IIT-Delhi opens its MBA doors to non-engineering students

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Friday announced that its new MBA programme will now be available for students from all streams. Previously, only those with engineering and technology background or those with Masters in Science and Commerce or Economics were considered eligible for the management programmes offered by the Department of Management Studies.

“We believe that knowledge shouldn’t be restricted to specific disciplines and students from all fields make a good mix at any institution, especially in terms of cross-disciplinary learning. Also, the corporate world is getting increasingly competitive, the demand for qualified and multi-talented managers is also rising,” said department head Kanika T. Bhal, adding that the new MBA programme is more immersive and relevant to all industries.

The course has been designed based on inputs from industry experts, students and the alumni.

“The changes are aligned with IIT’s mission to cater to the changing demands of the corporate world. By making the curriculum more industry relevant and focusing on innovative ways of teaching, the department aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry requirements,” said Dr. Shveta Singh, Associate Professor, DMS, IIT-Delhi.

The department will assess the eligibility of a student based on academic record, starting from performance in Class X and XII apart from their CAT score and performance in group discussion and personal interview.

A candidate’s extracurricular activities and professional experience will also be taken into account.
NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) on Friday opened its management course to aspirants from all streams for the academic year 2015-16.

Until now, only students from engineering and technology background or those with masters in science and commerce/economics were eligible for admissions to the MBA programmes offered by the institute’s Department of Management Studies (DMS).

“From 2015, students from all the streams would be welcomed to apply for our MBA programme. IIT-Delhi looks forward to students from diverse backgrounds. We believe that knowledge shouldn’t be restricted to specific disciplines and students from all fields make a good mix at any institution, especially in terms of cross disciplinary learning,” DMS head Kanika T Bhal said.

As reported by Deccan Herald on November 2, the institute has also brought changes in its admission criteria.

The DMS had till now admitted students on the basis of Combined Admission Test (CAT), conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIMs), as well as considering their performance in group discussion and interview.

“From 2015, the department will assess applicants on the basis of their entire educational background including performance in Class X and XII, graduation apart from their CAT score and performance in group discussion and personal interview,” Bhal said.

A candidate’s extracurricular activities and professional experience would also be taken into account, she added.

The DMS also revised its curriculum and programme structure based on inputs from industry experts, students and alumni to design a new MBA programme. “The changes are aligned with IIT’s mission to cater to the changing demands of the corporate world. By making the curriculum more industry relevant and focusing on innovative ways of teaching, the department aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry requirements,” Associate Professor at DMS Shveta Singh said.

The DMS, which has been offering management programmes since 1997, was ranked second after Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Bangalore in business management category in India in January 2014 by the Stanford University.

DH News Service
IIT Delhi’s MBA course open for students across streams

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Now students from all streams can pursue an MBA course from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi under its new programme, a statement said on Friday.

“The IIT Delhi, has opened up its doors for MBA aspirants from all streams while announcing its new MBA programme. Until now, only students from engineering and technology background or those with masters in science and commerce/economics were considered eligible for seeking admission to the courses offered by its department of management studies (DMS),” it said. Kanika T Bhal, head, DMS, said from 2015, students from all the streams will be able to apply for the MBA programme.

“Until now, students with engineering and technology background or those with masters in science and commerce/economics were considered eligible for seeking admission to the courses.

“The IIT Delhi looks forward to students from diverse backgrounds. We believe knowledge shouldn’t be restricted to specific disciplines and students from all fields make a good mix at any institution, especially in terms of cross disciplinary learning,” Bhal said.

For the academic year 2015-16, the department will assess the eligibility of an applicant on the basis of their entire educational background including performance in Class X and XII, graduation apart from their Common Admission Test score and performance in group discussion and personal interview. A candidate’s extra-curricular activities and professional experience will also be taken into account before deciding on the candidature for admission. The new programme was designed based on inputs from industry experts, students and alumni.
हर विषय के छात्र को एमबीई कराएगी आईआईटी दिल्ली

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली ने अपने एमबीई प्रोग्राम के दरबार जाने सभी के लिए खोल दिया है। अब एमबीई प्रोग्राम में हर विषय के छात्र दर्शिता ले सकेंगे। अब तक केवल इंजीनियरिंग के छात्रों का विज्ञान और वाणिज्य, अर्थशास्त्र में मास्टर डिग्री प्राप्त उम्मीदवारों को प्रवेश अध्याय विभाग (डीएमएस) के अंतर्गत एमबीई के प्रवेश मिलता था।

इसके साथ ही एमबीई प्रोग्राम को पहले से अधिक प्रारंभिक भी बनाया गया है। आईआईटी-दिल्ली ने हाल ही में पाठ्यक्रम और प्रोग्राम की संचरण का समीक्षा की थी, जिसमें विशेषज्ञ, विश्वासियों और पूर्व छात्रों से राय ली गई थी। इसी आधार पर अब एमबीई प्रोग्राम की रूपरेखा बनाई गई है। डीएमएस की विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. कनिका बहल ने कहा कि वर्ष 2015 से सभी विषयों उनकी पूरी शिक्षा की पृष्ठभूमि के आधार पर करेंगे। जिसमें उनके कैटे के स्कोर के साथ-साथ कक्षा 10 एवं 12, ग्रेजुएशन के अंक को भी देखा जाएगा।

