that financial aid for educating the disadvantaged — scheduled castes and tribes, minorities — be increased four times from ₹2,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore.

Both the proposals have been worked out by the Planning Commission.

The government has set a target of increasing enrolment at the higher education level from the current 15% to 25% of the eligible population, which would mean four crore additional students in universities and other institutions.

Plan panel deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia had earlier said education and skill development would receive priority in the 12th plan.
The art of fund raising

IMs must examine ways of tapping more from alumni

Last year, Harvard University was the recipient of $272 million in donations from two Indian business houses. Anand Mahindra, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra and Mahindra, who graduated from Harvard in 1977 and earned an MBA degree in 1981, gifted Rs 45 crores to Har-
vard’s Humanities Centre, the largest for the centre so far. A few days later, the Tata Group pitched in with $225 crore— the largest international donation in the school’s 112-year history. Ratan Tata was a student of the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard in 1975. Harvard is just one example of how Indian busi-
nessmen have started giving to express gratitude to their alma mater. In fact, many Ivy League colleges and the Indian Institutes of Technology have benefited from such generosity:
Consider the Indian Institute of Technol-
ogy, Bombay which has in the past decade, built a campus worth 1200 crore from donations. Its counterparts, IIT Madras and IIT Delhi, have raised around 1100 crore and 750 crore, respectively, over the same period. IIT Bombay’s

mandate is to encourage smaller donations from alumni across the world. So even if half its 40,000-odd alumni choose to donate a mere $150 each to their alma ma-
ter, IIT Bombay would have access to an additional 120 crore at its disposal. This is all very good — after all, alumni donations remain a major source of sus-
teance for many reputed institutes all over the world.
But what is surprising is that large-heart-
ed donors on the part of businessmax has not reached the campuses of the coun-
try’s premier management institutes, even though many of India’s corporate leaders chair the governing boards of var-
ious Indian institutes. Even the oldest and most prestigious IMIs — Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Kolkata — cannot boast of a corpus of more than 15 to 10 crore through donations from their alumni.
IMIs are justifiably unhappy with Indi-
an corporate houses donating interna-
tionally and see this as a warning to the rest. If there is a deep disconnect between Indi-
an and global corporate leaders, the lat-
ter having imbued the culture of giving back to their alma mater. It is also true that IMIs have a numerical advantage over
IMs as they have a much larger alumni base. IMIs also argue that IMIs have pro-
duced many more entrepreneurs who have made fortunes in Silicon Valley. While the former argument is partly true, the latter is not. IMIs too have their share of celebrated CEOs and managers in Indi-
a and abroad, though many of them have not been generous in giving back.
IMIs locked within to find an

answer to this anomaly. There is no deny-
ning that IMIs have not done enough to tap their alumni base, a key source of funds. However, many in IMIs private-
ty agree that it is only now that some of them are putting in place a strategy on fund raising. The IMI, Ahmedabad Alumni Asso-
ciation in UK, for example, rec-
ently presented the fact that there has been no organisational mechanism to enable giving back. It then took the cue from IT Bombay and asked its members to pledge three days’ income to the alumni trust. But there are isolated efforts and IMIs must take a leaf out of the books of Ivy
League colleges which have tapped their alumni network well that alumni form a major portion of the boards for these institutes. Perhaps Harvard University would be generous enough to provide IMIs a pos-
sible case study on the art of fund raising.

Times of India Chennai 19.11.11, p-4

IIT-M prof wins award for heritage conservation

Sandeepa Somani | TNN

Chennai: He is a civil engineer who has been involved with the restoration of heritage buildings for over a decade. But professor M S Mathews, who will be honoured on Saturday for his conservation work, remains enthusiasts-
tic about using newer technology to restore monuments.

The IIT-Madras professor will receive an award from REACH, a conservation organisation, for working to preserve a 1,000-year-old temple complex in Cambodian and the Kallasa-
nathar temple in Uthiramerur, Tamil Nadu.

