October 28, 2010

**Financial Express ND 28/10/2010 p-2**

**Must grow fast to minimise rich-poor gap: PM**

P Vaidyanathan Iyer

Rimala Lammep, Oct 27: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today unequivocally stated that to find solutions to the problems of poor, India needs a fast growing economy and a strong stimulus to growth. “We have to walk on two legs,” he said, in response to a query on how India plans to mitigate the gap between the rich and the poor. The primary purpose of development is to get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease which have affected millions of people. But for this, growth must be made truly inclusive,” he said after delivering the prestigious Khannaah Global Lecture. It is important to focus on poor areas which lack in education, health and other infrastructural facilities, he added. While it is important to empower the poor, it is also equally important to develop agriculture, which still remains the backbone for more than half of India’s population, the Prime Minister said. “We are integrating our investment in agriculture. We hope to see scientific possibilities to create a new growth momentum in agriculture through a second green revolution. This is vital for our food security and to ensure an inclusive growth process,” he said.

Also, the future of the economy is going to be knowledge based. “This can become a productive element of social exchange,” he noted. “India has increased the expenditure on Science & Technology as a proportion of GDP. We are investing heavily in both basic and higher education. For the last 5 years, India had seven Indian Institutes of Technology and one Indian Institute of Science. In the last five years we have established eight more IITs and five Institutes of Science Education and Research,” he pointed out. Earlier, delivering the lecture, Singh said India’s growth has combined greater openness with an ability to withstand external turbulence. Its economic performance has improved, with the gross national income growing at over 5.5% per annum for three consecutive years starting in 2006. “After the global crisis exploded in 2008, our growth rate slowed down but India was even then among the three or four fastest growing nations in the world. We took a number of measures to stimulate the economy and we expect 8.5% per cent growth in the current year,” he said.

According to Singh, India’s biggest asset is its educated, skilled and aspirational productive employment. “At a time when the industrialised world is eagening rapidly, India has the advantage of a young population. The dependency burden in India is expected to keep falling for another 20 years. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 30 years, compared to 28 for China and 40 for Japan,” he said.

Further, with savings and investment which separately account for over 30 per cent of the gross national income, rapid economic development becomes feasible. “For a long time it is used to be common wisdom that only an East Asian country could save and invest more than 30% of its national income. If that is true then, geography notwithstanding, India is today an East Asian country’ India now saves and invests well over 30% of its GDP,” he said.

**MANMOHAN SPEAK**

- National seeks rapid economic growth to create wealth and generate surpluses to fund its ambitious social development programmes
- Growth must create employment and development that is socially and spatially balanced and inclusive
- Build a modern, knowledge and science-based economy that complements our agricultural and industrial base
- Development must be sustainable so that the wealth of the country’s natural resources is conserved for future generations
- Cooperative relationship with neighbours and other partners so that India can prosper and benefit from one another's development

**UP to hardsell itself at Pan-IIT Conclave**

Deepti Jainani

Lucknow, Oct 27: After three years of hard work, the Uttar Pradesh government is now ready to take off to the next level of development by presenting ‘Maya’s Vision’ to the discerning investors, policy makers as well as the thinktank, who will gather from all across the globe at the three-day Pan IIT 2010 Conclave to be held at Greater Noida from October 29.

The conclave will act as the platform from which the UP government will hardsell itself as the ‘irresistible land of opportunities’ waiting to be discovered. An eight-member team of senior official, led by the state’s chief secretary Atul Kumar Gupta will leave for Greater Noida to present the conclave. A swanky presentation, ‘Transform Uttar Pradesh’, highlighting the ‘vision of the bold and dynamic chief minister Mayawati’, has been prepared and would be shown at the impressive gathering of high profile dignitaries, investors as well as professionals.

Offering a plethora of openings in the infrastructure sector such as expressways, power, urban rejuvenation, public transportation, international airports, new townships, public health, professional education, etc, the presentation states that the ‘vision has now been transformed into reality and appropriate and a promise is a promise.’

Stating that UP the second largest state economy in the country is ‘witnessing a silent but steady transformation’, the presentation states that while the state was once known for its prolific agriculture, it has now moved to the state with largest number of small scale industries and service sector enterprises, with the secondary and tertiary sectors together accounting for more than 70% of the GDP.

Affirming that the Mayawati government has created a conducive investment environment — by providing attractive fiscal incentives in the form of interest free loans against VAT payments, exemptions from stamp and electricity duties, speedy online clearances through Nivesh Mitra, easy availability of developed industrial plots, healthy labour relations and a crime free atmosphere — the presentation goes on to say that UP gives immense possibilities of entrepreneurship. Enumerating the Rs 10,000 crore, six lane access Yamuna Expressway as the flagship project, with the Ganga and Upper Ganga Canal Expressways, the growth trajectories, backed by adequate and efficient power supply, the Mayawati government has beckoned dynamic people to come forward and partner the march to development in order to achieve a prosperous and better tomorrow.’
Court notice to DU, DUTA

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Delhi University and the Delhi University Teachers’ Association on a petition by a retired Air Force officer and an expert in human resources development seeking a direction to the college managements to implement the semester system and DUTA to cooperate in the exercise.

The petitioner, Wing Commander (retd.) Prof. M.R. Gupta, also urged the Court to declare the on-going strike by the college teachers illegal and restrain them from going on strike in future.

He also urged the Court to direct the teachers to forthwith start teaching the new syllabi for all the prescribed 13 under-graduate science courses according to the semester system as directed by the university and to complete it before the commencement of examinations scheduled from December 6.

The petitioner submitted that a dichotomous situation had developed in the university with several colleges adopting the semester system while several others still teaching the students under the old system.

This scenario had led a situation where students of those colleges where the semester system had not been implemented were clueless as to whether they had to take the semester examinations or the old annual examination, the petitioner submitted.

Thus those students who were in the colleges where the semester system had not been implemented so far would suffer in comparison to their counterparts in those colleges where they were being taught a new syllabus under the semester system as the university would test the performance of all the teachers under the new system, the petitioner submitted.

Taking the petition on record, the Court issued notices to the university and the DUTA seeking their replies to the petition by November 29.

Sibal appeals for end to strike

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal appealed to the Delhi University Teachers’ Association on Wednesday to end its strike and resume work for the benefit of the students.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Sibal said that strikes were not in the interest of the students and hoped that the new Vice-Chancellor would take on board all issues of the teachers’ association.

“We hope that the new V-C will resolve the issues,” Mr. Sibal said, adding that the new V-C is aware of the issues and the notification for the appointment of the new V-C would happen in a week’s time.

Referring to the DUTA strike, Mr. Sibal said: “Teachers should go back to the classrooms.”

Meanwhile, the DUTA strike entered its third-day on Wednesday. The DUTA said in a statement that its demands included “reversal of the illegal imposition of academically disastrous semester system in 13 under-graduate science courses and not forcing students enrolled in these courses to take semester examinations since they have been taught in the annual scheme.”

Reacting to the threat of “no work no pay” being enforced by the university, the DUTA claimed that it would not budge. In the context of their agitation, the DUTA said it was protesting to defend the quality of education, ensure equal access to education and maintain the sanctity of the University Act, Statutes and Ordinances.

