

Newspaper Clips August 28-31, 2017

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IIT-Delhi's Management Studies team in finals

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/iitdelhis-management-studies-team-in-finals/article9838615.ece>



(from left) Arunaditya Sahay, Prof of Strategic Management, BIMTECH; Vishwadeep Kuila, Director, Brand Vectors; H Chaturvedi, Director, BIMTECH, and the winners from IIT Delhi's DMS

DU's team was runner-up of the event, held at the BIMTECH campus

The Department of Management Studies of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi emerged as the winners of the third semi-final round of the BLoC Boardroom Challenge held at BIMTECH, Greater Noida. The contestants had to come up with strategies for brand Nokia's re-entry into the Indian market.

In the winning team were Himanshu Jain, Akshay Kumar Bali, Tushar Dhingra and Archana. The runner-up was Department of Business Economics, Delhi University, with the team comprising Harshit Goel, Saurabh Kumar Sharma, Rashi Gaur, Akрати Chaturvedi and Sneha Chawla. The other participants included teams from Shri Ram College of Commerce and International Management Institute Kolkata. The teams were selected from over 300 entries for the Delhi round.

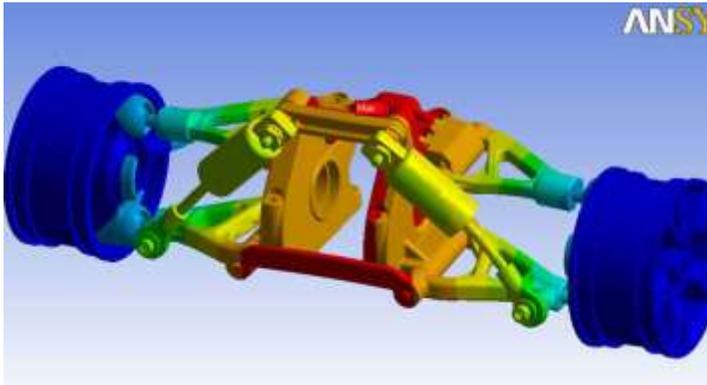
India Terrain was the title sponsor.

The jury comprised Arunaditya Sahay, Professor of Strategic Management and Dean, Research, BIMTECH, which provided the venue for the contest; and Vishwadeep Kuila, the case creator and Director, Brand Vectors, Knowledge Partner of the BLoC Boardroom Challenge.

The parameters taken into account were understanding of case facts, accuracy of solution, teamwork, among others, said Kuila. "Among directors in Boardroom, the thinking may not be in one direction. Some could be concerned with profit, some with market-share and some with image," said Sahay.

Ansys and IIT Bombay in R&D partnership for next-gen mobility

<http://www.autocarpro.in/news-national/ansys-iit-bombay-collaborate-gen-mobility-25985>



Software developer Ansys of the US and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have announced a collaboration that will fund research projects and fuel groundbreaking innovations across industries.

With technology support from Ansys, students of IIT Bombay will be equipped with research tools for applications across sectors – from advanced driver assistance systems to green energy to digital security.

By using Ansys Pervasive Engineering Simulation software, university researchers will explore power estimation strategies in chip design to identify defective chips in the electronic components of vehicles. Studies will also be undertaken to understand the strength and durability of parts created using the additive manufacturing process.

Commenting on the announcement, Rafiq Somani, country manager, South Asia Pacific and Middle East, Ansys, said: "The students and faculty at IIT Bombay are committed, driven and passionate. We are thrilled to enable the next generation of engineering students with the strong research platform, cutting-edge tools and industry exposure necessary to advance the future of simulation."

"IIT Bombay is committed to 'Make in India,' India's national goal of achieving innovation," said Devang Khakhar, director, IIT Bombay. "Ansys's support provides our students and faculty with a stronger ecosystem for engineering research, collaboration and development—empowering them to contribute to the national goal."

GATE 2018: IIT Guwahati to Start Registration from September 1 @ Gate.iitg.ac.in; 5 Important Things To Know

<http://www.ndtv.com/education/gate-2018-iit-guwahati-to-start-registration-from-september-1-gate-iitg-ac-in-5-important-things-to-1743462>

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2018 is held by IISc Bangalore and the seven IITs for NCB-GATE of Department of Higher Education, MHRD.



GATE 2018: IIT Guwahati To Start Registration From September 1 @ Gate.iitg.ac.in

NEW DELHI: The registration process for GATE 2018 will start from September 1 this year by the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), the organising institute of the entrance exam. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2018 is held by IISc Bangalore and the seven IITs for NCB-GATE of Department of Higher Education, MHRD, Government of India. The next edition of GATE exam is scheduled to be held on February next year and the results are expected to be released on March 17, 2018.

In GATE 2017, more than 9 lakh aspirants had applied for the exam. Last year the qualification percentage was a mere 16%. The number was not an improvement from 2015 when only 15% candidates qualified.

GATE 2018: 5 Important Things



GATE 2018: IIT Guwahati To Start Registration From September 1 @ Gate.iitg.ac.in; 5 Important Things To Know

1. GATE 2018: What is GATE

GATE is an examination conducted jointly by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and the seven Indian Institutes of Technology (at Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkee) on behalf of the National Coordination Board (NCB)-GATE, Department of Higher Education, MHRD.

2. GATE 2017: Where to use your scores

Qualifying in GATE is a mandatory requirement for seeking admission and/or financial assistance to: Master's programs and direct Doctoral programs in Engineering/Technology/Architecture and Doctoral programs in relevant branches of Science, in the institutions supported by the MHRD and other Government agencies. Even in some colleges and institutions, which admit students without MHRD scholarship/assistantship, the GATE qualification is mandatory.

