IIT-Bombay all set to host Prime Minister on Saturday

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MUMBAI: A fresh coat of paint, a new building, a helipad in the midst of the campus football field; at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) in Powai, there is frenzied activity. The institute will host Prime Minister (PM) Manmohan Singh for its 50th convocation ceremony on Saturday.

The old convocation hall has been dismantled and a new one with centralised air-conditioning constructed in its place. The seats have been redone and the interiors cleaned up.

A patch of ground has being prepared for the descent of the PM’s helicopter. “We are prepared for anything, in case he wishes to come by chopper,” said Jaya Joshi, public relations officer, IIT-B.

The helipad will most likely be done away with after he leaves. Detailed security arrangements have been put in place, said Joshi.

Campus residents are viewing the changes with amusement and relief. “They are repairing the roads, planting trees, removing bus stops, making bathrooms,” said a faculty member. “This is good. Otherwise no one looks at our complaints.” Students have also welcomed the beautification drive.

On Saturday, there will be special traffic arrangements in place on campus. On Friday and Saturday, students will not be able to access facilities such as the football field and tennis courts.

Official email on molestation case

Authorities at the IIT-B have broken their silence on the alleged molestation of a PhD student by a staff member at the institute earlier this week. They have finally addressed the student community about it. An email was circulated to students on Thursday from the office of the dean of student affairs. Authorities said they will send out a detailed statement soon.

HTC, MUMBAI
आईआईटी संकाय संघ पीएम को देगा कुछ और सुझाव

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। इंजीनियरिंग स्नातक के लिए सरकार द्वारा तैयार की गई संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के मुद्दे पर अखिल भारतीय आईआईटी संकाय संघ ने कुछ और सुझाव तैयार किए हैं। जिसे वह मुंबई आईआईटी के दीक्षांत समारोह के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह बताएगा।

मुंबई में 18 अगस्त को प्रधानमंत्री डा. सिंह आईआईटी के दीक्षांत समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि बन कर जा रहे हैं। इस मौके का फायदा उठाने के लिए संकाय संघ के अध्यक्ष के नरसिंह ने कुछ और सुझाव तैयार किए हैं और संकाय सदस्यों के साथ संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा विवाद डा. सिंह से बात करें। संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के नए प्रारूप को लेकर आईआईटी और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिम्बल के बीच चल रहा विवाद अभी ठीक नहीं है। हालांकि कुछ संस्थान सहमत हो गए हैं मगर संकाय सदस्यों में बहस जारी है। आईआईटी संकाय सदस्यों की फिरले पाह आईआईटी संकाय संघ के सचिव एके मित्तल और प्रधानमंत्री के सलाहकार टिकीए नायर के साथ बैठक हो चुकी है। इस बैठक में उन्होंने नए प्रारूप से आईआईटी की गरिमा और स्वायत्त्व पर खतरा बताया था। बैठक में संघ के सुझावों पर विचार करते हुए नए प्रारूप पर संशोधन करने का आश्वासन भी दिया गया था।
From 2013, common entrance test for all 41 central varsities

ADITI TANDON
THE ECONOMIC TIMES

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16
From the next academic session, admissions to all central universities like the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and the ones located in states will be held through a common entrance test.

After formalising a uniform assessment structure for entry to centrally funded technical institutes, the government has now asked central universities to finalise a single test format for admission to their system by the next academic session.

The decision was taken at the recently held conference of Vice-Chancellors of central universities which HRD Minister Kapil Sibal chaired.

The two-day conference held in Chandigarh decided that all “central universities will have a common entrance test with respect to entry at the undergraduate (UG) level. In such a test, Class XII marks will have adequate weightage to account for the subject knowledge of the student.”

The outcome document of the conference, finalised this week, flags the issue of common entrance test for all 41 central universities (CU) as a key reform of the government for the coming year. It says, “All CUs will take the necessary steps to join the common entrance examination system from the next session.”

The minutes also highlight the necessity to engage with political parties on the urgency to reform the examination system “in the interest of students.”

The ministry and the VCs of CUs agreed that the common examination being planned would be held in English and Hindi. “Minority central universities will have the option to participate in the CET,” the outcome document states.

Top sources in the HRD Ministry said states where the central universities are located would be consulted for the proposal.

At present, seven central universities are conducting a common entrance test for admission to their UG system. The ministry has told the other universities to draw from the experience of these and “develop a system for holding a CET for all central universities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.”

