Free lectures online by IIT-K, IIT-M professors

KANPUR: Now, engineering and non-engineering students can listen to lectures of eminent professors of IIT-Kanpur (IIT-K) and IIT-Madras (IIT-M) free of cost. The online lecture facility, which started from January 5, would be useful for students of class 12 and B Tech. Interested students can get themselves registered for the free online lectures by January 15 on the website http://onlinecourses.nptel.ac.in. Teachers have designed lectures on about 18 technical and engineering subjects for the online facility.
ऑनलाइन भी पढ़ाएंगे आईआईटी के प्रोफेसर

कानपुर। अब छात्र देश-दुनिया के किसी भी कोने में बैठकर आईआईटी कानपुर और मद्रास के प्रोफेसरों से ऑन लाइन पढ़ सकते हैं। वह भी निष्क्रम। इसके लिए जरूरी नहीं है कि आप आईआईटी के ही छात्र हों। किसी भी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज या किसी भी कोर्स के छात्र आईआईटी के प्रोफेसरों के लेखन के वीडियो ऑन-लाइन देख सकते हैं। आईआईटी की यह ऑन-लाइन सेवा मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के मानव अभियान ऑन लाइन कोर्स के तहत छात्रों को दी जा रही है। आईआईटी कानपुर के के सात प्रोफेसरों और आईआईटी मद्रास के पांच प्रोफेसरों ने मिलकर देश-विदेश के छात्रों के लिए 18 कोर्स ऑनलाइन जारी किए हैं। (एजेसी)

16 जनवरी तक पंजीकरण

छात्रों को इसके लिए 16 जनवरी 2015 तक वेब: https://online courses.nptel.ac.in पर अपना रजिस्ट्रेशन कराना होगा। आप तक इस ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम का अध्ययन करने के लिए करीब 6000 छात्रों ने पंजीकरण कर लिया है। यह संख्या दिन पर दिन बढ़ती ही जा रही है। यह कोर्स 28 फरवरी 2015 तक चलेगा।

सपना हो रहा पूरा

आईआईटी कानपुर में इस ऑनलाइन कोर्स के संचालक प्रोफेसर विमल कुमार ने बताया, बीटेक या अन्य किसी कोर्स को पढ़ाई कर रहे छात्रों को दोनों कॉलेजों के प्रोफेसर अपने विषयों के टॉपिक रिकॉर्ड करके छात्रों को ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध करार हैं। उन्होंने कहा इस तरह से अन्य इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के छात्रों का आईआईटी में पढ़ने का सपना पूरा हो रहा है।
इस साल तक तैयार हो जाएगा बुलेट ट्रेन तकनीक पर आईआईटी का केंद्र

कोलकाता, (भाषा)। बुलेट ट्रेन तकनीक विकसित करने के लिए इस साल के अंत तक आईआईटी खड़गपुर में एक शोध केंद्र तैयार कर लिया जाएगा। केंद्र के प्रभारी प्रोफेसर शुभांशु राय ने पीटीआई-भाषा को बताया कि भारतीय रेलवे बोर्ड द्वारा वित्तपोषित सेंटर फॉर रेलवे रिसर्चः सीआरआर: की नई इमारत का निर्माण आईआईटी परिसर में 20 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से होने वाला है। उन्होंने बताया कि भारतीय रेल ने हाई स्पीड ट्रेनों पर शोध, अधिक भार दोनों में सक्षम भारी बुलाई की क्षमता का विकास, देखरेख को उचित व्यवस्था और पॉलीमर, रबड़ इत्यादि जैसे अत्याधुनिक संसाधनों के प्रयोग के लिए चार महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है। राय ने बताया, नया केंद्र अगले साल-आठ महीनों में तैयार हो जाएगा और यह 'मेक इन इंडिया' अभियान के तहत रेलवे में अर्थोंतिक तकनीक विकसित करने पर काम करेगा।

बुलेट ट्रेन से संबंधित तकनीक विकास से जुड़े शोध हमारे लक्षित क्षेत्रों में से एक होंगे। भारत फिलहाल हाई स्पीड ट्रेनों के लिए दो गालियारों पर विचार कर रहा है। मुंबई-अहमदाबाद गालियारे के लिए बुलेट ट्रेन परियोजना को लेकर जापान व्यावहारिक अध्ययन उपलब्ध करा रहा है वही चीन दिल्ली-चेन्नई मार्ग के लिए यह उपलब्ध करा रहा है। अस्थाई व्यवस्था में काम करते हुए आईआईटी शोधकर्ताओं ने पहले ही हाई-स्पीड ट्रेन के सस्ते और बोगी विकसित कर दिया है।
Dehradun: The investigating CBI team left NIT Srinagar campus on Friday after collecting all original files of procurement of national instruments, construction-related files and details about qualifications of teaching and non-teaching staff.

