

# Engg Colleges Expand Recruiters' List

IITs, others invite cos from more sectors to boost campus hiring amid IT industry woes

**Prachi Verma Dadhwal  
& Sreeradha D Basu**

**New Delhi | Bengaluru:** With no signs of a revival for the Indian IT industry anytime soon, engineering colleges are redrawing their strategies to attract more job offers in a tough placement season.

Many of these colleges had earlier told **ET** that they were expecting IT/ITeS firms to step up hiring in the first half of 2024, which marks the second half of the placement season. But now that prospect is looking increasingly bleak. With several other sectors such as technology and startups scaling back recruitment, institutes are ex-

ploring all avenues to ensure that as many students as possible graduate with jobs. From top-league institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and others like the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) to government engineering colleges in states, and private engineering colleges — all are expanding their recruiter list

between 25% and 100% compared to previous

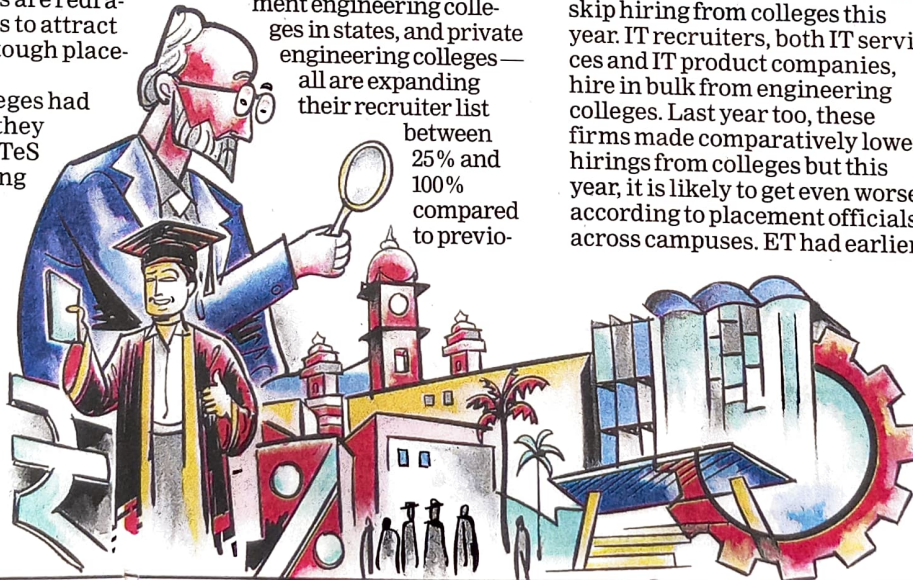
years; tapping other sectors and even reaching out to alumni to seek help, placement officials told **ET**.

In the earnings announcement for the fiscal second quarter, India's second-largest software services firm Infosys said it will skip hiring from colleges this year. IT recruiters, both IT services and IT product companies, hire in bulk from engineering colleges. Last year too, these firms made comparatively lower hirings from colleges but this year, it is likely to get even worse, according to placement officials across campuses. **ET** had earlier

reported that overall hiring numbers from this sector could drop by 20-40%. IIT Kanpur is inviting at least 1,000 new companies this year as the institute expects 10-15% fewer offers this year, said a placement executive.

Meanwhile, IIT Madras has expanded its student team in the placement cell to have at least 25% more hands for chasing recruiters. "This is the first time we are gearing up to such a high degree for the placement season," said a student in the placement cell of another old IIT.

IIT BHU, on its part, is tapping into its alumni network to seek out newer firms this year. The institute is also exploring multiple sectors. "The manufacturing sector and the semiconductor industry has seen tremendous growth this past year and these are few of the many verticals that we're targeting for this year's placements," said coordinator, training and placement cell, Sushant K Shrivastava.



VARANI SAHU

## 10-DAY PROGRAMME IN JHARKHAND'S LOHARDAGA HELPS LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR GROWTH STRATEGY

## IIM-powered course for entrepreneurs from Maoist-hit district

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, OCTOBER 18

A GIRL WHO recently passed her class 12 exams, and her mother, deliberate the links between production cost, quality, competition and a lack of profit in connection with their at-home mustard oil business; a woman in her 30s, part of a self-help group, is guided on how to negotiate the right price for her jute products; a man in his 40s discusses his dairy business's new tagline – 'Jeevan Dhaara doodh: Furti ka raaz, Jeevan Dhara ke saath' (Jeevan Dhaara milk: The secret behind agility, with Jeevan Dhaara).

