Newspaper Clips
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30% FALL IN NUMBER OF INDIAN STUDENTS IN OZ VARSITIES

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NEW DELHI: The number of Indians studying in Australian universities has fallen 30% after a spate of violent attacks against them as well as the cost of education going up in view of the appreciation of Australian dollar.

While Australia is keen on getting more students in the vocational education, which is a major source of foreign exchange earning for them, New Delhi is not so keen.

The influx of the students to such vocational centres, which many found as a route for immigration, had become a source of contention.

However, India is satisfied with the steps Australia has taken to ensure the safety of Indian students in that country, MEA spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said on Tuesday.

The comments came ahead of foreign minister SM Krishna's three-day visit starting on Wednesday to that country.

Compared to 67,974 students going for studies in Australia, the number has come down to 42,447 this year. Arun Goel, joint secretary, MEA says the incidents of violence apart, the cost of education going up in Australia can be attributed to this dip in students.

The Australian dollar more or less equals the US dollar in its value now.

Indian students contribute between $3 billion (13,650 crore) and $4 billion to Australia's foreign education industry, which is worth an estimated $15.4 billion, and one of the country's top foreign exchange earners.
HYDERABAD: The eight new IITs that were planned to be set up in 2008 do not have adequate infrastructure and are not up to the mark, making it difficult for these institutes to retain their faculty, union human resources development minister Kapil Sibal said here on Tuesday.

“These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and are unable to attract new faculty. Due to this reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculty members. We need a commitment from state governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it,” Sibal said on the sidelines of the Geospatial World Forum on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

The minister said the states were not allotting land for permanent campuses. The ministry launched the new institutes three years ago and each of them should have at least 90 teachers. But most of the new IITs do not have the required number of teaching staff.
Wanted: New-age gurus

Universities need educators who are up to the challenges of the 21st century, writes Rahat Bano

Rahika Govinda was a French language teacher at Alliance Francaise during her college days when she was bitten by the teaching bug. After her bachelor's in political science from Lady Shri Ram College in 2002, she bagged a French government scholarship for a master's at the renowned Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, popular as Sciences Po. She went on to win a number of scholarships and awards and earned a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2009. Now an assistant professor at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), Govinda says it’s a coincidence that she belongs to a family of academicians — including her husband, her parents, and their parents.

"Being a university teacher is a tremendous experience: while it offers the opportunity to mould opinions, to shape young lives, in a sense, one is also constantly learning and growing," says Govinda, a South Asia specialist, whose research interest overlaps political science, gender and development. The budding university academic spends hours preparing for classes at AUD, which itself is a young kid on the university's high-education block, attempting to be a change agent in teaching. This involves going through texts and audio-visual material, trying to make her lessons interactive as well as “theoretically astute.”

“In the past year, I have had the opportunity to not only teach on but also design courses in both graduate and undergraduate programmes that are vastly interdiscipli-

NOT EVERYBODY CAN HANDLE TEACHING

A big responsibility rests on an educator’s shoulders

Do tell us about the demand and supply scenario... I gather that after the OBC seat expansion, about 40% of teaching positions are lying vacant in Central universities in the country, including the IITs where many seats are unfilled. When we get candidates for interviews, we see that they fulfill the basic requirements but they are not very competent. For deserving candidates, there’s no dearth of opportunities. If you are excellent, there’s no looking back.

What should aspiring university college teachers be prepared for? Subject expertise is very important. Teaching is not everybody’s job. It is not about just reading a book or two and reproducing it in class. Your teaching should reflect how much you have thought about the topic at hand. This is missing today. You have to begin from scratch. You begin with thinking why this topic is important. What would have been missed if it was not taught? A good teacher prepares for questions that can arise in a student’s mind. You should have the ability to come down to the level of the weakest student and take all students along even if it requires you to give one or two extra lectures. Effective communication is important. You should be able to express an idea systematically and logically.

A student can make any mistake but he will not make a mistake in identifying a good teacher

Aashish Dextris, director, Institute of Lifelong Learning, Delhi University and member, Standing Committee on National Mission on Education through ICT

Students have to leave the class and eventually face the world. Are you preparing them to face the world? Outside, people will not ask you about postulates of some scientific theory. They want to know your critical thinking skills, ability to inter-link topics... You should encourage out-of-the-box thinking on the subject rather than rote-learning. Another challenge is the growth of knowledge in other disciplines. The amount of knowledge is doubling very fast. And new knowledge has to be passed on to the next generation. It has to be integrated into the syllabi. Integration of technology, too, is a challenge. Teachers need to develop multimedia-enriched content because they cannot explain everything on the blackboard.