"A memorandum has been issued in the name of the director by the CBI team to all departments including electrical, mechanical and others that were involved in the procurement deal discrepancies," said a senior faculty at the institute.

He added, "However, investigation is still on for other allegations and breaches by the institute’s director, HT Thorat. Important files have been seized."

It is learnt that if needed, the employees, faculty and the director might have to come to Dehradun to record their
statements for CBI.

When TOI contacted the director, HT Thorat, he said, "I am on medical leave after a knee operation. I haven't had a word with the CBI team and will revert back to all the queries once I get back to the campus. I have learnt about the CBI probe, but I still refute all allegations against me."

According to sources, the investigation is still on for the other allegations against the director of giving the construction contract without any open tender to National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) in spite of its rate being higher than Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other irregularities in the recruitment process.

"Multiple resignations, termination of a whistle-blower and frequent hassles in the working environment apart from corruption charges are in itself proof enough that the director is at fault. CBI investigation takes time, but we are hopeful of concrete action against the director, as we have documented proof," said another faculty member, pleading anonymity citing he might lose his job if his name comes up.

**An IIM to be set up in Bodh Gaya in Bihar**

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/in-bodh-gaya-proposed-iim-of-bihar-is-going-to-set-up/1/412308.html

An Indian Institute of Management (IIM) will be set up in Bodh Gaya in Bihar. This was proposed in the Union Budget of 2014. An official has said that the project has been recently approved by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD).

The Centre had earlier directed the state government to provide 200 acres of land at a suitable location for the construction of the IIM. Bodh Gaya has been selected for the IIM since as it is well-connected through different modes of transport and has advanced infrastructural facilities.

As approved by the center, the new IIM will be mentored by IIM Indore.

The new IIM will be set up at the sprawling 600-acre campus of Magadh University in Bodh Gaya. The state government has already obtained the varsity’s consent to acquire 150 acres of land. Around Rs 900 crore will be spent to set up the IIM.

The mentor institute will decide if the admission process of the new IIM would start in July-August, 2015. If needed, the state government may also offer existing Magadh University buildings along with other essential infrastructure in Bodh Gaya to help start the first session, officials said.

The Union Budget 2014, presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on July 10, 2014, included provisions for six new IIMs to be established in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Candidates who appeared for the Common Admission Test 2014 (CAT 2014), which is the entrance examination for the IIMs and other premier business schools, can also apply for the IIMs.

**IIT-K 1980 batch reunion begins**

KANPUR: The three-day reunion will end on Sunday. The former students turned up to take part in the alumni meet.

Immediately after their arrival, these IITians shifted focus and moved on the campus which had undergone a major change. Later, they assembled for lunch where they recalled the good old days and shared the memories. They also
narrated their experiences of life after IIT.

Ravindra Prakash Dubey, MD of private company, who passed out from mechanical engineering department, spoke about the future of solar energy for drawing power. His company deals in renewable energy. He said that by 2022, the country will be generating 20,000 megawatts of solar power. At present, Gujarat is the only state which is producing 1,000 megawatts of power, followed by Rajasthan. He said that Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has a capacity to generate solar power, keeping in view the maximum sunlight this area receives. He said that solar energy is the future of the country.

Pradeep D Praiskh, who also passed out from mechanical engineering department, said that he liked PM's 'Make In India' slogan but this could succeed only when the government machinery is made to function properly. He mentioned that no major government project could be a hit unless the government machinery is on right track. He said that PM seems to have a vision for the country.

Another alumnus Pankaj Jalote and his friends had a good time together. Many ex-IITians giggled and had fun. They made the most of their time in enjoying the reunion.

IIT-B to hold ‘10-minute million’ session for on-spot funding for nascent start-ups

http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/iit-b-to-hold-10-minute-million-session-for-on-spot-funding-for-nascent-start-ups/

Perhaps for the first time in India, nascent start-ups, which are looking to raise an investment of Rs 10 lakh, will get an opportunity to do so at an on-the-spot funding event. Being organised by the entrepreneurship cell (E-Cell) of IIT Bombay, the event titled the ‘10-Minute Million’, is part of the institute’s Entrepreneurship Summit, being held from January 31 to February 1.