The DUTA is planning a protest march on Thursday to demand the restoration of the “lawful functioning of the university”.

10 years of life aboard International Space Station

The ISS will appear as a small bright light at 6 p.m. today over India for two minutes before vanishing in the darkness.

IAN SAMPLE

16 p.m. today (October 28), a small bright light will appear low in the night sky over India for two minutes before vanishing in the darkness. Few people will notice and even fewer will care, but for a handful of souls that speak on the horizon is a place called home.

From down here on Earth there is little more to see, but close up the spot takes on a more complex form: a shiny bulk of interconnected tubes and metal trusses bracketed by giant wing-like panels.

Living quarters

As roomy as a five-bedroom house, these are the most extreme living quarters ever built. What looks like a wandering star in the heavens is looking reflecting off the International Space Station.

With more than a decade of construction now coming to an end (next week’s shuttle flight leaves only two more before the fleet is mothballed), astronauts can finally look forward to stretching out and using the space station to the full.

If the experiences of those who helped build and man the station are anything to go by, they are in for an extraordinary time. “I still can’t believe what I’ve seen sometimes,” says Pieri sellers, the Sussex born boy-turned-Nasa astronaut who took part in the most recent shuttle mission to the station in May.

Next week, Nasa will commemorate 10 years of life on the space station (the first residents arrived on 2 November 2000), but fewer than 200 people have first-hand knowledge of life on board. Only a fraction of them have stayed more than six months on the largest orbiting spacecraft ever built. The longer the stay, the closer those veterans come to perfectioning the art of life in freefall.

The space station has a permanent crew of six, so the arrival of new faces is a cause for celebration. That said, even the most welcome visitors can cause havoc if they are inexperienced.

There is a subtle art to moving around without crashing into anything — or, more annoyingly, others — knocking computers, equipment and other objects off the walls to which they are attached with Velcro pads.

One serving shuttle pilot confessed to leaving a wake of laptops and other vital belonging behind him the first time he tried to fly from one room to another. People sit in mid air, tapping away at a computer, with only a toe hooked under a wall strap to anchor themselves.

No left, no right

Then, with a flick of the hand, they’ll float up to another computer and carry on typing there. Getting from one place to another is all the more difficult because up and down (and so left and right) have no absolute meaning.

The ability to form a mental map of the space station — and then rotate it in 3D to suit your perspective — is a priceless skill for an astronaut. In such close quarters personal hygiene is a must, but the weightless conditions make washing a deliberate chore. Water droplets can cause choking if inhaled and make short-circuit equipment.

On the downside, many astronauts feel congested in space and lose much of their sense of smell.

Unless there is a problem with the station’s plumbing (and there has been), or someone’s lunch has floated off and got lost in a nook or cranny (as has happened), there isn’t much to smell on board, because air scrubbers filter out any odours as the air is circulated. Taste is another casualty.

Tasteless food

“We get a drawer with our name on it and select all our meals before we go, but nothing tastes like it does on Earth. It all tastes like cardboard,” says Sellers. “We get through gallons of Tabasco sauce.” If you want to know how hard it is to swallow in space, try eating while lying on one side, he suggests.

It takes the space station one and a half hours to fly around the planet, making for 16 complete laps a day. For those on board, the visual effect is spectacular.

Open the covers over the windows and the light can be so blinding that astronauts reach for their sunglasses. But after 45 minutes of daylight, a dark line appears on the plane, dividing Earth into night and day.

For a couple of seconds, the space station is bathed in a coppery light and then complete darkness. Another 45 minutes later, and just as abruptly, the sun rises to fill the station with brilliant light again.

The clock of apparent days and nights would play havoc with astronauts’ body clocks, so a shutters-down and bedtimes schedule is imposed by mission controllers. Each of the crew has a closet-like cabin where they can hook a sleeping bag to the wall and settle down for the night. Some strap pillows to their heads to make it feel more like lying down. The lights don’t go out completely, though.

People dozing in orbit see streaks and bursts of bright colour caused by high-energy cosmic rays painfully slamming into their retinas. Fans and air filters add to the distractions, so some astronauts wear ear plugs to block out the constant hum.

Unsurprisingly, falling asleep can take some getting used to. Just as you are nodding off, you can feel as though you’ve fallen off a 10-storey building.

People who look half asleep will suddenly throw their heads back with a start and ring out their arms. It gets easier with time. One Russian crew member is renowned for doing without a sleeping bag and falling asleep wherever he ends the day.

Anyone still awake after 2.30am would see his snoozing form drift by, slowly bouncing off the wall, his face set by the air currents that gently pushed and pulled him. — Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2010
HC notice to DUTA, VC on fund curb plea

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Wednesday issued notices to Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Deepak Pental and Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on a plea seeking curbs on funding for colleges opposed to the new semester system.

The plea sought a direction to the University Grants Commission (UGC) to withdraw all funding of those colleges that did not take immediate steps to make their teachers follow the semester system. The public interest litigation (PIL) also sought direction to the university to take disciplinary action against the erring teachers opposed to the implementation of semester system at the undergraduate level in the 13 science courses in the current academic year.

Petitioner and retired defence employee M R Gupta said the university must implement its policy of "no work no pay" against teachers who were resorting to strikes against the semester system.

The petition said that due to opposition by teachers, the system could not be implemented in various colleges, affecting the career of around 8,000 students.

"These teachers have adopted an adamant attitude and continue to go by the old annual system for teaching students and follow the old syllabi while doing so," the petition alleged, saying they are doing so "deliberately and are being supported in this and even incited by the DUTA."

The first semester examinations were scheduled to be held from November 20 to December 10, but the university has now announced that these would be conducted from December 6.

"Those students who have taken admissions to colleges where the semester system has not been implemented so far would suffer in relation to their counterparts in other colleges. The young students who have just entered these colleges are thus being thrown into a state of uncertainty at the very threshold of their careers," said the petition.

The court in its direction in August 2010 directed the university to implement the semester system. The university was told to take action against those teachers who fail to teach according to the system.
Now, kidney damage can be detected early
Marker Identifies Disease 10 Yrs Before Onset

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: A new technique for early detection of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) could save many lives in future. With the help of a multi-marker panel of proteins and hormones, individuals at a greater risk of developing the disease can be identified up to 10 years before its clinical onset. By the time CKD is usually diagnosed, it is stage III and IV and half of the kidney is already damaged.

Doctors say it will be possible to start treatment and make lifestyle changes at an early stage with the help of this finding. According to a doctor, the new biomarkers can be tested in a single blood sample. The biomarkers are homocysteine, a marker for atherosclerosis; aldosterone, a hormone that affects salt handling by the kidneys; and BNP, which is involved in maintenance of blood pressure and volume.