The HRD Ministry has assigned Dr BP Sanjay, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Central University, the task of finalising the common test proposal for all CUs.

Central Universities in India are located at Delhi (4), Uttar Pradesh (4), Andhra Pradesh (3); two each in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Tamil Nadu; one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Puducherry.

PROVIDING AUTONOMY

Cabinet likely to approve IIIT Bill today

Bill will allow central and state public sector units to be accepted as industry partners for establishment of IIITs

BY LIT MATHEW, PRASHANT K. NANDA & AAMAN MALIK

The cabinet is expected to approve on Friday the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) Bill that seeks to give IITs administrative autonomy and uniformity and set up 20 more such schools on a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Once enacted, the legislation will confer the status of institutes of national importance on the IITs. It recognises the need to bring in a large pool of skilled professionals for the Information Technology (IT) industry, said two government officials with knowledge of the development. Both of them declined to be named.

Despite the PPP scheme being on offer for more than one year, states have not shown much interest. Industry partners are not always easy, said one of the two officials cited above.

Taking note of this problem, the bill also seeks to modify the scheme under which central and state public sector undertakings will be accepted as industry partners for the establishment of IITs.

The modification in the proposed legislation was made after the state education ministers conference in June suggested the changes.

"It was agreed that the following modifications to the scheme could be considered: (I) To allow central and state public sector undertakings (PSUs) to be accepted as industry partners for establishment of IITs; and (II) giving states the flexibility to bring in one or more industry partners instead of limiting the number of partners to three," said the summary record of the discussions held during the education ministers conference.

Setting up an IIT will cost $250 crore. While 50% of the corpus will come from the central government, 35% will be the share of the concerned state government and the remaining 15% will come from the industry partner or partners.

In the northeastern states, industry will only contribute 7.5% and the central government will pick up the slack. Besides this, the central government will provide 850 crore for faculty development programmes.

During the first four years of setting up each IIT, the central government will provide assistance towards recurring expenditure to the extent of $100 crore, the year-wise requirement of which will vary depending on the growth of the institutes and how much money is needed.

Each IIT will meet its entire operating expenditure on its own within five years of starting from student fees, research and other internal accruals, according to the agenda note of the state education ministers' conference.

Apart from the capital cost, the partner company is expected to help with building research labs and projects, give internship to students and sponsor faculty chair positions.

The government has already set up four IITs in Allahabad, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Kanpur.

The union cabinet is also expected to clear amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organisations Bill 2011 aimed at criminalising such instances of graft.

The bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in March 2011, will allow the government to strip foreign diplomats involved in bribery of their immunity.

The cabinet is expected to clear the amendments that will incorporate the suggestions proposed by the parliamentary standing committee. Although the original bill allowed the government to book foreign agents passing on classified information to private companies, the cabinet will seek a green signal for redefining “economic advantage” or “any gratification, benefit or advantage, property or interest in such property, reward, fee, valuable security or gift or any other valuable other than legal remuneration whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary, tangible or intangible”.

Any undue advantage by adopting corrupt or illegal means will be considered an offence under the amended legislation. This law will also cover those who offer or give any advantages to any foreign public official or official of public international organisation in order to obtain international business or other advantages.

The uniform punishment for offences under this act will be from three to seven years. However, the cabinet hasn’t accepted the panel’s suggestion of fixing a time limit for the completion of investigations under the act.

The cabinet meeting on Friday is also likely to take up a new pricing formula for the procurement of ethanol to be blended with petrol, said a senior official from the department of chemicals and petrochemicals. He did not want to be identified. This official said that the proposal being considered is in line with that proposed by a panel headed by Finance Commission member Saumitra Chaudhuri.

The Chaudhuri committee had recommended that the price of ethanol be linked to the price of petrol in 10-15 days, after factoring in the calorific value, with the possibility of revising the price every six months. This is to be done to stabilise fuel prices. The department of chemicals and petrochemicals is supposed to take the Cabinet’s approval, the official said.

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Ignored by pvt firms, IIITs may come up with PSU aid

Saubhadra Chatterji
and Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet is planning to let public sector units (PSUs) partially fund the setting up of new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) across the country. This is a step towards salvaging the central government's first-ever move to introduce public-private partnerships in higher education—a plan that has received a largely cold response from the private sector until now.

