

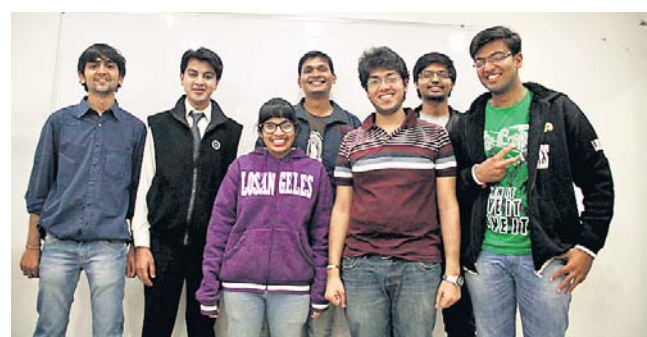


**Inauguration of GIFT City today**

CM Narendra Modi will inaugurate GIFT One, Gujarat's tallest tower, in Gandhinagar on Thursday. The 29-storey structure is the first of the many proposed buildings in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). The building, being projected as an international financial services centre, will be showcased to investors during Vibrant Gujarat Summit.

**Takru is secy, fin services**

Senior IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, Rajiv Takru, has been appointed as secretary of financial services in state's finance ministry. He will be heading the department, which oversees functioning of banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions. Takru has been given the key assignment, a promotion from his earlier post of additional secretary and financial advisor in the ministry of health and family welfare.



**Engineers dominate CAT again**

Sachin Punjabi couldn't stop smiling on Wednesday. Quite obviously, as he scored 99.95 percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2012, results of which were declared on Wednesday. Punjabi is an engineering student of Nirma University, and his stellar performance reinforces the fact that engineers continue to dominate high scores in the test. As per details available from private tutorials in the city, 15 students so far have scored above 99 percentile. "Of them, only one student is of the commerce stream, while another is a doctor. Thirteen others are engineers," said Parasharan Chari, of one of the tutorials in the city. One of the reasons for techies outperforming students of other streams could be that more engineers register for CAT, said Chari. Also, engineering students study mathematics even in college while others lose practice after school.

**JAINS & HINDUS SPAR OVER SHRINE**

Dispute over construction around idol and footprint of Girnar temple reaches Gujarat high court

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AT MALLS, SALE SIGNS ARE UP REAL EARLY

PG 7 |

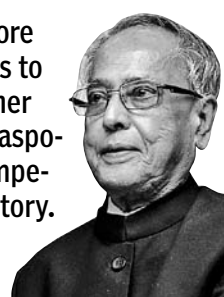
**VENEZUELA SANS CHAVEZ?**

Opposition questions govt's legality as leader's inauguration is delayed

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We should explore ways and means to encourage further participation by the diaspora to give additional impetus to India's growth story.

—Pranab Mukherjee



**118 MoUs signed at ICAI**

145 institutions from 56 countries, and 52 Collaborations involve student and faculty exchanges, and joint research activities

DNA Correspondent  
GANDHINAGAR

While many feel knowledge is invaluable, it does create wealth; for 118 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for partnership in higher education were signed on first day of International Conference of Academic Institutions (ICAI) at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), Gandhinagar. Wednesday saw Gujarat CM Narendra Modi inaugurate the ICAI meet, in presence of representatives from 145 international institutions of 56 countries. Fifty-two institutions from 14 states of India and 67 others from Gujarat participated in the event.

Modi hailed ICAI as the most important event of Vibrant Gujarat 2013. "India is the youngest country in the world with 65% of its population under 35 years of age. By 2020, the average Indian will be 28 or 29. This is a tremendous opportunity (for India) to supply skilled manpower to the world," said Modi at the event. "We should plan all our future schemes and projects, focusing on the youth. We can equip ourselves with skills for creating workforce of the world. This conference is an honest effort in that direction." A host of international delegates spoke on the occasion about various subjects of higher education. They shared their experiences, views and case studies in seven seminars. Day One also saw discussion on building world-class institutions, internationalisation of higher education, excellence in research through internationalisation, and development of skill, building of innovation ecosystem and creating centre of excellence through institution-industry interface.



Photo: Parthiv Shukla/DNA

**Share for better research, emphasise academicians**

DNA Correspondent

Global academicians, who gathered at the international conference for academic institute (ICAI) under Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2013, discussed the importance of international collaborations for research. These experts who came from United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Singapore were of the opinion that with more investment in international tie-up for research work, the better chances universities will have to solve their problems, innovate and lend a helping hand. Speaking at one of the sessions on Research Excellence through Internationalization, the assis-

ICAI seminar on research through internationalisation saw participation from Australia, Canada & UK

tant director of British Council India's Internationalising Higher Education, Manjula Rao said that UK has made plenty of efforts to promote collaborative research with other countries like China, Germany. However, India's share in collaborative research globally is 21% share, which is very less compared to other countries like US, UK, China and Germany. In the seminar, different types of international

collaboration were also discussed, which include faculty and student exchange, addressing social problems with help of public private partnership model and roping in contribution from industries.

In the session, director (transnational education and alliance unit) University of Wollongong, Australia, Dr Bill Damachis; assistant vice president (research) University of Alberta Canada, Dr Sushanta Mitra; and executive director India Research Initiative, National University of Singapore Dr BVR Chowdhary also presented their experiences in international collaborative research.



**'Companies should invest in innovation'**

DNA Correspondent

CM Narendra Modi on Wednesday suggested corporate companies to invest in innovation and make it their focus area, like with their R&D and CSR activities. Gujarat currently lags in filing number of patents every year.