Do you see any change in the level of prestige attached to the job? I think it’s the same. I think it’s the individual who commands respect. If you are able to satisfy your students, they will know he is sincere and hardworking. A student can make any mistake but he will not make a mistake in identifying a good teacher. No other profession gives you as much responsibility. And it’s a big responsibility.

Interviewed by Rahat Bano
Faculty members unhappy with AIIMS gag order
Say It Will Affect Dissemination Of Information To Public

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has banned its faculty from making public comments, without taking prior permission, and from making joint representations on issues pertaining to the institute. An order to this effect was issued recently. Sources said some doctors have even been issued notices for making public comments without taking prior permission.

Many institute doctors have expressed displeasure over this move. Doctors claim this will affect the dissemination of necessary public information on health issues and have demanded immediate repealing of the same. Some faculty members allege that the move is aimed at thwarting attempts of a section of the faculty to oppose administrative changes which include the imposition of user charges at the premier institute.

"In the last one month, since the issue of user charges came up, the administration has issued two circulars warning the faculty members. The first order pertained to submission of joint representations by members of faculty, officers and other employees. They cited CCS rules, 1964, and said that faculty members should desist from making joint representations," said a doctor.

The other circular ordering ban on "unauthorized communication", a copy of which is available with Times City, was issued on January 3.

It states: "It is notified for information that no faculty member may speak to media on scientific data or new information before the same is made available to the dean (academic) and dean (research) or director for permission to be released to the press, if such knowledge has any public interest." It says that a "press release" may then be considered through the spokesperson of the institute. The AIIMS administration has also formed a press release committee consisting of nine senior doctors.

When contacted, AIIMS director R C Deka said that the orders have been issued as per the government rules. "We have imposed restrictions on doctors speaking to the media to ensure that only those researches and new information are made public which have been published in some reputed journal. The institute's name should not be misused to speak on issues not directly related to any faculty," said Deka. He refused to comment on the notification of the other order warning against joint representations.

"Last month, AIIMS had issued a circular to all department heads asking for the list of all procedures in respect of which user charges are intended to be fixed and market rate for such procedures in the comparable private facilities and the details of manpower involved, including specialists, surgeons, doctors, nurses and other supporting paramedical staff. Many doctors protested against this after which the administration decided to levy user charges only in private wards and not on the patients in general wards. There is an ongoing tussle between the administration and the faculty over foreign tours, recruitment and promotion among other issues. The new orders aim to thwart protesting voices," said another doctor.
Soon, stents that dissolve in two years’ time

Times News Network

Chennai: After cardiologists clear a blocked artery of the heart, they usually insert a metal tube called a stent to prevent recurrence. They may soon replace the metallic device with a mesh, which would be absorbed by the body in two years after restoring the blood flow.

Interventional cardiologists at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai presented before reporters on Tuesday, two patients on whom the drug-coated absorbable stent has been tried a fortnight ago. The patients, two men aged 68 and 70, are medically fit, the doctors said. The treatment is part of the last leg of a clinical trial being conducted at more than 100 centres across the world. Once pronounced a success, the stent would be available in the market.

The stent used in the trial has been made of materials used to make absorbable sutures and implants. The anti-cancer drug coat on the stent prevents the artery from clotting up. Within two years, the stent degrades into water and carbon dioxide. By then the artery gains the strength to function independently as any other artery. Patients who get these absorbable stents are likely to be taken off blood thinning medicines which other patients with metal stents will have to take life long.

"This is another revolution in cardiology. If the trial succeeds, this stent is likely to replace all the existing ones,” said Dr Sai Satish, consultant interventional cardiologist at Apollo Hospitals, who is part of the trial. During the earlier trials, the device was found to be effective in treating heart diseases. It was absorbed into the walls of the patients’ arteries, with no clots reported after three years.

It is estimated that at least six million people in India have cardiovascular diseases. Blocks in the blood vessels reduce supply to heart muscles increasing risks of heart attacks. To avoid surgery since early 1980s, cardiologists insert a collapsed balloon mounted on a thin wire balloon catheter, into the blocked artery. The balloon is inflated to crush the blocks. It is then withdrawn.

From the early 1990s doctors started inserting metal stents inside the artery to prevent further blocks. They reduced the recurrence by 20%, but sometimes cells grew over the stents and blocked arteries again. Then came drug-eluting stents in the early 2000s which prevented regrowth.