इसके साथ ही समूह चर्चा और सामाजिक भी होगी। शिक्षा के अलावा छात्रों की, अन्य गतिविधियों और व्यावसायिक अनुभव पर भी विचार किया जाएगा। प्रो. बहल ने कहा कि आईआईटी दिल्ली का मानना है कि ज्ञान कुछ विधाओं तक ही सीमित नहीं रहना चाहिए। आईआईटी दिल्ली के डीएमएस विभाग की सह प्राचार्य डॉ. स्वेता सिंह ने कहा कि एमबीई प्रोग्राम में बदलाव आईआईटी के उस विषय के अनुरूप किए गए हैं, जिसमें कार्यपरेट जगत की बदलती जरूरत-पूरी ही सकेंगी।
मुंडे की मौत :
IIT की रिपोर्ट पर
आरोपी को समन

वस पटियाला हाउस
पुर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री गोपीनाथ मुंडे की मौत
से जुड़े मामले की जांच में आईआईटी
दिल्ली ने अहम भूमिका निभाई। मामले
में दाखिल चार्जशीट में सीबीआई ने
कहा है कि 7 जून को आईआईटी के
एक्सपर्ट ने चर्चा का अभाव था।
सीबीआई ने चर्चा का केंद्रीय मंत्री
के रूप में सीबीआई के अधीक्षक ने राष्ट्रीय दिवस
वीणा कर दिया।

Subramanian Swamy taught at IIT-Delhi for three years (1969-72), Swamy was
sacked in 1972 after run-ins with the administration. He
was reinstated in 1991.

Govt backs
Swamy on
IIT salary
dues issue

By Anubhuti Visnoi
in New Delhi

SUBRAMANIAN Swamy may
not have won a Cabinet
berth, but the Narendra
Modi-led government is
firmly behind the former
Janata Party president.
Fighting IIT-Delhi for years
over his salary dues, Swamy
has found support from the key
ministry that has so far stood
with the premier institution.
The Smriti Irani-led HRD
ministry has been
pressured to re-examine if
Swamy is eligible for salary
dues to which he has
repeatedly argued. Reliable
sources confirmed to India Today that
the HRD ministry has moved a
file to the department of per-
sonnel and training (DoPT)
and the department of
expenditure on the issue.
The ministry has written to
the DoPT earlier this month
seeking to know whether
Swamy's case falls under
54(A) of General Financial
Rules and Service Rules. The
ministry has also sought to

Subramanian Swamy taught at IIT-Delhi for three years (1969-72), Swamy was
sacked in 1972 after run-ins with the administration. He
was reinstated in 1991.
Faculty crunch at IITs
Can't be allowed to impact quality of education

While India has a formidable higher education system, its quality has not kept pace with growth. Standards of higher education, in fact, leave a lot to be desired. However, in the bleak scenario that defines higher education, the IITs and the IIMs have stood out like beacons and undeniably found their place as the premier institutions of the country and their alumni have often done India proud. Thus it is disheartening to note that an acute faculty crunch continues to ail the centrally funded technical institutions. Apart from the 16 IITs, four Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 30 NITs face a shortage of teachers.

The paucity of teaching staff affects the student-teacher ratio adversely and defeats the very purpose of providing quality technical education. Not only does it limit the choice of subjects that students can undertake it also impedes research, an area in which India's track record is rather dismal. For a long time the vacant teaching positions in the IITs, IIMs and central universities have been a matter of deep concern. Even former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had called for innovative strategies to deal with the situation. It's not as if the planners are sitting quietly. Apart from increasing teachers' remuneration, retired professors have been roped in to meet the shortages. Video conferencing for faculty selection and year-round open advertisements are some of the other measures being adopted to attract talent. Yet the problem persists and may even grow further.

Now as the new government is in an institution-building mood and is planning to set up more IITs and IIMs, it has to be remembered that infrastructure alone does not hold the key. The critical resource undeniably is quality teaching staff whose numbers must be adequate too. If India can't even adhere to its own norms, how can it compete with world-class institutions such as Stanford and Harvard where teacher-student ratios are enviable 1:5 and 1:7? By 2020 India needs 1,000 universities and 50,000 colleges for educating 500 million people. Ace institutions such as IITs can show the way by following the requisite standards themselves.
Record Number of IITians Shun Placements to Float Startups

FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS A startup boom in India and billions of dollars in funding from big names are the key factors encouraging students to take the entrepreneur plunge

Devina Sengupta & Sreeradha D Basu

Mumbai: Atleast 40 students in the batch of 2015 across Indian Institutes of Technology have decided to shun the lure of fat paycheques to start their own ventures, buoyed by the success of several existing startups and increasing presence of venture capitalists.

And it's not just tech-based enterprises these IITians are venturing into; they will get into spaces such as tourism, hiring, music and food.

"The confidence to pursue entrepreneurial ventures right out of college (or when in college) has increased owing to the successes of recent IIT startups," said Mohak Mehta, IIT Tech student representative for IIT Bombay. "More venture capitalists interested in ideas of young engineers, a lot of entrepreneurial clubs and entrepreneurship courses now offered in colleges help in nurturing both the talent and confidence of students to convert their thoughts into successful business ventures," he said.

