New Delhi: Five months after the Centre announced new IITs in Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the HRD ministry has convened a meeting with state officials and existing IIT directors to fast-track the new institutions. Meanwhile, IITs and NITs are working on a new software that will make common counselling possible.

Andhra Pradesh has identified a site in Tirupati, which has been approved. Kerala has also finalized a site. Chhattisgarh, Goa and J&K are yet to finalize their sites. As for common counselling, the HRD ministry has to submit an affidavit before the Delhi high court on November 30. On August 1, the HC had directed it to set up a technical panel for regular consultations to sort out the process of common counselling.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com
Institutes’ land need: Report in 2 months

In the wake of difficulties arising in setting up of new campuses due to paucity of land and delay in acquiring them by the States, the HRD Ministry has formed a committee to review the land requirements of various institutes. The six-member committee, will be headed by HRD Secretary (Higher Education) SN Mohanty and will submit its report within two months with its recommendations.

The committee would recommend fresh norms and criteria for determining land requirement in different locations taking into account the topography and the class of city. As per existing norms, land requirement varies from 100 acres in case of setting up of an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) to 500 acres for establishing an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

“These norms were determined a long time ago when land was available in abundance. However, with the burgeoning population and consequent expansion of cities, land has increasingly become a scarce commodity. The recent experience in the HRD Ministry has been that requisite amount of land was not readily available and State Governments had found it difficult to acquire land leading to inordinate delay in setting of the central institutes,” said a Ministry order in this regard.

The development comes against the backdrop of the delay in opening new campuses announced during the UPA government due to land issues. The latest challenge was scouting for land by states after announcement of five new IIITs and six new IIMs in this year’s budget. The committee will study land utilisation by the existing institutes and look at international examples of land utilisation.

Govt likely to ease land norms

The government is considering to ease land requirement norms for setting up of higher educational institutions.

In an effort to provide suggestions and solutions for solving difficulties encountered in acquiring land, the Centre has constituted a committee to recommend norms and criteria for determining the land requirement for Central higher educational institutions.

Sources stated Union human resource development constituted the committee after it was felt that there was an urgent need for revising the land requirement for educational institutions. It was learnt that government wants provisions for allowing vertical expansion of the buildings and more realistic land norms as the existing guidelines had been laid down several years ago when there was surplus land available.

The committee has been mandated to study land utilisation by existing central higher educational institutions and also look at the International examples. The committee is expected to recommend norms and criteria for determining land requirement in the country taking into account the topography and availability of land.

The committee will be headed by former secretary of higher education Satyanarayan Mohanty. It also comprises ex-secretary in HRD ministry M.K. Kaw; Director of college of engineering, Pune, Anil Sahasrabudhe; chairperson of Board of Governors, IIT-Roorkee, Ashok Gupta; vice chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Syed Basi and chairman of Board of Directors, ICICI Bank, K.V. Kamath.
IIT Kharagpur goes international


IIT Kharagpur will now bring in professors and scholars from foreign universities besides offering joint PhDs with top international institutes.

Under the Shri Gopal Rajgarhia International Programme which was launched on Wednesday, at least 10 professors from some of the world's leading universities would come to the Kharagpur campus each year for few months.

Similarly, around 30 talented international scholars would be invited each year to conduct research activities at IIT, Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti told PTI. He said they are already in talks with leading universities from the US, Europe, Australia, and Japan.

Under the joint PhD programme, students would be awarded with the doctorate by IIT-Kgp and an international university. "The students will study at both the places. There will be international workshops and activities with the foreign university," Chakrabarti said.

The international programmes will start from the January session. The institute's distinguished alumni Gopal Rajagarhia of the 1968 batch has donated Rs 10 crore for funding the initiative. "I was always keen to give it back to IIT. Its international ratings are poor because of low international exposure. With this program, we want the IIT to make its presence felt in the international arena so that its ranking improves as per our Vision 2020," Rajgarhia said.

At present around 200 PhDs are awarded by the IIT each year which they hope to take it to 400.

"We want around 25 per cent of PhDs to be joint PhDs. We will also be getting foreign students to study here for such joint PhDs," director Chakrabarti said. Besides student and faculty exchange, the IIT is also adding an international component to its courses by offering micro specialisations with a foreign collaborator.

They have already started the International Summer Winter Programme wherein students and faculties from India and abroad are participating.