The biomarkers have been identified with the help of a research carried out on more than 2,300 persons with normal kidney functions. The subjects were tested for over a period of 10 years to find the biomarkers that can identify high-risk individuals. The study has been published in the latest edition of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

According to Dr SC Tewari, director of nephrology and renal transplant at the Fortis Institute for Renal Sciences, the new biomarkers can be tested in a single blood sample. “It is a revolutionary finding and can help in saving the life of many patients,” said Tewari. He said serum creatinine, the primary biomarker for CKD, is insensitive to early perturbations in renal function, particularly in patients without overt clinical CKD.

CKD affects 16% of the Indian population. It is associated with metabolic abnormalities and bone disease and is also an important risk factor for peripheral vascular disease, cardiovascular disease, stroke — all of which can be fatal.

16% of Indian population suffers from CKD

Available medical test

Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) is based on serum creatinine measurement. Half the kidney is damaged in most cases.

Benefits of early diagnosis

Certain medicines and lifestyle modification like weight control and dietary changes at an early stage can prevent the disease or delay the prognosis.

These new biomarkers were developed after prolonged research on 2,300 patients of American origin. Doctors say replication on Indians and cost-effectiveness needs to be assessed.

durgesh.jha@timesgroup.com
IIT-Kgp ignored CVC advice way back in ’06

Didn’t Tell Ministry Answer Sheets Were Destroyed

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Though the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had forwarded allegations about malpractices in JEE-2006 to Damodar Acharya, director of IIT-Kharagpur, way back in 2007, the institute did not feel the need to order a probe. Instead, IIT-Kharagpur told the HRD ministry that “as per conduct rule of the institute no employee is permitted to publish any article anonymously or in the name of any other person to any newspaper or periodical.”

The then registrar D Gunasekaran was referring to the source material that was the basis of allegation about the bungling in JEE-2006. To make matters worse, IIT-Kharagpur also did not inform — as was unearthed later — the ministry that the JEE answer sheets and other materials were already destroyed in 2006.

Gunasekaran said action be taken against the author of the source material. TOI reported last week how Prof A K Ghosh, who was then the chairman of IIT-JEE in 2006, had sought permission for shredding of JEE papers in 2006. Ghosh was also Chief Vigilance Officer of the Institute. Early this year, Ghosh in a reply to an RTI query even stated, “During my tenure as CVO of IIT, Kharagpur I haven’t received any queries from CVC regarding irregularities in JEE 2006.”

The source material forwarded by CVC had alleged that there were many cut-off procedures submitted by IIT-Kharagpur, but none of which could calculate stated cut-off marks due to a slew of discrepancies. For instance, many high scoring candidates failed to make the grade while many with lower scores, strangely, got selected. Irregularities came to the fore regarding manual corrections and tampering of chemistry scripts, and children of IIT administrators scoring high marks.

IIT-Kharagpur has been averse to the Right to Information Act as is evident from this entire episode. Even last month, when asked to supply all communications along with the action taken report and file notings, in deference to all communications received by IIT-Kharagpur from CVC and CVO/MHRD, A Patra, principal information officer of the institute, asked RTI applicant Rajeev Kumar, “If you desire to have information regarding proceedings of CVC, CVO/MHRD, against individuals and the ATR thereon, would you explain why such information are required in larger public interest.”

Section 6(2) of RTI Act 2005 clearly states, “An applicant making request for information shall not be required to give any reason for requesting the information”.

A K Ghosh was chairman of IIT-JEE in 2006
Day 1 of online CAT passes without glitches

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The first day of CAT passed without any glitches across all eight centres in the city. Many candidates said that they faced no problem with the systems unlike last year when the whole set up had crashed due to a “virus attack”.

However, the centres looked largely deserted as only a handful of students seemed to have appeared for the test on day one. According to Prometric, which is responsible for conducting online CAT, only 4,548 of over 2 lakh candidates were registered for the first day.

Deepti Mittal, who had come to the Punjabi Bagh centre in west Delhi from Nainital, said, “Thankfully there were no technical problems this time. Everything was smooth and even the lab assistants were really helpful. They guided us properly on the procedure of taking the test.” Deepti had come down to the city early in the morning with her entire family.

Another candidate, Mayank Joshi, who is a student of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, added, “I really liked the way they had organized the test this time. We were asked to get seated 90 minutes before the test began as they had to check our documents and identity proof thoroughly.”

At KR Mangalam Institute in Greater Kailash I, many candidates appearing for the test were happy about the question paper. Aspirant Ankita Joshi, who had taken CAT last year too, said, “The question paper seemed easier this time. There were no technical glitches either. I enjoyed doing the English section and am hopeful of scoring well.”

Another candidate Raman Kapoor added, “The examination hall at my centre was almost empty. Looks like few students turned up for the first day of CAT. But there was no problem and teachers present were helpful. I scored 94 percentile last year and hope to better my result this time to get through the IIMs.”

According to Gautam Puri, vice-chairperson, Career Launcher, students generally prefer to choose the later dates so that they can try and get to know the kind of questions being asked in the test.” However, there was no surprise in the paper today as the pattern was the same as last year. Anyone, who attempted about 45 out of total 60 questions can hope to get a call,” Puri said.
A circuitous route, a long road, a journey: these are words that have probably been appropriated for the first time for an exam. Reaching the test site to take the Common Admission Test (CAT) was a nightmare for several candidates.

For one, students taking the test from Chennai had to travel miles to an industrial town in the neighbouring district of Kancheepuram. The centre: Saveetha Engineering College in Thandalam, Sripurumbudur, is 40km from Chennai, 22km from the mofussil bus terminus in Koyembedu, 28km from Chennai’s Meenambakkam airport, and 30km from the central railway station. There are no trains to the area.

A candidate said that no one goes to Sripurumbudur, not even politicians who tread dusty roads in India’s hinterland. The last man spotted was former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated by a human bomb there in May 1991.

An irate Sherin Deepak, who had travelled from Tiruchi to take the test in Chennai, said, “I had my airbag with me, and it was only after I fought with a security guard that he allowed me to leave my bag inside the campus. It was very annoying.” The Indian Institute of Management’s decision to overrule the directive of the HRD ministry to roll out CAT in all states and union territories became a logistical nightmare for hundreds of students belling this year’s CAT.

Malathy (name changed), a post-graduate student from Thiruvananthapuram, had to travel all the way to Bangalore to appear for the online test on Wednesday, as there was no CAT centre in the Kerala capital. “Although nearly 6,000 students are taking the exam in Kerala, there are only two centres — Cochin and Kozhikode. When I logged in to register for the exam, not a single slot was available. I had no option but to take the exam in Bangalore,” she told TOI.
Policy soon to cut antibiotics overuse
Strict Penalties To Be Imposed On Defaulters

Shobha John | TNN

New Delhi: We all know someone who has popped an-
tibiotic at the first hint of a
evene or who hasn’t com-
pleted his full course of these
medicines. All this could be a	hing of the past as India, for
the first time, readies a na-
tional antibiotic policy. It’ll
also include the poultry in-
dustry and agriculturists. A
policy statement in this regard
will be finalized by November.

A 13-member expert panel
was constituted by the
health ministry in September
to lay down the policy and
ways to implement it. While
antibiotics can, no doubt,
tackle a severe illness speed-
ily, their indiscriminate use
can lead to microbes becom-
ing resistant to drugs. This
can be increasingly seen in
tuberculosis, gonorrhea, malaria and ear infections.