3. GATE 2018: Use of GATE score for Employment

In the past, several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have used GATE scores to shortlist the candidates for employment. A few such organizations are: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Power Grid Corporation of India.

Direct recruitment to Group A level posts in Central government, i.e., Senior Field Officer (Tele), Senior Research Officer (Crypto) and Senior Research Officer (S&T) in Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, is now being carried out on the basis of GATE score. The details of the scheme of recruitment are normally published in National Newspapers/Employment News by the concerned authority.

Some other Government of India Organizations have also expressed their interest to utilize GATE 2018 score for their recruitment purpose.

4. GATE 2018: Important Dates

GATE Online Application Processing System (GOAPS) Website Opens: September 1, 2017

Last Date for Submission of (Online) Application (through Website): October 5, 2017

GATE 2018 Examination: February, 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2018

Announcement of the Results in the Online Application Portal: March 17, 2018

5. GATE 2018: Exam and application process

GATE 2018 will be conducted on 23 subjects (also referred to as "papers"). GATE Examination for all the 23 subjects will be conducted as ONLINE Computer Based Test (CBT). The GATE online examination paper will contain some questions for which numerical answers must be keyed in by the candidate using the virtual keypad. Rest of the questions will be of Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) type.

The candidates will use ONLY an on-screen virtual calculator provided for the examination. A candidate can appear only in ANY ONE paper of the GATE examination. Examination for some of the papers in GATE 2018 may be held in multiple sessions. However, a candidate can appear for the examination in one session ONLY. Exact details of the complete examination schedule will be notified later on the GATE 2018 website.

Application for GATE 2018 must be submitted ONLINE (through GOAPS website, <http://appsgate.iitg.ac.in>) by paying necessary application fee. For GATE 2018, all information related to the application process will be available in the GOAPS website.

August 30

Centre at IIT-Delhi to meet demands of manufacturing

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/centre-at-iit-d-to-meet-demands-of-manufacturing/articleshow/60283528.cms>

NEW DELHI: In a major step to boost India's role as a global player in the field of smart manufacturing, a centre of excellence was inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi on Monday. The centre brings together academia, government and industry to a common platform to meet the changing demands of manufacturing in order for it to be competitive and free of defects.

The Common Engineering Facility Center to be built at a cost of Rs 30 crore comes under the ambit of the 'Samarth Udyog' initiative mooted by the department of heavy industry. The ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises will be the nodal government body.

The centre aims to develop a national educational curriculum and skill building programme through incubation and administrative environment in partnership with the Automation Industry Association for building the platform for innovative and smart manufacturing.

Girish Shankar, secretary at department of heavy industry said, "To make our industrial activity fit for global competitiveness we have to grow fast and in an inclusive manner. Our capital goods scheme of encouraging common engineering facilities is aimed at bringing the best talent in one place and from there disseminating it far and wide to the different industry clusters."

Professor V Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT-Delhi said, "IIT-D brings in the strength of a cross-disciplinary team that will help our students and researchers participate in the new industrial revolution. Manufacturing will play a pivotal role in the economy."

आईआईटी में छात्रों को तनाव से बचाने के लिए अभियान

<http://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-iit-delhi-1402552.html>



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), दिल्ली नए छात्रों को माहौल के हिसाब से ढालने के लिए अभियान चला रहा है। यह भी प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि यहां आने वाले छात्रों को पढ़ाई और काम का तनाव न हो। संस्थान के छात्र कल्याण विभाग ने छात्रों के लिए ऑनलाइन काउंसिलिंग की व्यवस्था शुरू की है। इससे उनकी पहचान भी उजागर नहीं

होगी। इसके अलावा छात्र सीधे भी विभाग में जाकर समस्या बता सकते हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के डायरेक्टर वी रामगोपाल राव ने बताया कि संस्थान के मानविकी और सामाजिक वज्ञान विभाग ने पिछले महीने एक रिपोर्ट सौंपी है। इस रिपोर्ट में उन बातों की पड़ताल की गई है जिसकी वजह से छात्र अकादमिक कार्यों में पिछड़कर तनाव में आ जाते हैं। इससे बचने के सुझाव विभाग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में सौंपे हैं।

हिंदी मीडियम के छात्रों पर विशेष ध्यान

मानविकी और सामाजिक वज्ञान विभाग की रिपोर्ट में दिए गए सुझावों में हिंदी मीडियम से पढ़कर आने वाले छात्रों पर विशेष ध्यान देने की बात कही गई है। आईआईटी दिल्ली की हिंदी सेल को अभी तक सिर्फ अकादमिक कागजों को अनुवाद के लिए ही इस्तेमाल किया जाता था। अब हिंदी सेल के जरिए ऐसे छात्रों की मदद की जाएगी। आईआईटी, दिल्ली के डायरेक्टर का कहना है कि शिक्षकों को नए छात्रों से निजी स्तर पर बातचीत करने को कहा गया है।

छात्रावास में दो घंटे शक्षिक रहेंगे

छात्रावासों में छात्रों की पढ़ाई में मदद के लिए रात 8 से 10 बजे तक कुछ शक्षिक उपलब्ध कराने का नर्णय लिया गया है। शक्षिक छात्रों की पढ़ाई या परियोजना कार्यों में मदद के अलावा निजी तौर पर भी संवाद स्थापित करेंगे। परीक्षा के बाद भी हर छात्रावास में तीन काउंसलरों को भेजा जाएगा। छात्र कल्याण बोर्ड के एक सदस्य ने बताया कि पहले नया सत्र शुरू होने के कुछ सप्ताह बाद ही काउंसिलिंग शुरू हो जाती थी। इस बार से माइनर परीक्षाओं के बाद उन्हें काउंसिलिंग दी जाएगी, ताकि वे समस्याओं को पहचानकर बेहतर ढंग से काउंसलरों से बात कर सकें। हर घंटे एक छात्र आत्महत्या करता है नेशनल क्राइम रिकॉर्ड के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक भारत में हर घंटे एक छात्र आत्महत्या करता है। इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में भी कुछ समय में आत्महत्याओं की घटनाओं में बढ़ोतरी हुई है। इसी वर्ष मई में आईआईटी, दिल्ली की पीएचडी की छात्रा ने आत्महत्या कर ली थी। एक अन्य रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक छात्रों की आत्महत्या की सबसे बड़ी वजह अकादमिक कारणों से होने वाला तनाव है।