Take the case of Vishesh Sharma, a fourth-year ceramic engineering student at IIT-BHU (Varanasi). He, along with three juniors — Pratik Pawar, Trilok Sharma and Sourab Pareek — started Internlelo.com last year to help companies hire interns from top colleges including the IITs, NITs and BHU. Three more IITians joined them and the seven-member team developed a software that filters resumes, and their clients include software firm Intuit and startup GetMeAShop.com. Internlelo expects a turnover of ₹27-28 lakh this fiscal and that's encouragement enough for Sharma to let go of a job opportunity.

Students like Sharma are encouraged by a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem at IIT incubation centres, success stories of many alumni, and the option of deferred placements announced at many of the IITs this year. A startup boom in India, with around 800 new ventures launched every year, and billions of dollars in funding from big names like Tiger Global and Softbank, are the other key factors encouraging students to take the entrepreneur plunge.

They are not afraid of failures. Rhythm Gupta, a student at IIT Delhi, dropped an academic year to quench his entrepreneurial thirst when he teamed up with some classmates to develop Cibola, an e-wallet system for electronic payments. But Reserve Bank guidelines and bank regulations forced them to shut down the startup last month.

Gupta, 21, is already working with some seniors on another startup. He is keen to complete his computer science degree in the next academic year, but has no plans to go for campus recruitment. "Where is the fun if you don't follow your dreams?" he said.

IIT Bombay last year had just one student opting for deferred placements. This year the number has gone up to 11 and the college expects 5-10 more to start their own ventures right after college.

For IIT Kanpur, the number has shot up to 14 in batch 2015 from five in batch 2014, while 5-6 students at IIT Guwahati have shunned campus hiring this time compared to three last year.

Not all IITs keep track of students who opt out of placements to start their own ventures, but they all unanimously agree that the number has never been this high.

"IIT Delhi has at least 100 students opting out of placements this year (including those pursuing higher studies) but has no records of how many have decided to pursue the startup path. The institute stated that there has been a 'significant increase' in students opting for their own ventures.

Many middle-class families without any business background, too, are increasingly supporting their children's entrepreneurial ambition.

Kunal Kumar Rakesh of IIT Kanpur is one such student. He is now working with his batchmate Manoranjan Dev and Wasim Akram Sheik to develop an app and website to solve logistical problems faced by tourists.

There are also many students who are yet to make up their mind on whether to accept a good job offer or try build their startups.

Abhishek S (name changed) has received a highly lucrative offer from an Indian firm but he is also tempted to continue with his venture incubated a year ago. His three classmates and co-owners of the startup too have received job offers from top paymasters and all are in two minds. "We will discuss the scalability of our business and take a call," Abhishek said. "Parents will not be very happy but we have the IIT-Delhi pedigree."

One tempting factor for students could be the increasing presence of startups many formed by IIT alumni in campus recruitments. A few days ago ET reported that around 1,000-1,200 offers are expected to come in from startups and ecommerce companies for IIT students graduating next year.
Mumbai: Job offers continued to pour in across IITs even on the fifth day of placements. After day five, officials witnessed 30-50% jump in the offers made to students as compared to last year.

IIT-Bombay recorded the best placement season ever with over 660 offers (excluding pre-placement offers) made by the end of Friday. At IIT-Madras, the placement office saw a 50% jump in the number of job offers in the first four days. IIT-BHU which hired only 700 students in the entire placement season last year, managed to place 400 students in the first five days.

On Friday, around 17 companies, including Ericsson, General Motors, Robert Bosch, Mercedes Benz, HSBC, Saint Gobain, Myntra Designs, visited IIT-Bombay. While HSBC picked 12 students, Robert Bosch hired eight. At IIT-B, the packages offered were in the range of Rs 12 lakh. Placement co-ordinator Mohak Mehta claimed that 620 offers (excluding the pre-placement offers) received were the highest ever at the campus. Facebook offered close to 1.4 crore while Oracle made an offer of Rs 1.8 crore, taking into consideration the stock options.

At Kanpur the total number of selections went to 650. About 70 students got placed with top firms including Tata Steel and Axtia Consulting to name a few on the fifth day. Last year during the same period (of five days), some 350 students had been placed. Five major companies - Reliance, Vodafone, Orb bees Medical, Freescale Semiconductor and Career UTS - visited IIT-BHU on Friday. About 75 companies visited IIT-BHU in the last five days offering jobs to 400 students. This year the placement season began on December 1 with a big offer of Rs 2.03 crore that came from Oracle US. Another big compensation was of Rs 1.63 crore that was offered by Google Mountain View.

As many as 119 companies visited IIT-Madras campus over four days compared to 84 last year. The firms have made 577 offers compared to 383 at the same time last year, a 50% rise. At IIT-Kharagpur some of the major players like ZS associates, United Health, Kirloskar and General Electric came for recruitment on Friday. (With inputs from Binay Singh, Abhinav Malhotra, Ramya Manoharan)
Nobel laureate sells medal for ‘redemption’

New York: A 1962 Nobel Prize medal won by biologist James Watson for the discovery of the structure of DNA has fetched more than $4.7 million, setting a world record for any Nobel Prize sold at auction. The medal was sold to an anonymous telephone bidder for a record-setting price of $4,757,000, marking the first time a living Nobel laureate sold his gold medal. The amount fetched by the Nobel Prize medal at Christie’s New York auction on Thursday surpassed the $2.2 million price that was paid last year for the medal once owned by Watson’s late colleague, Francis Crick, ‘nbcnews.com’ reported.