According to the Infectious
Diseases Society of America,
the cost of antimicrobial re-
sistance to the US health care
system in 1998 was nearly $5
billion. By 2010, this could
have increased 10 times.

The need for such a policy
in India was felt after the
super bug controversy in
March, where researchers re-
ported a new Indian-origin
bug, NDM-1, which was re-
sistant to carbapenem, the
strongest antibiotic known.

Many developed countries
such as Sweden and UK al-
ready have such a policy. In
India, Tamil Nadu recently
constituted a panel to frame
an antibiotics policy.

Components of the policy,
accessed by TOI, show a well-
thought-out strategy which
will affect doctors, patients,
pharmacists, veterinarians,
dactors, agriculturists and the
poultry industry. A task force
will be set up in each state to
develop and implement
strategies in both the public
and private sector. NGOs too
will be involved.

Another component is
that drugs and therapeutic
committees as well as hospi-
tal infection committees will
be set up in all hospitals. A
national reference microbi-
ology laboratory will be set
up and will have links with a
network of accredited diag-
nostic labs.

Further, antibiotics will
be classified — for non-re-
stricted, restricted and very
restricted use. There will be
a selected list of antibiotics
which shouldn’t be sold in
pharmacies without a pre-
scription, such as Ofloxacin
which is used in fevers, says
Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury,
a member of the expert panel.

Stringent penalties will im-
posed if this is violated.

Normally, violators are tak-
en to court but this is a long
process; we want something
more drastic,” he says. Anti-
biotics not on the essential
drugs list should not be pro-
cured, prescribed or be made
available.

Shailendra, a chemist in
South Delhi, welcomed this
policy, saying it’s a must. “Of-
ten, small-time doctors pre-
scribe antibiotics when
there’s no need to. This over-
prescription, increases the
body’s resistance and more
and more expensive anti-
biotics are prescribed. If we
refuse to sell them, patients, es-
pecially from the lower stra-
ta, threaten us. It’s very im-
portant to educate this sec-
tion of society,” he says.

The policy will also make
it mandatory to test for the
presence of antibiotics in
food items. “Many times, an-
tibiotics are introduced in
chicken feed to make the
birds plump. Once injected,
they get into our system, in-
creasing resistance. With this
new policy, poultry too will
get tested, says Chaudhury.
Honey too has been found to
have antibiotics.

Standard treatment guide-
lines for antibiotics will be
developed. To make antibi-
obies prevention a long-term
action plan, the MBBS syl-
babus will have more empha-
sis of the use and misuse of
antibiotics. What’s more, con-
tinuing Medical Education
programmes, (essential for
re-registration of doctors), in
Rational Use of Medicines
and Antibiotics will be made
mandatory.
China all set to launch manned space station by '20

Beijing: China said on Wednesday it would launch a space lab to be manned for long stretches within about 10 years, a move it believes would bring it closer to the United States and Russia as powers capable of reaching the moon.

The official Xinhua news agency, quoting an unidentified space official, said a trial space lab would be launched before 2016 to test equipment and techniques. But it was not clear if that lab would be manned for long periods.

The space station programme will use existing technology, including the Shenzhou space vehicle and Long March 2F launch rocket, Xinhua said. The agency gave no details of the size of the planned labs.

While the initiative is unlikely to rival the size of the International Space Station jointly operated by Russia, the US and other countries, it is the latest sign of China's growing space technology ability.

China launched its second moon orbiter this month and plans an unmanned moon landing in 2012. 

REUTERS
A lighter meal: Noodles may now weigh less

Shilpa Phadnis | TV

Bangalore: Companies that had rushed their noodles into the Rs 1,200-crore instant noodle market are now under pressure to raise prices due to rising input costs. But since nobody wants to abandon the Rs 10 price point, some are reducing grammage.

Nestle recently reduced the grammage of Maggi instant noodles (masala variant from 80 grams to 65 grams). Company spokesperson Himanshu Manglik said noodle packs come in the 60-90 gm range, all for virtually the same price. "Despite the marginal reduction in grammage, Maggi ensures balance of high-quality and nutrition," he said. Maggi is the market leader with a share of about 80%.

With new entrants like ITC's Yippee, Glaxo Smithkline's Poodles and HUL's Knorr soup, noodles market is getting crowded and established brands are facing the heat. So, ITC has come in with a 90 gm pack. Private labels are also competing in the category. ITC, for example, offers a 80 gm pack with higher grammage. Big Bazaar's private brand ‘Tasty Treat’ offers a 90 gm pack.

Spencer's private brand 'Smart Choice' offers 80 gm pack. Spencer's CEO Ashok Bhat said they are also busy formulating a strategy to launch a new variant with lower grammage.

Nestle says it is counteracting rising input costs by focusing on five elements—innovation and renovation, new technology and processes, increasing manufacturing efficiencies, balancing the portfolio mix and acceleration of what it calls the Continuous Excellence Programme and LEAN mindset. "Price increase is the fifth element and used only when it is absolutely necessary," said Manglik.

Shrikant Pardeshi, a senior analyst at Anand Rathi, agrees that increasing prices or reducing grammage is usually the last measure. "Nestle has been able to turn around margins. There is some leverage within the system to manage costs. But, volumes are very crucial for the company," he said.

There are others too who are looking at innovation that can eventually lead to better margins and/or greater market share. Foodies has leveraged Horlicks' health and nutrition platform to offer 60 gm packs for Rs 10.

Devenra Chawla, business head (private brands) at Future Group, says the company is planning to introduce Mauritian pasta and Punjabi masala variants. However, there are differences in the industry on the issue of reducing grammage in a category like noodles. Some think it's tantamount to misleading customers. "Many consumers look at the price and the weight. They purchase a meal need, but reducing grammage is like hitting a nail," says M N V Prasad, GM sales and marketing at the Bangalore-based Indo-Nissin Foods that produces the Top Kraft brand noodles.

The Power of Ideas convolution on Oct 30

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Power of Ideas initiative by The Economic Times is moving towards a crescendo as India's most promising 74 young and budding entrepreneurs come together at the convolution of the programme on October 30 in New Delhi. Inspiring these entrepreneurs as they begin their entrepreneurial journey will be Infosys co-founder and chief mentor N R Narayana Murthy, who will deliver the inaugural address.

This will be followed by a high-powered panel discussion on 'Entrepreneurs as Change Agents' involving Murthy, Sumir Barua, director, IIM Ahmedabad and Satish Magar, chairman & managing director, Magarpatta Township Development & Construction Company and a successful grassroots entrepreneur himself.

The high point of the day will be the felicitation of the 35 entrepreneurs who are getting cash grants of Rs 5 lakh each and 10 entrepreneurs who are getting Rs 2 lakh each as part of the programme. Besides, the programme has also witnessed as many as 15 entrepreneurs being given 'letters of intent' for seed funding worth Rs 20 lakh each.