“We are better off now with advanced software to analyse the condition of the ancient monuments,” says the 64-year-old. “There is also material available to strengthen and extend their life. “This means that projects get over faster,” he says.

It was a different world when Mathews started out at IIT-M. He didn’t realise how civil engineering principles can be used to restore buildings till he attended a workshop conducted by four Italian engineers nearly 20 years ago.

“All of them were experts. One person had worked on the project to restore the Tower of Pisa in Italy, and another on the Colosseum in Rome,” says Mathews. As Italian experts spoke about restoring ancient churches and castles, the audience was spellbound. Soon, Mathews got one of his first projects - to restore a building in his native place, Kerala. It was followed by the restoration of St Joseph’s church in Tri-

chy. Mathews also attended courses and confer-
ences abroad to gain more knowledge. Seven years ago, the Archaeological Sur-
vey of India approached the IIT-M team to help out with the restoration of the Ta Prohm tem-
ple complex in Cambodia. The buildings are covered with roots and branches of trees that had literally taken over the complex. “The biggest success is that nothing has collapsed so far. We also did reversible interventions, changes that can be turned back when we have access to better technology,” he says. It is still a struggle to get work done in India. “We have a number of monuments but few qualified people to restore and preserve them,” he says. Lack of awareness, legislation and funding add to the problem.

Even if you get resources, putting together a team is tough. “To work on most Indian mon-
ument you need a good knowledge of Sanskrit and the traditional sastras, especially those relating to temple construction,” says Mathews. If you add civil engineering to the skill set, then it will take a lifetime. “The only solution is to work in teams, along with traditional sthapathis (temple sculpture artists) and other ex-

perts,” he says.

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What's Your Foreign Degree Worth?

Planning to go abroad for studies? Think again. Tighter immigration and weak job markets in the West combine with a declining premium on foreign degrees in India. A Western university would love the $20 lakh an Indian student spends. But what's the return on investment? ET on Sunday investigates

Kalam ropes in six IIM-A graduates

Ahmedabad: Former president APJ Abdul Kalam has emerged as one of the top recruiters of the students of the Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) during the summer placement this year.

"As the placement came to an end on Friday, six students of the institute bagged internship offers from Kalam's office. Confirming the number of offers extended by Kalam's office to the IIM-A students, an official close to the development said that the students were handling various social campaigns and roles related to rural development under Kalam.

"It is a good sign. It shows that an increasing number of these students are taking interest in social sector," said the official.

Out of the six students, one belongs to the post-graduate programme in agri-business management (PGPABM) the rest are from the post-graduate programme in management (PGP).

The number of students opting for internship in the social sector has also increased at the IIM-A this year. Last year, only four students of the institute had done internships with Kalam.

A city-based organization National Innovation Foundation (NIF), which hired four students last year, returned to the campus to hire 11 students this year.

With all the students getting internship offers, the summer placement at IIM-A came to an end on Friday. More than 20 companies conducted interviews during the day with Tata Steel making the highest number of offers. Other companies like Aviva Insurance and Samsonite also took part in the recruitment. Agyan Carbon Ventures, started by three IIM-A alumni last year, also offered summer internships to the students this year.
There are students from Andhra & Punjab looking at overseas education as a quick fix to immigration. Their numbers are falling

By Nirmala, Senior Manager, L
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The big experiment

Most of the prospective students are being advised to do the big experiment of working in the UK after five years of studying here. But the success rate is not so high despite this. The biggest factor is the UK's cultural differences. Many students who returned home after completing their course abroad have not been able to adjust to their new environment. This is why they are unable to make the most of their experience. They are finding it hard to get jobs and they also have to struggle to make ends meet. As a result, they are trying to return home. But the success rate is not so high despite this. The biggest factor is the UK's cultural differences. Many students who returned home after completing their course abroad have not been able to adjust to their new environment. This is why they are unable to make the most of their experience. They are finding it hard to get jobs and they also have to struggle to make ends meet. As a result, they are trying to return home.
Non-teaching varsity staff seek parity

New Delhi: Officials of various central universities came together in the city on Saturday to demand parity with teachers in their pay and service conditions. The officials from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and other varsities from West Bengal, Tripura, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh had gathered at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College under the aegis of All India Federation of University Officers' Associations (AIFUOA).