In an Independence Day speech two years ago, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had promised to set up 20 new IIITs—the country's apex IT schools—through public-private partnerships (PPP). And now, two days after his latest address from the Red Fort, the cabinet on Friday will consider allowing PSUs to pump in money and expertise to fulfil a role originally envisaged for top private firms, including global giants such as Google and Yahoo.

The cabinet will also consider reducing the number of firms required to fund each IIIT from three to one. The cabinet note points out that in several states, especially in the north-east even medium-sized private industries are non-existent.

The IIIT Bill-2012 is set to be introduced during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament, after the cabinet gives its nod.

India already has four IIITs fully funded by the Centre at Gwalior, Allahabad, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram—all deemed universities. The plan was to establish one IIIT in every other state.

The new bill also aims to elevate all 24 IIITs to 'institutes of national importance'—a tag that exempts them from several government regulations and bestows independent statutory status.

It is learnt that the government had to rethink its plan after three states—Rajasthan, Bihar and Kerala—suggested that industry partners need not necessarily be private, and state or centrally-owned companies should be allowed to participate.

Both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka managed to attract substantial private investment for launching IIITs in PPP mode. Though court orders subsequently forced these schools to rename themselves as International Institutes of Information Technology—dropping 'Indian' from their name—these institutions remain the best in the country with regard to IT education.
A Case Study!
New IIMs Clash
with the Old

Young institutes claim established B-schools are not sharing resources

Why the Conflict

What New IIMs Say?

Older IIMs non-inclusive and are forming a cartel to protect their elitist image
They are stonewalling efforts to promote joint research or sharing faculty
New IIMs not included in CAT 2012 preparation or revenue sharing
IIM brand will be hit if it does not get inclusive

What Old IIMs Say

New IIMs have to focus on institution-building and strengthening faculty
New IIMs could not participate in CAT process because they do not have enough faculty members
All IIMs are facing shortage of faculty after the OBC quota kicked in

IIM Brand will be Hit

>> From Page 1
However, the administration and overall control of all IIMs is overseen by the IIM Council, which is headed by the HRD ministry. Directors of the new institutes say IIM as a brand will hit in the face of competition from foreign educational institutes if the older ones do not shield their elitist stance. Currently, there are 13 IIMs with a total faculty of 571. There is a shortage of over 200 teachers who are currently outsourced, according to IIM-Ranchi Director Xavier. Of the total faculty strength, 30% are good teachers while 30% are good researchers, he says.

Besides sharing of resources, new and old IIMs also differ over mentoring and the entire CAT process. When the new IIMs were set up in the past three years, the older ones were asked to mentor them. While IIM-A refused, IIM-Lucknow mentored Rohilkhand and Kashipur. It outsourced administration to a retired professor; officials said IIM-Calcutta mentored Raipur and IIM-Bangalore mentored Tumkur to some extent. But older IIMs have been reluctant to mentor newer ones citing limited resources and faculty.

IIM is another contentious issue. The Common Admission Test is conducted by the IIMs as a pre-requisite for admission to various business management programmes. Prometric, a US-based testing company conducts the computer-based CAT in India to test quantitative ability, data interpretation, verbal ability and logical reasoning. The test is conducted every year by one of the older IIMs based on a rotation policy. Each CAT application is charged around Rs 1,600 for the general category and Rs 800 for the SC/ST category. The surplus funds after incurring all expenses are then shared among the older IIMs.

Moreover, older IIMs do not include newer counterparts in the CAT administration process. The new IIMs had put in a request to participate in CAT 2012 during a meeting with Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, which was not seriously considered, officials say.

• Officials from the older IIMs, however, say the new IIMs do not have the faculty strength required to be part of the CAT process. "The newer IIMs are just recruiting faculty and whenever they express interest to participate, they will be included," says Arvind Laha, chairman of IIM-A's admission committee.

Refuting this, IIM-Trichy says their faculty strength would touch 20 by end of 2012. "CAT has nothing to do with faculty, it has been outsourced to Prometric. It makes good sense to include all IIMs," says the director of a new IIM on condition of anonymity.

Moreover, new IIMs were kept out of a July 2012 meeting at Kozhikode to discuss the future reading of the CAT (encouraging the entry of non-engineering students at IIMs). Directors of all the older IIMs—Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Lucknow and Indore—were invited. IIM-Ranchi’s Xavier says he was unaware of the meeting and learnt about it through newspaper ads.

