Govt hiring young engineers for building toilets in Delhi

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NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has decided to hire young engineers to help them in implementing its ambitious plan to make the Capital open defecation free.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), the agency that implements development programmes at slums, plans to construct two lakh public toilets across Delhi in the next five years. As many as 1.5 lakh of these toilets will be in the slum clusters.

Sources said over 250 engineers from IIT, Delhi Technological University and other prestigious engineering colleges have applied for 50 posts that the Delhi government seeks to fill. Many others working with some multi-national companies have also applied for the post which offers a pay of ₹25,000 per month.

The government has also hired post graduates to conduct a survey for its slum-free city plan. They will work with Delhi government for six months. Later, their contract may get extended.

“We have a shortage of engineers and recruiting them is a long process. The government decided to hire engineers on contract basis to expedite the development work. They will help us in building toilets and also in maintaining them,” said a DUSIB official.

According to the government, over five lakh residents in the national Capital defecate in the open. Lack of public toilets is not the only reason behind people going to relieve themselves in the open. Improper maintenance of the public loos and restrictive timings also forces those without a permanent toilet at their premises to defecate in the open.

There are around 100 slum clusters in Delhi that lack toilet facilities. Women residents have to walk long distances to relieve themselves.

In June, the Hindustan Times reported how children were going missing from a slum in outer Delhi's Shahbad Dairy where residents use a nearby forest for relieving themselves. Women and children who defecate in the open are prone to fall prey to sex offenders.

A survey found out that there are 259 open defecation spots in Delhi. It also said that there is a need for 24,036 toilet seats across 70 assembly constituencies. The DUSIB has proposed to construct 17,846 toilet seats before March 2017.

“We recently submitted a representation to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal proposing to construct toilets in the next 7-8 months. We asked MLAs to identify areas where toilets are required. A constituency-wise plan has been prepared,” said a DUSIB official.

The government has decided to repair the existing toilets and penalise agencies for their poor upkeep. There are three types of toilets in the city — individual, constructed by different agencies; community, which are in the slums and maintained by the DUSIB; and public toilets, which are managed by the civic bodies.
Off-campus IIT students? Council to decide on Aug 23

New Delhi: In a bid to increase its student strength to 1 lakh by 2020, IIT council on August 23 will consider HRD ministry’s proposal that seeks to achieve it by waiving off the condition that students have to compulsorily stay in hostels.

Sources said student strength will be increased across all levels, B.Tech, M.Tech and research. IITs have a total strength of a little over 72,000 in 23 IITs. The increase will be achieved by having 4,000 additional B.Tech seats from the little over 10,000 seats at present. The boost in numbers, sources said, will be done uniformly across all IITs. Sources said one of the biggest roadblocks to increasing the student strength has been lack of hostel facilities across IITs. Even the plan to expand hostel facilities to accommodate OBC reservation that started in 2009 has not been completed yet.

To deal with the hostel crunch, IITs will make arrangements outside campus. It can be residential areas or private hostels that will have hostel-like facilities. “Once we get rid of the provision of compulsion stay in campus it will help us increase the intake. Right now even if a student’s family stays in the same city he has to stay in hostel. Teaching facility is equipped to adjust to increase of students,” a source said.

After shelving it earlier, IIT council will again discuss the idea of National Aptitude Test that would filter students for a single entrance test for admission to IITs, NITs and other engineering institutions. HRD had to drop the idea as ministry’s department of school pointed out that an aptitude test might not find favour with students from rural and semi-urban backgrounds. “We were told aptitude test will go against the principle of equity in education. Students belonging to marginal classes would suffer,” a senior official said. “This led to a rethink,” the official said.

Another proposal to be considered will be project ‘Vishwajeet’. As a part of the project, seven IITs - Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Roorkee and Guwahati – will be assisted in breaking into the top 100 universities in the global university ranking by 2018 and top 50 by 2020.
Five IISc researchers get young scientist awards
http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/Five-IISc-researchers-get-young-scientist-awards/2016/08/14/article3578581.ece

BENGALURU: Five scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have bagged the prestigious INSA Medal for Young Scientists for this year. This makes IISc the only institution in the country with more INSA awardees than any other institute.