The Power of Ideas 2010 was launched by The Economic Times in partnership with IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The programme received over 16,000 business ideas out of which 850 made Elevator Pitches with a final cut-off list comprising 74 entrepreneurs making it to the last phase of intensive mentoring at IIM Ahmedabad. It is these 74 entrepreneurs who will be at the convolution post which they will meet investors for further funding.
Major fests’ dates clash

What do you do when the IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi & BITS Pilani fests fall in the same period? While some had no option but to play favourites, some managed some jugaad to squeeze in two fests

Students this year had a tough time picking where to go as the college fests kick started in style. Reason? This year the dates for the fests of IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and BITS Pilani were all between October 21 and 28.

**THE CHOICE AND THE COMPETITION**

Says Shilpa Bhat, George 20, a DU student. “We decided to stick to IIT Delhi, even though we really wanted to go to Kanpur because the prize for the winner was better there, but IIT Delhi is bigger.” Agrees Barika Singh, 29, a student of North Campus, “We really wanted to go to Pilani for the fashion show but stuck to IIT Delhi as it is better known.”

Says Shruti Kalra, 20, a student from Kamala Nehru College, “Normally IIT Delhi is when we get to know which college is doing what that year and we know who our competition is gonna be for the sub-

"**THIS YEAR WE DON’T KNOW WHO OUR REAL COMPETITION WILL BE AS ALL THE FESTS SEEM TO BE HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME AND NOT EVERYONE IS AT IIT DELHI**"

— MITALI YERI, DU STUDENT

Says Pallavi Arora, 20, an English honours student, “This is my last year in college and I wanted to go for all three — IIT Delhi, Kanpur as well as Pilani. Sadly, I couldn’t make it to all three but I did manage to make it in time for the Delhi and Kanpur fests.”

Harleen Singh, 19, a Sociology honours student in North Campus, played smart. “I went for Pilani and Kanpur. Delhi’s big, but since everyone was here I thought that we would have less competition in Kanpur and Pilani.”
Thorat asked to explain job to secy

TIMING Move weeks before term ends raises brows

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: The human resource development ministry has questioned University Grants Commission chairman Sukhdeo Thorat’s move to appoint a full-fledged secretary to the UGC three months before his term ends. The ministry had received complaints from MPs and academicians in this regard.

The HRD ministry has asked the UGC to explain the move, which has landed Thorat and the government in a controversy at a time when the Commission itself may soon be replaced by a new higher education regulator.

In the letter received by the UGC on Tuesday, the ministry has articulated several of the questions raised by MPs and academicians who have written to HRD minister Sibal, sources close to the development, said.

The biggest question that the UGC chairman faces involves why he is pushing for a full-fledged secretary at the Commission just weeks before he quits office, when the UGC functioned with acting secretaries for almost five years under him.

Thorat’s move is also contrary to a convention the HRD ministry introduced in 2004 under which heads of autonomous institutions like the UGC are not supposed to make new appointments three months before the end of their term.

The timing of the proposed appointment — the UGC is holding the selection meeting on October 29 — has also raised eyebrows because the post of secretary was first advertised over a year and a half back.

The HRD ministry has, in its letter to the UGC, asked the Commission to explain why no secretary was picked over the past 18 months, sources said.

The appointment controversy comes even as the HRD ministry finalises a legislation to bring a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) which will subsume the UGC and several other current higher education regulators.
Migraine, poor vision could be a brain tumour

NEW DELHI: Persistently missed menstrual periods, prolonged headaches or migraines, and frequent vision changes that are not cured even after treatment, could be an indication of a tumour in the brain.

Brain tumour accounts for 60 per cent of all brain surgeries in major hospitals.

Doctors, however, say not everyone with these symptoms has a tumour in the brain. "People with these symptoms should go for advanced tests such as CT scans and MRIs if treatment does not relieve the symptoms," said Dr Daljit Singh, professor of Neurosurgery, GB Pant Hospital.

More than one lakh cases of brain tumours are reported in India each year, with the numbers increasing because of better diagnosis and increasing longevity.

"Tumours replicate symptoms of infections but advanced tests have made diagnosis easier. International data also shows that the incidence of brain tumour has increased worldwide, with urban population at a higher risk," said Dr Singh.

Recent studies have shown that people belonging to the higher socio-economic group and living in a hyper-lygenic environment are at higher risk of tumours.

The Delhi Neurological Association, in collaboration with International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA), is organising a week-long campaign October 31 to raise spread brain tumour awareness. Seminars, lectures and presentations in 80 hospitals, including AIIMS, Sir Ganga Ram, Max and Fortis, will familiarise people with the causes, symptoms, diagnosis and new research.
NEW DELHI: Students and teachers of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will get to share what they expect from their Vice Chancellor (VC) with the human resource development ministry's selection panel, tasked with picking a new VC for the varsity.

In a break from normal practice, the selection panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan has asked the human resource development ministry (HRD) to organise meetings with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students and teachers before it shortlists candidates.

"The idea is aimed at ensuring that the concerns of teachers and students and their expectations from their VC are taken into account, while making the selection," said a member of the panel, that also includes economist Nitin Desai and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, director P. Balaram.

The panel is likely to meet representatives of students and teachers over the coming fortnight.

Outgoing VC BB Bhattacharya's tenure is over but he is handling administrative matters till his successor takes over.

The selection panel, under Kasturirangan, held its first meeting today.

Though this is not the first time that a selection panel will be meeting teachers and students, before picking its nominees for the post of VC of a university, it is extremely rare, sources said.

Selection panels normally invite applications from eligible candidates, scrutinise applications and then call shortlisted candidates for interviews before finalising its selected candidates.

The entire process is usually conducted behind closed doors and away from public scrutiny.

JNU, however, has an extremely 'politicised' student and teacher fraternity and the selection panel is keen to get their views on board, before picking a VC, panel sources said.

This may help prevent later tensions between the university community and their new VC, sources said.
Striking DU teachers: Sibal tries to bring truce

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal on Wednesday appealed to protesting Delhi University (DU) teachers to get back to taking classes, assuring them that their concerns over a controversial semester system will be addressed.

Outgoing vice-chancellor (VC) Deepak Pental’s successor will take up the concerns that have brought teachers to the streets, Sibal told reporters, adding that the ministry would facilitate a dialogue.

“It is the students at DU who are suffering eventually. I appeal to the teachers to get back to taking classes. The new VC will look into all their concerns, which will be amicably addressed,” the HRD minister said.

“We must think of the children.”

DU south campus director Dinesh Singh is likely to become the new VC of India’s largest university, with the HRD ministry recommending his name to the President for her stamp of approval.

“We appreciate the intervention of the minister in the matter and welcome the decision to go back to debate and dialogue for implementation of the semester system,” said Aditya Narayan Misra, president, DU Teachers Association (DUTA).

“The semester system was passed in violation of all acts and ordinances,” Misra added.

DUTA will discuss Sibal’s appeal at a meeting of its executive council on Thursday and the governing body meeting on Friday, Misra said.

An HRD ministry selection panel had picked Dinesh Singh, Lady Sriram College principal Meenakshi Gopinath, VC of Hyderabad University Syed Hasnain and Jawaharlal Nehru University professor BS Chimni as final candidates for the post.