आईआईटी और केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय में होंगे देशभक्तिपूर्ण रॉक शो

<http://www.livehindustan.com/career/education/story-patriotic-rock-shows-will-be-held-in-iit-s-and-central-universities-1409319.html>



केंद्र सरकार एक बार फिर से देश भक्ति के मुद्दे पर सवाल के घेरे में है। दरअसल केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने निर्णय लिया है कि देश के आईआईटी और केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में जल्द ही देशभक्ति के रॉक बैंड शुरू होंगे। छात्रों को बहुत जल्द कैंपस में देशभक्ति से भरे गीत संगीत पर झूमने का मौका मिलेगा। मंत्रालय ने इन संस्थानों से म्यूजिक बैंड्स की मेजबानी करने को कहा है, जो वहां देशभक्तिपूर्ण कार्यक्रम ऑर्गेनाइज करेंगे। 'यह इंडिया का टाइम है' नाम के कार्यक्रम के हिस्से के तौर पर सरकार ने कुछ खास बैंड निर्धारित किए हैं, जो देशभर के कैंपस में जाकर देशभक्तिपूर्ण कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत करेंगे।

बॉलीवुड के गानों पर होगी प्रस्तुति

यह प्रस्तुति खासकर बॉलीवुड के गानों पर होगी। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया 'एक निजी मनोरंजन संस्था को यह काम दिया गया है, जिसने एक दर्जन के करीब रॉक बैंड की पहचान की है। वहीं इन कार्यक्रमों को अगले महीने कई संस्थानों में प्रस्तुत करने की योजना बनाई गई है। ये कार्यक्रम भारत की स्वतंत्रता के 70 साल और भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन के 75 साल पूरा होने के जश्न में आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

देशभक्ति को लेकर और भी हुई पहल

इससे पहले इस महीने की शुरुआत में 70वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के मौके पर सरकार ने सभी यूनिवर्सिटी और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से कहा था कि वह छात्रों को स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के स्मारक दिखाएं और शहीदों के घर लेकर जाएं। विश्वविद्यालयों और स्कूलों ने एक शपथ ग्रहण समारोह का भी आयोजन किया था, जिसमें शिक्षकों, छात्रों, गैर-शिक्षण कर्मचारियों ने देश को 'आतंकवाद-मुक्त, जाति-मुक्त, भ्रष्टाचार-मुक्त, अस्वच्छता-मुक्त और गरीबी-मुक्त समाज' बनाने की प्रतिज्ञा ली थी।

विपक्ष ने उठाए सवाल

विपक्ष ने इस इवेंट पर सवाल उठाए हैं। एआईएमआईएम के चीफ और सांसद असदुद्दीन ओवैसी ने कहा कि, 'रॉक बैंड को आईआईटी में भेजने के पीछे सरकार का क्या मकसद है। मोदी सरकार अब तक लोगों का कुछ भला नहीं कर सकी है। यह स्टूडेंट्स को विभाजित करने की रणनीति है। आईआईटी इनोवेशन के लिए है ना की बैंड पार्टी के लिए।

IT Ropar Professor Bags NASI-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-ropar-professor-bags-nasi-young-scientist-platinum-jubilee-award/>



Ropar: Dr. Durba Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, has been awarded the prestigious Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award 2017 by The National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) for her work on 'Role of Fetuin-A in lipid induced insulin resistance'.

Speaking about the achievement, Prof. Durba Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, IIT Ropar said, “The award provides young researchers with an opportunity to promote scientific and technological research related to the problems of societal welfare”.

Her research has successfully established that fetuin-A plays a key role in lipid-induced adipose tissue inflammation and insulin resistance suggesting fetuin-A could be a novel therapeutic target for the management of lipid-induced insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

Speaking about her work, Prof. Durba Pal said, “Obesity is the most common cause of insulin resistance in humans, and the pervasiveness of obesity in our population is the predominant driver of the increasing prevalence of type 2 diabetes. Insulin resistance is one of the major outcomes of chronic low-grade inflammation in insulin target tissues fuelled by free fatty acids (FFAs)”.

Her work is published in Nature Medicine Journal (2012; 18: 1279–1285), where Dr. Pal contributed as the first author. The work has also been highlighted in reputed international journals like Cell, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Immunology, Diabetes Journal, Science Signaling etc

About Professor Dr. Durba Pal

Dr. Durba Pal is working as an Assistant Professor in the Center for Biomedical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology

Ropar, Punjab, India. After completing her Masters degree from the University of Calcutta, she joined Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata and then Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal for pursuing her Ph.D in the field of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes. After Ph.D, she persuades her postdoctoral work with Prof. Chandan K. Sen in the Ohio State University, USA where she worked on cellular reprogramming and wound repair. She has authored several research publications in peer-reviewed international journals and her work recognised with various awards. Her current research work is primarily focused on the cell-based therapeutics in disease biology and application of tissue engineering in regenerative medicine.

IIT-M raises record ₹55 crore

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iit-m-raises-record-55-crore/article19583643.ece>

Money collected from 1,827 donors, mainly alumni

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has raised a record ₹55 crore for the financial year 2016-2017, recording a 70% increase in new donors over the preceding year.