The sale also became symbolic of a quest for redemption after Watson became what he called an “unperson” in the scientific community seven years ago; he had told The Sunday Times of London Magazine that he was pessimistic about Africa because “all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours, whereas all the testing says not really.” Watson apologized at the time for those remarks: “To those who have drawn the inference from my words that Africa, as a continent, is somehow genetically inferior, I can only apologize unreservedly. That is not what I meant. More importantly from my point of view, there is no scientific basis for such a belief.”

Two of the manuscripts that Watson prepared for the Nobel ceremonies also brought in $610,000 during the auction, Christie’s said. In 1962, the Nobel in Medicine was given jointly to Francis Crick, James Watson and Maurice Wilkins for their discovery of the molecular structure of nucleic acids. AGENCIES
कहीं दो करोड़ तो कहीं दो लाख का पैकेज

[Image of an advertisement or article]

Touch is passé; now you can use phones and fly drones... with gestures

Desi firm Trutech Webs has developed the tech; RIL, Vodafone among its clients

RAJESH KURILIP
Mumbai, December 5

From a distance, it looks as if Abhinav Aggarwal is conducting an orchestra, with his hands waving rhythmically in the air. But when the 25-year-old moves his hands, rather than the high and low notes in a symphony, it's the sound of a drone that hits the ear.

Flying around in his tiny conference room, the drone relies on 'Fluid Motion' technology developed by Aggarwal's start-up, Trutech Webs. The gesture-based technology enables gadgets such as drones, computers and mobile phones to be controlled through gestures.

"Touch, which is the biggest selling point for devices now, is slowly making way for gestures. As gestures come naturally to everyone, ease of use is the USP of this technology," Aggarwal, who is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the company, told businessline.

Aggarwal did not reveal the exact price of the technology, but said it is much lower than what's available in the market.

The company had developed two types of gesture-based drones to showcase the fluid motion technology, one with a close range, where the controller has to stand 3-4 feet from a sensor, and the other with a slightly greater range (10-15 feet). The drones can fly as far as 1 km and as high as 500-750 feet.

Commercial use
Drones are finding commercial use in a big way. Paytm, Amazon India, and the Indian Navy are just some of the companies using drones.

"Drones have also found applications in security, delivery, cleaning of windows of high-rises, and in TV shows and events," Aggarwal said.

Trutech Webs' gesture-based computing is being used by Reliance Industries at its boardroom in Jamnagar, while Vodafone India has deployed it at centres across the country for activities such as moving through a presentation or closing window blinds. Rolls Royce and Toyota also use this technology.

The cost varies depending on usage, as the technology can be embedded with a user's existing gadgets.

Looking beyond gaming
Currently, motion-based technology is used heavily in gaming but they are expensive due to the high computing power and chips used. A couple of original equipment manufacturers are also interested in integrating the software in their devices.
HRD Minister Smriti Irani spells out government stand on alternative systems of education


Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani in written replies to questions raised in the Lok Sabha, spelt out the government's stand and policies on alternative systems of education, revamping of mid-day meal schemes and criteria for grant of autonomy to select colleges.

On the issue of alternative systems of education, Irani said that the present National Curriculum Framework (NCF-2005) takes care of any new development and concern in the school level education system.

She further said that addressing these concerns, the NCF–2005 follows five guiding principles i.e. (i) connecting knowledge to life outside the school, (ii) ensuring that learning is shifted away from rote methods, (iii) enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of children rather than remain text book centric, (iv) making examinations more flexible and integrated into classroom life and, (v) nurturing an over-riding identity informed by caring concerns within the democratic polity of the country.

The minister added that various curriculum materials developed by the NCERT provide children opportunities to bring experiences in the classroom and also provide scope of infusing arts, heritage craft and work across the subjects at all levels, which in turn, helps in developing sensitivity towards all culture. Cultural aspects in education are an integral part of school curriculum at all the stages.

She said that the National Policy on Education 1986, as amended in 1992, has been the guiding document for the policies of the Central Government in the education sector. "The government has been following National Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, which provides for National System of Education implying that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The National System of Education envisages a common educational structure," she said.

On the revamping of the mid-day meal scheme, Irani, in her written reply, said, that the government of India has requested all states and union territories to have the meals tested in accredited labs. She further revealed that the Governments of the NCT Delhi and Punjab have engaged accredited labs for testing of samples in their state.

Governments in the states and union territories may involve food inspectors to collect the food samples for testing on quality parameters. Irani further stated that the mid-day meal guidelines envisage that teachers should not be assigned responsibilities that will impede or interfere with teaching and learning. "Teachers should, however, be involved in ensuring that (i) good quality, wholesome food is served to children, and (ii) the actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions, and in an orderly manner so that the entire process is completed in 30-40 minutes," she said in her reply.

She added, "It should however, be ensured that the food prepared is tasted by 2-3 adults including at least one teacher before it is served to children. Thus, the teacher is to supervise that the mid day meal is served in an orderly manner within specified time (recess period) and to taste the meal on rotational basis before it is served."