Debashis Chatterjee, director of IIM-K, dismisses talks of a rift. "I think collaboration more than polarisation is the way forward for IIMs. I do not endorse the view that older IIMs are superior to the new IIMs," he says. He, however, defends the current CAT system arguing that revenues will be shared with the new IIMs when their faculty participates.

at new IIMs say while the minis was not to share faculty, as such loss of exclusivity will make IIM-A lose its competitive edge, a senior IIM official says on condition of anonymity.

Refuting this, IIM-A Director Samir Baruah argues that all IIMs are facing faculty shortage. "After the implementation of the OBC quota, it is difficult to share existing faculty with the new IIMs," he says.

Unlike the close-knit IITs, each IIM is autonomous and has independence over daily operations.

IIM Brand will be Hit >> 17
नए-पुराने IIM में
नहीं कोऑर्डिनेशन

नए IIM का आरोप, रिसर्च शैक्षिक और
फैक्ट्री में पुराने संस्थान कर रहे भेदभाव

[राम विकास कुमार | प्रविष्ट दी गई | अहमदाबाद]

नए और पुराने IIM के बीच पंच वर्षों के असर का विचार है। सबसे आकर्षण के तेज हो गए हैं। नए IIM के आरोप का कहना है कि पुराने IIM से उन्हें सबसे अधिक फायदा हुआ करता है। यह आरोप में पुराने IIM के मानकों से रिसर्च और फैक्ट्री के अनुसरण का सम्भावित नहीं कर रहा है। इसका अर्थ एकमात्र देशी माफ़ी है। प्रोफेसर और प्रेरणा को सेवा में रखने के लिए किया गया है। पुराने IIM, जो कि अब तक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है।

आईआईटी गंगा के अध्यक्ष दूल्हन ने कहा कि आईआईटी गंगा का सफलता का नहीं है। आईआईटी गंगा का सफलता का नहीं है। आईआईटी गंगा का सफलता का नहीं है।

आईआईटी गंगा के अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि आईआईटी गंगा का सफलता का नहीं है।
Jamia & DU all set for Meta revolution

By Neha Pushkarna in New Delhi

JAMIA Millia Islamia and Delhi University have created an innovative course for math learners and those who aspire to teach mathematics in line with the concept of Meta University.

The two universities are ready to launch the first hybrid university in the country — offering a master's degree in mathematics education with mass communication. The course will be offered under Meta University.

The students, to be selected through a common entrance exam, will study both at Jamia and DU during the course. DU has developed the course material for mathematics while Jamia is going to take care of the mass communication section of the curriculum.

"The curriculum is ready and we have to devise the selection criteria now. We will admit 20 students in the first batch. Both universities will select 10 students each," Najeeb Jung, vice-chancellor, Jamia Millia, said.

He said the course's unique composition will help generate interest in mathematics. Jamia's mass communication courses are much sought-after and DU vice-chancellor Professor Dinesh Singh, who is a mathematician, has contributed to the development of the math curriculum.

"It will be a thrilling course. Students enrolled in the course will have studied basics at the graduation level. Mass communication will make mathematics more attractive. The course is for the more intelligent," Jung added.

While DU's academic council approved the concept of Meta University in its meeting held on July 21, Jamia is now waiting for the board of its department of teachers' education to give a go-ahead to the curriculum.

The board meeting is scheduled on August 28 after which the matter will be placed in our academic council meeting on September 5.

The board meeting is scheduled on August 28 after which the matter will be placed in our academic council meeting on September 5. Once it is cleared, we can start the admission process.

— NAJEEB JUNG, V-C Jamia Millia Islamia

He had explained that with Meta University in place, a student of astrophysics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, for instance, would be able to pursue a course in literature at Jadavpur University. The creative composition of course will trigger innovation, he had said.

"Why do we assume that a mathematics student will not be interested in studying mass communication?" Jung asked. DU, meanwhile, has already started the admission process for its own Meta College, based on the same lines.

The plan was supposed to be launched by Delhi-based institutions. DU, Jamia Millia, Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIT-Delhi were to start the project together in July this year.

"JNU and IIT-D need more time to carry out the process," Jung said adding that Jamia has already prepared the curriculum for another course in healthcare research which will be a ‘full-blown’ Meta University offering.
Now, Your Doctor may be Made in China

Lured by cheaper fee structure, wannabe medics scale the Great Wall

RICA BHATTACHARYYA
Mumbai

From swanky cellphones to sleek Android tablets, China makes everything affordable. And now, even Indian doctors are ‘Made in China’, and that too for a price of 25-50% of the cost here.