"Teachers, librarians and administration officers used to be at the same place till the Fifth Pay Commission. But the Sixth Pay Commission gave a better scale to teachers, while keeping us at the same level. We want MHRD to treat us on an equal footing," said Sikander Aggarwal, joint secretary, Delhi university and colleges officers' association.

He added there was a difference in the retirement age and career progression as well, which must be corrected. Officers from around 20 varsities have planned to write to the MHRD and UGC and they may resort to agitation if no action is taken.
Wikipedia is neutral, says co-founder

Mahafreed Irani | TNN

Mumbai: At the country’s first-ever Wikiconference held in Mumbai, Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales on Saturday said the website does not take sides. He was reacting to protests against “illegal” depiction of the map of India on the site.

“It is important that Wikipedia stays neutral and for that we must learn about what the opponent’s believe,” the 45-year-old American entrepreneur told a gathering at Mumbai University’s Convocation Hall. BJP’s youth wing members protested against a map on Wikipedia showing Pakistan-occupied Kashmir coloured green and Arunachal Pradesh in red.

“A one-sided map is a mistake, which is why we involve contributors from everywhere to edit the content on the site,” said Wales. The Wikimedia websites display over 3,200 maps of India, all of which have been uploaded by contributors.

In his keynote address, Wales invited Indians to write articles for more than 20 Indian language Wikipedias that exist but need improvement.
UGC chief: Smear campaign begins against contenders

As the HRD ministry committee is about to finalise the name of the new University Grants Commission chairperson, the work of discrediting some of the claimants has already started.
An encouraging Nov for Indian IT

A FLURRY of news on the information technology and IT-enabled services industry over the past weeks has put the spotlight back on India's hottest sector and the indication seems to be that a good part of the challenges it faced over the past couple of years may be over.

First, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country’s top software service exporter, announced its second biggest outsourcing contract worth $2.2 billion (₹71,076 crore) from UK-based pension firm Friends Life. Now, India's IT and business process outsourcing (BPO) industry has always faced a paradox of sorts. On the one hand, a downturn in Western markets can be viewed as an opportunity for India because cost-cutting during such times increases the chances of work being farmed out to competitive offshore locations. On the other hand, the overall IT spending does ease up in difficult times. On top of that, fears of job losses in the West creates an uneasy atmosphere for outsourcing contracts to be given. In such a backdrop, the TCS win in the UK — where carping against Indian IT/BPO is higher than in the US — is a positive signal.

Days after TCS, mid-sized Hexaware Technologies, announced a UK deal for five years worth £250 million with an unnamed but significant client in its single largest deal yet. Considering that Hexaware's revenues this fiscal year is estimated to be $906 million, the deal is a quantum jump.

Between these two pieces of news came a big surprise: billionaire Warren Buffett, who has for decades shunned investing in technology firms because he does not quite understand it, changed his stance by revealing that his Berkshire Hathaway fund had acquired a 5.4% stake in IBM at a cost of $10.7 billion. Significantly, the vote of confidence came on account of IBM’s services business, which is substantially based in India.

All that should be good news for TCS, Infosys and Wipro and other IT service companies of India because they pretty much do what IBM does in the services space with comparable business practices.

Last, but not the least, the US dollar strengthened to touch R 51 to the rupee last week. Given the shaky atmosphere that started after the Wall Street meltdown in 2008 and the subsequent financial crisis in Europe, the developments in November signal the resilience of the Indian IT industry.
Fabrication facility may come up in Hyderabad

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Nov. 19

The Union Government has indicated that Hyderabad is a likely location for setting up electronics fabrication facility.

Mr Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Human Resources and Information Technology, has said that the national electronics manufacturing policy would give impetus to the hardware industry in India.

