Murthy vs Bhagat
IS A MISMATCH

IT'S not clear as to what author Chetan Bhagat has against Infosys founder chairman N R Narayana Murthy. His statement that Murthy runs a body shopping company is astounding to say the least. It is difficult to understand the rationale behind such a comment and at first glance, it looks totally out of place, considering that the stature of the two men hardly match.

It all started when Murthy while giving a speech in New York at the 'Pan IT Summit' mentioned that the standard of students entering IITs had dropped. He attributed this to the kind of coaching classes taken up by IIT aspirants. Murthy's comments caught the fancy of everyone in his own firm, but his comments failed to impress Bhagat.

But somehow, this did not go down well with Bhagat, who is an author popular in some quarters but widely criticized by the elite class of writers. His first book 5 Point Someone was a best seller and his other works like One Night at the Call Centre and The 3 Mistakes of My Life did good business too. And he is an IITian. That's a good setting alright, but what does he have against Murthy?

For years, people who had an axe to grind with Murthy have used the term 'body shopping' to describe IT work. Wikipedia describes body shopping as the practice of consultancies and firms recruiting information technology workers in order to contract their services out on short-term basis.

"Body shopping is disparaged by those IT services companies in India that assert that they provide real services (such as software development) rather than the 'sham' of merely forming out professionals to overseas companies," Wikipedia states.

It's a flavour term with some Americans to describe the kind of work that Indian IT services companies do. IT chiefs have always failed the use of that term, and unless someone is a huge fan of the Indian IT industry, no one puts it on the table. But Chetan Bhagat has.

Now let us look at some of the facts. The Indian IT services industry is worth 100 billion and carries with it the hopes of thousands of middle class IT workers. It is an industry which has single-handedly uplifted the fortunes of the aspirational youngsters, making him a globe trotting individual confident of his stride. Narayana Murthy is in many ways the father of the Indian IT industry who perfected the global delivery model. To him goes the credit for building up an industry from scratch and making it profitable.

In short, it was Murthy along with V R Subramaniam and the TCS leadership team, who put India on the global corporate map on a scale that threatened advanced economies. It was with the advent of IT that Corporate India could, arguably for the first time, compete on a global stage and win on a consistent basis.

To criticize and put down an industry which has offered handsome jobs to lakhs of people does not look a fair act. Chetan Bhagat must be having his own points of view, but he has probably overreacted. And he need not have taken personally a comment on IITs.

Earlier this year minister Jalal Ramnesh was put in a corner for his comments on the quality of IIT faculty. He had said that IITs are good because of the quality of the students and not that of the faculty. This had caused a furor at the time, with the faculty reacting strongly.

But Bhagat's comments have probably overshadowed that incident. His comments mirror what Ramnesh had to say about the students. It is clear that he does not believe that the quality of students has fallen. But he could have put his point across in a much more subtle fashion. But a controversy always gets headlines, doesn't it?

B'HAGAT MUST BE HAVING HIS OWN POINTS OF VIEW, BUT HE HAS PROBABLY OVER REACTED, AND HE NEED NOT HAVE TAKEN PERSONALLY A COMMENT ON IIT'S

DECODE
Darlington
Join Hector

Financial Express, ND 10/10/2011
IITs must reinvent for the future

Exactly six decades after the first IIT opened at Kharagpur in 1951, an apt debate is currently raging on the quality of students who graduate from these premier institutions. Too busy acquiring skills necessary to man the nascent heavy industries that were to be established in the 1960s and 1970s, young engineers of that era had little time to develop elitist pretensions. The genesis of an entirely misplaced sense of runaway superiority came about much later as the urge to acquire 'Brand IIT' overtook the desire to imbibe key engineering and technical skills. This also coincided with the era of coaching classes that catered to a frenzied fan following of sorts perpetuated by students desperate to walk through IIT's lofty portals.

The IITian then sought fresh pastures in the burgeoning MBA stream and secured himself a place in the premium banking and financial sectors. Our protagonist effortlessly stepped into the nuances of analytical decision making, within a complex matrix and soon found himself a place on the boards of top companies.

The advent of IT saw the IITian learn the ropes of the new trade and soon enough he was leading the US software space. And before you knew it, the IITian had tapped into his entrepreneurial genius and started new ventures in Silicon Valley and elsewhere.

Eventually, the global IT axis shifted to India and today this nation is on the threshold of inheriting the mantle of the pioneer in the IT industry. If we have to retain a distinguished leadership, we too must possess the wherewithal to groom extraordinary human resource and provide a rich petri dish that will cultivate and nurture human genius.

This is where the observations of Infosys Chairman N Narayana Murthy become relevant. We do need premier institutions to lead us to newer horizons, to expand and conquer. And the worn pathways leading up to the portals of tall institutions will not take us to new destinations. Noted author and IITian Chetan Bhagat, who extols the enviable role the IITs continue to play in the global business district, should acknowledge that we now need to scale up our institutions and their aspirants to meet the demands of the future. In other words, it is time to reinvent the IITs and take them to an all new level.

R Narayan
Ghaziabad
Has Murthy invested in coaching centre?

FC reader points to Catamaran’s ‘for-profit’ investment in education

I APPRECIATE the validity of the argument you have made in your article, Why don’t we have a Steve Jobs? (FC Weekend, Page 17) I wonder, however, why Financial Chronicle and other media organisations have not reported the obvious hypocrisy of NR Narayana Murthy’s criticism of the scholarly quality of IIT entrants.

While blaming coaching classes for the decline in quality of IIT entrants, Murthy omitted to tell his audience that he himself has significant investment in the lucrative IIT test preparation business.