From merely 36 donors in 2001-04, the institute has managed to collect money from 1,827 donors in 2016, institute officials said. IIT-M, which has set a goal of raising ₹500 crore by 2020, has received the most money from alumni. Families of alumni who have since passed away, have also sponsored merit scholarships, officials said.

According to an institute release, this year, most of the donors were from India. The institute’s Annual Giving Report for 2016 has found a 30% increase in mean funding per CSR project.

Visiting chairs

The star donors this year were Silicon Valley-based Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayanan, who donated \$1 million to create a corpus to fund visiting chairs in computer science and engineering. The endowment aims to lead research on data-driven approaches to solve problems.

The visiting chairs will enhance teaching and research efforts in this area, and help attract outstanding young faculty, students, research scholars and post-doctoral candidates to the computer science and engineering department, according to R. Nagarajan, dean of international and alumni relations.

Institute director Bhaskar Ramamurthi said, "It makes a huge difference when alumni do something to help in their own way, such as connecting their companies to our faculty to discover new collaborations, make a CSR grant, mentor our start-ups, help them fine-tune their products and discover new markets".

The report was first published six years ago to acknowledge contributions. "Now, it has become a chronicle of growth. We are able to record and review our various developmental initiatives, and prune or enhance them as appropriate. I want to thank our creative partner, STAMPA, which has supported us over this process," Mr. Nagarajan said.

IIT-Hyderabad professor Chandra Shekhar Sharma bags award

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/300817/iit-hyderabad-professor-chandra-shekhar-sharma-bags-award.html>

He has won the prestigious Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award.



Professor Chandra Shekhar and his team recently introduced female sanitary napkins, using electrospun nanofibers (biodegradable polymer).

Hyderabad: Professor Chandra Shekhar Sharma from the department of chemical engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H), has won the prestigious Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award, instituted by the National Academy of Sciences, India. He has been selected for his work on electrospun nanofibers and nanostructured carbon materials which can be used in environmental protection and healthcare.

Professor Chandra Shekhar and his team recently introduced female sanitary napkins, using electrospun nanofibers (biodegradable polymer). Most sanitary napkins use non-biodegradable superabsorbent polymers (SAP) to increase their commercial value. However, they cause health hazards and also environmental problems. The product will soon hit the market after field trials.

Furthermore, the team has also received a grant from the department of science and technology under the nano mission programme. The team has also developed an inexpensive way of creating electrodes. The award, started in 2005, is given to scientists in the field of physical, chemical and biological sciences.

PMC to appoint IIT-Roorkee for analysis of Ramtekdi waste-to-energy plant

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/pmc-to-appoint-iit-roorkee-for-analysis-of-ramtekdi-waste-to-energy-plant-4820200/>

Murlidhar Mohol, chairperson of standing committee, said, “The civic standing committee has approved the proposal of appointing IIT-Rorkee to carry out necessary techno-commercial analysis of the proposed plant at a cost of Rs 8.26 lakh, including the Goods and Service Tax (GST).”

THE PUNE Municipal Corporation (PMC) has decided to appoint IIT-Roorkee to conduct a techno-commercial analysis at their new waste-to-energy plant in Ramtekdi, Hadapsar. The plant was shifted to a new location mid-construction from Uruli Devachi and Phursungi following several protests by the villagers.

The plant would process waste of 750 ton per day to generate energy. Murlidhar Mohol, chairperson of standing committee, said, “The civic standing committee has approved the proposal of appointing IIT-Rorkee to carry out necessary techno-commercial analysis of the proposed plant at a cost of Rs 8.26 lakh, including the Goods and Service Tax (GST).”

The PMC had appointed Pune Bio-Energy Systems Private Limited to commission the waste-to-energy plant at the garbage dumping site in Uruli Devachi and Phursungi villages. However, agitation by villagers compelled the civic body to shift it to Ramtekdi in Hadapsar.

Thus, the agency appointed for commissioning the plant has sought clearance of the expenditure incurred till date at the existing site and additional expenditure for creation of the capital assets at the new location.

Suresh Jagtap, incharge of Solid Waste Management of PMC, said, “The plant at the new location would be based on control combustion and biogas technology which would include the installation of boiler, flew gas system and ash handling facility at the plant as per the Solid Waste Management (Handling and Management) Rules 2016. The PMC does not have technical manpower for analysis of the proposed plant so a third party technical committee is needed to be appointed for the purpose and IIT Rorkee has shown interest in doing the techno-commercial analysis of plant for the civic body.”

“The PMC had received the permission of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) for setting up the plant at Uruli Devachi and Phursungi village but the villagers have been agitating against it. Thus, the Ramtekdi site was identified and the civic body got the formal approval for it in April,” he added.

Around 1,600 to 1,700 tonne of waste is generated every day in the city, which includes 300 tonne wet garbage and 50 tonne mixed. Waste generation increases by 200 to 300 tonne per day during festive seasons. The PMC has set up two vermi-cum-mechanical composting plants, 25 biogas plants, one bio-CNG plant, 14 wet waste plant and three mechanical composting plants in various parts of the city.

August 29

IISc, five IITs to get financial assistance for establishment of research parks

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/630439/iisc-five-iits-get-financial.html>



The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Finance Ministry has cleared the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry's proposal to set up a total of six new research parks with one at the IISc and other five at the IIT-Hyderabad, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Gandhinagar, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Guwahati.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and five of the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will soon get financial assistance from the Centre for the establishment of state-of-art research parks.

The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Finance Ministry has cleared the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry's proposal to set up a total of six new research parks with one at the IISc and other five at the IIT-Hyderabad, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Gandhinagar, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Guwahati.