The guidelines provide that, as far as possible, the responsibility of cooking, supply of cooked midday meal should be assigned to local women's/mothers' self-help group or local youth club affiliated to the Nehru Yuvak Kendras or a voluntary organization or by personnel engaged directly by the School Management Committee (SMC)/Village Education Committee (VEC)/Parent Teacher Association (PTA)/Gram Panchayat/Municipality.
The minister revealed that the mid-day meal scheme covers 10.80 crore children in 11.58 lakh schools during 2013-14. The Scheme provides for a mechanism to deal with complaints and grievances of the stakeholders. The Ministry of HRD has been issuing instructions from time to time for effective implementation of the Scheme.

On criteria for grant of autonomy to select colleges, Irani said it included factors like academic reputation and previous performance in university examinations and its academic/co-curricular/extension activities in the past; academic/extension achievements of the faculty; quality and merit in the selection of students and teachers, subject to statutory requirements in this regard; adequacy of infrastructure, for example, library, equipment, accommodation for academic activities, etc.; quality of institutional management; National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation of 'B' grade or above; financial resources provided by the management/state government for the development of the institution; responsiveness of administrative structure and motivation and involvement of faculty in the promotion of innovative reforms etc.

As per the latest XIIth plan guidelines, once a college attains the status of an autonomous college, it is entitled for the following privileges: have freedom to determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs; prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government; evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results; use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity; promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, neighbourhood programmes, etc.

She revealed that the scheme of autonomous colleges is being implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide autonomy to select colleges. As on date there are 487 autonomous colleges (affiliated to 93 universities) in 24 states and union territories in the country.

**GSAT-16 launch delayed due to inclement weather: Isro**

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

The launch of GSAT-16, India’s latest communication satellite in the wee hours of Friday, was deferred due to inclement weather, said the Indian space research organisation (Isro). The GSAT-16 was to be launched aboard the French Ariane-5 rocket from French Guiana at about 2:08am Indian time on Friday. “Due to inclement weather at the launch base in Kourou, French Guiana — the launch of GSAT — 16 satellite onboard Ariane 5 VA221 is postponed,” Isro said on Friday. According to Isro sources, the launch will now be done on Saturday morning if the weather permits.

**President to deliver convocation address at PU on March 14**

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

CHANDIGARH: President Pranab Mukherjee will visit Panjab University (PU) to deliver convocation address during the 64th annual convocation at the university on March 14.

Mukherjee will be the fifth President to deliver the convocation address at the university. Earlier, APJ Abdul Kalam, Giani Zail Singh, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and Rajinder Prasad had delivered convocation address in 2007, 1985, 1981 and 1951, respectively. On the occasion of the convocation, medals, prizes and degrees will be awarded to students. Pranab Mukherjee had earlier delivered convocation address at the PU convocation in March 2010 as the union finance minister and addressed 45th annual convocation as deputy chairman, Planning Commission and union minister of commerce on February 26, 1995.
Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry (2009) Venkatraman Ramakrishnan; field medal winner (2014) and noted mathematician Manjul Bhargava; and renowned agricultural scientist and recipient of Padma Vibhushan MS Swaminathan are likely to be bestowed the honorary degrees of doctor of science (Honoris Causa) by the PU.

Noble Peace Prize laureate (2014) and children rights activist Kailash Satyarthi is also likely to be given honorary degree of doctor of laws. PU V-C Arun K Grover said the consent from the President was a matter of great pride for the university.

**IIT Mumbai establishes new centre to study climate change**


Abhijit Kulkarni, senior faculty at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai, has established a new centre to study the changing climate pattern and contributing factors for it in recent years.

Speaking after inaugurating the 22nd district-level children’s science congress organised by the Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat at Chandrakant Patil Pre-University College in Kalaburagi city on Saturday, Dr. Abhijit Kulkarni said that IIT Mumbai had decided to form a separate Centre for Climate Change after a series of studies conducted by the Centre for Environment failed to produce concrete results on the contributing factors to climate change and how the latter could be prevented.

Head of the Physics Department in the Karnataka State Women University M.S. Jogad said organising such programmes for students in high schools and pre-university colleges would instill interest among students in science.

Prof. Jogad said students should make use of funds made available by the Science and Technology Department by taking up research projects. “Crores of rupees meant for funding science research projects by students is gathering dust with the Deputy Commissioner. Interested students and teachers should submit their project proposal to the District Science Centre, who in turn would recommend projects for funding.”

Girish Kadlewad, treasurer of the Vijnana Parishat, in his introductory remarks, said that the 10 best teams of students from different schools whose projects on the theme ‘Understanding Weather and Climate’ would represent their district in competitions at the State-level Children’s Science Congress to be held in Bidar for three days from December 10.