"Drug-eluting stents have been proven safe, but the presence of a metal in the body makes doctors anxious. It is good to have a device that can be absorbed after it does its job,” said Dr Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, director and head of interventional cardiology.

The product has been approved for marketing in Europe, but it is yet to be made commercial. The manufacturers said it would be available in Europe next year and in India in 2013. As a part of the clinical trial over 100 institutes from all over the world including six centres from India will implant the stent free of cost. Of these two hospitals Apollo Hospitals and Madras Medical Mission are from Chennai.
Heart failure risk tied to kidneys

Key Renal DNA Sequence Variant Plays Significant Role: Experts

Washington: For the first time, an international team of scientists has discovered a key kidney DNA sequence variant which plays a significant role in increasing the risk of heart failure.

The DNA variant, a change in a single letter of the DNA sequence which is common in people, impairs channels that control kidney function, the researchers found. "It's not a heart gene," said Gerald Dorn, from the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, who is the lead author of the study.

"It's a kidney gene. This protein is not even expressed in the heart. Nobody has previously considered that kidney-specific gene defects might predispose you to heart failure," he said.

Heart failure is diagnosed when the heart cannot pump sufficient blood to the body. It can have a number of causes, including high blood pressure, cancer therapy, viral infections of the heart or heart attack.

But the unexpected findings, published in the journal 'The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,' highlighted the advantage of performing genome-wide studies to find DNA sequence variants associated with disease.

"I was surprised by the finding," says Thomas Cappola, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, who was also a lead investigator on the study.

"This is a good example of how taking unbiased approaches to study human disease can lead you to unexpected targets."
IIM-B likely to make work experience must for entry

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: An internal committee of the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore is all set up to revamp the flagship two-year post-graduate programme.

The panel has proposed many changes like increasing weightage for leadership potential, ethical and social sensitivity, making 22-month work experience mandatory for admission, reducing emphasis on extremely high percentile in Common Admission Test and making summer placements optional for students.

The IIM-B is planning to change the way students are selected, what they will be taught and how they should be evaluated. Asking the IIM-B to cut down on the emphasis on CAT scores during admission, the committee headed by Prof C Manohar Reddy has recommended increasing the weightage for leadership potential, ethical and social sensitivity. It has also proposed making work experience of at least 22 months mandatory.

The panel wants at least 10% of the batch to comprise international students within the next decade to increase diversity. The Class of 2011 and 2012 have 23% and 28% students respectively without work experience.

The committee has recommended making summer internship optional. “Stop the practice of pre-placement talks and interviews for the summer internship. Instead the selection of summer internship should be done on the basis of resumes,” states the report, accessed exclusively by TOI.

Panel to improve IIM-B governance?

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of the IIM-B board of governors, has set up a five-member committee to address the internal and external governance issues. ITC chairman emeritus K L Chugh will head the committee which will have Biocon head Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, KIIT University vice-chancellor A S Kolaskar and MindTree vice-chairman Subroto Bagchi, among others, as members. TNN
Hiring of IIT directors to be made more transparent

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology Council meeting on Friday would make the system of appointment of directors more transparent. The council would also consider a proposal from the Mauritius government to set up an International Institute of Technology.

For the first time, the council will give clearance to set up an Open Access Institutional Repository that will feature research papers by IIT students and faculty on a common platform. IIT sources said, directors are now appointed only through a search process in which many people are invited to apply for the job. Also, senior academicians recommend names to search committee. "The current system is not transparent," a source said. The new system will entail search-cum-selection. Jobs for IIT directors will be advertised.

FOR A FAIR CHANCE

"It will expand the sphere of selection. Even senior academicians from abroad can apply. There are many people of Indian origin who want to come back, but are unaware of job prospects," the source said. The new system would be implemented in case of IIT, Delhi, since its director would be completing his tenure in October.

Setting up of International Institute of Technology in Mauritius is in line with a similar proposal from Singapore. Sources in the HRD ministry said, "IITs can only provide technical support. It should be at no cost to the Indian exchequer." India is also going to insist that the institute cannot be called IIT, even if it stands for International Institute of Technology.

The IIT Council would decide how the IIT system would cooperate in setting up the proposed institute. Of the various committees set up by the ministry, the one headed by T Ramaswami, secretary of department of science & technology, has given its report on the curriculum review.
Antibiotics, blood pressure drugs can be a risky mix

New York: Older adults on blood pressure drugs known as calcium channel blockers could suffer dangerous drops in blood pressure if they are given certain antibiotics, according to a study.