India must not fall for the ranking game

Hindustan Times (Gurgaon)

Though the world university rankings game is now over 10 years old, our universities have still not been able to do what is necessary to break into the elite group of top 200 institutions. Their omission has upset officials and academics since several Asian universities — notably those in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea — continue to improve their performance. It should be noted that all the rising universities in Asia are public institutions.

A common lament one hears is that the rankings parameters used by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Times Higher Education (THE) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University — such as international reputation, publications and citations, internationalisation and others — are not suitable for our universities, at least not in the way that each of these is weighted to calculate rankings.
One of the solutions that we are working at to address our ranking woes is to devise our own rankings system. Smriti Irani, the human resource development minister, is reported to have held a number of meetings with heads of central universities, IITs and IIMs to do exactly that. According to reports on ongoing deliberations, the Indian rankings system will include the parameter of “social responsibilities” of universities—i.e. initiatives taken to favour people from diverse social backgrounds, especially the disadvantaged, whether lower castes, scheduled tribes or others—so that larger numbers of people have access to higher education. However, it appears that other ranking parameters will remain approximately the same as those currently used by world university ranking organisations.

That universities have a social role is widely accepted, certainly in Western countries where universities maintain data on income, race, gender, and the nationality of students, faculty and staff. Whether or not race or gender-based reservations exist, diversity is a buzzword at world-class institutions. In those cases where universities are seen to be falling behind in achieving or improving diversity, they are flayed for their failings. By including the social responsibilities dimension to determine university rankings, we appear to be shifting focus away from that other central role of the university that of pursuing the cause of high quality education. It is this role that is privileged in the world university rankings and one in which we lag behind.

Another stated reason behind devising India-specific rankings is that our best higher education institutions are narrowly focused—like the IITs and the IIMs—and cannot compete effectively with universities in other countries which tend to be comprehensive institutions. This is true but world university rankings organisations also prepare subject-wise rankings of departments in which specific departments at the IITs and other institutions do not figure prominently.

Furthermore, what is stopping the IITs, for example, from evolving into comprehensive institutions when most of them occupy hundreds of acres of land? There are plenty of examples, from Singapore and Hong Kong among others, where science and technology-focused universities expanded to become more comprehensive institutions and now count among the top 200 in the world.

It is not quite clear why we need to devise an India-specific rankings scheme. Indeed, we should be worried that we may be found out on parameters of social responsibilities as well since, other than provide reservations in admissions and jobs, we have done precious little to improve the quality of education for those who have access to education, rendering the social responsibilities dimension quite irrelevant. What good is access to education if it does not provide the skills and knowledge necessary for employment?

### Indian universities must introduce a rating system of teachers

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

With reference to Saikat Majumdar’s Knowledge is an end in itself (November 1), while I agree with what the author has written, I think the university authorities must also make teachers more accountable and take feedback from students on their performance on a regular basis. India had so many good universities like Allahabad University and Calcutta University but we could not ensure high standards. In the developed world only those teachers who get good ratings are allowed to continue and others are eased out. We must follow that system here to ensure that our universities match the best ones in the world.

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**CERN CHOOSES NEXT DIRECTOR GENERAL**
BERLIN: The renowned lab that confirmed the existence of the elusive “God particle” has selected an Italian physicist who played a key role in that research to be its new director general. The European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, said Tuesday that Fabiola Gianotti would become the first female director general when she takes over in 2016.

Deakin University felicitates IIT Madras with award


Chennai, Nov 5:

Deakin University, Australia, has felicitated IIT Madras with the ”Strategic Partner” award towards contributions in building a bond between the two countries through research and development.

The award was presented by Jane den Hollander, Vice Chancellor and President, Deakin University, to R Nagarajan, Dean (International and Alumni Relations), IIT Madras, at the anniversary of Deakin University’s 20 years in India.

Deakin University invited IIT Madras to accept the award with the citation saying ”Deakin University is very pleased about the partnership with IIT Madras to produce industry-ready PhD graduates, with economic benefits for both India and Australia.,” said a release from IIT Madras.
IIT Kharagpur student gets Rs 91 lakh job offer

KOLKATA: A month away from final placements, IIT Kharagpur students are being flooded with pre-placement offers with a 20 per cent increase this year.

IIT officials said already around 125 students have been extended pre-placement offers and interviews, where most of the companies have increased the package offered by around 20 per cent as compared to the last batch.