The five awardees are Dr Prabir Barpanda, Dr Sai Siva Gorthi, Dr Praveen Kumar, Dr Anshu Pandey and Dr Chandan Saha.

Commending their achievements, IISc Director Prof Anurag Kumar said, “It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for the Institute that for 2016, five of our young faculty members have been selected. These prestigious awards have recognized work that cuts across the boundaries of basic research and applied research and their conferral on our faculty is testament to the success of the rich and varied, interdisciplinary intellectual atmosphere of the institute.”

The Five Achievers

Dr Praveen Kumar, Assistant Professor at the Department of Materials Engineering, has been awarded for his discovery of electric-field induced changes in the mechanical behaviour of Carbon Nanotube (CNT).

Dr Prabir Barpanda, Assistant Professor at the Materials Research Centre, worked on the development of new classes of Lithium and Sodium cathode materials for next-generation battery and storage application.

Dr Sai Siva Gorthi, Assistant Professor, Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics, was honoured for his contribution to the field of Innovative Opto-fluidic technologies. His recent work includes R&D of in-vitro diagnostic tools, biomedical instrumentation and micro-fluidic nanotechnology.

Dr Chandan Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Automation, worked on arithmetic circuit lower bounds, polynomial identity testing and reconstruction of arithmetic circuits. Understanding computational efficiency is a great challenge in theoretical computer science, said Dr Saha.

Dr Anshu Pandey, Assistant Professor, Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, also made it to the list with his outstanding contribution in the area of low threshold quantum dot lasers.

The INSA award

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) annually honours young scientists with the INSA Young Scientist Award to distinguish young scientists of promise and creativity who have made notable research contributions in Science and Technology. Started in 1974, this award is considered to be the highest recognition of promise, creativity and excellence for a young scientist in India. Till date, 760 young scientists have been honoured with this award.
IITs Ready No-Entry Sign for 20 Startups

Likely to blacklist cos that reneged on placement offers

Prachi Verma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are likely to blacklist about 20 startups and ecommerce companies this placement season for having reneged on offers made to graduating students last year. Apart from this, a warning will be issued to companies that deferred joining dates, changed job profiles or altered salary terms.

Ecommerce company Flipkart will get a warning letter for deferring the date of joining for its IIT hires last year.

“Flipkart does not figure in the list of startups that would face a blanket ban as it did not completely withdraw the offers,” said All-IIT Placement Committee (AIPC) convenor Kaustubha Mohanty, who added that a ban on Zomato will remain in place for a second year.

The companies couldn’t be reached for comment on Sunday.

The IITs will draw up the list in about two weeks, it was decided at the AIPC meeting on Saturday. “We do not want this to be repeated this year,” said a faculty member.

Cos Divided into Three Groups

From Page 1

Mohanty declined to give details on the companies likely to be on the blacklist. “IITs are unanimous that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated,” he said. Twelve IITs were present at the AIPC meeting at IIT Kanpur to discuss placements for 2017. Of the big ones, IIT Bombay didn’t attend, Mohanty said.

The meeting decided that the startups would be grouped into three — those that deferred placements, those that cut pay or changed job profiles and those that withdrew offers. The warning letters will go to the companies on the first two lists while those on the third would be barred, Mohanty said.

Zomato had been banned last year after a spat over placement slots. CEO Deepinder Goyal then took to Twitter to express his views on the matter.

Flipkart told campus recruits last year it was deferring joining dates to December from June due to a restructuring exercise.