Researchers found that patients on calcium channel blockers who were given the antibiotics erythromycin or clarithromycin were at increased risk of being hospitalized for dangerously low blood pressure.

A third antibiotic in the same class — azithromycin — was not linked to the risk. And the researchers say it should be chosen over the other two antibiotics for people on calcium channel blockers. For their part, calcium channel blockers are among the most commonly used long-term medications. The problem with erythromycin and clarithromycin is that they inhibit an enzyme vital to metabolizing calcium channel blockers, explained Juurlink, of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto.

As a result, blood levels of the calcium channel blocker spike, leading to sometimes severe drops in blood pressure. Azithromycin, in contrast, does not block that same enzyme.

Researchers have known about these drug actions, but until now there had been no large study looking at the risk of severe low blood pressure among patients on calcium channel blockers and macrolides. Reuters
Birds of a feather?
Your genes help you select friends

London: Vices attract while virtues repel people, according to a new study which has found that genetic make-up plays a part in who one chooses as friends.

Researchers have found that people partly choose their friends by their genes especially those that have a big impact on their behaviour — sometimes it can be a case of “opposites attract” while sometimes “birds of a feather flock together”. To research the conclusion, a team, led by James Fowler at University of California, used data from two large health studies to search for genetic links to friendship.

The researchers identified genetic markers, or genotypes, in six specific genes and looked at how often they occurred among friends. They found two clear examples where “birds of a feather flock together” and “opposites attract”. The first involved a variant of the gene DRD2 which has been associated with alcoholism. People who carried the DRD2 genotype tended to befriend others with the same marker. Those who lacked the marker were also more likely to be friends with one another.

A less obvious opposite association was seen between people with a version of the gene CYP2A6 linked to having an “open” personality. In this case, people with the genetic marker gravitated towards individuals who did not have it.

The findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal, remained significant after taking account of people’s tendency to form “local” friendships within the same geographical area.

“An important implication of these results is that genetic structure in human populations may result not only from the formation of reproductive unions, but also from the formation of friendship unions within a population,” said the researchers in a statement on Tuesday.

Human evolution may to some extent have been shaped by interactions between genes and friendship choices. “The human evolutionary environment is not limited to the physical and biological environment, but also includes the social environment, which may itself be an evolutionary force,” they said. PID
A FEATHER IN HIS HAT

tougher situations at Tata Communications. When the Tata group took over government-owned Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSNL), it seemed like a safe option with an international long-distance calls monopoly.

But a few months into the acquisition, the government ended the company's monopoly, prompting a share price crash. Any other group with lesser men would have crumbled. But Srinath changed the business line and entered submarine cables. The company now boasts one of the largest such networks.

No wonder his working style is equated with that of cricketer Rahul Dravid — tougher the pitch, the better his bat. However, Srinath's favourite sport is Formula 1 racing, and if time permits he travels all the way to F1 venues to watch it live.

Srinath, a management graduate from Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, joined the group as a probationer in 1988. He is also credited with handling joint-venture projects with Honeywell and IBM. He was responsible for setting up new projects in process automation and control, information technology and telecommunications.

KATYA BNAIDU
A mosquito scam breeding in India?

Indo-Asian News Service
Bangalore, Jan. 18
The Health Ministry's refusal to allow the use of a highly potent mosquito control agent developed by one of its own institutes and granting permission to an imported product, has kicked up a controversy. At stake is not only the Rs 1,000-crore market, but also the eradication of diseases such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya.

At the centre of the controversy is a biological agent developed by the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Puducherry that kills the larvae of all species of mosquitoes. It was certified to be the best by the Pasteur Institute in Paris and by none other than Dr R.K. Srivastava, the renowned entomologist at the University of California in the US.

Licences
Four years ago, VCRC licensed its technology for producing this agent in large scale through the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to eight Indian entrepreneurs, which are mainly small-time businesses. Each company spent around Rs 20 lakh for the licence, field trials and finally for getting the marketing licence from the Central Insecticide Board (CIB) under the Health Ministry.

But these companies allege that their attempts to sell the product to the Central and State governments and municipalities have failed because of the refusal by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) headed by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to give its approval for one reason or another.

Mr R.K. Srivastava, the DGHS, was neither available on phone, nor did he reply to e-mails.

