

UGC to 'bridge the IT gap'

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VARCA: Announcing a shot in the arm for various universities across the country UGC chairman Dr Arun Nigavekar announced that the University Grants Commission (UGC) would be investing Rs 50 crore to bridge the gap between the universities and elite institutes such as the IITs.

"We will be signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Intel, IBM, Sun Microsystems and Microsoft for various education programmes to be held across 75 campuses in India," said Dr Nigavekar. The universities that will be a part of the programme are yet to be finalised.

While details of the programmes to be conducted were not immediately available, Dr Nigavekar said that the IT companies would be investing more than the UGC.

"There has always been a preference for the IITs and of other similar institutes but with this initiative, we will be bridging the gap to some extent. Education and industry can work together for mutual benefits," he added.

However, with IBM and Sun Microsystems bringing in open source systems and software, as opposed to the proprietary ones by Microsoft, a clash of interest seemed on the cards. But Dr Nigavekar dismissed any such possibility saying they would all be involved in such a manner that no conflict of interest happened.

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