The chief minister was speaking at the innovation symposium organised by state government's department of science and technology at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). At the symposium, which was themed 'Incubating Ideas till Adoption', Modi talked about few of innovation projects in Gujarat, including the solar plant on Narmada Canal. The symposium was held as part of Vibrant Gujarat 2013, aiming to sensitise participants with changing innovation scenario. Innovation runs in Gujarat's blood, believes Dr T Ramasamy, secretary of department of science and technology, Government of India. "Gujarat is the soil where seeds of innovation sown germinate into big businesses. Thus, state government should implement innovation policies for more trade ventures," said Ramasamy.

**Seminar mulls on taking education higher**

While presenting a global and national perspective on internationalisation of higher education, former executive director, US India Education Foundation (USIEF), Dr PJ Lavakare, said: "While many countries earn in billions through Internationalization of higher education, India is nowhere in the global map and is yet to utilize it as revenue." Dr Lavakare was addressing a seminar organized as part of conference titled 'International Conference for Academic Institutions-2013 in Vibrant Gujarat.

India is yet to pick up pace among countries earning billions through internationalisation of education

Presenting figures on how countries earn billions through globalizing higher education, Dr Lavakare said, "From expanding the scope of higher education and making it international, the US is the highest gainer at \$21 billion, while UK fol-

lows earning 8.5 billion pounds every year.

"While countries are eyeing it as an opportunity, India is yet to consider it (higher education) as major revenue earning source," he said. The seminar aimed at clearing the misconception that globalization leads to brain drain. It also talked on how internationalization also means preparing students and improving them for the huge world.

**I'm not considering signing MoUs with institutes and industries here, as it is just one tool for collaborations. I'm looking forward to building partnership for research and utilising opportunity for exploring new dimensions of innovations.** — Judith Wolfson, vice-president, University of Toronto

**Lost in the crowd?**

While many were involved in networking with fellow delegates, this correspondent met a group who weren't aware of what they were seeking and what they can provide to Indian institutes in terms of higher education. "We were in the city to partner with Saurashtra University, after which we are here to attend the summit. We have no specific expectations for collaboration from this summit," said one of the members of this delegation.

**Gujarat is an example for developing countries, as entrepreneurship in the state is being promoted and government support for the same is tremendous. I'm an entrepreneur in Lesotho and I'm here to learn the same and apply it in my country.** — Lana Edwards, George Sanuanoane, Lesotho (in Africa)

**This is first time we are attending the summit. We're here to explore new dimensions in education and to collaborate with institutes (here) for higher education in our country. We are inclined towards developing research, faculty and student exchange for American University of Bosnia. Also, we can provide degrees on medical and paramedical science.** — Dr Sead Avdic, Embassy of Bosnia

**Letters to the editor**

**India stands united**

Today's shocking news of Pakistan Army capturing two of Indian soldiers and beheading one of them and carrying the head as a mark of triumph has shocked the entire world. This shows the barbaric practice and thinking of some fanatic people of Pakistan, including the army chief. We all vehemently condemn such barbaric acts and India must send immediately some strong signals of dissatisfaction to Pakistan's political and army establishment, with zero tolerance. India also appraised international community via diplomatic channel including UN for an outright condemnation against Pakistan. It seems Pakistan is instigating for another war with India, as directed by Taliban rulers. Pakistan cannot live

like a democratic country anymore, despite so many initiatives taken by two countries including cricket diplomacy, and media propaganda. Actually, people of Pakistan never want war, but rulers of Pakistan work on behalf of all developed world who is clearly jealous of development of India ever since 1991 economic liberalization initiated by PV Narasimha Rao, the then PM of India. Developed countries are unable to digest of resilient economy of India which sustain worldwide recession and stand tall with just partial effect on Indian economy like oil, and export sectors. I am sure no one in the world can disturb present developed India - physically, economically and socially. Entire India is united on any kind of eventuality India may face. —Asim Boral, Ahmedabad

**Stop the hypocrisy, get tough**

Apropos of "Make Islamabad accountable", it's nothing less than hypocrisy the way India continues futile talks with Pakistan even as we keep losing valiant soldiers to their bullets. To keep the Kashmir issue alive, Pakistan's battalion are now adopting the ghastly Taliban approach, to behead Indian soldiers, in a repetition of the slaughter of Captain Saurob Kalia during the 1999 Kargil conflict. Does the government have a spine strong enough to sever relations with Pakistan, perhaps even call off the cricket matches? Even the US has condemned this inhumane act by Pakistani soldiers. Also, India had better take up the matter with the International Court of Justice at the Hague, to prosecute the perpetrators

of this attack as well as the masterminds of the 26/11 terror attack. —Deepak Chikramane, Mumbai

**Money or their lives**

When I read about the attack on Indian soldiers by Pak intruders, my heart sank. I remember a report some months ago that the government was planning to permit FDI in telecom from Pakistan. The report also had a picture of PC Chidambaram shaking hands with Pakistan's richest man. Some time later, I read another report that FEMA restrictions had been lifted on Pakistan and that the State Bank of India was to open branches there. During the protests against the gangrape of the 23-year-old in Delhi, Sushil Kumar Shinde justified the crackdown on protestors, saying

the movement was politically motivated and the authorities appeared keen to clear the streets for the visit of Russian president Vladimir Putin. Defence deals amounting to Rs25,000 crore were signed between India and Russia during Putin's visit. To defend whom, may I ask? Certainly not common citizens or to help our soldiers. And against whom? Not Pakistan, surely, as the country is now on our government's most favoured list! This is the outcome of a well-entrenched policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hound. It is my belief, and I hope that Aman Ki Asha participants realise this, that they are likely being used as a cover for a plan to channelise unaccounted money back into India via Pakistan. —Poornima Mepani, by email