“The proposal has been cleared by the EFC,” official sources told DH.

As per the HRD Ministry's proposal, each of the six premier science and technology institutes will get Rs 75 crore for establishment of the research park. The proposed research park will facilitate the undertaking of research and development projects in association with the industry.

“These research park will provide an eco-system for undertaking R&D projects by industry. They will provide them with all facilities for R&D projects on demand. These research parks will also play the role of incubators for innovative start up projects,” official sources added.

The EFC approval to the establishment of six new research parks at country's premier science and technology institutes have come following the Centre's special focus on giving a boost to research and innovation in the country.

“Proposal for establishment of these research parks does not require the Cabinet's clearance. It can be executed by the Ministry,” sources said when asked if the Ministry's proposal require the approval of the Union Cabinet as well.

Poser on IIT seats for girls

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170830/jsp/nation/story_169904.jsp

New Delhi, Aug. 29: After the IIT Council approved creation of supernumerary seats to increase female enrolment in the tech schools from the current 8 per cent, a government order has left the institutes confused about its implementation.

The order by the human resource development ministry to IITs on July 13, 2017, said the IIT Council has decided to increase female enrolment in the institutes from the current 8 per cent to 14 per cent in 2018-19, 17 per cent in 2019-20 and 20 per cent in 2020-21.

It has a provision allowing a girl who has already got a seat to opt for another preferred seat created under the supernumerary category. But the order does not clarify whether the vacant seat would go to the next meritorious girl student or the next meritorious student irrespective of gender.

"Any female candidate who would have got a seat prior to this scheme will get the same or a more preferred seat with this scheme," said the order issued by Tripti Gurha, a director in the HRD ministry.

Three IIT directors said they would approach the ministry for a clarification.

"We have to seek clarification on this point. There is still 10 months' time," said an IIT director.

IIT Ropar director Sarit K. Das said it appears the IITs could create supernumerary seats after completion of merit-based gender-neutral admission.

"Suppose a girl candidate has got computer science branch in IIT Ropar. If she stands a chance under supernumerary seat in IIT Delhi, she will be able to move. The vacant seat would go to a female candidate," Das said.

However, a senior HRD ministry official said girls may be treated as a different category and may not be part of the usual gender-neutral merit-based admission process.

Red Signal to Joint Counselling For IITs and IISERs

<http://examswatch.com/red-signal-to-joint-counselling-for-iit-and-iiser/>

Even now, it seems like IITs trying to remain adamant towards its decision! The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) persist to resist the proposal of 7 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) for joint counselling. The proposal was forwarded by IISER for joining the JEE (Advanced) counselling procedure.

The proposal was first made in 2016, but the IITs disagreed. Now all over again, on 20th August, the whole matter was taken into consideration at the meeting of the Joint Admission Board (JAB) held in Chennai. JAB is accountable for outlining the exam policy for JEE (Advanced). As per the recent discussion, the IITs have continued to stay unsure about sharing their counselling process which has always been the domain of the 23 leading engineering schools.

The IISERs are a group of premier science education and research institutes in India. Presently, the IISERs conduct their own counselling sessions, a week after the common counselling (JoSAA) by IITs and NITs. There are approximately 1,200 seats across 7 IISERs, namely, Berhampur, Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Thiruvananthapuram, Pune and Tirupati. In the IISERs,

about 10% seats are filled through the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, approximately 40% students come from the JEE-Advanced merit list and the remaining seats are filled through the IISER Aptitude Test.

The IITs are independent public institutes of higher education, located in India. Under the counselling process, the candidates are permitted to select an institution and a course at one place without visiting each institution individually.

At present, the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the IITs conduct common counselling for admissions to B.Tech courses wherein the students are given admissions to the NITs and IITs based on their JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced) scores respectively.

Owing to the various rounds of counselling by IITs and NITs, the academic schedule of the IISERs gets affected and in order to prevent this, the 7 institutes are ardent on admitting students through the common counselling.

During the meeting, the IITs said, "The counselling process based on JEE (Advanced) ranks is expected to cater to admission need of IITs only and, if at all, any other institute is to be allowed to join this platform then the matter should be passed in the Senates of all IITs." The Senate is the top decision-making body in each IIT for upholding standards of instruction, education and examination in all the institutes of IITs.

A source said, "There is a feeling that permitting IISERs to admit students along with the IITs could dilute the JEE (Advanced) brand and, maybe, a few candidates might opt for an IISER over, say, one of the newer IITs."

While considering the urges made by the HRD Ministry to impuse IITs to give consent to the proposal, JAB has decided to set up a committee with official representatives from both IITs and IISERs to determine a solution.

IITs to Plan Ahead to Boost its Specialised Courses

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/iits-to-plan-ahead-to-boost-its-specialised-courses-1504231.html>

While the IIT-BHU offers a BTech degree in Pharmaceutical Engineering, the Dhanbad institute has courses in Mining Machinery, Fuel & Mineral and Environmental Engineering.

New Delhi: Blame it on the lack of awareness among students or popularity of basic engineering courses, several specialized courses at the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) and Indian School of Mining at Dhanbad, are struggling to enroll students.

This has made these two premier institutes top the list of IITs with maximum vacant seats, despite efforts to spread awareness about these new courses among the students.

While the IIT-BHU offers a BTech degree in Pharmaceutical Engineering, the Dhanbad institute has courses in Mining Machinery, Fuel & Mineral and Environmental Engineering.

BHU & Dhanbad Top List for Vacant Seats

Vacancies across IITs have shown a four-year high this academic session, with Varanasi and Dhanbad leading the pack for the 2017-18 batch. It has been reported that a total of 121 seats are lying vacant with the IITs despite several rounds of admission as compared to 96 seats from last year.

