NEW DELHI: A section of Delhi University teachers has written to the UGC raising concerns over the implementation of a Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) from the upcoming academic session saying it was being “hastily pushed”.

Writing to the University Grants Commission, the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) on Friday conveyed academicians’ concern on the issue and said “reforms” brought without discussion have proved “disastrous”.

“We write to you to express our concern over the fact that the MHRD and the UGC have asked all universities to implement CBCS from the start of the next academic session in July 2018. On April 10, the UGC has also put out a public notice on the Minimum Course Curriculum for undergraduate courses under CBCS and sought feedback from stakeholders within 15 days,” DUTA president Nandita Narain said in a letter to UGC Chairman Ved Prakash.

“The experience in Delhi University with the introduction of the FYUP and its subsequent roll-back shows that ‘reforms’ brought about without debate and discussion on its feasibility and desirability would have disastrous consequences. The unseemly haste with which yet another reform in the form of the CBCS is sought to be pushed is alarming,” she added.

The varsity teachers have also raised concerns about the imposition of Common Central Universities Bill, 2013 and opined that it will disregard academic autonomy and diversity of universities.

“The imposition of the

Common Central Universities Bill, 2013 is also a cause for concern as it completely disregards academic autonomy and diversity of universities... thus violating the institutional autonomy which allows through collective wisdom, the right of the academic community of a central university to determine the best structure and mode of academic programmes as may be suited to its own educational needs and objectives,” Ms. Narain said.

“It is imperative that there be a debate on what ‘reforms’ in universities should entail. An audit on existing infrastructure in universities is a must as is a review of the semester system that has led to a severe erosion of the academic quality of the undergraduate programme in Delhi University,” she added.

Calling it a “cafeteria approach”, UGC had instructed all the central universities to go ahead with implementation of CBCS, which enables students to opt for courses of their choice, learn at their own pace, undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required credits and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

DU had also passed the implementation of the scheme from upcoming academic session, in the Academic Council (AC) last year but HRD ministry had questioned the varsity’s preparations for the same.

— PTI
Smriti invites suggestions on education policy

This is first ever attempt to involve average citizen in policy-making


Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani on Friday described the decision to invite suggestions from all and sundry on the new education policy — to be unveiled later this year — as the “first ever attempt where an average citizen of the nation gets involved in policy-making which has otherwise remained the preserve of a few.”

‘Suggest changes’

In an informal interaction with mediapersons after introducing Pune-based Nawaj Sheikh — whose logo has been selected for the new education policy — Ms. Irani said citizens and State governments had been asked to highlight bottlenecks in the education system and suggest changes.

On how this would all be put together — given that anyone can post a suggestion on the government’s online platform ‘MyGov.in’ — the Minister said each State government would collate views drawn from villages and towns and send these reports to the Ministry.

IIT-Ropar creates record

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

RUPNAGAR: Dr Prabir Sarkar, an assistant professor in the school of mechanical, materials, and energy engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, has claimed to have created a record by developing the largest fountain ink pen and ballpoint pen. With the help of students and laboratory assistants, the professor has designed and developed the 23-m-long pens with a diameter of 25 cm each.
High-quality, low-cost indigenous medical devices created at IIT-B lab


In the backdrop of the Make in India initiative, a host of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, (IIT-B), are collaborating with expert doctors from local hospitals to develop indigenous medical devices.

A multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional Biomedical Engineering and Technology Incubation Centre (BETiC) set up in IIT-B is converting innovative ideas from doctors into high-quality, low-cost medical devices, specifically designed for the Indian population.

Two engineering institutes — namely, College of Engineering Pune and Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur – are also part of BETiC.

The teams have biomedical, mechanical, materials, electronics and software engineers collaboratively working on medical devices ranging from diagnostic to surgical instruments and even mobile-based software.

As part of its collaborative efforts, the teams have created a tissue stiffness measuring device that can be used to diagnose vulnerability to the diabetic foot condition, which could result in amputation of foot, if undiagnosed and untreated.

A prototype of the device is ready and a patent application has been filed.

“This would be the first-of-its-kind wireless device that would be available to clinicians. There are similar devices globally, but they are restricted to research labs,” said Dr Rajani Mullerpatan of MGM Hospital, Vashi, who collaborated with IIT-B on creating the device.
Another device that is almost completed is a multi-degree freedom laparoscope for minimally invasive surgeries in the abdominal cavity. This novel instrument developed in collaboration with Dr Suresh Deshpande, an internationally acclaimed laparoscopy surgeon from Kolhapur, provides an additional degree of manoeuvrability, reducing the risk of tissue damage and makes operating easy for surgeons.

**IIT location: HRD team to visit Karnataka**


BENGALURU: A team of experts from the HRD ministry will visit Karnataka soon to identify a place for the proposed IIT.

At his meeting with HRD minister Smriti Irani on Friday, higher education minister RV Deshpande is said to have requested her to send a team of experts to identify the right place.

This is Dehpande's first meeting with Irani on discussing IIT's location after the state government recommended three places - Mysuru, Raichur and Dharwad. Bengaluru was rejected as the government was finding it difficult to identify 500 acres of land for the premier institute.