These were some of the scenes that played out at a Rural Self Employment Training Centre in a Maoist-affected district in the heart of Jharkhand, where, between September 11 and September 20, emerging entrepreneurs based in villages got a crash course on marketing and business skills

from top B-school professors.

The Management Development Programme (MDP) was an initiative devised by Lohardaga district's Deputy Commissioner Krishna Prasad Waghmare, who, with the help of the Niti Aayog Prize money allocated to aspirational districts, organised 10 days of classes taken by IIM Ranchi professors at the training centre in Lohardaga town.

The classes were in Hindi to ensure that the 30 participants could fully engage with and grasp the wide range of topics covered, including market research, product positioning, branding, pricing strategies, and digital marketing, among others.

"Earlier, I never knew what IIM was. But now I have a dream for my own children to study at an IIM," said Holika Devi, an artisan who attended the programme.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Deepak Kumar Srivastava, the director of IIM Ranchi, said the programme was a testament to the



Participants attend a Management Development Programme crash course on marketing and business skills

institution's commitment to Jharkhand. "At IIM Ranchi, we believe in global orientation and local responsiveness, and this MDP is one of the ways through which we can support local communities. The programme will equip... [rural entrepreneurs] to expand their businesses and create a positive impact on the local economy," he said.

Among these rural entrepre-

neers is Jitendra Turi, who came up with the tagline for his product, Jeevan Dhara milk, during one of the classes. Turi, a farmer, and two of his partners attended the training programme to learn how to run a dairy business since they were set to get cows from the district administration under a government scheme.

In class, they got a lecture on various brands' advertisements,

and were encouraged to devise their own tagline that resonates with their customers.

"I have no experience in business, but after attending the classes, I have realised that we will not make much profit just by selling milk. We learned that profit can be made through value-added products, such as ghee or paneer," Turi said.

Tripti Sahu and her mother Rekha Devi have long been struggling to make their mustard oil business profitable. During a class on pricing strategy, the mother-daughter duo told the class that they sell the oil at Rs 150-160 litre when the cost of making it, including labour, comes to more than that. Sahu lamented that competitors often compromised on quality to sell oil at cheaper rates.

Explaining that they should include a profit margin in the price, even if competitors sell at a smaller price, their professor Shweta Jha said: "That is why we

had a class on promotion preparing taglines: What is it that you are giving? Is the product chemical-free? What is the quality? If people in your panchayat are not buying it, there is a market in other areas which we spoke about during the class on consumer insights. It is the idea behind the oil that also needs to be sold."

Speaking to *The Indian Express* later from her home in Hirhi panchayat, Sahu said her family was now ready to scale up the business. "We will set up an Instagram page as well, and start an account on Facebook soon," she said. Their IIM professor said the classes were also an opportunity for the teachers to learn from these rural entrepreneurs.

"At IIM, we mostly teach students who have not done any business before, and the mode of communication is English. In Lohardaga, we had to improvise a lot while focussing on the basics and communicating without using jargon," Jha said. JE

# OBCs and subcategories

OBCs, the beneficiaries of 27% reservation in Central Govt jobs, are not a monolith. The 2,514 castes in the central list of OBCs are at different levels of marginalisation. States have long sought to dice the OBC quota to ensure equity, but subcategorisation at the central level has been a hot-button issue

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

THE MINISTER for Backward Classes Welfare in Andhra Pradesh said on Wednesday that the state will begin a backward classes census from November 15. C Srinivasa Venugopala Krishna said the 139 backward-class communities in the state were unaware of their numerical strength, and the data would help the government serve them better.

The publication of the results of the caste survey in Bihar earlier this month had raised the possibility that other states too would announce similar exercises as the country enters a new cycle of elections. The enumeration of castes, as well as the sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in order to ensure equity in the distribution of reservation benefits have been hot-button issues for long.

## Other Backward Classes

The expression 'OBC' was coined to denote backward/ marginalised communities and castes that were not Scheduled Castes (SCs) or Scheduled Tribes (STs). It is recognised that social backwardness in India has traditionally been a direct consequence of caste status, and that other types of backwardness have flowed from this initial handicap.

Affirmative action for OBCs is mandated by Article 15(4) of the Constitution: "Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of Article 29 [non-discrimination with regard to admission into state educational institutions on grounds of religion, caste, etc] shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens...".