The denial of permission to utilise the home-grown product has led to a single company in New Delhi monopolising the entire market for this product worth at least Rs 1,000 crore annually, it is alleged.

The company – Biotech International Ltd – is the only company approved by the TAC to market its larvicidal agent, based on a Russian technology, for mosquito control programmes throughout India.

A scam?
"I am afraid this is going to be another scam," said Dr Palakkad Krishnaiyer Rajagopalan, who was VCRC Director till 1995 when his scientists developed the technology. "I am deeply upset that a bio-friendly mosquito control agent developed by the Ministry's own scientists has been dumped in favour of a foreign product," he said.

Dr Rajagopalan said that in the 1980s, VCRC scientists isolated an indigenous strain of a bacterium called Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis (or BT1) from the soil of a village near Puducherry. "The organism was highly lethal to a variety of mosquitoes that transmit filariasis, malaria, dengue and other diseases."

During the next two decades, he said, scientists worked on all aspects such as bio-efficacy, safety to non-target insects such as honey bees and silk worms, as also on birds and mammals.

The VCRC subsequently developed cost-effective production and formulation technologies so that the product could be affordable to poor countries, Dr Rajagopalan said.

"The agent was tested in several distant geographical areas with different climatic conditions for its efficacy and shelf life and was found to be fit for an efficient mosquito control operation in all those areas."

Further, he said, the efficacy of this agent was tested independently by National Institute of Malaria Research in New Delhi, the Centre for Research in Medical Entomology at Madurai and the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine in Kolkata.

"This product has met all the requirements necessary for obtaining the clearance by CIB and some of the companies have already gotten permanent CIB clearance," Dr Rajagopalan said. "In spite of this, the product is not approved by the TAC for reasons best known to the Health Ministry. It appears that all this is happening in order to protect the interests of one firm."

The entrepreneurs who have been struggling to get the approval for their product are restive and feel cheated.

"We have taken up the issue at the highest level and are fighting," said Mr Ravi Kumar, Manager of R.K. Biotech Product Private Ltd in Chennai, one of the licensees of the VCRC technology. "We have invested a lot of money and are not going to give it up."
Save the planet, eat a bug, says Dutch scientist

Students prepare mealworm quiches at Rijn Uil school for chefs in Wageningen.

Tribune ND 19/01/2011
P-10

IITians dominate CAT

More engineers must go in for research

TOP rankings in CAT (Common Admission Test) 2010 for entry into elite Indian Institutes of Management have been bagged by IIT graduates. Not long ago, brand IIT was touted as “the Biggest Indian brand after Taj Mahal”. Lately, on an average 55 per cent of students who are offered a seat in different IIMs are from IITs, and the rest from other engineering colleges. This leaves one wondering if IIT is not good enough on a CV to get a good placement.

For 2009-11 batch of two year PGP (post graduate programme), of the total 377 seats, 347 were taken up by engineers at IIM, Bangalore. On an average, government spends Rs 2 lakh per annum on the training of an individual IITian, which is supposed to translate into knowledge creation rather than knowledge consumption alone.

India Inc produced 23 billionaires who featured in the Forbes list of the richest in the year of recession (it had two Indians among the top 10 in the world), whereas it continues to contribute less than 2 per cent of world publication in science and technology. In terms of inspiration offered, the chasm is evident. With just a fraction of annual budget allocated for research, it is obvious that not much inspires a technocrat for advanced research. Statistics show that over 50 per cent of the Intellectual Properties in the U.S. have Indian names behind them, of which 70 per cent are IITians. The reason why the same IITians rush to add one more degree rather than pursue innovative ideas in new technologies, lies in the fact that availability of venture capital is abysmally low in India and is tied in red-tapism. If our elite planners are taking a cue from the Silicon Valley, which has been a cradle for top innovation based companies like Yahoo, Google, Bose Electronics etc., where physical and intellectual proximity to MIT (Massachusetts institute of technology) and HBS (Harvard Business School) facilitated a stream of supply of entrepreneurship and innovation, they must also recognize the fact that these organizations are headed by the young (aged between 35-45). We must remember, if India Inc, 50 per cent of which comes from IIMs, wants to move into next level of economy, it must see to it that IITs remain breeding grounds for new innovations in technology and seniority in these institutions should be defined by innovation rather than age.
At least 100,000 students will give computer-based exams next year to seek a berth in leading engineering colleges in the coming academic session. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

**Web focus:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online.

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**PENCILS DOWN**

**Online tests gain traction in India**

**By Prashant K. Nadia**

The first time that the Common Admission Test (CAT) went online, almost everything that could go wrong did. Those who took admission to India’s top management schools had computers crashing on leaving them unable to complete the test, and forcing the organizing body to offer examinees another go at answering the paper.