Gopinath and Singh were viewed as the two strongest contenders and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is understood to have agreed to Singh’s appointment.
Yale tie-up with IIT, IIM today

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

The first part of the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative will be operationalised tomorrow when Yale University enters into an agreement with two top Indian higher educational institutions to develop leadership modules for academics.

The initiative was announced last year during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's US visit. It seeks to build partnerships between Indian and American varsities.

The process of formally starting a collaboration will begin tomorrow when the visiting president of Yale University Richard Lewin signs a memorandum of understanding with the directors of IIT Kanpur and IIM Kozhikode to set up two Centres of Excellence in Academic Leadership — one each at the IIT Extension Centre in Noida and IIM Kozhikode campus.

Under the agreement, the Indian institutes will share with Yale their research knowledge in technical, management and scientific areas. In turn, they will get academic leadership training from US experts, who will come to deliver the objective under the MoU, which will be called the Yale India Leadership Programme and Continued on page 15

From page 1

would broadly have three components - faculty development, leadership development (which Yale-India initiative will help) and vocational development - through community colleges to be set up at different places. “At these colleges, we will have US experts coming in to impart training to our faculty and academics,” officials said.
DUTA has become like a khap panchayat, says outgoing V-C

UTGOING Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Deepak Pental on Wednesday defended his implementation of the semester system and called the Delhi University Teachers' Association a khap panchayat. "Our DUTA has become a bit like a khap panchayat. I really mean it. Because it is based on identity, it is based on tradition. It is not based on our laws, which say you should not strike work. The Supreme Court's decision on the matter is clear: if you don't work, you cannot be paid," he said, even as the DUTA continued its five-day strike. Pental was talking to Newline about his five-year term at the University. Pental's term expired on August 31, but unlike his predecessors, he stayed on, provoking a fresh spat of agitations from the DUTA. "This is per the statutes. We took a legal opinion and the MHRD wrote that this is perfectly in order... because I think nobody should leave like that. What is the problem? I have run it for five years, why should I leave and subject others who have worked with me to this onslaught of verbal abuse? I should face the flak first, rather than exposing them," he said.

Pental spoke about the difficulty of pushing through the semester system for under-graduate courses. "Elected representatives draw their strength from the colleges, not from the postgraduates... postgraduate teachers have an advantage over undergraduate teachers: they are all researchers. For them to say 'change is wrong' would be criminal. For undergraduate, because they are no longer in the research business, they are a little stuck. This is a fact of life."

Pental admitted that he could have done more on some fronts, like the tabling of the report of the three-member inquiry committee on the sale of a Gamma Irradiator this February. The report was submitted on July 26, but was placed before the Executive Committee only on October 1. By then, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Body had revoked its permission to the University to use radioactive material.

"Yes, we were a little slow... in fact, a lot of my time has been spent dealing with DUTA. We could have done it one month earlier, because the committee gave it one month before we took it in the EC. Maybe a lapse on my part. I wanted the next Vice-Chancellor to take that report... I wanted someone to look at it independently. Because in their interest to subvert, too many accusations have been made," said Pental.

The Vice-Chancellor conceded that the School of Open Learning (SOL) was ignored during his term. "We couldn't do anything about Open Learning. We failed, in fact. I think if we were to do something for three lakh students, we have to have their exams online and we have to have courses which are a mix of skill and knowledge."

Pental said SOL could perform better if separated from the University. However, he said there was hope, as long as his successor is willing to spend time on the project. "It is too much for us to handle... It would do very well if it is independent. Whatever it may be, there should be a full-time Director for Open Learning. We have got this wonderful piece of land at Karkardooma, where we will build a new School of Open Learning for on-site training."

"If I were to redo this job, I would do it with even more vigour. I will go out more to get younger scientists to get established, try to bring more money, try to get results to move faster, knock at the door of MCD so that the buildings get completed. All those who do not have the stomach for this should not become V-Cs," he said.

"I have cleared my table. I have put in 12 hours in the office every day. I don’t think I want to look at files anymore."
Clarify delay in naming secy: HRD to UGC

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE Union Human Resource Development Ministry is learnt to have asked the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to clarify the Commission's position on the ongoing appointment process for the post of UGC Secretary, following complaints about it.

While the position of the UGC Secretary has largely been vacant for the past five years, the Commission advertised the vacancy in August last year. That the selection panel was set up only on October 10 this year has sparked a controversy as the UGC Chairman S K Thorat is due to complete his tenure in February 2011.

The Ministry is learnt to have got a representation from UGC staffers complaining that the timing of the appointment process was highly suspect and against ethical norms with the Chairman's tenure at its fag end. Still others have questioned why the selection panel has been constituted as late as a year after the vacancy was first advertised and applications from candidates first invited in August 2009. The interviews for the post are to be held later this week.

With some MPs and political leaders also having taken up the issue with the Ministry, the latter has asked the Chairman to clarify UGC's position.

It has been pointed out that within the span of a year, several other candidates could also have qualified for the position but have missed the opportunity to do so since applications were closed last year itself. It must be noted that as per a direction issued by the HRD to heads of all autonomous organisations under it, they should "not conduct selections/promotions" of any candidates at all 2-3 months before they conclude their terms. The letter by the Ministry dated July 19, 2004 advised heads of autonomous organisations under it to "adhere to these guidelines strictly".

Sources at UGC confirmed that a communication had been received from the Ministry. Chairman S K Thorat did not wish to comment on the issue.

UGC officials, however, pointed out the post of Secretary UGC cannot be considered vacant for five years as after IAS officer Raju Sharma was repatriated just two months into the job, T Kem, RK Chauhan and now Nilofer Kazmi have all served as officiating Secretary to UGC. Kazmi, Pro VC of Pondicherry University Prof Balasubramaniam, UGC Director (Administration) K Gunasekaran and Prof Kapil Kumar from IGNOU are among the 16 candidates vying for the job.
PM seeks Malaysia help in higher education

Press Trust of India

Kuala Lumpur

SEEKING Malaysian cooperation in higher education and IT sector, prime minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday said India would have to educate its young population and develop their skills to achieve 10 per cent economic growth rate on sustained basis. While delivering the Khazanah Global Lecture in Kuala Lumpur, Singh also invited Malaysian corporate to participate in the development of Indian infrastructure, which would need investment of about $1 trillion during the 12th Plan period (2012-17).

"A young population is an asset only if it is educated, skilled and finds productive employment. If this were to happen, our objective of realising India's potential to grow at 10 per cent or more per annum for substantial period of time can become a reality," he said.

The average age of an Indian by 2020 would be 29 years as compared to 29 years in case of China and 48 for Japan. Having grown by over 9 per cent for three consecutive years, the economic growth rate slipped to 6.7 per cent during 2008-09, mainly on account of the impact of the global financial crisis. The growth rate, however, picked up during 2009-10 to 7.4 per cent.

Regarding the present financial year, Singh said, "we expect 8.5 per cent growth."

Recalling steps taken by India to set up more IITs and other institutes, he said, "both higher education and the IT sectors are promising areas for India-Malaysia cooperation."