Article 16(4) allows the State to make "any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State".

## 'Backwards' among OBCs

OBCs have been generally identified on the basis of their occupation: cultivation of own land, tenant farming, agriculture labour, cultivation and selling of vegetables, fruits and flowers, cattle-rearing, washing of clothes, carpentry, blacksmithy, oilseeds crushing, pottery, stone-cutting, etc.

The many castes among the OBCs are at different levels of marginalisation. At first glance, two broad categories within the OBCs emerge: those who own land, and those who do not.

The demand for reservation for the "backwards among OBCs" has gained traction as the feeling has grown that a handful of 'upper' OBCs have grabbed most of the benefits of the 27% reservation that was implemented more than 30 years ago.

## EBCs: the case of Bihar

The Bihar caste survey identified 27% of the



Former Bihar Chief Minister Karpooi Thakur (second from right) introduced quotas based on subcategorisation of OBCs in 1979. Thakur is seen with fellow socialists (from left) Biju Patnaik, Madhu Limaye, Devi Lal, Rabi Ray. Express Archive

population as "pichhda" (backward), and 36% as "atyant pichhda" (Extremely Backward Classes, or EBCs). Back in 1951, the state had prepared a list of 109 castes, 79 of which were deemed to be "more backward" than the remaining 30. In 1964, Patna High Court struck down the two lists as unconstitutional.

In June 1970, the Bihar government appointed the Mungeri Lal Commission, which in its report of February 1976 named 128 "backward" communities, 94 of which were identified as "most backward". The Janata Party government of Chief Minister Karpooi Thakur implemented the recommendations of the Mungeri Lal Commission.

The so-called Karpooi Thakur Formula provided 26% reservation, of which OBCs got a 12% share, the economically backward classes among the OBCs got 8%, women got 3%, and the poor from the 'upper' castes got 3%.

In an attempt to build a base for himself beyond his own small Kurmi caste, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has made efforts to reach out to the 'backward' OBCs (mainly the artisan castes) to the exclusion of the 'upper' OBCs — mainly Yadavs whose loyalties lie with Lalu Prasad. Like the *ati-pichhda* backwards (EBCs), a category of "Mahadalits" has been identified among the Scheduled Castes. In both Bihar and UP, the EBCs are seen as a large vote bank that is wooed by the BJP as well.

The OBC reservation pie in Bihar is currently divided among groups including BC-I and BC-II.

## Two OBC Commissions

**FIRST OBC COMMISSION:** The panel, headed by Kaka Kalelkar, was constituted by Jawaharlal Nehru's government on January 29, 1953, and submitted its report on March 30, 1955. To identify socially and educationally backward classes, the commission adopted the following criteria: low social position in the traditional caste hierarchy of Hindu society; lack of general educational advancement among the major section of the caste/community; inadequate or no representation in government

service; inadequate representation in trade, commerce and industry.

The First OBC Commission prepared a list of 2,399 backward castes or communities in the country, and categorised 837 of them as "most backward". The Commission also recommended enumerating castes in the 1961 census, providing 25-40% reservation at different levels of government jobs, and 70% reservation for admission to technical and professional institutions.

The report was never discussed in Parliament and never implemented.

**SECOND OBC COMMISSION:** This was the B P Mandal Commission, which was appointed in 1979 by Morarji Desai's Janata government, but the implementation of which was announced only in 1990 by the government of V P Singh.

The Mandal Commission identified 3,743 castes and communities as OBCs, estimated their population at 52%, and recommended 27% reservation in government jobs and admissions to all government-run scientific, technical, and professional institutions. No subcategories were recognised within the 27% OBC quota.

The Centre's Official Memorandum on the implementation of the Mandal recommendations, issued on September 25, 1991, said: "Within the 27%...reserved for SEBCs, preference shall be given to candidates belonging to the poorer sections of the SEBCs...". However, the Centre has always implemented the quota treating the entire OBC population as one block after excluding the "creamy layer" of affluent candidates on the basis of criteria fixed after a Supreme Court ruling.

## Subcategories in states

Over the decades, state governments have applied their own criteria to distribute quota benefits among the various categories of OBCs, a process that began well before the Mandal recommendations were implemented at the Centre.