The 10 best teams selected in the State Congress would represent the State in the National District Science Congress, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from December 27 to 31. The National Conference would be inaugurated either by Prime Minister Narendra Modi or President Pranab Mukerjee.
Sachin Tendulkar to attend Inter-IIT Sports Meet Opening Ceremony at IIT Bombay


Mumbai, Dec 6: Former India captain and batting legend Sachin Tendulkar will attend the opening ceremony of Inter-IIT Sports Meet to be held at IIT Bombay on December 12, the organisers said. "The Inter IIT Sports Meet is the one event where students from all IITs participate with equal fervour, and from 12th to 19th December, IIT Bombay is going to host the Golden Jubilee edition of this prestigious meet. The opening ceremony of the same will be graced by the presence of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar on December 12 at the IIT Bombay campus," the organisers said. Sachin to attend Inter-IIT sports meet Swapnil Chougule, Head Coordinator of the Organising Committee, added, "Sachin is far more than just a source of inspiration, he is worshipped by athletes and non-athletes alike. While the cricket buffs do not tire of enumerating and admiring the countless records he holds, he embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and is a source of motivation to non-cricketing athletes as well." The Opening Ceremony will be attended not only by over 3000 participating students and the professors and sports officers accompanying them, but will be thrown open to the IIT Bombay students, faculty and residents as well. A crowd of over 10000 is expected at the grand ceremony, which will take place at the main grounds of the IIT Bombay Student Gymkhana, the organisers said. The ceremony will take place on the evening of December 12 at the IIT Bombay campus. The sports meet concludes on December 19.

IIT Hyderabad launches online repository of research archives

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iit-hyderabad-launches-online-repository-of-research-archives/articleshow/45388795.cms

HYDERABAD: IIT Hyderabad launched its repository containing all scholarly content authored by its academic community here today.

Research Archives of Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (RAIITH) was launched at a meeting of IIT library professionals.

The IIT Hyderabad library team works with departments, individual faculty and students to select, as well as preserve digital material.

It has invited members of the academic community to contribute their intellectual output for long-term preservation and worldwide electronic accessibility.

"This institutional repository aims to host research output of IIT-H which will be a window to the external world for knowing about IITH's R & D activities. Moreover, this will increase IITH's visibility as a research and destination as well as promote greater industry interaction," Professor U B Desai, Director, IIT Hyderabad said.

IIT-B’s Techfest launches safety drive for women

TNN | Dec 6, 2014, 04.29 AM IST

MUMBAI: IIT-B's annual Techfest on Friday partnered with the Mumbai traffic police to launch a women safety campaign 'Roar' at the RTO office in Andheri.
The students are trying to create awareness about the women helpline number 103. They will put up stickers with messages like '103 helpline hain aapke paas, atyachar rokne me autowale bhi hain saath' behind auto drivers' seats and on buses. Volunteers of Akshara, the Techfest's social cause partner, is also involved in the campaign.

Techfest has launched a nation-wide competition to help empower women. Registered teams will have to implement and carry out four tasks for prize money of Rs 2 lakh. The tasks include creating a platform for girls to talk to and encourage each other. The teams are also required to make a 100-second video on 'Voices-Men Speak on Gender Violence'.

**IITs face 37% faculty shortage: Study**

Chethan Kumar, TNN | Dec 6, 2014, 03.06 AM IST

BENGALURU: Here's some unpalatable truth for a nation dreaming to set up a string of new-age technology institutes: over 37% of the faculty posts in the existing 16 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are vacant.

According to the data compiled by the ministry of human resources development in September 2014, only IIT-Gandhinagar has 99% of the sanctioned faculty members working. TOI accessed the data about faculty in the country's premier institutes.

The 16 IITs in the country have 4,308 faculty members against the sanctioned strength of 6,944. IIT-Kharagpur, long considered an ace, reports a 46% shortage. The overall student-faculty ratio stands at 16:1.

As part of its election promise, the BJP had planned to establish IITs, IIITs and NITs across the country. In November, the NDA government announced setting up of IITs in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Chhattisgarh and Jammu. Before moving ahead with the plan, the government needs to tackle the faculty shortage immediately.

Going by the faculty matrix in the existing IITs, the Union government will need 100 faculty members per 1,000 students in the new institutes. Assuming each of the five new institutes gets about 200 students, then the government has to hire 100 faculty members.
On November 21, a group of academicians led by Bharat Ratna Prof C N R Rao met at IISc, Bengaluru, to discuss the science education roadmap. At the meeting, many experts pointed out that the inability of premier institutes to attract quality teachers was impeding the efforts to enhance the quality of education.

Hyderabad University vice-chancellor Prof Ramakrishna Ramaswamy said: "We're failing to replace teachers who are retiring or resigning even in places like the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, IITs or some other top institutes."

Echoing the view, Prof Rao said: "The problem has to be viewed holistically. It needs immediate attention."

IIIT-Bangalore director Prof S Sadagopan said: "Having a good faculty is crucial. Given the opportunities in other sectors and abroad, finding a good faculty is difficult."

The situation in IIITs is equally bad with a student-faculty ratio of 29:1. IIITs in Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram have a sanctioned strength of 282, but only 166 faculty members are working — a shortage of nearly 42%. An IIIT is proposed to be set up in Hubballi.

The 30 NITs across the country, too, are facing a shortage of 28%. The sanctioned strength is 6,467, but only 4,667 faculty members are working.
Universities in BRICS, emerging economies: IISc is top ranked Indian varsity

London, Dec 6:

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has emerged as India’s new No 1 in the latest rankings for universities from BRICS and other emerging economies.

The Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings 2015 has placed Bangalore-based IISc at No 25 in the overall 100, topped by China’s Peking University.