“The decision to defer joining for six months has been taken after due evaluation of all possibilities and keeping in mind timelines to complete organisational restructuring at Flipkart,” the company said at the time. “We are committed and absolutely confident of having all our trainees on board in December 2016.”
2,515 IIT-B students receive degrees; PhDs at record high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

A TOTAL of 2,515 students, including 325 doctoral candidates, received their degrees at IIT-Bombay’s 54th convocation day here.

The institute also accorded the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2015-16 on RK Malik from the department of chemical engineering in recognition of his contributions to the institute, the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B) said in a statement.

The 54th convocation day held on Saturday saw 2,515 students being awarded degrees on completion of their academic programmes, the premier institute said.

The graduating students this year include 208 PhDs, nine dual degree (MTechs and PhDs) students and seven dual degree (MSc and PhD) candidates.

A total of 101 PhDs were awarded during the interim convocation held in March, making it the highest number of PhDs being awarded at convocation in the history of IIT-B, it said. Out of these, 29 research scholars were selected for the ‘award of excellence in PhD thesis’.

A total of 16 joint PhDs in association with the Monash University, were also conferred. Besides these, 6 MSc (by research), 14 dual degrees (MSc and MTech), 6 dual degrees (MSc and MPhil), 626 MTech, 56 MDes, 14 MPhil, 115 MMgt, 201 two-year MSc, 22 five-year integrated MSc, 508 dual degrees (BTech and M Tech), 586 BTech degrees and 14 PGDIIT degrees were awarded at the convocation.

IIT-Bombay is one of the top engineering schools in the country.

A total of 49 out of top 50 rankers and 67 of the top 100 rankers in JEE 2016 chose IIT-Bombay among 22 IITs. All the top 10 all-India JEE 2016 rank holders joined this institute.
AUTONOMY FOR ALL

Government’s decision to give a free hand to IIMs is welcome. 
But that should not be preserve of elite institutions

The more than a year-long wrangle between the prime minister’s office 
(PMO) and the human resource development (HRD) minister over the IIMs 
has had a happy ending. The new HRD minister, Prakash Javadekar, has made 
a break from his predecessor Smriti Irani’s obstinacy and agreed to relinquish 
the government’s role in appointing the chairperson of the board of governors of 
the B schools. This is just months after Irani went against the PMO and rejected a panel 
of corporate stalwarts recommended by IIM-Ahmedabad for the chairperson’s post. For 
the time being, it seems that the IIMs’ demand for autonomy has received a major fillip. 

The elite B schools are lucky to have had a supporter in the PMO. Over the past year 
or so, the PMO has advocated autonomy for the IIMs and, in recent times, it has also 
mooted setting up of institutes of excellence that will be autonomous of the government. 
But autonomy to institutions of learning need not be dependent on the PMO’s support or 
contingent upon their being institutes of excellence. Micro-management by govern-
ments and authorities such as the UGC has stifled the creativity of academic institutions 
without creating any accountability. In recent times, universities have disapproved of an 
“excessive control mechanism” that obliges them to seek the permission of the UGC on 
administrative and financial matters. Every small expenditure requires the UGC’s consent. 
Universities have vice-chancellors, academic heads and executive and academic councils. 
But they are required to seek the approval of the UGC to start new courses. Once these 
courses are sanctioned, they have to apply again to the UGC for grants. It is nobody’s case 
that central authorities like the HRD ministry or the UGC be done away with. But their role 
in quotidian matters needs to be minimised.

The HRD ministry’s move is a positive one especially given this government’s track 
record in meddling in affairs of institutions. While past governments have rarely given a 
free hand to vice-chancellors and the academic bodies of universities, this government 
has drawn flak — rightly so — for intervening in matters that are usual to the running of 
an university. The Rohith Vemula case in Central University, Hyderabad, and the JNU case 
are well known. The HRD ministry’s interventions in these cases betrayed its basic dis-
trust of the academic bodies and authorities in the institutes concerned. Does the govern-
ment’s decision on the IIM augur a new beginning? One hopes so.
आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में बीटेक की सीट 15000 करने पर होगा विवाद

नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट से ही आईआईटी में मिलेगे दाखिले

अमर उजाला दुसरे

ई दिल्ली। आईआईटी में ग्राह्मन श्रेष्ठों के छात्रों को अब दाखिला दिया गया और मुख्य विभागों में अब केंट्रल नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट करने की तैयारी में है। यह मान्यता पर चुनाविकल्प है।

आईआईटी काउंसिल की 23 अगस्त को होने वाली बैठक में इस पर चर्चा होती है। अभी, बीटेक प्रोग्राम में छात्रों के प्रति मार्ग स्थापित हो रहा है।

पूर्व मंत्री संतराम विकास मंत्री मंत्री इसकी नीति ने उजाला में और एडवर्डस की नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट से सलामा में विभिन्न करने की राज शिव कोई भी भाग नहीं दिया गया।

सीखी दिल्ली के बैंकिंग बैंक का सिद्धांत नहीं होने से बावल में एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट का रहस्य माना गया। आईआईटी में दाखिले की तैयारी करने वाले व्यक्ति अभी और पूर्व आईआईटी के वाले। अभी वाले के मुकाम, नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट से छात्रों की निवेश और विस्मय देने होगे। उन्होंने कहा कि अभी और एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट को पूरा नहीं करना है, विशेष एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट के लिए बनाए रखेंगे। अभी वाले, एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट की स्थापना के लिए विभिन्न सेंटरों में पदने वाली छात्रों की निवेश और विस्मय देने होगे।

संस्कृति के विद्वानों भी कर सकेंगे लीएमएस

ई दिल्ली (बाहर)। संस्कृत प्रशासन के पूरे पहले जीवितांतों के बारे में चर्चा है कि उन्होंने वह बात की कि अभी वाले के मुकाम में नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट को पूरा करना है। इसके साथ ही इसके बारे में चर्चा होती रही है कि अभी वाले के मुकाम में नेशनल एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट को पूरा करना है।
IIT-Madras to study erosion at Puri beach

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, AUG. 12

With the aggressive beach erosion near Puri playing havoc among locals, Odisha water resources secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena on Friday informed that a team of experts from IIT-Madras would carry out a tide-impact study in the coastal town in order to find a long-term solution to the issue.

“A master plan is being prepared to contain the erosion there. A team of experts from IIT-Madras will reach Puri in the next two days to find a permanent solution,” Mr Jena told reporters here.

Even though the administration has already started work on creating a barrier to avoid further erosion, the high tide is making the task difficult.

“We are trying to erect a wooden barricade with the help of piling, but the high tide is making the task difficult. We are unable to run the piling instrument,” said Public Works Department assistant engineer Purna Chandra Beuria.

High tides have already eaten up 100 metres of the beach. The very existence of seaside hotels and other business establishments is already at stake.

Over 100 shops operating on the beach have been shifted to other places and tourists have been barred to enter the area. The administration has hoisted a red flag in the area and life guards have been deployed to avoid any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), a non-governmental environmental watchdog, on Friday wrote letters to chief minister Naveen Patnaik and water resources secretary lamenting the lack of any action that has led to a crisis situation at Puri in the last few days.

Erosion noticed along the Orissa coastline is seasonal and most of the beaches manage to regain their original shapes over an annual cycle by March/April. However, some beaches undergo net erosion and at least 50 per cent of the beaches do not regain their original profile. Orissa has a total coastline of 476 km out of which sandy beaches account for 57 per cent of the coastline.

“Puri beach has never faced this kind of erosion, not even two decades before. This is surprising since the beach profile has been quite stable over the last 100-200 years. We feel that the unprecedented erosion at Puri could be correlated prima facie with the opening of a new mouth at Chilika Lake done on September 23, 2000. Coincidentally, beach erosion at Puri was noticed soon after from 2001,” WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty said.