■ In Andhra Pradesh, OBCs are divided

into five subcategories: (A) Aboriginal tribes, *vimukt jatis*, nomadic and semi nomadic tribes etc; (B) Professional group like tappers, weavers, carpenters, ironsmiths, goldsmiths, *kamsalins* etc; (C) SC converts to Christianity and their progeny; (D) all other OBC castes and communities not covered in the previous three categories; (E) 14 Muslim OBC castes, who were identified in 2007. Groups A-E share 29% reservation benefits, split into 7%, 10%, 1%, 7%, and 4% respectively. Telangana follows the same model.

■ In Karnataka, 207 OBCs castes are divided into five sub-groups.

■ Jharkhand has two groups: Extremely Backward Classes and Backward Classes.

■ West Bengal's 143 OBC castes are divided into More Backwards and Backwards.

■ In Maharashtra, the 21% OBC reservation is shared by the Special Backward Category (2%) and Other Backward Classes (19%).

■ In Tamil Nadu, the 50% OBC quota is divided among Backward Classes (26.5%), Backward Class Muslims (3.5%), and Most Backward Classes/Denotified Community (20%).

■ In Kerala, 40% OBC reservation is divided into eight subgroups, including Ezhava/Thiyya/Billava (14%), and Muslims (12%).

■ In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP-led government of Rajnath Singh constituted a Social Justice Committee to subcategorise SCs and OBCs to provide quotas within quotas. The Hukum Singh Committee declared Yadavs as 'forwards' among backwards and ranked more influential communities like Jats below them, and put Jatavs at the top among SCs. The report was challenged before the Supreme Court, and the BSP-BJP government headed by Mayawati did not go ahead with the implementation.

## UPA's subcategorisation bid

With land-owning OBCs having deserted the Congress in both North and South India, the party was looking for a new base. As the 2014 elections approached, the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi started to underline his OBC identity and, at a rally in Kochi on February 9 that year, declared that backwards and most backwards would rule India for the next 10 years.

Days later, on February 13, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment asked the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) to examine the matter of subcategorisation of OBCs in the central list. On March 2, 2015, the NCBC, then headed by Justice (ret'd) V Eswaraiah, suggested that OBCs should be subcategorised into Extremely Backward Classes, More Backward Classes, and Backward Classes.

The recommendation was not implemented and, in October 2017, a new commission for subcategorisation of OBCs was constituted under Justice G Rohini. The Rohini Commission submitted its report on July 31 this year, but its contents are not public.

# Revolution and its sutradhar

M S Swaminathan was more than just a scientist. He was the champion that Indian agriculture lacks today



HARISH DAMODARAN

IN MARCH 1963, after an invitation was extended to him by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the American agronomist Norman Borlaug came to Delhi and toured the country's major wheat-growing areas to study the crop that was in the grain-filling stage prior to harvesting.

He was accompanied by M S Swaminathan, then the head of IARI's division of botany, and his colleagues, including S P Kohli, M V Rao and V S Mathur. Based on his field observations, Borlaug decided to send about 100 kg seeds each of four semi-dwarf wheat varieties he had bred at Mexico under a Rockefeller Foundation-funded programme — Sonora 63, Sonora 64, Mayo 64 and Lerma Rojo 64A — for testing under Indian conditions.

The seeds arrived in October 1963. Swaminathan — who had first recognised the potential of growing the Mexican varieties and was instrumental in getting Borlaug to India — arranged for their sowing in November, at trial fields in IARI (Delhi) as well as in Ludhiana (Punjab), Pantnagar and Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), and Pusa (Bihar).

Encouraged by their yield performance at the multi-location trials, Swaminathan, in June 1964, proposed that Borlaug's varieties be planted in the fields of actual farmers, especially smallholders, in the ensuing 1964-65 rabi season. He sought 1,000 such "national demonstrations" to show that the higher yields had to do with the "new plant type" — less tall varieties with strong stems that responded to high-fertiliser doses and didn't bend when their ears were heavy with well-filled grains — and not landholding size. C Subramaniam, the then Union minister of agriculture, approved the programme in August, overruling objections of his officials and Planning Commission economists. They were sceptical about the efficacy or even necessity of the semi-dwarf wheat. Left to them, the multi-location trials would have gone on for years just in research fields.