**HRD Ministry approves new IIM in Nagpur**


Maharashtra is set to get its first Indian Institute of Management in Nagpur. This decision has come after the Union Budget, presented by the government in July 2014; where it was proposed to establish six new IIMs across the country. The other five IIMs are expected to come up in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar.

The officials from the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry visited the campus sites for IIM Nagpur in February, and these sites were finalised a month later, in March. The state government has allocated two sites, each for the temporary and permanent campuses, respectively. The permanent campus will be built in the Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport (MIHAN) at Nagpur. The MIHAN campus will span over 200 acres and is expected to be ready by 2018. Till then, the first three academic sessions will be conducted through a temporary campus, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur.

The IIM Nagpur will begin its academic session, this year itself. The HRD Ministry has directed IIM Ahmedabad to mentor the new IIM, it will also formulate the admission process for the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) for the batch of 2015-17. The institute at Nagpur will admit 60 students in one batch, and the selection process for faculty at the institute has already started.

The candidates who had appeared for the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2014 are eligible for admission to IIM Nagpur for the session of 2015.
आईआईटी प्रोफेसर पर चार्जशीट की तैयारी, आय से अधिक संपत्ति-फर्जी प्रमाणपत्र में फंसे


आईआईटी के डिपार्टमेंट आफ बॉयोटेक्नोलॉजी में प्रोफेसर डॉ. विकास परुथी आय से अधिक संपत्ति और फर्जी जाति प्रमाणपत्र के आधार पर नौकरी हासिल करने के आरोप में फंसे हैं।

सीबीआई ने परुथी प्रमाणपत्र के मामले में एफआईआर दर्ज कर ली है, जबकि संपत्ति मामले में प्राथमिक जांच (सीआई) दर्ज की गई है।

मामले में बताया जा रहा है कि परुथी के लिए नाम से अधिक संपत्ति और फर्जी प्रमाणपत्र के आधार पर आय से अधिक संपत्ति हासिल करने के आरोप में फंसे हैं।

इसी दौरान खुलासा हुआ कि परुथी के लिए नाम से अधिक संपत्ति हासिल करने के आरोप को जांच कर ली गई थी।

यह जानकारी दिखाई देने के लिए चार्जशीट दफ़नित की जाएगी, विकास की तैयारी के लिए चार्जशीट दफ़नित की जाएगी।

इसी दौरान खुलासा हुआ कि परुथी के प्रमाणपत्र के आधार पर नौकरी हासिल करने के आरोप में फंसे हैं।

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एक बोला, 2000 से यहां कार्यरत है, सीबीआई जांच के दौरान उनके नाम कई संपत्तियां सामने आई और बैंक एकाउंट में खासी रकम जमा पाई गई थी।

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आईआईटी जोधपुर में अब एलियंस पढ़ाएंगे!

जोधपुर


इससे के साथ मंगलवार को लेकर करार, सोशल मीडिया पर छाया मुदा

गज़बदस्तिह दहिया

भारतीय प्रोफाइलिक सन्यास (आईआईटी), जोधपुर में अब एलियंस पढ़ाएंगे। ये एलियंस मंगल ग्रह से आएगे। इसके लिए आईआईटी जोधपुर और इससे के बीच एक एमओयू साझा किया गया है। इसके तत्त्व मंगल ग्रह पर गए इससे के यान मार्स ऑसीडरिट मिशन के जरिये मंगल ग्रह के एलियंस से सम्बन्धित लिया गया है। नये सत्र की पहली कक्षा में एलियंस ही छात्रों का उपस्थितियां करेंगे। यह एक फेम न्यूज है, जो सोशल मीडिया पर काफी लोकप्रिय हो रही है।

इस न्यूज को आईआईटी जोधपुर के ही एक छात्र ने बनाया वेबसाइट पर पोस्ट किया है। एक अंग्रेज़ी से आईआईटी जोधपुर के छात्रों और उनके निदेशक प्रो. सीवीआर मूर्ति के बीच चर्चा रही है।

कसी से भी ज्यादा चर्चा हो रही है। देश के अन्य 16 आईआईटी के छात्र व शिक्षक भी ऐसी खबरों को लाइक व शेयर कर रहे हैं।

व्यंग में चर्चा दर चर्चा

- स्टूडेंट्स व फैक्टर के ब्लॉग में भी आईआईटी को लेकर तरह-तरह के कमेंट्स व न्यूज़ पोस्ट की जा रही है।
- समाज-जनजीवन वेब एक्स्पेलर को हवा पर हेस डिक्टेटर फ्री आईआईटी के नाम से छात्र-छात्राएं अपनी आवाज़ बुलंद कर रहे हैं।
- आपक आईआईटी के पर लिखे व्लॉग में आंदोलन के बीस दिन बाद भी मानव संसाधन मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी की चुनौती पर सवालिया निशान लगाए गए हैं। दो दिन पहले दुर्घटना में आईआईटी के एक छात्र की मौत की खबर भी बाहर है।
- व्लॉग वेब ब्लॉग पर आईआईटी के विषय पर व्लॉग बना हुआ है, जो आंदोलन में अब तक का प्रत्याश्रय बना रहा है। साथ ही आईआईटी में बीते कुछ समय से चल रही गतिविधियों के संबंध में भी चर्चा आरंभ हो रही है।
- माइफेस्टो न्यूज पर आईआईटी के फैक्टर विवाद के बाद एलियंस से पढ़ाई कराने को लेकर समाचार है।