Catamaran, Murthy’s private equity firm, has invested Rs 2.5 crore in ACE, a Bangalore-based test preparation firm that offers training for IITJEE, AIEEE, PMPD, CBSE-11 and 12, CET, Foundation IIT and NTSE. There are more instances of Murthy’s degeneration into a con artist that have not been highlighted by the media.

Catamaran has made very large investments in Manipal Universal Learning. Such an investment amounts to a for-profit private equity firm finding a back-door entry into educational institutions.

They use or set up a private, for-profit company and a non-profit trust or society. The former extracts private profits from the trust/society, which runs the educational institution, in a manner that invariably results in breaking of laws governing non-profit trusts/societies and income tax, and regulations governing educational institutions, such as charging of fees.

Catamaran has invested in Wellspring, a private healthcare provider and yet Murthy has assumed the chairmanship of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a public-private partnership (PPP) that influences government policy on health care and medical education. PHFI’s public health schools are unrecognised, unaccredited and yet have been receiving crores of rupees in grants and free parcels of land from central and state governments.

Kapil Bajaj
New Delhi
Mumbai: "They want to sell soaps, not become engineers." This is IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Baru’s observation of students who often make it to IITs after long years of cramming, even when their aptitude is suspect. "Many of them are not even interested in engineering," he says, an assessment borne out by where they eventually land up. Placement numbers that show over 50% graduates join managerial positions in consultancy firms, FMCG companies and the finance sector.

There was a time when the IITs prided themselves in managing to draw the best from all corners of the country. But many now say the JEE has lost its mojo.

The gates that lead to an Indian Institute of Technology are narrow. One needs to elbow out at least 30 other IIT hopefuls to get beyond the entry point. It’s carnage. And it’s this that stokes the coaching industry. Few take the risk of not going through a gruellingly long training.

This year, of the 13,195 who qualified for the IITs, two-thirds said they took professional help to prepare for the entrance — the Joint Entrance Exam.

In fact, some directors believe that this number is a conservative estimate and students who take coaching and join is much larger.

Analysis of JEE 2011 shows that of the 4.68 lakh candidates who appeared, 86,719 (18.5%) had completed schooling in an Indian village. Another 1.35 lakh (28.9%) schooled in towns and 2.46 lakh (52.55%) in cities. The success rate was the lowest for those who schooled in villages (9.84%); 25.12% of those from towns and 65.03% from cities made it to the IITs. Guwahati zone showed the largest percentage of candidates with schooling in villages while the Delhi zone had the largest success percentage from cities.

Most of those who made it were from CBSE schools, followed by those from state boards. Out of the 13,196 qualified candidates, 543 were from ICSE (4.11%), 7,396 from CBSE (56%), and 5,195 from state board (39.4%). In JEE 2010, among the qualified candidates 57.93% were from CBSE, 36% from state boards and 5.54% from ICSE.
Not so higher
India’s higher education system needs better leadership

All global rankings are fraught. Much depends on the methodology used and assumptions made. Several world rankings put out by western outfits are based on western concepts that privilege them. Thus, it is not surprising that so many western institutions dominate the global top 200 universities worldwide. To take an example, the assessment of ‘quality of research,’ the citations index used and the definition of ‘international outlook’ of staff, students and research has a pro-western bias. It is not surprising that an analysis undertaken by UK’s Times Higher Education would list 75 universities from the US and 32 from Britain in the top 200! The question could be raised why these countries are not doing as well as they used to despite having so many good institutions and how come China, Brazil and India are doing so much better with so few ‘world class’ educational institutions at the top. The question can also be asked if these lists are made to promote western, especially US and UK, institutions as destinations for bright young Asian students who are increasingly able to pay their way into high cost western institutions. Having entered all these caveats, it must still be recognized that the non-inclusion of a single Indian institution of higher learning – a university, an IIT or an IIM or other centres of higher education – in the world’s top 200 institutions is a ringing indictment of the quality of higher education in India.

The quantitative growth of higher education in India, witnessed over the past decade – with more institutions, more seats, more posts and, above all, more funding, has not translated into equal qualitative development. This despite the fact that India’s equally poorly run schooling system produces hundreds of thousands of world class pupils every year and many of them go to the best institutions worldwide and do shine. Clearly, India’s higher education needs a fix. It faces a huge leadership deficit with institutions unable to translate higher outlays into better outcomes. The deficit in leadership begins at the very top. For a prime minister who spent a part of his career as a university teacher and also chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Manmohan Singh has not paid enough attention to improving the quality of leadership in higher education in India. He has increased public funding for education, legislated the Right to Education and facilitated increased private investment. A bill to allow foreign investment awaits parliamentary approval. But Dr Singh has shied away from being pro-active in improving the quality of political and administrative leadership in higher education. India has been damned by a succession of ideologically oriented or plain bureaucratic leadership in higher education. Seven years of Murali Manohar Joshi were followed by five years of the late Arjun Singh. Regrettably, incumbent Kapil Sibal has not been able to reverse the damage inflicted by them on the ministry, the UGC and the institutions. For nearly a year now Mr Sibal has doubled up as telecom minister and political firefighter, further neglecting his main turf. India desperately needs better academic, administrative and political leadership in higher education.
IIT-Kharagpur alumnus in US develops genNext chip

LALIT K JHA
Press Trust of India

INDIAN-AMERICAN Raj Dutt, an IIT-Kharagpur alumnus, has developed a next-generation energy-efficient computer chip that has caught the attention of the Pentagon, which is testing its application in the ambitious F-35 joint strike fighters.