IIT-BHU had the maximum number of empty seats, 32, followed by IIT-Dhanbad (Indian School of Mines) with 23 vacancies, which is same as last year. However, Varanasi has shown marked improvement from last year's 38.

IIT-BHU is the only IIT that offers a 4-year undergraduate (UG) and 5-year Integrated Dual Degree (IDD) program in Pharmaceutical Engineering.

Speaking to News 18 Sushil K Singh Professor, Head Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering and Technology said, "As the pharmacy program primarily deals with Biology-related subjects, it has not been a primary choice of engineering aspirants as they do not have a biology background."

Further, the department head added that the degree that was being offered initially was of Bachelors in Pharm (till the year 2013), which they have now changed to BTech in Pharmaceutical Engineering.

"The students who had initially opted for this Bachelor's program or IDD left it for other BTech programmes during the second and third rounds of counselling and the seats fell vacant," Singh added.

The Dhanbad institute is facing a similar crisis, says Dean (Academic), Professor G Udayabhanu. "Just like IIT-BHU we also have certain specialized courses like Mineral machinery, Fuel and Mining. They haven't managed to fare well among the students leaving us with too many vacant seats."

However, the college authorities are hoping to put in place a plan to deal with these vacancies in the next years.

Steps Taken to Address the Problem

In order to minimize the number of drop-outs, the BHU department has brought about some restructuring in both the UG programme as well as the 5-year IDD course. Emphasis on a research-oriented approach would allow students to hone all-round skills in Pharmaceutical Engineering, Science, Humanities, Language and Management.

This also includes a basic science course like Biology and Biochemistry at the first-year level to enable the students to cope up with the advanced Biology-related courses in the Pharmaceutical Engineering programme.

Rajeev Sangal, Director IIT-BHU, said, "The current numbers have improved as compared to the previous years. Last year there were 38 vacancies, now it is 32 and if we see the number of vacant seats in the past, it was even higher. Due to these concerted efforts we are progressing and will be able to get more students in our specialized courses in future."

On the other hand, IIT-Dhanbad is also planning to hold a review meeting after the admission process is complete and come out with a plan by the end of the month, to deal with vacancies in special courses.

"Maybe we will be reviewing the number of seats and some regulations from the next session, however, the vacancies of this year will remain so," said Udayabhanu.

Special Courses vs Basic Courses

Udayabhanu said, “Our specialized courses have a 100% placement record, especially for the mining machinery course. The other special courses have over 75% of placement record,”

BHU’s UG, IDD, PG and Doctoral students in Pharma get placed well in both core and non-core sectors, and at par with other engineering students of the institute.

Some of the top recruiters in the core sector include: Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Lupin Research Park, Jubilant Generics, Mylan Pharmaceuticals among others.

Ironically, while IIT-Delhi does not have any specialized courses, they still have more footfall with general courses like Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineering etc.

Arvind Nema, who is the JEE chairman at IIT Delhi said, “Our basic courses are more popular because students like to keep their options open and then go for MBA or further studies.”

Students are not making decisions at school level and are waiting for the degree in these basic courses before deciding on what job matters to them.

In order to spread awareness among the students on specialized courses the chairman added, “We have a new initiative ‘Professors Assisted Learning’, which will start at school-level to educate the students about these special streams.”

Stipend Hike Only for IIT and IISc Research Scholars Is Just Academic Snobbery

<https://thewire.in/171237/stipend-hike-iit-iisc-entrance-exams-phd-research-jrf/>

It is high time the government realises that all good researchers should be treated equal, that they don’t deserve to become embedded in a rather illogical hierarchical setup.

The recent announcement of special privileges and stipend hike exclusively for IIT and IISc research scholars is a monumental case of academic snobbery. India is a country with tens of top class research institutions in the basic sciences and in the medical and engineering sciences. The combined strength of junior researchers from all these institutions will run into the ten thousands. In such an environment, it is extremely unfair when the stipend is hiked more than twice over – from Rs 25,000 to Rs 70,000 – only for a small proportion of this research population (about 2,000 eligible scholars picked from the IITs and the IISc), ignoring the rest. Are all the other researchers the children of a lesser god?

It has been reported that the primary motivation for this decision from the central government as to prevent brain drain and retain our better scientific talents by giving them befitting benefits and encouragement in their journey to secure a PhD. This is indeed an honourable motive. However, it is important to note that there are research scholars in other research institutions in the country who are equally talented, hard-working and committed, thus deserving of the same level of pay and benefits. The general public might wrongly presume that only the entrance and selection procedures to IITs are tough and super-competitive. However when it comes to the PhD, there are plenty of other selection tests — JEST, JAM, CSIR-UGC NET/JRF, GATE, etc. — that are equally competitive and difficult.

In addition to these exams, some of the top central government research institutions have their own exams and interviews en route to appointing junior research fellowships (JRF) with paid scholarships. This clearly shows that some of the non-IIT and non-IISc research scholars do undergo an equally, if not more, arduous selection process, often in multiple stages instead of just taking one exam. Not considering them as part of a supposedly elite group of researchers is simply unfair.

India has long held a unique position in the global scientific scene because of its strong presence in the space race and on the atomic energy front. Our track record in these domains as a country is as good as that of many first world nations'. However, for a long time, India has also been the country that had significantly lower pay for junior researchers. With the recent nation-wide protests by research scholars, it is good to see a slow but welcome change in the improvement of pay-scales and other conditions of the junior research workforce.

But at the same time, there has been a disparity in stipend hikes and arrears due to different institutes being funded by different departments. For example, the departments of space, of atomic energy and of science and technology have non-uniform norms. So it has become increasingly evident proper pay parity among researchers of the same level is very hard to effect unless there is more and better synchronisation between central government departments. And such disparities themselves create unwanted tensions and heartburn when researchers from different institutions interact with each other.