The idea has been inspired by ‘SharkTank’, an American reality television series on ABC, where potential investors consider offers from aspiring entrepreneurs for investment.

“Derived partially from SharkTank, an American TV series on ABC, it has been molded according to the Indian entrepreneurship system by the E-Cell of IIT Bombay with the help of the institute’s Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE). The basic need for such an event was felt as we saw how entrepreneurs struggled to find angel investors, negotiate with angel investors, and sort out the legalities associated. We have thus tried to come up with this event to make the fund-raising process less tedious. This platform will enable them to raise Rs 1 million in just 10 minutes,” said Sagas Sheath, media manager, Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Bombay.

According to the selection procedure, following an online filtering, 10 start-ups will get 10 minutes each to pitch in front of a panel of angel investors and seed -founders during the E-Summit. The decision for funding will be taken on the spot by the panel and all the technicalities will be taken care of by the E-Cell team.

“This is an unique opportunity to cut short the fund-raising process for early stage start-ups and will revolutionise the way fund-raising is traditionally seen. One of the angel investors who has agreed to be part of the panel, Bharat Banka, senior president of the Aditya Birla Group, said that it’s often stated that ‘catch them young’ and one cannot find ideas and entrepreneurs more younger than the ones coming up at the 10-Minute million,” said Sheath.

While the initiative was launched last month and will accept proposals till January 15, 115 proposals have been received so far. The E-Cell and SINE will jointly shortlist the top 10. So far, five angel investors have been
finalised. While the final status of applications will be intimidated through mails, the selected 10 will have to give a five minute pitch, which will be followed by a five minute question-and-answer session.

Varsity blues: Zafar Sareshwala, Modi's choice to lead univ


On January 2, the NDA government appointed Zafar Sareshwala as the chancellor of Maulana Azad National University (MANU). Announcing his appointment, the central university in a press release said Sareshwala is a well-known industrialist and CEO and MD of Parsoli Corporation Ltd.

Sareshwala succeeds women's rights activist and former member of the Planning Commission Syeda Hameed. Apparently three other names were forwarded to President Pranab Mukherjee, who is the 'visitor' of the university, and he cleared Sareshwala's name, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most high-profile Muslim aide.

The minutes of the meeting in which the names were discussed are yet to be made public, but according to the grapevine, the two other were actor Amitabh Bachchan and poet, lyricist and filmmaker Gulzar.

While a chancellor's post in a university is ceremonial, Sareshwala's appointment does send a "very disturbing signal to the country and the academic community", as a vice-chancellor of another reputed university told me over phone. "Now it seems you just need the right political clout to head reputed institutions".

The statutes of MANU clearly indicate who could be an ideal candidate for chancellorship: "The Chancellor shall be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of not less than three persons recommended by the Executive Council from amongst persons of eminence in the academic or public life in the country".

Sareshwala obviously doesn't fit the bill. He has a diploma in mechanical engineering and PG diploma in management and runs a school for girls.

In "public life" too, Sareshwala's slate is not clean: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2013 cancelled the broker registration of the Parsoli Corporation for violations of its regulations.

In 2010, Parsoli and its whole time directors Zafar Yunus Sareshwala and Uves Yunus Sareshwala were barred from the capital market by SEBI for seven years, for alleged fraudulent trading activities. Sareshwala alleges that it was nothing but political vendetta against him for being close to Modi.

Sareshwala's appointment is symptomatic of the government's attitude towards higher education and public institutions. In December 2014, the HRD ministry clashed with IIT-Delhi on the institute's facility in Mauritius, leading to the resignation of director RK Shevgaonkar. His resignation was allegedly due to government pressure. While the BJP accused Shevgaonkar of evading accountability for his role in setting up the institute in Mauritius, he had clarified that the institute entailed no financial cost to India. Shevgaonkar has been backed by the IIT-Delhi Chairman and the alumni of the reputed institute.

Then there is a serious conflict of interest in the appointment of Girish Chandra Tripathi as the vice-chancellor of Benaras Hindu University. He was appointed by a search-cum-selection committee headed by Justice (retired) Giridhar Malviya, grandson of Madan Mohan Malviya and also proposer of Modi's candidature from Varanasi.