In November 1964, the seeds of Sonora 64 and Lerma Rojo 64A were sown by farmers from Delhi's Jaunti village. They harvested 4-4.5 tonnes of grain per hectare during April-May 1965, as against their average 1-1.5 tonnes from the existing tall varieties. For Swaminathan, it was a vindication of his faith in both the technology and the absorptive capacity of farmers.

In 1965-66 and 1966-67, India suffered back-to-back droughts. As foodgrain production fell to 72-74 million tonnes (mt), from the previous five years' average of 83 mt, imports soared and touched 10.4 mt in 1966. Swaminathan now pushed for the import of 18,250 tonnes of seeds of the two Mexican varieties. He convinced Subramaniam and also got the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to agree after inviting him to see the standing crop of the varieties at IARI's trial fields in March 1965. He simultaneously worked the bureaucracy. His father-in-law S Bhoothalingam being the finance secretary, with the authority to release scarce foreign exchange for the then largest seed shipment in history, definitely helped.

As the imported seeds got planted on a large scale, foodgrain output crossed 95 mt in 1967-68 and 108.5 mt by 1970-71. Wheat production alone more than doubled from 11.4 mt to 23.8 mt between 1966-67 and 1970-71. By this time, Indian scientists — Punjab Agricultural University's D S Athwal and IARI's Kohli — had developed their own Kalyansona and Sonalika varieties through selections from segregating populations of other wheat strains (S 227 and S 308) sent by Borlaug. These produced amber-coloured grains with



C R Sasikumar

better chapati-making quality than the red kernels from the original Mexican varieties.

The purpose of recounting the above details and the chronology of events is to highlight the central role of Swaminathan. The Green Revolution's blockbuster wheat varieties were bred by the likes of Athwal, Kohli and Mathur (Arjun, HD 2285 and HD 2329), just as the legendary G S Khush (IR 36 and IR64), V Rama Chandra Rao (Swarna) and M V Reddy (Samba Mahsun) did for rice.

Swaminathan's work, as a PhD and post-doctoral researcher at Cambridge and Wisconsin, was primarily in potato genetics and breeding. Yet, he was undoubtedly the master strategist and *sutradhar* (architect) of India's Green Revolution. His ability to keep abreast of global agricultural breakthroughs — tracing the Norin-10 dwarfing genes in wheat from Japan and locating Orville Vogel and Borlaug, who had developed varieties incorporating these in the US and Mexico respectively — and building connections with ministers and top officials as much as scientists made him the conductor of the symphony orchestra.

The parallel one can draw is with Verghese Kurien. The father of the White Revolution certainly understood dairy technology, but the man who provided Amul its technical backbone and invented the world's first spray dryer for making powder from buffalo milk is the largely forgotten H M Dalaya. As Kurien admitted, "my role was in marketing, external affairs and handling politicians, bureaucrats and other establishment people". Yet, there could have been no Green or White revolutions without Swaminathan and Kurien.

Swaminathan wasn't only *sutradhar*; he was also Lord Krishna of Indian agriculture who saw what lay ahead too. As early as January 1968, he flagged the risks of pathogen and pest attacks from mono-cropping ("a sin-

The parallel one can draw is with Verghese Kurien. The Father of the White Revolution certainly understood dairy technology, but the man who provided Amul its technical backbone and invented the world's first spray-dryer for making milk powder from buffalo milk was the largely-forgotten H M Dalaya. As Kurien was to himself admit, 'my role was in marketing, external affairs and handling politicians, bureaucrats and other establishment people'. Yet, there could have been no Green or White revolutions without Swaminathan and Kurien.

gle variety...grown in large, contiguous areas") and "unscientific tapping of underground water (leading to the rapid exhaustion of this wonderful capital resource left to us through ages of natural farming)".

The Green Revolution relied on breeding varieties enabling farmers to apply more nutrients and water. This "more input, more output strategy" has yielded diminishing returns over time, apart from being environmentally and financially unsustainable. A younger Swaminathan of the 21st century would, perhaps, have focused on technologies for improved nutrient and water use efficiency ("less input, more output") and breeding for climate change. He would have championed cutting-edge agricultural biotechnology, gene modification and editing research with the same zeal as with the semi-dwarf wheat and rice varieties.

Indian agriculture today lacks champions like Swaminathan and Kurien who could have the ear of the political leadership. They had a strategic vision for the sector that placed the farmer at the centre in their overall scheme of things.