The highest offer made till date stands at a staggering Rs 91 lakh, they said.

International offers include those from Google Mountain View, Facebook, Works Application and Schlumberger while a large number of first-time recruiters have also registered for final placements with the Career Development Centre at IIT Kharagpur.

The final placements are set to begin on December 1 in all the IITs before which a 50 per cent increase in the number of pre-placement offer is expected.

The latest trend observed is the overwhelming participation of e-commerce firms and startups, fresh from the boom in foreign investments and large rounds of funding by venture capitalists.

‘Looking bright’

“The upcoming season is certainly looking very bright for the students. The response has been absolutely overwhelming with numerous companies expressing their willingness to hire IITians. A unique curriculum clubbed with courses in Financial Engineering and Engineering Entrepreneurship gives a lead to the students of IIT Kharagpur unlike any other institute,” said Punj Rajan, vice-president of Technology Students’ Gymkhana, IIT Kharagpur.

Prof S K Barai, Chairman of Career Development Centre of IIT Kharagpur, said from this year onward special focus has been laid to boost the confidence of the graduating students, corporate workshops, case study contests, alumni mentorship session, assessment tests and soft skill training.

PTI
Numerous companies expressed their willingness to hire KGPIans

IIT-Kgp to offer 20% increase in salaries

Press Trust of India

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Competitive innovation is the way forward

Prayashi Barua

Ericsson has recently announced the launch of the Ericsson Innovation Awards in association with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) to recognise the spirit of innovation among students at Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). With these awards, Ericsson aims to facilitate innovative projects from engineering students and support some deserving ventures through to their incubation phase at IIT-approved technology business incubators. These awards will also insulate the inventor with regard to his/her patent.

Incidentally this is the first time that Ericsson has inked a MoU with seven IITs and the FITT to encourage innovation. Talking about the broad objectives of this MoU, Chris Houghton, head of region India, Ericsson says, “At a macro level, this will give an edge to not just innovation but research in the telecom space. This initiative will encourage students to find innovative technology solutions for masses. It is a step to realise the Digital India Vision. For India to truly become digital, you need technology which can be deployed using the internet. Hence we have invited projects within the telecom domain and on Internet of Things.” The Ericsson Innovation Awards seek innovations in areas such as web design, cloud computing, storage and networking, human-machine interface, embedded and hardware system design, MIMO (multiple-input, multiple-output), machine-to-machine/Internet of Things, software-defined networking, open source, graphics and visualisation, as well as research. Ericsson has invited proposals from IIT students across Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Mumbai, Roorkee and Banaras Hindu University.

Following the preliminary screening phase, the student proposals will be shortlisted through two jury sessions, comprising senior members from Ericsson R&D, FITT and industry experts. In the first round, the jury will shortlist up to 10 proposals. Each shortlisted proposal will be given an incentive by Ericsson to complete the initial prototype within three months. In the second round, the jury will select two innovation projects. These will be announced in a ceremony in April 2015.
हुनर से गांवों को संवारेंगे आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र

नई दिल्ली | नजदीक

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के आह्वान पर अमल करते हुए, भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) ने अपने पूर्व छात्रों (एलुमनाइ) की मदद से देश के विकास से जुड़ने का संभाल किया है। आईआईटी एलुमनाइ ऐसोसिएशन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की समस्याओं का नई तकनीकों के जरिए समाधान निकालने के लिए जत्स्त ही उनमें सहयोग अभियान के साथ जुड़े रही है। इस बार वे फैसला लिया जा चुका है।

आईआईटी काउंसिल की हाल में हुई बैठक में एलुमनाइ ऐसोसिएशन की तरफ से प्रोफेसर अशोक मिश्र ने कहा कि इस कड़ी में सर्वप्रथम बेगुमुकु में आईआईटी एलुमनाइ सेंटर स्थापित होगा। यह सेंटर करीब 10 हज़ार आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों के बीच नेटवर्किंग स्थापित करेगा। इन पूर्व छात्रों में आईआईटी और विभिन्न संस्थानों के प्रोफेसर, उद्योग ज्ञात के पदाधिकारी तथा विद्वानों में कार्य कर रहे आईआईटी के छात्र सहित किए जाएगे। इस समय करीब 10 हज़ार आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों के अर्थव्यवस्था में सक्रिय होने का अनुभव है।