Amar Ujala ND 13.08.2016  P-14

आईआईटी के फेल छात्रों
को मिली बड़ी राहत

राजस्थान (व्यवहार)। आईआईटी राजस्थान के बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष के फेल 18 छात्रों (पांच सीजनेंगे, प्रात) को दोबारा प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। सीनेट को बीटेक में ले गए, इस निर्णय से छात्रों को जाह राहत मिली है, बिना सीनेट ने अब पांच सीजनेंगे की बायबल भी समाप्त कर दी है। अब छात्रों को पुनर्निर्माण के तहत और न्यूज़ में पूर्ण मिलने पर पास कर दिया जाएगा।

दो वर्ष पूर्व आईआईटी राजस्थान के सीनेट को बीटेक में निर्णय लिया गया था कि बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष के दोनों से, सेंट्रल में जिन छात्रों के अंक पांच सीजनेंगे एक हो जाय, उन्हें फेल कर प्रथम वर्ष से निष्कासित कर दिया जाएगा। इस निर्णय के बाद निरस्त वर्ष 72 छात्रों निष्कासित कर दिए गए थे। बाद में सीनेट को बीटेक में इन छात्रों को एक सीजन के देते हुए, प्रथम वर्ष में दोबारा प्रशिक्षण कर दिया गया था। लेकिन यह अंत में लागू नहीं हो गई थी कि इन छात्रों को पांच सीजनेंगे की न्यूज़ में समाप्त होने तक करने की होगी। करीब एक महीने पूर्व प्रथम वर्ष के परीक्षा परिणाम जारी हुए तो 18 छात्र निष्काशित पांच सीजनेंगे हासिल नहीं कर पाए थे। जिसके चलते इन छात्रों पर निकासित की मजबूर बनकर थी।
HRD likely to grant more autonomy to all IIMs

New Delhi, Aug. 12: The Union HRD ministry is likely to grant more autonomy to Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in choosing the chairmen of their governing boards. According to officials, while the ministry had previously favoured a greater say for the government in this matter, it was now toeing a line reportedly favoured by the Prime Minister’s Office for granting more autonomy.

It is learnt that in the proposed bill, which the HRD ministry has recently circulated, it has suggested that the IIM Board be allowed to choose their own representatives. Presently they need the ministry’s approval in this regard. “However it does not mean that the ministry has relinquished all say as one its representative will also be there on the Board,” a source said.

There have been controversies over the appointment of heads of these prestigious schools. The HRD ministry under Ms Smriti Irani had rejected the three names selected by the IIM Ahmedabad board to be its chairman.

The proposed IIM bill, which has seen much wrangling between the HRD ministry and the PMO, will soon be put before the Cabinet. — PTI
All at fault, says IIT report on flyover

Special Correspondent

KOLKATA: Multiple reasons — faulty design, poor quality of raw material and lack of supervision — led to the collapse of the under-construction flyover in central Kolkata on March 31 this year, said the report of an expert committee comprising former faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP).

The committee was set up by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to probe the collapse that led to the death of 27 persons.

“We have found defects in multiple aspects of the flyover construction. Be it the design, the construction, the raw material and the supervision, all were at fault,” Anandapran Gupta, former head of the department of civil engineering at IIT-KGP, told The Hindu on Thursday.

Along with Professor Gupta, another retired professor, Swapam Majumdar, from the structural engineering department of the IIT-KGP, was also probing the collapse, one of the worst civic disasters in the city. On August 10, the committee had submitted its report to the State government. The government had asked the panel of experts to decide on the future of the flyover — whether the State government should complete the work or dismantle the structure.

Ten officials in jail

Though Kolkata Metropolitan Development Agency (KMDA) had commissioned the work, the Hyderabad-based infrastructure company JVRCL was constructing the flyover. Ten officials, including directors of the firm, were arrested and are still behind bars.