There aren't many scientists for whom farmers would have observed a *bhog* and *antim ardas* funeral service, as was done for Swaminathan at a gurdwara in Punjab earlier this month. For them, he was a *Kisanan Da Masiha* (a messiah of the farmers). Prime Minister Narendra Modi said pretty much the same, when he called him not a "Krishi Vaigyanik" (agricultural scientist), but a "Kisan Vaigyanik" — a farmers' scientist.

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This article is based on the lecture 'From Green to Evergreen Revolution: Remembering Dr M S Swaminathan' delivered by the writer at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

# AICTE allows working professionals to pursue diploma, BTech/BE degrees

## MPOST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** In an effort to help working professionals pursue their higher education, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has now officially permitted them to pursue diploma, BTech/BE degrees from AICTE-affiliated institutes.

This initiative is a continuous education programme for in-service persons that will help them in their professional upgradation.

In order to streamline the admission process and on the directions of the Supreme Court, AICTE has come up with proper guidelines for the institutes and decided to extend the last date for admission till October 30.

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**'174 AICTE approved institutes from across the country are selected to run 360 diploma courses for ITI working professionals and a total 10,800 seats are offered for diploma courses'**

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A committee of experts has been formed for the assessment and final selection of institutes interested in offering courses for working professionals for the academic year 2023-24 only in the approved disciplines having NBA accreditation, the AICTE statement read.

Based on this assessment, a total of 137 AICTE approved Institutes from across the country, including aspirational districts, northeastern states,

hilly areas and J&K have been selected to offer 306 courses in the BE/BTech programme. In total, 9,180 seats are available for diploma holders working professionals who can now pursue BE/BTech degree.

Similarly, 174 AICTE approved institutes from across the country are selected to run 360 diploma courses for ITI working professionals and a total 10,800 seats are offered for diploma courses. *mil*

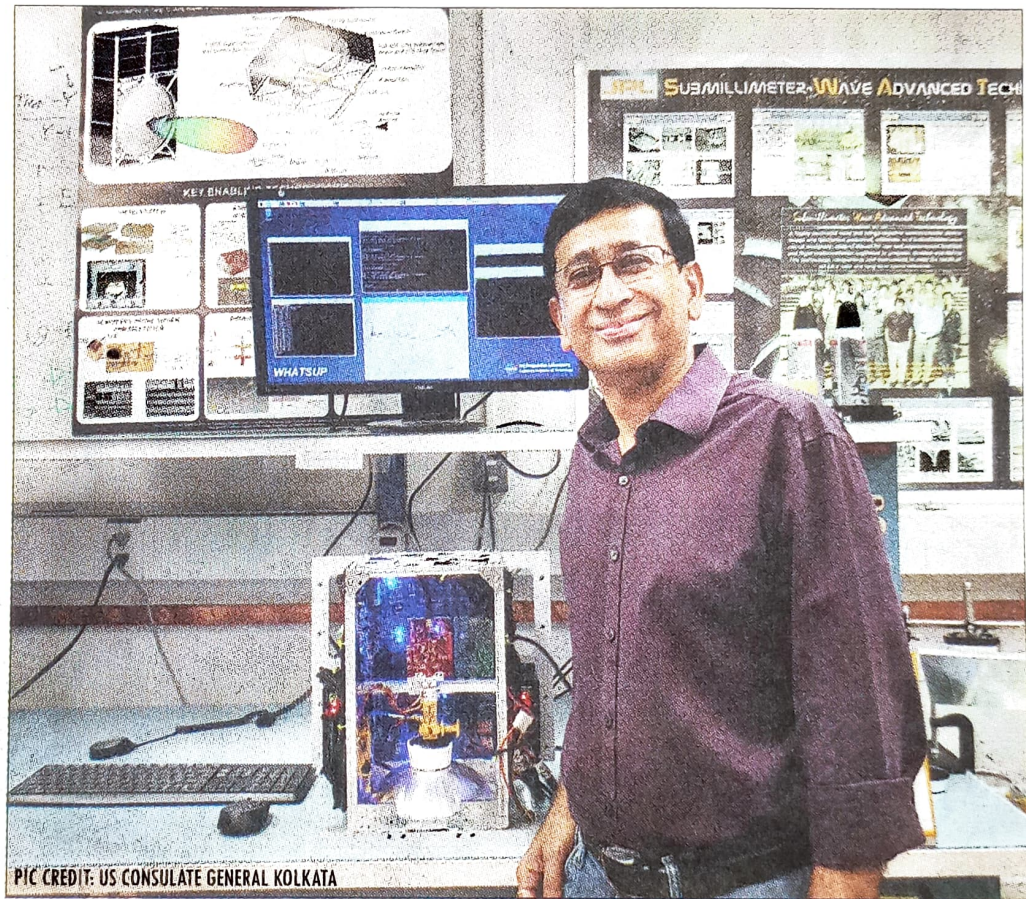
# Bengali scientist gets People Leadership Award at NASA