According to the latest rankings, India has four varsities in the top 40 — IISc, IIT Bombay (37), IIT Roorkee (38) and Chandigarh’s Panjab University (39) — and seven more in the top 100.

“There is some good news for India as it has universities in the top 100, which is a good sign and it also has entirely new entrants arriving in the higher echelons of the table,” said Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings.

Baty, however, said there are “some major challenges for India’s higher education system and there is clearly a national priority to improve quality across the system.”

“These leading universities need special extra levels of funding to stay competitive and pay competitive salaries. They also need improvements to infrastructure and there is a need to invest more in research as well as teaching,” he added.
The other seven universities that complete India’s tally of 11 institutions in the 2015 list — up from 10 last year — are: IITs Kharagpur (43), Madras (44), and Delhi (56), Jawaharlal Nehru University (71), IIT Kanpur (74), Aligarh Muslim University (78) and IIT Guwahati (98).

Some 22 countries classified as emerging economies by FTSE have been analysed for the rankings, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS).

China has dramatically strengthened its position as the number one nation of the emerging economies, matching its economic dominance with rapidly improving universities.

“The big story this year is that China dominate these tables so powerfully and has increased its dominance yet further,” said Baty.

“India for example is some distance behind China and this should be a concern for India’s future economic strength and its global competitiveness,” he said.

The new annual tables are based on a comprehensive range of 13 separate, rigorous performance indicators used to create the definitive THE World University Rankings, covering all aspects of the modern university’s core missions (teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook).

The indicators have been specially recalibrated to better reflect the character and development priorities of universities in emerging economies.

The top five after Perking University is completed by China’s Tsinghua University, Turkey’s Middle East Technical University, University of Cape Town and MV Lomonosov Moscow State University.

'Conflict of interest' row over choice of CSIR chief

NEW DELHI: Recommendation of Rajesh Gokhale's name for the post of director-general, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has created a controversy with allegations of conflict of interest against R A Mashelkar, a member of the search-cum-selection committee.

Gokhale, director of Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, is co-founder of Vyome Biosciences - a research driven dermatology company - along with Rajeev Mantri. Mashelkar is the chairperson of the board of directors of Vyome Biosciences.

Highly placed sources said that when Gokhale's name came up for consideration, eminent scientist Goverdhan Mehta pointed out the conflict of interest of Mashelkar. However, it was decided to leave the matter to Prime Minister's Office. The seven-member search-cum-selection committee also consists of cabinet secretary Ajit Seth and additional principal secretary to PM, P K Mishra. Seth was heading the search committee. When contacted, Mehta told TOI, "I will neither confirm nor deny what you are saying." He also said, "I do not want to go public about what happens in such meetings." Mashelkar did not respond to repeated phone calls and two text messages.

Gokhale's name has been recommended amongst the shortlisted scientists like RC Bhudhani, director, National Physical Laboratory; Sourav Pal, director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; Girish Sahni, director, Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh and Nalinaksh S Vyas, vice-chancellor, Rajasthan Technical University. Except for Sahni all shortlisted candidates appeared for interaction and interview with the search-cum-selection board. According to Gokhale's short profile on Vyome Biosciences website he is investigating how molecular repertoire in nature is generated from a limited number of genes.
The same search committee also recommended Ashutosh Sharma of IIT Kanpur as secretary, department of science and technology (DST). Sources said the advertisement for secretary's post was not vetted by department of personnel & training and did not specify the age requirement as well as last date of application. Others in the search committee were MK Bhan, former secretary, DST; Roddam Narasimha, aerospace scientist and R Chidambaram, scientific advisor to government of India.

**Be strong in mathematical principles, students told**


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IIT-Kanpur professor Peeyush Chandra speaking at a mathematics workshop held at GMRIT, in Rajam of Srikakulam District on Friday.

Kanpur IIT professor on Mathematics and Statistics Peeyush Chandra said that students of all branches should be strong in mathematical principles and fundamentals to excel in their respective courses. He urged them to work on physiological systems which would lead for further improvement in diagnosis of diseases, design and development of artificial human beings.

He attended as a chief guest for the two-day national workshop on “Recent Advances in Mathematics and Computational tools for Engineering (RAMCEA-2014)” which began on GMR Institute of Technology, Rajam, on Friday. He threw light on the recent trends in mathematics emphasising on applications of various computational tools. Speaking on this occasion, Dr. G. Radhakrishnamacharya, Professor of Mathematics, NIT, Warangal, said that physiological fluid dynamics would immensely help doctors, engineers, physicists and mathematicians.

Director for Education GMRVF S.B. Nagendra Parashar exhorted the participants to form a network of people to share knowledge of mathematics in engineering.
Speaking on the occasion, GMRIT principal C.L.V.R.S.V. Prasad, stressed on the need to attend such workshops to find the suitability of mathematics in field of engineering. Convener of the workshop Dr. R.L. Naidu reiterated the importance of mathematics for engineers.