Against this background, the new announcement that grants a sort of special status to IITs' and IISc's researchers alone and exclude others will only widen rifts.

There are plenty of examples of exemplary scientists inside India as well as abroad who came from a non-IIT/non-IISc background but rose to become pioneers. One example (among many) is Venki Ramakrishnan, who went on to win the Nobel prize for chemistry in 2009 and is presently the president of the Royal Society in London, the first and only person of Indian origin to have held this position thus far. So it is high time that ministers and officials realise that all good researchers should be treated equal. That they don't deserve to become embedded in a rather illogical hierarchical setup.

Note: On August 29, 2017, the article was edited to clarify that only 2,000 scholars picked from the IITs and the IISc would qualify to receive the stipend hike, as opposed to all of them.

IIT Hyderabad Professor Wins NASI Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award 2017

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-hyderabad-professor-wins-nasi-young-scientist-platinum-jubilee-award-2017/>

Hyderabad: Indian Institute of Technology – Hyderabad Professor Chandra Shekhar Sharma has been chosen for the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award 2017.

Prof. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad, has been recognized for contributing significantly in the areas of electrospun nanofibers, nanostructured carbon materials and nature-inspired functional surfaces. They have a wide range of applications in important domains such as energy storage, environmental remediation and healthcare.

The NASI is the oldest science academy in India, established in the year 1930. As part of its Platinum Jubilee Year in 2005, the academy constituted the NASI Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award to recognize outstanding scientific

contributions of young scientists (under the age of 35 years) in the areas of Physical/Chemical and Biological Sciences. This year, this award was given to 17 young scientists across the country. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma is one of the three awardee this year for Engineering Sciences

Prof. Chandra Shekar Sharma and along with his team has recently developed electrospun nanofibers- based female hygiene product using biodegradable polymer. Commercial sanitary napkins add non-biodegradable petroleum-based superabsorbent polymers (SAP) into their absorbent core, which can have adverse health hazards apart from environmental problems in safe disposal of sanitary pads after use.

Prof. Chandra Shekar Sharma's team have eliminated the use of these SAPs by using material which has properties like high surface area and porosity for nanofibers.

Currently, the team is gearing up for field trials for this product and is looking forward for the successful commercialization of this technology in near future. Another interesting use of electrospun nanofibers in the research group is for controlled drug delivery. Through micro-patterning or sandwiching multiple fabrics helps in achieving control and sustained release of drugs up to 24 hrs. For this project Prof. Chandra Shekar Sharma and his team is collaborating with Prof. Saptarshi Majumdar, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad and Prof. Mudrika Khandelwal, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. They have also received a new research grant from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under its Nanomission Program. Prof. Chandra Shekhar Sharma along with his team has also designed a novel way of using candle soot derived carbon nanoparticles as anode materials for Li ion batteries for electric vehicles. This is most inexpensive way of fabricating electrodes ever reported. Recently, we have received grant from MHRD, Govt. of India under its IMPRINT project scheme to develop a prototype Li ion battery based on this novel idea of candle soot. Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, GoI is also partially funding this project which is in collaboration with ARCI, Hyderabad. With Nano structuring of carbon materials, IIT Hyderabad aims to develop cost effective and high performance rechargeable Lithium ion batteries and supercapacitors.

The award will be presented to Prof Chandra Shekhar Sharma during the 87th annual session of National Science Academy of India at Savitribai Phule University, Pune from December 8-10, 2017.

Speaking about achieving the prestigious NASI Award, Prof. Chandra Shekar Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering said "I am truly honoured to receive this prestigious award. This award is another recognition of our scientific contribution made in last few years. I thank to my Ph.D. advisor, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for introducing me to the research world. I also express my gratitude to my Institute Director Prof. U.B .Desai for his continuous support and encouragement. A special thanks to my students for their hard work to make this possible. Last but not the least, I thank to all my friends and family member for their unconditional support.

Major Latest awards won by Prof Chandra Shekhar Sharma:

1. SERB Indo-US Research Fellowship 2016

As a part of this fellowship from Indo-US Science & Technology, Forum (IUSSTF), New Delhi, I am currently doing research for six months (March-August 2017) at University of Akron, Ohio, USA.

2. Institute of Engineers, India (IEI) Young Engineer Award in Chemical Engineering Division 2016

3. Selected as Member for five years (2017-21) in Indian Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS).

4. Recipient of DST-INSPIRE Faculty Award in 2014

. Our group has won Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award in two consecutive years, 2014 and 2015, This award is given by National Innovation Foundation.

IIT-Kanpur to host 'eSummit-17' from Sept 1

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/iit-kanpur-to-host-esummit-17-from-sept-1/articleshow/60274014.cms>

KANPUR: The annual entrepreneurial event of IIT-Kanpur---'eSummit-17' will be organised in association with Syndicate Bank Entrepreneurship Research and Training Centre (SBERTC) this year between September 1 to September 3.

Several talks, sessions, panel discussions and fireside chats have been held for the event.

Mihikaa Jain, head, e-cell informed that the inaugural ceremony will have a FireSide chat with the founders and CEOs of ShareChat, GrabHouse and CREO.

She further informed that the second day of the event would have a session on 'Entrepreneurial opportunities in the core sector' which would be graced by Sumit D. Chowdhury (ex-president, Reliance Jio), Arvind Pradhan (CEO, Camaco LLC), Samir Cairae (CEO Metals, Vedanta Resources) and Dhiraj Nayyar (head, economics and finance, NITI Aayog).