## Says he finds his greatest joy when he engages with young, curious professionals

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**G**autam Chattopadhyay, a senior research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is a shining example of the saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Born and brought up in Nabagram in Konnagar, Hooghly, he grew up with five siblings. Despite the odds, he excelled in his studies. Chattopadhyay has become part of the distinguished group of Bengali scientists at NASA and has recently received the prestigious NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratory 2023 People Leadership Award. This achievement is not only a source of pride for Bengal but for all of India. Naturally, his family is exceptionally proud of him.

Chattopadhyay finds his greatest joy when he engages with young, curious minds. Taking to LinkedIn post receiving the award, he wrote, "I feel humbled and honoured to receive NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratory 2023 People Leadership Award. The part of the citation reads, "for providing technical leadership, motivation, and mentoring to the next generation of RF/Microwave engineers." This award is presented annually to selected individuals who have distinguished themselves by making outstanding contributions to NASA-JPL. The most exciting part of my job at NASA-JPL is that I get to talk to young professionals who are the best and brightest in their fields and come from all across the globe. The twinkling of excitement and dreams in their eyes is the best reward anyone can get - I con-



sider myself very fortunate to get this opportunity."

Chattopadhyay has been academically inclined since childhood. He completed his school education at Nabagram Vidyapith in Konnagar and went on to study Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering at the University of Calcutta. He completed his MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia and PhD in Electrical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1999. He has been working at NASA for the past 12 years.

His success brought great joy to his family and the neighbourhood. When his sister

**EVERY YEAR, NASA ACKNOWLEDGES AND HONOURS SCIENTISTS IN SPACE SCIENCE**

Dolly Chakraborty is asked about her brother's achievements, she said, "My brother has always been a smart kid. He was equally passionate about sports. His accomplishments make us proud every day."

His younger brother, Kaushik Bhattacharya, said that Chattopadhyay plans to return home in December. "Despite his remarkable

achievements, he has always remained down-to-earth. When he's home, he chats with friends just like the old days. It's amazing how he is still the same person, who started from nowhere and has reached great heights," he said.

Every year, NASA acknowledges and honours scientists in space science. This year, Chattopadhyay received the special leadership award for motivating the younger generation to become interested in and involved in scientific research. His family also shared that Chattopadhyay will be a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming space mission. *mil*

# पेशेवरों के लिए 10,800

# डिप्लोमा और 9180

# इंजीनियरिंग सीटों को मंजूरी

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस:अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआइसीटीई) ने कामकाजी पेशेवरों के लिए खुद से संबद्ध संस्थानों से डिप्लोमा, बी.टेक या बीई डिग्री हासिल करने की आधिकारिक रूप से अनुमति दे दी है। इससे ये पेशेवर रूप से उन्नत हो सकेंगे। इसने कामकाजी पेशेवरों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए डिप्लोमा पाठ्यक्रमों की 10,800 सीटों व डिग्री पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए 9,180 सीटों को मंजूरी दी है।

नियामक ने कहा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों पर एआइसीटीई संस्थानों के लिए उचित दिशानिर्देश लेकर आया है और प्रवेश की अंतिम तिथि 30 अक्टूबर तक बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। संस्थान केवल एआइसीटीई द्वारा अनुमोदित पाठ्यक्रम या विषयों की पेशकश कर सकते हैं। एक संस्थान तीन पाठ्यक्रम पेश कर सकता है और हर जिले से केवल चार संस्थानों को इसकी अनुमति है।