आईआईटी काउंसिल में इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा हुई और माना गया है कि चूंकि आईआईटी के छात्रों का दक्षिण हर क्षेत्र में है, इसलिए पहले देश के विकास के लिए वे एक मंच पर आएं। खासकर ग्रामीण भारत की समस्याओं का नई तकनीकों के जरिए सरल और सस्ता समाधान निकालने तो यह देश के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण साबित होगा। प्रधानमंत्री आईआईटी, एनआईटी और अन्य संस्थाओं से देश के विकास में मदद की आपूर्ति कर रहे हैं।

आईआईटी के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की समस्याएं मसलें, पानी की स्थितिया, किफायती परिवहन, स्वच्छता के लिए कम पानी की तकनीक, गुणवत्ता पूर्ण शिक्षा की उपलब्धता, डिजिटल केंद्रितविद्या आदि ऐसे मुद्दे हैं जिन पर आईआईटी एलुमनाइ कार्य कर सकते हैं।

पहली बार अभियान में एलुमनाइ

यह हाल माना है कि यदि देश के विकास में एलुमनाइ का इस्तेमाल होगा। विज्ञान के जरिये ग्रामीण समस्याओं का हल खोजने के लिए उन्नत भारत अभियान पहले से चल रहा है। आमतौर पर आईआईटी गांवों को गोद लेकर यह कार्यक्रम चलाते हैं। लेकिन एलुमनाइ के द्वारा से इस कार्यक्रम के अटके नतीजे सामने आएंगे।
Mumbai: Most Indian students preparing for GRE study for one to four hours a week, when their Chinese counterparts put in over 20 hours. While Indians prefer studying late at night, students in China choose weekday evenings. Such trends were revealed by a study conducted by the Education Testing Services, which surveyed nearly 20,000 GRE applicants across the world.

While Indian students and their counterparts in the US, China and other regions in the world share certain routines, there are some noteworthy differences as well. Most Indian students, 44.1% of them, seem to prepare for the test for one to three months, but the world average of such students is much lower at 37.8%. Chinese pupils, around 36% of them, study over 20 hours a week, while around 30% Indians, those putting in the longest hours, put in only one to four hours a week.

According to Association of Indian Management Schools president Apoorva Palkar, in any competitive exam, students are evaluated on their ability to respond on the spot. “It is also driven by the basic education system in the country. Chinese candidates have to invest more time and efforts in learning the language, while Indians have an advantage there,” said Palkar. One cannot decide a student’s competence level based on the time spent in studying, one just needs to learn the right math and logic at school to be good, she added.

Dean of MISB Bocconi Himanshu Rai points out several Indians already have a job while they sit for GRE.
All educated and nowhere to go

A critical problem facing India now is that millions of educated youngsters are unutilized for employment.

By Prashant K. Nanda
prashant@eplusindia.com

The years ago when she completed her bachelor's degree, a young graduate thought she could be self-sufficient and take her parents along. But her plan backfired. She met Sridhar's father, a farmer from Tiruvannamalai, who was not pleased.

"Though I was qualified, industry leaders said I wasn't industry-ready," said the 21-year-old from Chennai, who is, ironically, home to India's foremost electronics and industries development (HID) minister M.A. Thomas. "My dream is to be in a place where I can work and lead a better life, but that can only happen once I get a job." Sridhara is not alone. Her case is more en route to Tamil Nadu, a skill training center in Silayathur.

"Now, I realize that during my tech, M.Tech, the education I got was not in sync with the industry. For the last three months, I am not able to do anything. Besides, they are focusing on improving my communication and soft skills like spoken English," she said.

Sridhar's case bar a few is a growing problem in India. The country lacks students, showing that millions of educated youngsters are not fit for employment. Several studies by industry federations and government entities have found that up to 80% of the workforce are not job-worthy.

Ask any businessman, and the answer is the same: Indian graduates are not ready to work. What is going wrong?

The India Skills Report, prepared by human resources company Peoplefunding and industry lobby Confederation of Indian Industry, calls this the Great Indian Talent Conundrum, which should not surprise us from the usage of many Indian engineers to work in the US.

In fact, the industry lobby has a wide-perceived disconnect with the market over the number of engineers that need to be trained and the number of hours that need to be spent for a job-place.

India needs 700 million skilled workers by 2032 to meet the demands of a growing economy, the report says. Many studies by industry federations and government entities have found that up to 80% of the workforce are not job-worthy. Why?