The breakthrough technology by Dutt, Chairman and CEO of privately-held APIC Corp and Photonic Corp, helps computer processors consume up to 90 per cent less energy and run up to 60 per cent faster. "The significance of the technology is that information transfer on the semiconductor chip as well as between components, will now be done using light — photons, instead of just electrons (electronics)," California-based Dutt told PTI.

There are many advantages in size, weight and especially power consumed, he explained during his recent trip to Washington, where he met Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Photons do not generate heat, thus they do not need to be cooled. For electronics, cooling is one of the largest cost components. "Photonic interconnects do not generate heat and use less size than electronic copper interconnects, so more transistors can be put onto a chip. Most significantly, we have figured out how to do this using the same economical process used in manufacturing semiconductor chips today, enabling them to be stamped out by the millions," Dutt said.

There are several benefits to the computer and defence industry, Dutt said. "First, for military platforms there are tremendous savings in size, weight and power required, while it simultaneously brings much more capability in bandwidth, processing power and speed," he said.
AT A GLANCE

Operations Continuum 2011 organised at SJMSOM, IIT Bombay
Operations Continuum, the rolling seminar series of the Shailesh J Mehta School of Management, IIT Bombay, was recently inaugurated by Prof Karuna Jain, HoD, SJMSOM. The theme of Operations Continuum 2011 was “Strategies for a Glocal Supply Chain”. Vikas Anand, COO,

DHL Supply Chain, spoke on “GST—Impact on Indian Supply Chain”. The next speaker was R Balaji, VP (Procurements & Contracts), RIL, who spoke on “SCM Challenges—Oil & Gas Industry in India”. Then, Tarun Mishra, Founder Director, Covacsis, gave an open talk on operations and SCM. Sukanta Padhy, Head Global Supply Chain, Alliance Tire Group, spoke on “Managing Risk in a Global Supply Chain”. Lastly, Dharmendra Gangrade, Head, Logistics, Pidilite Industries Ltd, spoke on “Supply Chain Collaboration”.

Building Indo-US Ties Through Education

The United States Education Trade Mission to India seeks to partner US and Indian schools.

As I lead the first-ever US Department of Commerce Education Trade Mission to India this week, I am excited about the prospects of connecting Indian students to the 21 US colleges and universities with me on the mission. This trade mission will serve to strengthen US-India ties through increased trade and education, by helping develop skills and by enhancing career prospects of Indian students. Our mission will further strengthen the foundation of our already strong economic and commercial ties.

The United States is no stranger to Indian students and professionals. In 2019, more than half of all Indian students studying overseas chose US universities. India is now the second largest source of students coming to study in the US, with a total student population of nearly 105,000 in 2019, and Indian students represent 15 percent of all international students in US universities.

I am confident that US-India education trade will continue to grow to the mutual benefit of both our countries. Indian graduates of US higher education institutions have become CEOs of major banks, doctors at major hospitals and engineers and played major roles in inventing new technologies. Many others have started well-known high technology companies in the US.

As a native of India, and having a family which has been educated in both countries, I understand the importance that Indian students, professionals and parents place on higher education. A multicultural education helps build careers, improves standards of living and provides knowledge-seekers with an edge in today's competitive global economy.

US President Barack Obama's visit to India last year, and his and Prime Minister Singh's goal to advance the US-India education partnership are indicators of our strong commitment to promoting mutual educational and economic cooperation. Our 21 member delegation will participate in student recruitment fairs in New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai, and meet Indian universities, private high schools, and Indian businesses - and their students and business professionals. This will be of great help to prospective Indian students in exploring the accredited academic curriculums of all 21 US schools at a single venue.

The government of India aims to increase gross enrollment of high school graduates in higher education to 30% by 2020, almost tripling the present enrollment from 14 million to 40 million. Presently, the Indian population in the relevant age group enrolled in a higher education course is more than that of Europe, USA, and Australia combined. Higher education is an integral part of the strategic partnership between the US and India because of its impact on fostering collaboration on today's critical issues.

The US continues to invest in its strategic partnership with India. US Embassy consulates staffing increased by 30% in the last five years; more than $100 million has been invested in upgrading and expanding US consular facilities in India; the US opened a Consulate General in Hyderabad in 2009, and plans are underway to open a new consulate in Mumbai. A streamlined US visa process and availability of generous financial aid offered by many US schools, especially to researchers and doctoral students, are added attractions.

The US Commercial Service, in addition to organizing this trade mission, continues to work with more than 200 Indian schools, as well as partners such as the US-India Education Foundation (USIEF) to link Indian students to US academia. The US Commercial Service has a more extensive network of trade professionals in India, with presence in six cities, than in any other country. India is a priority market under the President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI), which not only has the goal of doubling overall US exports by the end of 2014, but also of contributing to the economies of key US trading partners.

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A right step forward

In higher education, the US and India can complement each other

This initiative goes to the heart of the one resource most necessary to increase bandwidth: creative, competent faculty. An area of higher education in which the US excels.

However, the initiative, funded jointly at only $10 million, cannot hope to fill the faculty gap.

Likewise, India's foreign education Bill, which was floated two years ago, was hailed by some as providing the means for increasing India's educational bandwidth by legitimising US and other foreign institutions' involvement in higher education. But disappointingly, the Bill is yet to become an Act.

In reality, the US's support for the proposed Bill was based on a misconception that it would facilitate US institutional participation in Indian higher education. Actually, the proposed Bill was designed to regulate foreign participation. The theory of the proposed legislation was that many Indians were being defrauded by foreign providers and deserved protection and recourse.

If passed, the Bill could have restricted not just the branch campuses, but also the widest possible array of existing exchange and joint programmes.