Pointing out that Indian financial sector, including banking and capital markets, are strong, the prime minister said, "this had helped support a boom in domestic investment. Domestic investment is complemented by strong FDI flows which are welcome."
HRD Ministry in pact with Unique ID Authority

Our Bureau
New Delhi, Oct 27
The Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Unique Identification Authority of India inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here on Wednesday. The MoU would be helpful in tracking student's mobility by creating an electronic registry of all students, right from primary and elementary level to secondary and higher education, an official release said.
Imprinting of UID number on performance record of individual students (including mark sheets, merit certificates, migration certificates) will also be helpful to prospective employers and educational institutions, and would help in tracking problems of fake degrees, it said.
The move would also be useful in the implementation of mid-day meal scheme, it added.

The HRD Ministry will collaborate with the UIDAI in conducting proof of concept studies, pilots to test the working of the technology and process of enrolment into the UID database, and identify registrars for the implementation of the UID project.

Economic Times ND
28/10/2010
India, China must collaborate: Sibal

STATING THAT INDIA and China will be the "epicentre of global economic activity," human resource development minister Kapil Sibal said that collaboration between the two can help economic growth in the region. "The epicentre of the global economic activity will be India and China. Therefore, it is important for us to understand that when the two great economies collaborate with each other, we shall lead the world, and we know we shall," Mr Sibal said, addressing an Indo-China business meeting here. "We are trying to resolve all the issues with China, collaboration will bring people and economies together," he said. Stating that technical collaborations will lead to great achievements, he said the two neighbours can replace G7 in the next 30 years as their contribution will be 51% of the world's gross domestic product. "In next 40 years, we will be able to sell the technology to the rest of the world," Mr Sibal said. The comments have come after PM Manmohan Singh on Wednesday said that there was "enormous" possibility of India and China working together.
Cisco bets big on IT services sector

SANGEETHA CHENGAPPA
BENGALURU

Oct. 27: Cisco India is betting big on the Indian IT services (ITS) sector to drive the next phase of growth in the country as the sector has traditionally been a significant adopter of leading-edge networking, communications and computing technology. After pursuing a geographic sales model which targeted the North, South, East and Western markets for the last three years, the company has restructured its strategy to adopt a vertical sales model since August 2010, the beginning of Cisco’s financial year.

“While the geographic sales model brought us closer to our key customers, the vertical sales model will help us be more relevant to specific verticals, such as, Public Sector, BFSI, Enterprise, Telecom, Automotive etc. The ITS sector needs entirely new business models which will be largely driven by managed services. And the delivery of these business models will be driven by process driven engagement models. ITS companies will therefore have to adopt collaboration architecture, virtualised environment and secure infrastructure, all of which we can help out with” said Jagdish Mahapatra, VP, ITS Sales, Cisco India & SAARC. The company will work with the top ITS companies not just as consumers of its technology, but also as partners with whom it will jointly develop solutions and go-to-market strategies.

Over the last few months, Cisco has announced a host of new technologies specifically targeted to meet the changing needs of the ITS sector from the technology adoption and services delivery perspectives. For instance, its virtual technologies, such as the recently launched Virtualisation Experience Infrastructure, enable organizations to free employees to work remotely, cutting real estate and energy costs alike. Cisco also has unified communications offerings that include IP telephony calling and management, unified messaging etc. Cisco has announced several partnerships with TCS, Wipro, HCL, Bharti, Servion and UST Global in the last few months.

“We are partnering with TCS to take virtualised datacentres to all its SMB customers and have tied up with Wipro to offer remote infrastructure management services. Our partnership with HCL will take secure infrastructure solutions to global markets and our recently announced hosted contact centre services in partnership with Bharti and Servion is doing very well “ said Jagdish. More recently, Cisco transformed UST Global’s Thiruvananthapuram campus into a smart, and connected campus and is partnering with the company to offer the solution to ITS sectors most of which are investing heavily in new campuses. “Besides all this, we are providing thought leadership on transformational business models to the ITS sector, which is being demanded by their global customers” added Jagdish.

He said, some of the areas that ITS companies will invest heavily in, going forward are, borderless networks for green IT-connected real estate and secure mobility; virtualization including private and public cloud offerings as well as virtual desktop integration; and lastly, collaborative technologies such as, business video, unified communications, integration of web 2.0 capabilities in contact centre solutions.
शिक्षकों को हड़ताल का हक नहीं: कोर्ट

कार्यालय संबंधदाता

नई दिल्ली

पिछले तीन दिनों से नई दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) में जारी शिक्षकों की हड़ताल पर हाईकोर्ट ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय शिक्षक संघ (डूटा) के साथ डीयू व इसके अधीनस्थ कॉलेजों को नोटिस जारी किया है।

मुख्य न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति दीपक भिंड्रा ने व्याख्या मनमोहन की पीढ़ी के सभी फंडों को शुरू करने के जवाब देने को कहा है। पीढ़ी के कहा कि शिक्षकों का काम सिफ्ट ढाटों को पढ़ाना है न कि विश्वविद्यालय के फेसलों के खिलाफ हड़ताल करना।

पीढ़ी के कहा कि शिक्षकों को हड़ताल पर जाना का कोई अधिकार नहीं है। इसके लिए हाईकोर्ट ने मध्य प्रदेश व केंद्र हाईकोर्ट के दो फेसलों को हवाला दिया जिसमें शिक्षकों की हड़ताल को अवैध ठहराया गया। कोर्ट ने घटित परिस्थिति के सदस्य रहे प्रो. एम.आर. गुप्ता की जनहिंद याचिका पर की। याचिका में हड़ताल शिक्षकों पर कार्यवाही के अस्तित्व उन कॉलेजों की मान्यता समाप्त करने की मांग की गई है जो सेमेंटर सिस्टम नहीं पढ़ने वाले शिक्षकों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं करते हैं। डीयू ने कॉलेजों को ऐसे शिक्षकों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही का आदेश दिया था। याचिका में डीयू ने कुलशक्ति को हड़ताल पर जाने वाले शिक्षकों को 'काम नहीं तो वेतन नहीं' की तरह पर वेतन नहीं देने का आदेश देने की मांग की है।
हिन्दुस्तान न्यूज 28/10/2010

प्राथमिक शिक्षा को बेहतर करने की जरूरत: आनंद

यही दिल्ली। देश को विकसित बनाने के लिए ज्ञान से ज्ञान देशीन लोगों को जरूरत है और यह तब तक संभव नहीं है कि जब तक कि निचले तक की शिक्षा पर पूरा ध्यान केंद्रित न किया जाए।

वे बात सुझ-30 के नाम से प्रकाशित आनंद कूमार ने बुधवार को आईआईटी-दिल्ली के हिडराट मॉड्यूलर ऑफ मैनेजमेंट स्टडीज के दूसरे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम 'एक्सिलेंस इन स्कूल एजुकेशन' में कही। आनंद ने कहा कि सबसे बड़ी जरूरत है प्राथमिक शिक्षा पर ध्यान देने की। अगर प्राथमिक शिक्षा बेहतर होगी और अधिक से अधिक लोगों तक पहुँचेगी तो उच्च शिक्षा में भी भागीदारी का प्रतिशत बढ़ेगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि पर्यावरण सत्ता पर अंग्रेजी सीखने के लिए राज्य तथा केंद्र सरकार के समूहीक प्रयास से एक केंद्र स्थापित करना होगा ताकि कोई भी बच्चों निशुष्क अंग्रेजी सीख सकें।