The answer is: India's education system.

Education

India occupies in its fifth-largest office, in the prime of its education. The Indian arm of the world's largest education firm, according to the report, has a significant portion of the market. The Indian government has a target to make India's education system fit for the world. But the Report says that India's education system is not ready for the world.

The government has a target to include 500 million people, nearly the combined population of the 10 largest European

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Fundamental problem: India produces over six million engineers and graduates every year, but not one of them finds meaningful employment.

EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

A study shows that by 2021, the still-training to 500 million people by 2023, going by the current pace, India is likely to fall for job. A cost at so many of the involved.

The employer will now have to start valuing skills. Most employ pay salaries and not cash wages. So, whether you are interested in learning, you may not get the same wage. This should not happen through a perceived and reflected action.

"Once trained workers come to us, you will see a better response to skill training from both trainers and India's labor-intensive manufacturing sector," said Dilip Chenoi, president of the India Skill Development Foundation.

There are 44 million SMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and if each of them take on one or two people and we train 50 people, the number will be staggering.

"After employment, skill training is just for poor school dropouts, then you are making the condition worse," said Sridhara, questioning the pace of skill employment.

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EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

A study shows that by 2021, the still-training to 500 million people by 2023, going by the current pace, India is likely to fall for job. A cost at so many of the involved.

The employer will now have to start valuing skills. Most employ pay salaries and not cash wages. So, whether you are interested in learning, you may not get the same wage. This should not happen through a perceived and reflected action.

"Once trained workers come to us, you will see a better response to skill training from both trainers and India's labor-intensive manufacturing sector," said Dilip Chenoi, president of the India Skill Development Foundation.

There are 44 million SMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and if each of them take on one or two people and we train 50 people, the number will be staggering.

"After employment, skill training is just for poor school dropouts, then you are making the condition worse," said Sridhara, questioning the pace of skill employment.

The government has set a target of 500 million skilled workers by 2032, to meet the demands of a growing economy. Many studies by industry federations and government entities have found that up to 80% of the workforce are not job-ready. Why?

The answer is: India's education system.

Education

India occupies in its fifth-largest office, in the prime of its education. The Indian arm of the world's largest education firm, according to the report, has a significant portion of the market. The Indian government has a target to make India's education system fit for the world. But the Report says that India's education system is not ready for the world.

The government has a target to include 500 million people, nearly the combined population of the 10 largest European
Abhishek Bachchan to speak at Second Pan IIM World Management Conference
Tuesday, November 04, 2014

http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=31809

Report by India Education bureau, Kozhikode: Abhishek Bachchan, Actor and Sports Entrepreneur is all set to speak at the Second Pan IIM World Management Conference (November 05 – 08, 2014) hosted by IIM Kozhikode on the theme of 'Globalizing Indian Thought'.

Abhishek Bachchan will talk about the changing aspirations of Indians and how India is making a global impact. He will also speak about the future of sports in India.

Being a sports entrepreneur, owning a kabbadi and football team, Junior Bachchan is carving a different niche for himself in his endeavour to bring global recognition to an Indian sports like kabbadi.

Further, Mr. Bachchan is also going to discuss about changing perception of Indian cinema.

Abhishek Bachchan’s team won the championship at the 2014 Pro Kabaddi League and now he wants to focus on his Hero Indian Super League (ISL) football team Chennaiyin FC.

The event is collectively organised by all the 13 Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) and the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, with the aim to have a number of scholars deliberate on a variety of issues that impact global management.

HRD ministry now seeks to restructure 'incompetent' AICTE

Tuesday, 4 November 2014 - 6:40am IST | Agency: DNA


Union ministry of human resources and development, which constituted a review committee to revamp the University Grants Commission a couple of months ago, constituted a four-member panel under MK Shaw, ex-secretary, MHRD, a fortnight ago to (order dated Oct 22) 'restructure and strengthen' All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and the technical education sector. The committee is expected to submit its report within six months.

MHRD feels AICTE, like the UGC, too is incompetent and needs to be restructured as per the vision of the BJP government.

The ministry thinks AICTE had failed to curb commercialization of technical education as well as ensure the standard of the sector, two prime objectives in setting up the regulator in 1987.

AICTE controls almost all professional courses including engineering, technology, management, MCA and pharmacy. The Supreme Court revoked its power to regulate MBA and MCA courses last year, ruling that these were not under the purview of the council.