The Indian vision of increased higher educational bandwidth, in India for Indians as well as for Americans, is the right vision. However, this vision cannot come about unless there is a sound economic basis for its implementation. This does not mean commercialisation of which many Indian commentators have expressed concern. It means that there must be development and recognition of legitimate business models.

Advancing these US-India higher education business models should be a primary focus of the summit. Such models would include outlines of organisational structures, tax and regulatory requirements, and mutually beneficial capital flows. They would enable US institutions to participate confidently in the development of India's higher education system. Without the development of a common vision that provides confidence to US and Indian institutions, US-India higher education cooperation will never achieve its full potential.

Increasing India's educational bandwidth while providing benefits to US institutions is a vision that could produce dividends for both. The summit is an opportunity to develop and implement this vision.

Raymond Vickery is senior director of Albright Stonebridge Group, Of Council at Hogan Lovells, and former US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade and Development.

Karl F. Inderfurth holds the Wadawni Chair for US-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and is a former US assistant secretary of state for South Asia affairs.

The views expressed by the authors are personal.
New vocational policy to allow easy entry, exit

IN EDUCATION If implemented, students will be able to get graduation degree while they work

NEW DELHI: The HRD ministry is working on a new vocational education framework that will allow students to get graduation level degree with easy entry and exit provisions enabling education with work.

The ministry had unveiled the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF), seeking to create a pool of skilled workforce for the country through a national vocational university having regional centres to implement the programme.

In it, the All India Council for Technical Education has identified seven certification levels of knowledge and skill with first four levels equivalent to class IX to XII of school education. These levels will be attained through Central Board for Secondary Education schools or schools affiliated to state boards, a ministry's statement said.

The three and five levels would of the college and university and those completing all seven levels will get a degree in vocational education.

In each level, a student will have to complete 1,000 hours of education and training every year.

"The skill modules or the vocational content at a certification level could be a single skill or a group of skills of the no of hours prescribed," the statement said.

The students will have freedom to choose either from a vocational or a conventional stream to reach graduation level. It has also been proposed that a student will have freedom to move from vocational stream to current formal higher education stream or vice versa at various stages.

"The multi-level entry and exit system shall allow a student to seek employment after any level and flexibility to rejoin the education as and when feasible to upgrade qualification or skill competency," the ministry said.

The proposed system, which will become operational from 2012, seeks to establish a National Vocational Education and Training Institute to supplement the role of the proposed university.

The university will decide the free structure, monitor knowledge delivery and evaluation methodologies of training providers.

Through this programme the government aims to empower 200 million students, including dropouts by 2011 and to secure career opportunities to about 150 million students who may not have access to higher education by 2020.
PC chip that saves energy, is 60% faster

Washington: Indian-American Raj Dutt, an IIT-Kharagpur alumnus, has developed a next-generation energy-efficient computer chip that has caught the attention of the Pentagon, which is testing its application in the ambitious F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

The breakthrough technology by Dutt, chairman and CEO of privately-held APIC Corp and Photonic Corp, helps computer processors consume up to 90% less energy and run up to 60% faster.

"The significance of the technology is that information transfer on the semiconductor chip as well as between components, will now be done using light — photons — instead of just electrons (electronics)," Dutt said.

There are many advantages in size, weight and especially power consumed, he explained during his recent trip to Washington. Photons do not generate heat, thus they do not need to be cooled. For electronics, cooling is one of the largest cost components.

"Photonic interconnects do not generate heat and use less size than electronic copper interconnects, so more transistors can be put onto a chip. Most significantly, we have figured out how to do this using the same economical process used in manufacturing semiconductor chips today, enabling them to be stamped out by the millions," Dutt said. Well aware with the potential of the computer chip, the US Department of Defence is fully supporting Dutt and his company. The Pentagon is testing the chip's application in the ambitious F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

There are several benefits to the computer and defence industry, Dutt said. "First, for military platforms there are tremendous savings in size, weight and power required, while it simultaneously brings much more capability in bandwidth, processing power and speed," he said. Now, tens or even hundreds of separate signals (frequencies) can be passed through a single fiber optic cable less than a 10th of the diameter of a human hair, rather than one signal through a copper cable, he said. pn
Pentagon to test Indian’s next-gen chip

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 9

RAJ DUTT, an Indian-American, IIT-Kharagpur alumnus, has developed a next-generation energy-efficient computer chip that has caught the attention of the Pentagon, which is testing its application in the ambitious F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

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Aakash production cost less than $35, Govt buying at $49

NEW DELHI: A dream project of the Government, the 'world's cheapest tablet PC', Aakash, is being produced at less than $35 (approximately ₹1,750) per unit, but the replacement warranty attached to it has led to an increase in its price by about $14 to $49.98 per piece.

"The Government has asked for a special replacement warranty. Government has asked us not to to repair it (Aakash Tablet)... You will have to replace it... Which is a big cost," Suneet Singh Tuli, the CEO of Datawind, the company manufacturing the tablet, told the news agency.

Tuli further explained that the ratio of defects in any device sold in India is higher when compared to America because of the harsh climatic conditions here.

"Those kind of costs add to it. This (Aakash) is Rs 2,200... It can be ₹1,700. Actual manufacturing cost still is less than ₹1,750. But there are all these other conditions which take it above ₹1,750," he said.

On July 22, 2010, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had unveiled a prototype of the device and announced that it would be developed for use at around $35 per unit.

To ensure complete transparency and level playing-field, the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) decided to task IIT Rajasthan, Jodhpur, with the job of procuring and testing these devices, based on the design and specifications that the mission's team had finalised.

IIT Jodhpur had floated tenders and the lowest bidder quoted an ex-factory price of $37.98, which was close to the cost mentioned by the minister.