IIT-Bombay students to be fined everytime they forget ID card

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/timeline/India/10244/56198/iit-b-students-will-be-fined-for-forgetting-i-cards>

In a fresh notification, the IIT-Bombay has announced that every time a student forgets to carry his/her ID card while entering or exiting the campus, he/she will be fined Rs. 200.

Earlier, gate guards would mostly let students off with a warning when they forget ID cards, or would cross-check their roll numbers with their photos in the database.

August 28

Study evaluates the research performance of IIT's

<https://researchmatters.in/shots/study-evaluates-research-performance-iit%E2%80%99s>

The Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) are autonomous public institutions of higher education, offering undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses in engineering and related domains. IIT Kharagpur was the first institute to be set up, followed by in Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi. Today, there are a total of 23 IIT's across the country and many of these premier institutions are placed high up in institutional rankings in the country. On the international stage however, the institution often ranked much lower, as seen in the 2015 Academic Ranking of World Universities, where none of the IIT's were listed in the top 500 ranked Universities. Now researchers from South Asian University, New Delhi and Banaras Hindu University have assessed 16 of the 23 institutions for their research performance and compared it to two high ranking universities – Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which could provide possible directions for improvements. The researchers looked at various aspects productivity per capita, rate of growth of research output, authorship and collaborations, citation impact and the discipline wise strengths. Although IIT Kharagpur leads the group in research productivity and citation impact, IIT Bombay fared well in other factors like International collaboration and rate of growth. Of the new IIT's, IIT Indore and Bhubaneswar fared well, while

compared to the others but did not perform very well on the overall ranking scheme. The final ranking placed IIT Bombay at first place followed by IIT Delhi and Gurgaon. Although statistically, the age of the institutions plays a role in the quality of research and their ranking, NTU which was set up much more recently than most new IIT's is already placed as one of world's leading institutions, showing that age does not affect the quality of an institution. The new study could open new doors to bring our country's premier institutions-- the IIT's, up to international educational standards.

Taapsee Pannu join hands with IIT to promote sanitary education among women

<http://www.mid-day.com/articles/taapsee-pannu-iit-promote-sanitary-education-among-women-bollywood-news/18536179>

From speaking up about depression to launching social campaigns against sexual and physical abuse — Bollywood celebrities have often used their stardom for a greater good by championing causes that need addressal, thus becoming catalysts for change.

Taapsee Pannu is the latest to join the bandwagon. The actor has joined hands with the students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai in their endeavour to promote sanitary education among women. The initiative also includes distribution of sanitary napkins in villages.

The actor reveals that she aims to remove the stigma attached to menstruation. "I have never understood why menstruation has been a taboo subject, people don't want to come out in the open and talk about it. Women often use code language to talk about it. That's probably one of the reasons why the sanitary health of women has not really improved over the years," Pannu analyses.

She feels the first step towards improving sanitary health is to address it openly. "It's a natural aspect of womanhood. It needs to be discussed, so people understand it better." Pannu thinks it is noteworthy that the young students are driving the attitudinal change. "It's a delight when young minds work hard to create awareness about such issues."

IIT Kharagpur professor drowns while trying to save 4-year-old son

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/iit-kharagpur-professor-drowns-while-trying-save-4-year-old-son-740009>

The IIT professor drowned while trying to save his 4-year-old son who fell into a ditch when the lecturer was taking a selfie. Read on to know what had happened.



Joydip Bhattacharjee clicking a selfie with his family.

In yet another selfie death, an IIT Kharagpur professor drowned in a rain-filled abandoned stone quarry in West Bengal while trying to save his son who had fallen into the ditch.

The incident took place on Sunday, when the 40-year-old assistant professor, who has been identified as Joydip Bhattacharjee, took his four-and-a-half-year-old son and two-year-old daughter on an outing to Gholghoria village.

The boy fell in the water when Bhattacharjee's was trying to click a selfie with his mobile phone.

"When the professor reached the abandoned quarry, the sky was overcast and it was a picturesque scene with the paddy fields in the background. He was trying to take a selfie with his son and daughter. His son slipped and fell into the water. The professor jumped in to save him and disappeared," a police officer was quoted as saying by The Telegraph.

Though Bhattacharjee did not know swimming, he tried his best to keep his son from drowning in the 15-16-foot-deep ditch.

Two women working in the paddy fields nearby heard the screams of Bhattacharjee's daughter and rushed to help them.

"We were in the fields nearby when we heard screams. We rushed to find a little girl and a person struggling with his son in the water. We waded in and pulled the child ashore but couldn't find the man. We searched in the water but he could not be traced," Sandhya Tudu, one of the cultivators, told the Times of India.

After a 30-minute-search, the villagers fished out the professor's body from the ditch. It was sent for post-mortem examination.

"The child was rescued but Bhattacharjee couldn't be saved. Both kids have been sent home. We have registered a case of unnatural death," said West Midnapore SP Bharati Ghosh.

The death has come as shock to Bhattacharjee's colleagues. "This is very shocking. He was so young and a very promising talent. He was a PhD scholar in IIT Kharagpur. He completed his research in 2008. Five years later, he joined his former department as faculty member," said registrar Pradip Payne.

"We lost one of our brightest teachers of naval architecture and ocean engineering. He was in the prime of his research in marine hydrodynamics, hydro-elasticity, coastal engineering, wave and tidal energy converters," said Subhasis Tripathy, dean of the institute.

Meanwhile, a study has said that 60 percent of deaths that took place in India between March 2014 and September 2016 were when people were trying to click a selfie.

In late July, a 27-year-old man named Abhilash from Bengaluru died while trying to click a selfie with an elephant at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).

In another incident, a 25-year-old Navy man, Ashwad Jagannath from the INS Kadamba naval base in Kanwar in Karnataka died after he fell into the sea while trying to click a selfie in late June.