Controversies are nothing new to AICTE. It has been blamed for its "liberal approach" to approving colleges leading to mushrooming of private institutes, lowering the quality of education. An Assocham report a couple of years ago had said only 25% of the engineering graduates in India were employable.
AICTE chairman SS Mantha was unavailable for comment. A MHRD official said: "This is supposed to be a step towards restructuring higher education bodies that have been under-performing, a long pending demand of educationists."

AICTE has been dragged to courts many times for its (controversial) approval and revoking process. Courts have nailed the regulator many times and have even imposed fines at least twice.

IISER students attempt Limca Record for the largest Warli composition supported by Fevicryl

http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=31813
Report by India Education bureau, Pune: Over 300 students joined hands at IISER Campus to create a confluence of Warli Art and attempt to set a new Limca Record. Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and Fevicryl, one of the leading art and craft brands, came together to celebrate and pay a tribute to this oldest tribal art form of Maharashtra.

The composition, made up of smaller and individual paintings, measured over 2500 square meters. Warli paintings depict the daily labour and lifestyle. This art beautifully depicts respect for nature; reverence for all creatures however big or small. These paintings are a rhythmic portrayal of the basic yet essential components of one’s life.

Mr. Rahul Sinha, President- Sales & Marketing - CPASF, Pidilite Industries Limited, said, “We are delighted to partner with IISER for hosting the event and we wish the students very best. It has further augmented our efforts to promote art and craft among the young generation. Also by attempting a record, the institute is celebrating art and its importance. "

Dr. Suhita Nadkarni, Faculty coordinator, Art Club, IISER Pune, said, “The art club at IISER Pune intended to put together the largest Warli composition with the aim of creating a Limca Book of Records as a tribute to this age old art form. The students have been hard at work preparing for this event. We hope that they will achieve this goal. We appreciate the gesture and support from Fevicryl in supporting such significant initiative. Such projects are important for students to expand their horizons and take on novel challenges during their formative years.
Long-term shift work can drain your brain

Study On French Shows Rotating Job Patterns Affect Workers’ Memory, Cognitive Speed

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London: Working in abnormal or long shifts may impair your brain power, suggests a new study.

Shift work, just like chronic jet lag, is known to disrupt the body’s internal clock and has been linked to a range of health problems such as ulcers, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome and some cancers. But little is known about its potential impact on brain functions, such as memory and processing speed.

Scientists from Université de Toulouse and Swansea University on Tuesday confirmed that the impact seems to be most noticeable over a period of 10 or more years, and although the effects can be reversed, this may take at least five years. Their study of over 3,000 people living in France found that those who worked rotating shifts performed significantly worse in memory and cognitive speed tests than those who had worked regular hours.

“The study shows that the long-term effects of shift work on the body clock are not only harmful to workers’ physical health, but also affect their mental abilities,” said Dr Philip Tucker, professor of psychology, Swansea University. “Such cognitive impairments may have consequences for the safety of shift workers and the society that they serve, as well as for shift workers’ quality of life.”

The impact is most noticeable over a period of 10 or more years

The researchers tracked the cognitive abilities of people at three time points: 1996, 2001 and 2006. Just under half (49.4%) of the sample, which was drawn from the patient lists of three occupational health doctors in three different regions in southern France, had worked shifts for at least 50 days of the year. Participants were aged exactly 32, 32, 32 and 32 at the time of the first set of tests, which aimed to assess long- and short-term memory, processing speed and overall cognitive abilities.

In all, 1,197 people were assessed at all three time points. Around one in five of those in work (18.5%) and a similar proportion of those who had retired (17.9%) had worked a shift pattern that rotated between mornings, afternoons and nights.

The first set of analyses looked at whether any abnormal working hours were associated with a decline in cognitive abilities. The data showed that those who currently or who had previously worked shifts had lower scores on memory, processing speed and overall brain power than those who had never worked shifts.

The second set of analyses looked at the impact of working a rotating shift pattern and found that compared with those who had never worked rotating shifts, those who had, and had done so for 10 or more years, had lower global cognitive and memory scores — equivalent to 6.5 years of age-related cognitive decline.

Finally, the researchers looked at whether stopping shift work was linked to a recovery in cognitive abilities. The results indicated that it was possible to regain cognitive abilities after stopping shift work, but that this took at least five years, processing speeds excepted.
Some J-K students are studying in the off-campus centre of a university which could be violating UGC norms.