Mr Sibal, who was here to attend IT Summit for Global Peace organised by Christian preacher Mr K.A. Paul, said that the Government was in the process of all universities and 31,000 colleges in the country in the next six months as part of National Knowledge Network.

Using this network, students in a far-off university could take courses virtually by premier academic institutes such as IIT.

Besides, the Government would provide Internet bandwidth to 2.50 lakh village panchayats and, if need be, offer wireless connectivity to offer last-mile connectivity.

The Government would also provide electronic interface to public services.

"Information technology should be inclusive. It is not for those who can afford iPads," he said.
एजुकेशन. आईआईटी राजस्थान में सीईओ बनाने की योजना
‘नौकरी मत ढूँढो, खुद की कंपनी खोलो’

मनोज कुमार पुरोहित. जोधपुर

आईआईटी राजस्थान ने तय किया है कि नौकरी मांगने की बजाय हार्मोन स्टूडेंट नौकरी देने वाले बनें। सूचनागित में सिविल इंजीनियर्स ने दृष्टि इस संस्थान के सबसे सरलता टेलीफोन पीसी ‘आकाश’ बनाकर इसकी शुरुआत भी कर दी है। इसके आलावा यह स्टूडेंट में एंटरप्रायजरियन विकसित करने के लिए वह प्रायम निर्णय जा ची है। आईआईटी-आर के निदेशक प्रो.पीके कालाय कहते हैं, ‘मैं इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों से चाहता हूँ कि वे खुद की कंपनी खोलें और उसके सीईओ बनें, न कि कोई नौकरी कार्र। ऐसा करने पर हम चीन को पीछे छोड़ सकते हैं।’

प्रो. कालाय ऐसा महाशय तैयार करने के लिए वहां कुछ कर भी चाहे हैं। हालांकि हार्मोन एंटरप्रायजरियन नहीं बन सकता, इसलिए सरकार वाले स्टूडेंट पर फोकस किया जा रहा है।

प्रो. कल्याण का उद्धरण पॉर्टला

प्रो. कल्याण का उद्धरण पॉर्टला यदि किसी स्टूडेंट में खुद की बनने की क्रिया हो तो उसके लिए दिया जाएगा जुर्माना। आईआईटी राजस्थान में एंटरप्रायजरियन को पूर्वस्था में दो बार स्थापित करो।

मोटिवेशन : यदि स्टूडेंट में आत्मविश्वास और प्रेरणा नहीं है तो वह खुद का रूप कार्र भी उसे बनाने चाहता नहीं। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए स्टूडेंट ने कैसे उसको सूचना कर दी?

नौकरी मत...

आईआईटी स्टूडेंट को एंटरप्रायजरियन बनाने से पहले इंटरव्यू में प्रोफेसर राहुल (आईआईटीआर) की बनारसी होने भी जरूरी है, क्योंकि यह चीजें सम्पत्ति पर आपसिय अनुभवकर्ता की नींव है। उद्देश्य में प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए इसका महत्व अन्तर के बीच रहा है। इससे का ध्यान में रखते हुए यह भी है कि आईआईटी राजस्थान में इसलिए सरकार वाले की कुछ कर भी चाहिये।

बिना तैयारी के कोशिश बेकार

-आईआईटी इंजीनियरिंग कोई भी इंजीनियरिंग एक बेहतर सीईओ हो सकता है ऐसा मानक काम केसल इंटरव्यू पर होकर समापर्न दिखता नहीं है। जरूरी है कि कोई ऐसा प्रोफेसर हो जो इंजीनियरिंग को कम चलने का उपयोग दे और इससे जुड़ी उन बारिशों से अधिक बाहर, जिसका जरूरत एक सीईओ को रहती है।

इसी प्रमाण के साथ भी गहरा स्थान पर कभी यह भी है कि कोई भी बारिश और अन्य अवधारणा होता है।

इसी अवधारणा की रहती है कि जिसी की नज़र आईआईटी इंजीनियरिंग के एक उच्च अवधारणा में बनाया गया है।

शेष पेज 8 पर