फेसबुक और ट्विटर पर भी

चर्चित सोशल मीडिया साइट फेसबुक और ट्विटर पर भी आईआईटी जोधपुर से सम्बंधित कई नए पेज बन चुके हैं। ट्विटर पर इस तरह के पेज के फॉलोअर्स की संख्या में भी वैसे-वैसे वृद्धि हो रही है। फेसबुक व ट्विटर पर अन्य आईआईटी के छात्र व शिक्षक भी इस मामले को प्रभावित से उठा रहे हैं।

अब निगाहें 26 पर

दो दिन पहले दुर्घटना में अपने एक साथी की मौत व एक अन्य साथी के मृत्यु हेतु मंगलवार में गंभीर रूप से भेंटी होने पर आईआईटी के छात्र तनाव में हैं। अगले सप्ताह से उनकी परीक्षा भी शुरू हो रही है। इस 26 अप्रैल को बोर्ड ऑफ डायवर्सिटी का बैठक भी है, जिसमें इस समस्या का समाधान निकाला जाना है।
Giant magma well found below Yellowstone supervolcano

Washington: A giant reservoir of magma and hot rock — big enough to fill the Grand Canyon 11 times — has been discovered beneath the Yellowstone supervolcano in the US, scientists say.

University of Utah seismologists discovered the reservoir of hot, partly molten rock 19 to 45 kilometres beneath Yellowstone, and it is 4.4 times larger than the shallower, long-known magma chamber. The hot rock in the newly discovered, deeper magma reservoir would fill the 1,000-cubic-mile Grand Canyon 11.2 times, said postdoctoral researcher Jamie Farrell, a co-author of the study published in the journal Science.

“For the first time, we have imaged the continuous volcanic plumbing system under Yellowstone,” said first author Hsin-Hua Huang.

“That includes the upper crustal magma chamber we have seen previously plus a lower crustal magma reservoir that has never been imaged before and that connects the upper chamber to the Yellowstone hotspot plume below,” said Huang. Contrary to popular perception, the magma chamber and magma reservoir are not full of molten rock. Instead, the rock is hot, mostly solid and sponge-like, with pockets of molten rock within it.

Huang said the new study indicates the upper magma chamber averages about 9% molten rock — consistent with earlier estimates of 5% to 15% melt — and the lower magma reservoir is about 2% melt. So there is about one-quarter of a Grand Canyon worth of molten rock within the much larger volumes of either the magma chamber or the magma reservoir, Farrell said.

The researchers emphasise that Yellowstone’s plumbing system is no larger — nor closer to erupting — than before, only that they have now used advanced techniques to make a complete image of the system.
‘Invisible Man’ is fact now, not just fiction

Scientists Create Illusion Of Having An Invisible Body

London: In a first, scientists have created a perceptual illusion of having an invisible body among humans in the lab and found that the feeling of invisibility changes our physical stress response in challenging social situations.

The experiment, on 125 participants by neuroscientists from Sweden’s Karolinska Institute involved participants standing up and wearing a set of head-mounted displays. They were then asked to look down at their bodies, but instead they only saw empty space. Researchers then explored the psychological effects of invisibility — just as H G Wells did in his 1897 novella ‘The Invisible Man’ about a power-mad scientist who makes himself invisible and is eventually driven insane.

To evoke the feeling of having an invisible body, a scientist touched a participant’s body in various places with a large paintbrush while, with another paintbrush exactly imitating the movements in mid-air in full view of the participant. “Within less than a minute, the majority of the participants started to transfer the sensation of touch to the portion of empty space where they saw the paintbrush move and experienced an invisible body in that position,” said Arvid Guterstam, author of the study.

“The study demonstrates that the ‘invisible hand illusion’ can, surprisingly, be extended to an entire invisible body,” said Arvind-Guterstam. To demonstrate feasibility of the illusion, the Swedish researchers made a stabbing motion with a knife towards the empty space that represented the belly of the invisible body. The participants’ sweat response on seeing the knife was elevated while experiencing the illusion, but absent when the illusion was broken, which suggested the brain interpreted the threat in empty space as a threat directed towards one’s own body.

In another part of the study, the researchers examined whether the feeling of invisibility affected social anxiety by placing the participants in front of an audience of strangers. “We found that their heart rate and self-reported stress level during the ‘performance’ was lower when they immediately experienced the invisible body illusion compared to when they experienced having a physical body,” Guterstam said. The researchers hope that the results of the study will be of value to clinical research, for example in the development of therapies for social anxiety disorder. PTI