Validity of degrees can be questioned

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

About 200 students from Jammu and Kashmir pursuing various undergraduate courses under the Prime Minister’s Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) in an off-campus study centre of Mewar University in Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, stand the risk of having the validity of their degrees questioned once they complete their courses.

This study centre, running in contravention of UGC norms and a Supreme Court judgment (Prof. Yashpal case, 2006) banning off-campus study centres for regular courses, is offering degree courses in law, physiotherapy, business administration, bachelor of technology, computer application, biotechnology etc.

A university staff member, requesting anonymity, says, “These students are staying in campus hostels and attending regular classes under the PMSSS. The university has access to the students’ scholarship money (ranging from ₹1.3 lakh to ₹4 lakh for each student depending on the course he/she is pursuing).”

Speaking to this correspondent, one of the students, Mohammad Saifulah, says, “I am in third year law. There are 200 students in the Vasundhara Centre of the university and we are satisfied with our studies.”

When asked if he thought his degree was valid, Saifulah said, “I don’t know. All I know is that this is a UGC-recognised university.”

On being contacted, Ashok Kumar Gadiya, chairperson, Mewar University, denied admitting any student in the Vasundhara centre, adding, “We have about 1200 students from Jammu and Kashmir but all of them are studying in the main campus of the university at Chittorgarh. We are only running an information centre here. Not a single student is studying here,” he said.

A source in the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) confirmed that there were many more private universities which had either opened off-campus study centres in other states or granted affiliation to other institutes. “These private universities have admitted a large number of students and have shifted them to their off-campus centres or other affiliated institutes. In both cases, degrees from such institutes would be invalid. The question is: Why is the UGC quiet about this even when the study centres are playing with the lives of these students?”
पांच मिनट में सूर्य की 1500 तस्वीरें लेगा नासा का रॉकेट
सूर्य के बारे में कई महत्वपूर्ण जानकारियां इकट्ठा करेगा

एजेंसी [वाशिंगटन]

अत्याधुनिक तकनीक से लैस नासा का एक रॉकेट को सूर्य के बारे में गहन जानकारियां इकट्ठा करने के लिए प्रशस्तिप्रद किया जा रहा है। इस रॉकेट में हाई रेज़ोल्यूशन कैमेरे लगाए गए हैं जो पांच मिनट में सूर्य की 1500 तस्वीरें खींचने में सक्षम हैं। रैपिड एक्स्प्रेस इमेजिंग स्पेक्ट्रोग्राफ एक्सपरेंसेट (रेज) अभियान का मकसद सूर्य के सबसे अधिक सक्रिय क्षेत्रों में हर पल होने वाले बदलाव का अध्ययन करना है। खासतौर पर चुंबकीय क्षेत्रों का अध्ययन करना, जहां होने वाले विस्फोटों से लाल व नारंगी रंग की लपटें उठती हैं।

कोलोराडो के साउथवेस्ट रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट से जुड़े वैज्ञानिक डॉन हर्स्टर के अनुसार, ‘हाल के दिनों में सूर्य का अध्ययन करना हमें कुछ रह गया है। कुछ हफ्तों में सूर्य के कई क्षेत्रों पर फ्लायर्स का निर्माण किया और हमारी टीम इन बदलावों का अध्ययन कर रही है।’ असमर्पित सूर्य के किन क्षेत्रों में कितनी आयं उपस्थित हो रही है, इस डायनेमिक्स को बेहतर याद कराने के लिए इस रिसर्च को अधिक रेखांकन दी जाए।

रेज में इस्तेमाल हो रहे रॉकेट में एक नए किस्म के मैटरियल बोरल कार्बाइड से रोटिंग की गई है, जो लाइट को रिफलक्ट करता है और अलग-अलग वेवलैंड में पुष्कर कर देता है। हर्स्टर कहते हैं कि इस किस्म का एक उच्च शांति यान भविष्य के लिए स्थानीय और विश्व शास्त्रीय के लिए यह खोज सकता है। यह पहली ही 2017 के बड़े सौर मिशन के लिए प्लाटफार्म की तरह काम कर रहा है। नासा व यूरोपियन जेस्टर्सेटी 2017 में एक ऐसा रॉकेट प्रेषित करने की तैयारी कर रही हैं, जो सूर्य के काफी करीब जा पाएगा।