This cost comprised components and material, as well as manufacturing expenses. The final landed price of $49.98 (₹2,276) per unit included taxes, levies, and charges like freight and insurance, servicing and documentation, etc.

Tuli said people have been challenging the development of such a low-cost device, but by selling this device to the Government, Datawind is making enough profits, which even allows him to donate 10 per cent of the total profit to charity.

Tuli said that over-and-above the production cost, Datawind pays almost 20 per cent as taxes, which add to the cost of the device.

"If we bring it after making in China, then there would have been no issues, because it's exempted from duties. I would have not been required to pay 4 per cent VAT (value added tax). Getting it from China and selling in India would have not make it exciting. Therefore, we made it at Hyderabad," Tuli said. He said that company will sell the commercial version of Aakash in the market for Rs 2,999, which -- unlike the government's Aakash tablet with a 1-year replacement warranty -- will carry only a 30-day replacement warranty.

Tuli has said that he will sell the Government Aakash tablets for ₹1,750 if the Government orders 10 lakh units. At present, Datawind has an order for supplying 1 lakh units to the Government.

The Government is buying the tablets for ₹2,276 per unit and giving them to education institutes at a 50 per cent subsidy.
Indian Group’s London B-School Shuts Shop

TASMAC’s sudden closure leaves 550 students in a lurch

SUDESHNA SEN & GOURI AGTEY ATRALE
LONDON | PUNE

When students and staff of TASMAC London School of Business, run by Pune-based TASMAC group, showed up on campus on Friday morning, they were expecting their first semester results. Instead they found themselves locked out and bailiffs and lawyers in possession of the property.

A terse message in their inboxes said TASMAC London had ceased operations because of a change in UK visa regulations. “We regret to inform you that TASMAC London has had to cease its operations with immediate effect. Almost all of TASMAC London students originate from non-European Union countries and they need visas to study at the school. The United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA) has drastically changed its regulations and this has impacted TASMAC London badly; as a consequence, TASMAC London cannot continue to run its operations any longer,”

The last time the UKBA changed its rules was in April 2011.

Not surprisingly, students and employees are livid. Over 550 students are still to finish their course, and staff have been suddenly rendered unemployed. Students, who had paid up their full fees for an MBA from the University of Wales in TASMAC London, suddenly find themselves in a limbo, their visa status in question, and no clarity on their future.

The Pune-based company runs three business schools in India in Pune, Bangalore and Kolkata, and lists names like Lila Poonawala and PC Shejwalkar of Pune University on its board of advisors. Sameer Dua, joint managing director, TASMAC India and TASMAC London, told ET that the London operations had to be closed after an attempt to induct an investor failed. “We were working towards hiving off the TASMAC London institutes, for which we signed an MoU with this large Indian institute which wanted a UK presence.

In the first week of June, they carried out a due diligence and after they saw the impact of the changed UKBA regulations and how they affect the sustainability of operations, they developed cold feet and told us they would not be able to go through. That was in the last week of September after which we informed the liquidators, who have begun the process."

Dua insisted students will be placed in institutes affiliated with the University of Wales. “On Monday a meeting will be held among the 550 students who have still to complete their course, the University of Wales and their affiliated institutes who will take in these students.”

TASMAC, in London and in India, offers courses validated by the University of Wales.

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Students Distraught, Faculty Livid

The university will transfer the students to other courses, as well as arrange institutes to take over as visa sponsors, according to the notification issued to the students. In response to a query, the UKBA press office pointed out that the guidelines say students who change education sponsors midway will have to re-apply for their visas, but can stay and start their new course before the application is processed.

The new institute has an HEIs status. It is not yet clear which institutes the students will be sent to.

The prospects of students being transferred to other institutes is no solace, since they have no idea which institutes are likely to accept them or what will happen to the fees they have paid up front, or where these institutes are located.

Unsurprisingly, the students are distraught. Satish Gupta, who mortgaged his home and gave up a job in Bangalore to pay the over £5,000 fees to get his MBA, is desperate: “The directors have all just disappeared. We can’t reach them. Now, we don’t know what to do.”

Till Sunday midday, there was no communication from the directors on the school’s website or social networking sites, and students say anguished emails went unanswered.

Kailash Deoli from Dehra Dun asks, “We’re told another institute is going to take us – but what if that also closes down? We don’t know what will happen to us.”
How the dismal science stopped being dismal

BOOK REVIEW
JUSTIN FOX

Liston to the economic deniers of the past couple of decades, it is easy to conclude that no progress has been made in understanding the science of a century. There’s John Maynard Keynes on the one side, arguing for deficit spending to offset the malaise of the Great Depression. On the other side, there’s Ludwig von Mises (his follower Friedrich Hayek was number two in the role), denouncing all government intervention in the economy as desirable. Keynes and Mises are of course both long dead. But it is the resilience of their ideas that makes studying the history of economics so rewarding for non-economists. As a rule, economists don’t know much about history. Economists like these, though, were not immune to this bit of historical fiction about the 20th-century economic issues with about as much authority and credibility as the uninterested experts. This is one explanation for the continuing popularity of Robert L. Heilbroner’s book The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times, and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers. Another is that a book makes it easy to understand, or at least fall back on the Heilbroner update. For one thing, it doesn’t make much chronological headway: the postwar giants Paul Samuelson and Milton Friedman get a few pages, as does the philosopher and development economist Amartya Sen, who still alive and writing books. But the major developments of postwar economics are for the most part glossed over. The chapter on Keynes, for example, is just a few pages thick. At the core of Keynes’s narrative is an account in an econometrically troubled decade between the two world wars, as told through the experiences of Keynes, Irving Fisher, and Schumpeter and Hayek. The least well known of this list is Fisher, a Yale professor best remembered today for his brilliance in 1929 that stock prices were perceived on a “permanent high plateau”. He was also the founder of modern monetary economics (his Affluent society includes Milton Friedman and Ben Bernanke) and a top talent for a successful entrepreneur (the invented and commercialized a new type of “the Roald”). Fisher believed that the markets were prone to overreact, and that the government could do more to participate in the economy than just business cycles. Keynes, himself a successful speculator and investor, held similar beliefs but also saw the moral issues at play in the government’s role. When it came to their war in the early 1930s—Schumpeter to Harvard, Hayek to the London School of Economics—they had become methodically critical of the notion that politicians could easily influence economic outcomes. But they weren’t so sure that economics would stop being dismal.