# पांचवीं से आठवीं तक के विद्यार्थी पढ़ेंगे कृषि विषय

रीतिका मिश्रा • नई दिल्ली

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 में स्कूली शिक्षा में व्यावसायिक शिक्षा को शामिल करने की बात की गई है। इसी तर्ज पर स्कूली शिक्षा में कृषि शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने और विद्यार्थियों को इस विषय को लेकर जागरूक करने के लिए 29 सरकारी स्कूलों में कृषि को गतिविधि विषय (लघु पाठ्यक्रम) के तौर पर शुरू किया जाएगा। शिक्षा निदेशालय की व्यावसायिक शिक्षा शाखा के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि सभी संबंधित 29 स्कूलों के प्रधानाचार्यों को निर्देश दे दिया गया है कि उनके स्कूलों में यह विषय गतिविधि के

- 29 सरकारी स्कूलों में स्थापित किया जाएगा कृषि क्लब
- पांच स्कूलों को गोद लेगा भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

तौर पर शुरू किया जाए। उन्होंने बताया कि स्कूलों में व्यावसायिक योजना के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए व्यावसायिक शिक्षा शाखा पांचवीं से आठवीं तक के विद्यार्थियों के लिए कृषि को एक गतिविधि विषय के तौर पर शुरू करेगी। वहीं, इन स्कूलों में एक कृषि क्लब की स्थापना भी की जाएगी। निदेशालय ने यह तय किया है कि प्रत्येक क्षेत्र से एक स्कूल में

ये क्लब स्थापित होगा। ये क्लब कृषि गतिविधियों के विकास के लिए स्थापित किया जाएंगे।

पांच सरकारी स्कूलों को भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (आइसीएआर) द्वारा गोद भी लिया जाएगा, जिन स्कूलों को गोद लिया जाएगा, वे सभी दक्षिण-पश्चिम ए जिले के हैं। इसमें पूसा स्थित जीबीएसएस स्कूल और सर्वोदय कन्या विद्यालय, नारायणा स्थित जीबीएसएस स्कूल, सर्वोदय कन्या विद्यालय और सर्वोदय बाल विद्यालय शामिल है। साथ ही कृषि पर एक सप्ताह का पाठ्यक्रम भी तैयार होगा। पाठ्यक्रम शिक्षा निदेशालय और आइसीएआर के

सहयोग से विकसित होगा। निदेशालय के अधिकारी के मुताबिक, पांच सदस्यीय टीम जिसमें चार पीजीटी (कृषि) और एक अंशकालिक व्यावसायिक शिक्षक (पीटीवीटी) होगा। टीम कृषि पर एक सप्ताह का संक्षिप्त पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करेगी। एक तीन सदस्यीय टीम, जिसमें एक पीजीटी बागवानी, एक पीटीवीटी और एक प्रशिक्षक (कृषि) कृषि क्लबों में संचालन के लिए कृषि गतिविधि विकसित करेंगे। निदेशालय के मुताबिक इन सभी गतिविधियों के लिए व्यावसायिक शिक्षा शाखा के ओएसडी संजीव कुमार गौड़ नोडल अधिकारी के तौर पर कार्य करेंगे।



# एसजीटी यूनिवर्सिटी में कराया गया टेक्नो-फेस्ट

वि. गुरुग्राम: एसजीटी यूनिवर्सिटी की ओर से तीन दिवसीय टेक्नो-फेस्ट सिनर्जी-2023 समारोह कराया गया। मुख्य अतिथि मैनकाइंड फार्मा लिमिटेड के उपाध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक राजीव जुनेजा और इंडियन फार्मास्युटिकल एलायंस के महासचिव डा. सुदर्शन जैन उपस्थित थे।

एसजीटी विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति डा. ओपी कालरा ने कहा कि अनुसंधान और नवाचार को विश्वविद्यालय की संस्कृति का हिस्सा होना चाहिए। ये एसजीटी विश्वविद्यालय के मूल मूल्यों का हिस्सा हैं। सिनर्जी-2023 ने एनसीआर के 200 से अधिक स्कूलों के 25,000 से अधिक छात्रों की मेजबानी की। कार्यक्रम

में अत्याधुनिक तकनीकी प्रगति का प्रदर्शन किया गया। इसमें सीम रिपर मशीन, स्पिनोमीटर, इलेक्ट्रिक बाइक, रिकवरी के लिए एक नीहैब ब्रेस, कृषि क्षेत्र की मशीन शामिल हैं। इस मौके पर चांसलर पद्मश्री राम बहादुर राय, मैनेजिंग ट्रस्टी मनमोहन सिंह चावला, चेयरपर्सन मधुप्रीत कौर, वीसी डा. ओपी कालरा भी थे। 25