For 20-year-old Anamika Reddy from Kerala, the dream of becoming a doctor was nearly dashed when she failed to qualify in entrance examinations for government medical colleges in India and the course fees for private colleges turned out to be beyond her parents’ means. However, unwilling to give up hope, Anamika decided to apply to universities in China, which she had heard were a cheaper option.

“While I enquired about course fees at private medical colleges in India, it was not affordable. But China was affordable for my parents,” says Anamika, who has just completed the first year of MBBS at Wuhan University School of Medicine, situated in China’s Hubei province. “In my batch, there are about 70 south Indians and one north Indian, though my senior batches have many from the north,” says Anamika. She is part of a batch of international students numbering 60. Like Anamika, De-vy, Ameena Kamaruzzaman and Balu Vallabhe are in various colleges in China, chasing their dreams to be doctors. The first trickle started about a decade ago, and the pace has picked up over the past couple of years. Now, medical colleges in China are attracting an increasing number of Indians who dream of becoming doctors, but fail to qualify in competitive examinations for state-run subsidised medical colleges, so can afford the steep fee structure of local private colleges.

“The primary lure of government-run Chinese medical colleges is their cheaper cost structure. There is no capitation or donation, as is usually charged by private colleges in India,” says Nyesha Mohammad, head of consultancy firm Asian Educational Consultancy. In 2011, Asian Educational Consultancy placed 100 aspiring doctors from India in medical colleges in China, compared with about 60 in 2009 and 40 in 2010.

China Encouraging Foreign Students
Failing the test

Delays in results and paper leaks cast a shadow on the Mumbai University

HUMAN FACTOR

Syed Malang

The human factor often plays a significant role in academic settings. In this case, the issue of paper leaks and delays in result announcements have cast a shadow on the Mumbai University.

The story highlights the challenges faced by students who rely on the institution for their education. It underscores the importance of maintaining academic integrity and ensuring timely delivery of results.

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P-14

Misplaced mission to Mars?

The story discusses the concept of a misplaced mission to Mars, which has been a topic of ongoing debate in the scientific community. The narrative explores the implications of such a mission and its potential impact on future space exploration efforts.

The text references the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) mission to Mars and analyzes the financial aspects of the mission. It also delves into the question of whether such a mission is a wise investment given the global context of limited resources.

The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of strategic planning and resource allocation in space exploration. It highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to ensure that missions are not only scientifically sound but also economically feasible.
Obstructive sleep apnea is a serious sleep disorder which can cause cardiovascular problems, diabetes, day-time fatigue and sleepiness. It is also a major but preventable cause of motor-vehicle accidents.

STEALING AWAY YOUR SLEEP

In many patients, obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) results in daytime sleepiness, which may increase the risk of accidents. However, the risk of accidents is not limited to individuals with severe sleep apnea. Research has shown that even mild sleep apnea can increase the risk of accidents. For example, a study published in the Journal of Sleep Research found that individuals with mild sleep apnea were more likely to have car accidents than those without sleep apnea.

Studies & surveys
A study conducted by the Mayo Clinic found that individuals with sleep apnea were more likely to have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. The study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and included over 3,000 participants. The results showed that individuals with sleep apnea had a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease compared to those without sleep apnea.

Diagnosing sleep apnea
The diagnosis of sleep apnea is based on the evaluation of clinical symptoms, physical examination and sleep study (polysomnography). Sleep study measures various parameters like airflow, blood oxygen levels, breathing patterns, electrocardiogram, eye movements, and limb movements. If the patient is suspected of having sleep apnea, they will be referred to a sleep medicine specialist who will perform a sleep study to confirm the diagnosis.

Risk factor for accidents
Sleep apnea is an important preventable cause of motor-vehicle accidents. Various studies have found that treatment for OSA can lower the accident rate. A study published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine reports that effective treatment lowers healthcare costs and disability rates for commercial motor vehicle drivers with OSA.

Sleep experts
OSA is a disease that can be treated by pulmonologists, neurologists and ENT specialists. The facilities for conducting sleep studies are available in many leading government medical colleges and private hospitals of the region. Obesity and dietary habits that contribute to the development of OSA should be considered for OSA patients with obesity, diabetes, hypertension or coronary artery disease so that treatment can provide better quality of life and outcome.

The writer is Senior Consultant, Department of Sleep and Critical Care, Fortis Hospital, Mohali