FE Labs

Power-packed study: Turning cloth into a body sensor

Even bothered by clingy clothes charged with static electricity. Most people would be thankful that it’s a temporary phenomena, but that is no longer the case for a group of researchers from the Indian Institutes of Technology at Bombay and Hyderabad. They have created an intelligent textile sensor by tweaking the yarn’s manufacturing process, so that it retains both static and static cling permanently. The first of its kind textile, they say, could potentially be fashioned into clothing that could measure a pulse artery or ECG or EOG or EEG or EKG, and could conduct electricity. Static electricity induces synthetic textiles to go into a temporary unstable state, allowing them to conduct electricity. “It becomes like a metal, which is basically in the form of a textile,” says Karanachandani, a researcher at IIT Bombay’s SPANN lab. Karanachandani’s paper on “Thermally unstable intelligent polymer textile biosensors” was published in the journal Sensors and Actuators in February. He co-authored the paper with fellow SPANN researcher H Mustafa, the head of IIT Bombay’s SPANN lab, and a professor at IIT Hyderabad.

The researchers used a retardant they had developed to arrest the manufacturing process of the polymer at a particular stage, so that it remains in an unstable state permanently. “When we look at the manufacturing process, the textile eventually settles down at a stage where it is stable,” says Karanachandani. The retardant, a synthetic textile material, which has the properties of the textile, like it looks and feels like a cloth, and it also has properties of a retardant material. “This gives the substance a threshold that acts like a gate,” says Karanachandani. “So, it can be modelled as a transistor, having the processing ability of a ‘yes’ or a ‘no’. That is what we are exploring currently,” says

Researcher say the idea of exploring the ‘thermally unstable partially oriented yarn’ (tUPOY) sensor could behave like a transistor is still an early thought.

Karanachandani. A transistor, which helps amplify and switch electronic signals, is the basic ingredient in most electronic devices. When they first manufactured the ‘thermally unstable partially oriented yarn’, or tUPOY, the team tested it as a sensor in an ongoing project in the field of body area networks for continuous monitoring of diseases. It was tested on around 5,000 people in a project conducted jointly with Babana Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, with the sensor in the form of a patch that was pressed against their bodies. Body area networks pertain to wearable computing devices that allow wireless communication.

“Based on the two substrates and the fact that we have a classified fibre at the radial phase fibre, we could control different kinds of wave forms, which could be used in vibrational diseases such as heart failure,” says Karanachandani. In explaining that a movement of electrons takes place in the lattice of the unstable material when any external energy or a pulse rate strikes it as the material tries to reach the stable state that was projected from the measured panel data.

“The retardant, on the other hand, will oppose the reaching of that state. So, now this energy is basically correlated to the waveforms. But using the tUPOY sensor, the study consistently monitored the vital signs of the subjects with a healthcare provider had they sign up,” says researchers. Each waveform striking the sensor will create a particular amount of energy and the researchers have observed eight different patterns in the body. “When, for example, 250 joules is created from a particular subject, we know the heart rate and heart energy that correlates to that,” says Karanachandani. “So, that helps us with the calibration.” The researchers say their case study for the radial pulse analyser can be replicated for any of the other waveforms of the human body and can possibly be used in different applications. Developing an application might still be some way off, however, “This is very nascent. You are creating a fabric which has transmit capabilities. A lot of research will be required to create an application,” said UB Desai, director of IIT Hyderabad and one of the co-authors of the knowledge is concerned, it is always the first of its kind.

“Even though exploring whether the tUPOY sensor could behave like a transistor is still an early thought. Unlike organic polymers, textile sensors eliminate the need for carbon nano tubes as actuators and are more stable and durable, researchers say, adding that emerging from the tUPOY sensor and body heat could serve as a power source in applications, such as body area networks. They also report that their sensor may be suitable for logic applications, as it overcomes the limitations of carbon nanotubes and graphene by setting its own inherent threshold.

Karanachandani

Ajit Sukumaran
School education must be made stronger

CV Kalyan Kumar

RECENTLY the co-founder of Infosys, NR Narayana Murthy, said that the quality of education in the IITs is getting worse. Why were the students coming out of IITs a decade ago better than the current lot? Because the selection process then was more rigorous, the questions were more into analysing a student's thinking skills and IQ. The questions were of subjective nature that helps in two ways: (1) No student can guess the answer or use shortcuts to arrive at the answer, and (2) a student's thought process can be analysed by seeing his/her solution. Even if a student makes a silly mistake, marks could still be awarded for the approach and the technique used. In the current system of objective-based testing, the level of questions has gone down and if a student makes one small error he/she is penalised with negative marks. And the new concept of doing away with a subject-based entrance test for IITs and basing it all on school percentage will further bring down the quality of students.