आनंद कूमार ने कहा कि विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के केंद्र में खोलने का कदम अहेतु है। ऐसी ही से शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता में सुधार तो आएगा ही, एक स्कूल से छात्र छात्र जो विदेश पढ़ने चाहते हैं और इसके बजाय से 7.5 लाख डॉलर धन भी देश में ही रह जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में अगर शिक्षा सके लिए उपलब्ध हो जाए तो विकसित देशों की फेरहसित में भारत काल ही शामिल हो जाएगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि नेशनल एजुकेशन ऑफ सॉफ्टवेयर एंड सर्विसेज के अनुसार देश में 20 से 25 प्रतिशत स्नातक ऐसे हैं जो किसी कंपनी के लिए काम कर सके और यह संख्या देश की जरूरत के दिशा से कम है।

अभी भी गोरखों के चलते सिर्फ 5% से 88 बच्चों की पढ़ी छूट जाती है। ऐसे में पहले हम इस खाली को पाटना होगा और इसके लिए प्राथमिक शिक्षा को बेहतर करने की आवश्यकता है।

■ इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा में हो रहे बदलावों के बारे में आपका क्या कहना है?
- इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश में मानव संसार में विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा किया जा रहे परिवर्तन की बात पूछने पर आनंद ने कहा कि अगर ऐसा होता है तो फिर से अंग्रेजी की दीवारें खुदा हो जाएंगी और गरीब तकनीक के लिए बेहतर कर पाने के रास्ते में रोड़े आ जाएंगे।

■ देश में शिक्षा की स्थिति को कैसे सुधारा जा सकता है?
- शिक्षा की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए जरूरी है कि सभी को शिक्षा सुलभ हो।

■ आपने कहा है कि भारत में 22, 480 कॉलेज तथा विश्वविद्यालय हैं जिनमें प्रति वर्ष पांच से छह विद्यार्थी में दुश्मन त्याग होते हैं। ऐसे सिद्धांत को बौद्धिक तथा प्रौद्योगिकी खात को भी कम करने में सहयोग नहीं होता है और यह संख्या हमारे देश की जरूरत के अंगुलियों में काफी कम है।

■ प्राथमिक शिक्षा को बेहतर कर शिक्षा के समस्याओं का हल निकाला जा सकता है?
- कृपया अपने पत्रकार को समझा दें।
अब केंद्रीय विवि में भी विदेशी गुरु

आईआईटी, आईआईटी के तर्ज पर कांटेक्ट पर नियुक्त को मंत्रालय की मंजूरी मिली

नई दिल्ली

शिक्षकों की कमी से जूझ रहे केंद्रीय विद्याभूमियों, आईआईटी और आईआईटी में विदेशी प्रोफेसरों को कांटेक्ट पर नियुक्ति के रास्ते अब खुलने लगे हैं। मानचित्र संसद केंद्र ने आईआईटी में विदेशी शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति पर सैद्धांतिक समर्थन दी है। जबकि केंद्रीय विवि के मुख्यों में फैसला इन्हें पर छोड़ दिया गया है।

कुछ के केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों इस दिशा में पहल कर भी चुके हैं। जैसे में केंद्रीय एक दर्जन विदेशी शिक्षक हैं। हालांकि अभी ज्यादातर विदेशी भाषा से जुड़े विभागों में है। लेकिन अभी वाले समय में साइंस और अन्य तकनीकी विषयों के प्रोफेसरों की संख्या विश्वविद्यालयों में बढ़ते आसार हैं। बल्कि कि देश के कई निजी विवि में विदेशी प्रोफेसर भर्त हैं। और उन्हें बंधु पर दिखा जा रहा है।

देश में अभी 40 केंद्रीय विवि हैं जिनमें शिक्षकों के करीब 36 पीसीडी पद खाली है। नए खुलने जा रहे 14 विश्व स्तरीय इनोवेशन विवि के प्रोफेसर के खाली पद

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लिए भी भारी संख्या में शिक्षकों की कमी के लिए नजर इनोवेशन विवि के विभेदक में ही स्थाई विदेशी प्रोफेसरों की नियुक्ति का प्रावधान किया जा रहा है। हाल में नये इस्तेमाल हिल यूनिवर्सिटी के तकनीकी क्याबर कांटेक्ट के अध्यक्ष वही कांटेक्ट पर नियुक्ति का सुझाव दिया गया है जिस पर मंत्रालय सहमत है।

मंत्रालय में एक उच्च अधिकारी के अनुसार, ‘टेक्नोलॉजी को किर्चर पर मंत्रालय ने सहमति प्राप्त की है। यूनिवर्सिटी के कांटेक्ट पर अभी भी विदेशी शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति पर कोई रोक नहीं है। लेकिन अभी इसका अधिकता उनके पैकेज को लेकर आता है क्योंकि वे ज्यादा पैकेज चाहते हैं। इसलिए विवि उन्हें नियुक्त नहीं करते है। अब स्वाथात्मि संस्थाओं के यह अनुमान दे जा रही है कि वे अपने संस्थाओं से अतिरिक्त पैकेज की गरिश चुकाने ऐसी नियुक्तियां कर सकते हैं।
विज्ञान वर्ग में भी पढ़ाया जा रहा 15-20 वर्ष पुराना पाठ्यक्रम

बाइस साल से नहीं बदला इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स का पाठ्यक्रम

दिनेश मणि पटेल, नई दिल्ली

दिनेश मणि पटेल, नई दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के मुख्य कार्यकारी प्रो. दीपक पंत की चेतना में सुधार जरूरी है। इसी स्तर पर विज्ञान वर्ग के कुछ अन्य पाठ्यक्रमों में 15 से लेकर विश्व स्तर तक पुराना पाठ्यक्रम पढ़ाया जा रहा है। इस दीनान विज्ञान में बिहू है। बिहू के बाद विश्व स्तर तक पुराना पाठ्यक्रम पढ़ाया जा रहा है।

नए विषयों को पढ़ाने के लिए पाठ्यक्रमों को नए विषयों को व्यवस्थापन करने की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसी स्तर पर विज्ञान वर्ग में पाठ्यक्रम पढ़ाने के लिए एक विषय को ही उपयोग करके जल्दी से ही विषयों को पढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।

पाठ्यक्रमों को नए सिरे से तैयार किया जा रहा है। दीपक पंत कहा कि इसी स्तर पर विज्ञान वर्ग में क्रिया हो रही है। इसके पश्चात उन्होंने कहा कि इसी स्तर पर विज्ञान वर्ग में पढ़ाने के लिए एक विषय को ही उपयोग करके जल्दी से ही विषयों को पढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।