आईआईटी के कैंपस सेलेक्शन पर ‘मोदी इफेक्ट’

कैंपस प्लेसमेंट में आईआईटीयंस को कोरोना का सैलरी पैकेज मिलने की वजह यहां की शानदार एजुकेशन क्वालिटी तो ही साथ ही इस बार इस पर ‘मोदी इफेक्ट’ भी नज़र आ रहा है।

आईआईटी विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि भारत को लेकर बदले दुनिया के नजरिए और निवेश की बेहतर संभावना को देखते हुए ही विदेशी कंपनियां आईआईटीयंस पर छप्पर फाड़े के धन बरसा रही हैं। पांच दिनों (1-5 दिसंबर) में ही 50 फीसदी से ज्यादा कैंपस सेलेक्शन हो गया है। कई फूडेंट्स को म्यून्टम 45 लाख और अधिकतम 1.20 करोड़ रुपये का सैलरी पैकेज मिला है।

एक खास बात यह भी है कि जिन कंपनियों ने सेलेक्शन किया है, उनसे से अधिकतर अब भारत में ही आफिस खोलकर अपना कारोबार बढ़ाना चाहती हैं। कैंपस सेलेक्शन के लिए आईआईटी के 1290 फूडेंट्स को रजिस्ट्रेशन कराया है। पांच दिनों के प्लेसमेंट में ही 692 फूडेंट्स का सेलेक्शन हो गया है, जो कि रिकॉर्ड है। 50 लाख या उससे ज्यादा सैलरी पैकेज पाने वाले फूडेंट्स की संख्या बढ़ी है। इस बार की प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया में विदेशी कंपनियों ने बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लिया है।

ओरेकाल, गूगल, टॉवर रिसर्च, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, सैमसंग कॉरिया, सैमसंग इंडिया, लिंकडिन, स्लॉबर्जर, लॉयल्टी रिवाइंस, एक्सेल से अधिक से फिलिपकार्ट सरीखी कंपनियों ने अच्छा सेलेक्शन किया है।

एक्सेप्ट इसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत की सूचना छवि का नतीजा बता मान रहे हैं। यह भी कह रहे हैं कि कानपुर और वाराणसी सहित देश की आठ पुरानी आईआईटी के कैंपस सेलेक्शन और सैलरी पैकेज पर मोदी इफेक्ट पड़ा है।

जो विदेशी कंपनियां कैंपस सेलेक्शन कर रही हैं, उनका पहला उद्देश्य भारत में निवेश करना है। अमेरिका की साफ्टवेयर कंपनी टॉवर रिसर्च ने बंगलुरु में अपना आफिस खोल दिया है। आईआईटी प्रशासन भी इस बात को स्वीकार कर रहा है कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सुधरे हालत से कैंपस सेलेक्शन और सैलरी पैकेज बढ़ा है।

प्लेसमेंट अधिकारी प्रो. दीपू फिलिप ने बताया कि फार्स्ट फेज की प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया 24 दिसंबर तक चलेगी। इस फेज में 80 फीसदी फूडेंट्स के कैंपस सेलेक्शन की उम्मीद है।

सेकेंड फेज की प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया 4 जनवरी से शुरु होगी, जो कि मार्च 2015 अंत तक चलती रहेगी। इस फेज में 20 फीसदी फूडेंट्स प्लेस्ट्रिड हो जाएंगे।

यह पहला मौका है, जब कैंपस सेलेक्शन के साथ ही सैलरी पैकेज में जबरदस्त इजाफा हुआ है। अच्छे ऑफर का नतीजा है कि चार फूडेंट्स ने एक करोड़ रुपये के ज्यादा कैंपस सैलरी पैकेज की जोड़ तुरना दी है।

पिछले साल आईआईटी कानपुर में 180 कंपनियों से सेलेक्शन करने आई और 800 से ज्यादा फूडेंट्स को सेलेक्शन किया था। 200 से ज्यादा फूडेंट्स का सेलेक्शन नहीं हुआ था।

पिछले कुछ दिनों में भारत को लेकर दुनिया का नजरिए बदला है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निवेश की राह खुलने से विदेशी कंपनियां उत्साहित हैं। वह निवेश करने के उद्देश्य से ही अच्छा हैंड से रही हैं।
इसके लिए अच्छा सैलरी पैकेज भी दे रही हैं। आईआईटी कानपुर के साथ ही बीएचयू, मुंबई, दिल्ली, खड़गपुर, रुडकी, गुवाहाटी और चेन्नई से भी अच्छे प्लेसमेंट की सूचना है।

इस बार के प्लेसमेंट में अमेरिका, जापान और कोरिया सहित तमाम देशों की कंपनियों ने बढ़-बढ़कर हिस्सा लिया है।

प्रो. मणीद्र अग्रवाल, डीन ऑफ फैकल्टी, आईआईटी कानपुर

भारत में निवेश और बिजनेस विस्तार की संभावनाएं बढ़ी हैं। अमेरिकी कंपनी टॉवर रिसर्च ने बंगलुरु में अपना दफ्तर खोला और विस्तार के लिहाज से ही आईआईटी के 38 स्टूडेंट्स को सेलेक्ट किया है।

इन सभी को सालाना 55-55 लाख रुपये का वेतन पैकेज भी दिया है। प्लेसमेंट में तमाम विदेशी कंपनियां हिस्सा ले रही हैं, जिन्हें कि भारत में बेहतर संभावना दिख रही है।

जिन कंपनियों ने सेलेक्शन किया है, वह भारत में ही कारोबार की इच्छुक हैं।

प्रो. विमल कुमार, प्लेसमेंट कोऑर्डिनेटर आईआईटी कानपुर