While the police had earlier brought murder charges in the case, the charge was later dropped. Instead, charges under Section 304 of the IPC (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) were brought in the charge sheet submitted in June.
IIM-Ahmedabad’s CIIE invests in two health-tech start-ups

Doux Dentistry and Zeolr develop solutions for better management of diseases

VIRENDRA PANDIT
Ahmedabad, August 11

The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM Ahmedabad has invested undisclosed amounts in two health-tech start-ups – Doux Dentistry, an innovative dental care venture aiming to make dental care affordable and accessible to patients at their homes, and Zeolr, an Internet-of-Things-based venture.

The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM Ahmedabad has invested undisclosed amounts in two health-tech start-ups – Doux Dentistry, an innovative dental care venture aiming to make dental care affordable and accessible to patients at their homes, and Zeolr, an Internet-of-Things-based venture.

Under the brand names MobiDent and Zeolr, the healthcare start-ups are developing solutions to aid in better management of chronic diseases for patients and availability of information to physicians for regular supervision, revision and reinforcement, a CIIE spokesperson said here.

Founded by Devaiah, a dentist, and Vivek Madappa, a serial entrepreneur, Doux Dentistry is present in Bengaluru, Pune, Mysuru and Ahmedabad. Lack of awareness and the consequence of neglecting dental health among the population are the barriers it wants to address.

Mobident’s ‘dental clinic in a suitcase’ is an asset-light model designed to address the core challenges of dental care industry such as end-user experience and high cost of dental services in India.

“For Mobident, it is an opportunity to derive cross-learning from CIIE and propel its business to the next level through active support in fund-raise and business development,” said Madappa.

Zeolr’s flagship product RespirON helps asthmatic and other patients and their physicians come up with the best plan for managing their conditions. It is a three-tier system that includes a device and a smartphone application connected to the cloud server that helps patients and physicians consistently monitor and manage their condition.

“CIIE came with the hands-on support to ease the hardships and mitigate the risks that most early-stage start-ups experience, said Roshit Gopinath, CEO, Zeolr.

At present, CIIE’s healthcare portfolio consists of nine start-ups across medical devices, e-health, health-education and home care. These start-ups have enjoyed market response and continue to receive strategic advisory and mentoring from CIIE, said J Salim Vali, Vice-President - Investments, CIIE.

With Mobident, CIIE hopes to test the waters in the homecare innovation space and foray into more asset-light models that address key barriers in making healthcare ubiquitous, while Zeolr is poised to set in motion CIIE’s active involvement in healthcare IoT, he said.
NO GOVT ROLE IN APPOINTMENT OF IIM CHAIRPERSONS

Javadekar accepts what Irani rejected: PMO idea to let IIMs choose their chiefs

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, under its new head Prakash Javadekar, has agreed to relinquish the government's role in appointing the chairman of the Board of Governors (BoG) at all IIMs, just months after his predecessor Smriti Irani rejected a panel of corporate stalwarts recommended by IIM-Ahmedabad for the chairman's post.

In May, the Ministry led by Irani, in an unprecedented move, had scrapped the shortlist sent by IIM-Ahmedabad—Chairman of Board of Directors of Infosys Rishad Premji, Chairman of HDFC Deepak Parekh, and Hero MotoCorp CMD Pawan Munjal— for appointment of a new BoG chairman after A M Naik, Group Executive Chairman of Larsen & Toubro Limited, resigned on December 31, 2015, two years before his term was to end. No reason was given for the rejection and the decision was seen as another attack on the autonomy of the premier B-schools.

But now, after the Cabinet reshuffle, the HRD Ministry is learnt to have accepted the PMO's suggestion to empower the IIMs, under the BoG Bill, to appoint their own chairmen. The draft law was recently dispatched for Cabinet approval.

As per the previous version of the Bill finalised under Irani's ministership, the chairman had to be appointed by the President in consultation with the BoG. In other words, the government would have had the last word on the final selection for the post. The government's role, top sources said, has been deleted from this clause.

The Indian Express first reported on March 11 on the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2