According to reports, Malviya did not reveal his old friendship with Tripathi to the search panel. The HRD
ministry also ignored the complaint, saying that it doesn't interfere in working of search and selection panel.

In an interview to Scroll, Sareshwala denied that his proximity to the PM is behind the appointment to MANU and had no idea about the announcement. He added that there are "fundamentals of managing things be it a company or a government".

Even though the chancellor' post is ceremonial and he does not have executive powers, a public figure can leverage his/her position and wide range of contacts to give a university direction and raise its stature in the academic circle.

Someone like Sareshwala--who speaks only a smattering of Urdu--may not be able to do so since he is a lightweight even in his own constituency--the industry--and came into the limelight only after he started supporting Modi.

If the HRD ministry is serious about improving the standards of a university [MANU] that aims to "promote and develop the Urdu language, impart education and training in vocational and technical subjects through the medium of Urdu and provide wider access to people desirous of pursuing programmes of higher education and training in Urdu medium", it should have looked for a more worthy and dynamic person as its chancellor.

In fact, the community Sareshwala will now represent as a public leader is also aghast at this appointment. Many feels that the "government is determined to show who is in control and wants to rub it in your face". - See more at: http://www.hindustantimes.com/comment/analysis/varsity-blues-zafar-sareshwala-modi-s-choice-to-lead-univ/article1-1304514.aspx#sthash.aZt9TCwZ.dpuf
‘Hacking possible without internet’

Washington: Hackers may be able to sneak into your laptop or smartphone just by analysing the low-power electronic signals your device emits even when it is not connected to the internet, researchers say.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology are now investigating where these information “leaks” originate so they can help hardware and software designers plug them.

By studying emissions from multiple computers, the researchers have developed a metric for measuring the strength of the leaks — known technically as “side-channel signal”.

“People are focused on security for the Internet and on the wireless communication side, but we are concerned with what can be learned from your computer without it intentionally sending anything,” said Alenka Zajic, an assistant professor in Georgia Tech’s school of electrical and computer engineering.

“Even if you have the Internet connection disabled, you are still emanating information that somebody could use to attack your computer or smartphone,” said Zajic.

Side-channel emissions can be measured several feet away from an operating computer using a variety of spying methods. For instance, electromagnetic emissions can be received using antennas hidden in a briefcase.

Acoustic emissions — sounds produced by electronic components such as capacitors — can be picked up by microphones hidden beneath tables, researchers said. Information on power fluctuations, which can help hackers determine what the computer is doing, can be measured by fake battery chargers plugged into power outlets adjacent to a laptop’s power converter.

Some signals can be picked up by a radio, while others require more sophisticated spectrum analysers. PTI
An elastic spine implant helps paralysed rats walk

Breakthrough Device Could Be Adapted For Humans

London: Researchers in Switzerland say an elastic implant that moves with the spinal cord has restored the ability to walk in paralysed rats.

The flexible implants, which work for months, have been developed by a team at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL). But applying this method to humans would require multifunctional implants which could be installed for long periods of time on the spinal cord without causing any tissue damage.

Professors Stephanie Lacour and Gregoire Courtine have developed an e-Dura implant designed specifically for implantation on the surface of the brain or spinal cord. The small device closely imitates the mechanical properties of living tissue and can simultaneously deliver electric impulses and pharmacological substances.

For the time being, the implant has been primarily tested in cases of spinal cord injury in paralysed rats. But the potential for applying these is huge — for example in epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease and pain management.

Scientists are planning to move towards clinical trials in humans, and to develop their prototype for commercialization.

Flexible and stretchy, the implant developed at EPFL is placed beneath the dura mater, directly onto the spinal cord. Its elasticity and its potential for deformation are almost identical to the living tissue surrounding it. This reduces friction and inflammation to a minimum. When implanted into rats, the e-Dura prototype caused neither damage nor rejection, even after two months.

More rigid traditional implants would have caused significant nerve tissue damage. Not only did the implant prove its biocompatibility, it also did its job perfectly, allowing the rats to regain the ability to walk on their own again after a few weeks of training.

“Our e-Dura implant can remain for a long time on the spinal cord or the cortex, because it has the same mechanical properties as the dura mater itself,” said Lacour.

“This opens up new therapeutic possibilities for patients suffering from neurological trauma or disorders, particularly individuals who have become paralysed following spinal cord injury.”