Coaching institutes are not responsible for the poor quality of students. If the selection process were tough, rigorous and foolproof, how can coaching institutes enable an unintelligent student to succeed? And if coaching has to be curbed then school education must be made stronger. If schools fail to do their job there will always be someone waiting to fill the void.

*The writer is director, FIITJEE*
Booming economy: India Inc expats’ hiring up 20% this year

Mumbai: With hiring activities in most Western economies in deep freeze, more and more foreigners, mostly from the US and Europe, are looking at India for jobs, a trend that has resulted in an up to 20% jump in expat hiring this year, according to headhunters.

According to industry estimates, there are more than 10,000 expats employed in various industries across the country.

“Hiring of expats has picked up by 15-20% in the last six months,” said a top executive at a leading executive search firm. “While the number of roles is not 20% higher, the demand for expat candidates has definitely increased.”

An increasing number of expats are looking for jobs in the country, especially in sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare.

Interestingly, a number of Indian companies, particularly those in the IT sector, are also looking to hire expats to fill positions that are difficult to fill with locals.

However, the attraction of expat jobs is not just about salaries. It’s also about the quality of living and the opportunities for personal growth.

According to a leading executive search firm, the number of Indian companies hiring expats has increased by 20% in the last six months, with the top roles being in the IT, pharmaceutical, and healthcare sectors.

Indians to build world’s largest fridge for reactor

New Delhi: Indian scientists and engineers will fabricate the world’s largest high-vacuum cold storage vessel for a ambitious international project to generate energy from the sun. The vessel, called the cryostat, will be home to the international thermonuclear experimental reactor, the largest and most advanced facility of its kind being built in Cadarache, France.

Scientists and engineers at the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar will manufacture this mammoth cryostat in segments at a cost of 100 million euros and ship it to France for being assembled at the site. India is part of a seven nation consortium that is building the fusion reactor designed to produce 500 MW of output with a power input of 50 MW. ITER-India Project, a part of the IPR — an autonomous unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, will make the ‘in-kind’ contributions that form India’s share to the ITER project.

The procurement arrangement for the cryostat was signed recently by ITER-India.
Gamma-ray bursts may end life on Earth

London: Gamma-ray bursts, massive explosions on the other side of the galaxy, could end life on Earth, say planetary scientists.

A new theory claims that the explosions, thought to occur when two stars collide, release tons of high-energy gamma-ray radiation into space, finally leading to the end of life on planet Earth.

The scientists have already found that such blasts are contributing to the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer. Now, they are beginning to connect the timing of these gamma-ray bursts to extinctions on Earth that can be dated through the fossil record.

“We find that a kind of gamma-ray burst — a short gamma-ray burst — is probably more significant than a longer gamma-ray burst,” lead researcher Brian Thomas of Washburn University said. He added: “The duration is not as important as the amount of radiation.”

It is thought to be the first time scientists have connected the timing of gamma-ray bursts to extinctions on Earth. There are two types of gamma-ray bursts — a longer, brighter burst and a “short-hard” burst, which lasts less than a second but seems to give off more radiation than a longer burst.

If a burst were to happen inside Milky Way, its effects on Earth would be much longer lasting. The researchers estimated such collisions happen about once every 100 million years in a galaxy.

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David Naylor, president, University of Toronto, launched the India Innovation Institute on October 5 at the Munk School of Global Affairs, Trinity College. The institute is a multidisciplinary hub for learners.
स्थानीय उद्योगों से बेहतर संबंध पर है हमारा जोर

2008 में शुरू हुए यहाँ पंजीकृत विभागों में से एक है हैदराबाद का भारतीय प्रशासन का संबंध (आईआईटी)। शहर से लगभग 45 किलोमीटर दूर मेडक की आदिवासियों के परिसर से नगम चलते हुए संयुक्त संघ के लिए 860 एकड़ के स्थानीय परिसर का नियामक 2013 तक पूरा हो जाने की उम्मीद है। प्रस्तुत है संयुक्त संघ के निदेशालय प्रशासन उद्योग देश के साथ रामकृष्णा की साझेदारी:

यह आईआईटी के प्रमुख के खाते संस्थान के लिए आवश्यक चरण थे? हमारा स्थान सहित की आवश्यकता होती हैं और इसके कारण अधिकांश इन्स्टीट्यूटों के बचत का शास्त्रों में हमारा स्थान है। हम गहरे पूर्व दृश्य लेकर लगभग 20,000 छात्रों का लघु लेखन विभाग बनाए हैं। इन्हें हम से आपसियों के छात्रों को आपके बचत और स्थानीय परिसरों के कारण देखने में सहायता करने वाली विभागों में लगभग 7000-8000 छात्रों के लिए शुरू किए हैं।

आप आईआईटी के महत्व का बिल्लियों के नाम पर छात्रों का विषय देखने हैं? जैसा पिछले मौके में कहा था कि आईआईटी समाज में दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण दृष्टि से आदिवासी अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए कार्यवाहक लोगों की जागरूकता को पूरा करने की मिशन है।

अब समय आ गया कि हम सुदर बीची संपत्ति के विकास के लिए जागरूक कर दें। देश भर के आईआईटी संयुक्तों में ऐसी समस्या है जो ज्ञात है। हमारे पास सीधे और साधारण जो ज्ञात है इन अंडरवॅर्क के विकास के लिए जागरूक कर दें। लेकिन इस बात को भी नकारना जा सकता है कि अर्थव्यवस्था में कार्यवाहक लोगों की जागरूकता जो भी पूरा करना भी हमारी निर्देशन है। देश में सक्षम लोगों को बढ़ावा देना है। इसलिए इस पर भी नकारना जा सकता है कि अर्थव्यवस्था में कार्यवाहक लोगों की जागरूकता को भी पूरा करना भी हमारी निर्देशन है। देश में विकास लोगों को 'बढ़ावा' देना है। इसके लिए हम 20,000 छात्रों का बचत कर रहे हैं। हम एक नया प्रशिक्षण पूरा करने के लिए जागरूक कर दें।

विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ विश्व विद्यालयों की उद्योगों के संबंध में अगर की सीमा निर्माण की गई है। इससे स्थानीय उद्योगों के संबंध में अगर की सीमा निर्माण की जा सकती है। इस विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ विश्व विद्यालयों की उद्योगों के संबंध में अगर की सीमा निर्माण की जा सकती है।

बाहर आईआईटी में शिक्षन के गुणवाला एक मुदा है? यह विशेष शारीरिक शरीर तो नहीं है। इसके लिए हम बहुत सतर्क प्रयास कर चुके हैं। दो सालों के दौरान मैंने चाहा कि वो चाहिए कि बाहर आईआईटी में शिक्षाकार एक हो। हम के बाहर स्थानीय जीवन पर नहीं होती है। हम यहाँ छात्रों को इंजीनियरिंग के साथ शुरुआत की चुनौतियों का समाप्त करना सीखते हैं। आपकी कसरत की तरह है कि वह स्थानीय क्षेत्र में बेहतर काम कर सकता है तो मुझे इस वर्ष से इसकी कसरत नहीं है।

अभी हम में देश आईआईटी संयुक्तों में शिक्षकों की गुणवाला एक मुदा रहता है। यह विशेष शारीरिक शारीरिक शरीर तो नहीं है। इसके लिए हम बहुत सतर्क प्रयास कर चुके हैं। दो सालों के दौरान मैंने चाहा कि वो चाहिए कि बाहर आईआईटी में शिक्षाकार एक हो। हम के बाहर स्थानीय जीवन पर नहीं होती है। हम यहाँ छात्रों को इंजीनियरिंग के साथ शुरुआत की चुनौतियों का समाप्त करना सीखते हैं। आपकी कसरत की तरह है कि वह स्थानीय क्षेत्र में बेहतर काम कर सकता है तो मुझे इस वर्ष से इसकी कसरत नहीं है।

यह विशेष शारीरिक शारीरिक शरीर तो नहीं है। इसके लिए हम बहुत सतर्क प्रयास कर चुके हैं। दो सालों के दौरान मैंने चाहा कि वो चाहिए कि बाहर आईआईटी में शिक्षाकार एक हो। हम के बाहर स्थानीय जीवन पर नहीं होती है। हम यहाँ छात्रों को इंजीनियरिंग के साथ शुरुआत की चुनौतियों का समाप्त करना सीखते हैं। आपकी कसरत की तरह है कि वह स्थानीय क्षेत्र में बेहतर काम कर सकता है तो मुझे इस वर्ष से इसकी कसरत नहीं है।
इंडो-अमेरिकन की बनाई, चिप पर पेंटागन फिदा

भारतीय-अमेरिकी राज या की वॉर्शिंगटन में इस हिंदी ध्रुव मधी हुई है। हाल ही में उन्होंने नेट्स क्लेयरन्स कंप्यूटर चिप बनाई, जिसमें पेंटागन दिलचस्पी दिखा रहा है। इस कंप्यूटर चिप को पेंटागन अपने एफ-35 जॉइंट स्ट्राइक फाइटर प्लेन में इस्तेमाल करने को सोच रहा है।

फिलहाल इसका टेस्ट चल रहा है। चिप की खुलासा है इसका विज्ञान की बचत करना।

एंडो-आईटी खबरापर के राज दर्ज एपिफ कॉब्ब और फोटोटेक कॉर्प कंपनियों के चेयरमन और सीईओ हैं। इस चिप तकनीक के जरिए कंप्यूटर प्रोसेसर की बिजली की खपत के सिर्फ 90 परसेंट तक कम हो गई है। बाल्क ने पहले के मुकाबले 70 परसेंट प्लेन चलने लगे हैं। लॉडिफायरिया में रहने वाले दरमाखंड तक कर्मचारी हैं जो सोसाइडस्ट्रक्चर चिप के बीच होने वाला देटा दृश्यमान इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स की यथार्थता से होता है। अब यह फोटोटेक से होगा, जो लाइट होता है। यह और वजन में हर्डवेर चिप विज्ञान की खपत कम करता है, स्थानीय फोटोटेक हॉट सेंटर नहीं करते और इसलिए इसे उंटा करने का जरूरत नहीं होता। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स में कूलिंग करने में सबसे आदर्श लागत आती है। इस चिप का महत्व अमेरिकी रक्षा विभाग बड़बूढ़ समझ रहा है। एफ-35 लड़ाकू विमानों में इस्तेमाल के लिए इस चिप का टेस्ट किया जा रहा है। दूसरे मुख्तारिक, यह बाँडविड़ियल की क्षमता बढ़ाएगी, जिसे प्रोटोटिप प्रोजेक्ट और स्पाइड भी बढ़ाएगी। अगर किसी एयरक्राफ्ट से वजन कम हो जाए तो उसे फायदा होगा। अब कॉपर केबल के बजाय एक्सार्टिक से सिग्नल टार्गर होगे जो मनुष्य द्वारा भी पता लगा होगा। दूसरे तकनीक को भारत में लाया जा चाहिए। उन्होंने हाल में वित्त मंत्री प्रवर्तित मुख्त्रों समेत कई चर्चाएँ नेताओं से मुलाकात की।