But that inauspicious beginning in 2009 marked the start of a revolution of sorts. From being a pencil-and-paper affair, testing is now a virtual reality, by the time CAT 2010 rolled around, the experience was virtually glitch-free, proving it was an idea whose time had come as the gateway to the Indian tertiary education sector.

At least 90,000 examinees will give computer-based exams next year to seek a berth in leading engineering colleges in the coming academic session. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) through CAT.

Others with online tests include Mumbai’s Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) and The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), whose CAT-based entrance test has been held for years.

Online tests offer a window during which students can sign up for CAT 2010 and three months for NIMAT, the National Institute of Management, conducting its entrance test for its management programs.

The online test is taken on desktop computers, but students can opt for the CAT offline to take the exam on mobile phones.

The test is divided into three sections: Quantitative Ability and Reasoning, Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension, and Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation.

By the way, IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

**Web focus:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online.

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**Scenario A:** The IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

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**Scenario B:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

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**Scenario C:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

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**Scenario D:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

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**Scenario E:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.

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**Scenario F:** IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to market CAT online. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT.
New IITs hit by poor infrastructure: Sibal

The eight new IITs that were permitted to set up in 2008 do not have the necessary infrastructure and are not up to the mark making it difficult for the country’s prestigious institutions to retain faculty, said Kapil Sibal, Minister for HRD, Science and Technology and Telecom here today.

The Minister blamed the state governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses for these institutions.

“These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and unable to attract new faculties. Due to the same reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculties. We need commitment from state governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it,” Sibal said on the sidelines of Geospatial World Forum which began here today.

The ministry started these new IITs (Indian Institute of Technologies) three years ago. Each institution should have at least 90 teachers from all disciplines. According to reports most of the institutions do not have the required number of teaching staff.

According to the Minister, these new IITs are yet to get permanent campuses. In some states like Andhra Pradesh, where land has been allotted, building and other infrastructure is not in place yet. Sibal said the ministry is holding talks with respective State Governments on the issue of land allocation.

“It is not only the IITs which are suffering. Even the new Central universities announced by the Centre are finding it difficult to get land in states,” Sibal told reporters. In 2008, the Union HRD ministry had announced setting up eight new IITs and seven Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) along with 30 Central and ‘world class universities’ in the country.

The new IITs have come up in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Replying to a question, Sibal said the telecom ministry will hold the first session of the round table on New Telecom Policy-2011 in a day or two. The Minister also informed that the National Geospatial Data Accountability bill which is currently at inter-ministerial discussion, will be tabled in the coming Budget session.
‘By ’20, world 2.4°C warmer, India to be hardest hit’

Washington, Jan. 19: The earth will be 2.4°C warmer by 2020 if the world continues with the business-as-usual approach to climate change and India would be one of the hardest hit countries witnessing up to 30 per cent reduction in crop yields, a new study has claimed.

The rising temperatures will adversely affect the world’s food production and India would be the hardest hit, according to the analysis by the Universal Ecological Fund (FEU-US), the US subsidiary of FEU founded in Argentina in 1990.

The report titled “The Food Gap — The Impacts of Climate Change on Food Production: A 2020 Perspective” predicted that crop yields in India, the second largest world producer of rice and wheat, would fall up to 30 per cent by the end of this decade. The report, however, noted that the impacts of climate change would vary from region to region. While central and southern region would witness adverse impacts, the impacts could be beneficial for East and South-East Asia, the report predicted.

The two most populated countries in the world, India and China, would experience different impacts. While India could see a fall in its crop yield, China — the largest producer of rice and wheat in the world — is expected to increase its crop yields up to 20 per cent, said the report.

However, the overall impact of a warmer planet on global food production would be massive, said the report, adding that the most significant impacts would be on the top 20 producers of each of the four crops: wheat, rice, maize and soybean, respectively.

It has predicted that global wheat production during that time would experience a 14 per cent deficit between production and demand; while there will be an 11 per cent deficit in rice production and nine per cent in maize production.

Soybean is the only crop showing an increase in global production, with an estimated five per cent surplus, the report said. “The evidence that man-made greenhouse gases would cause the temperature of the planet to rise has been available for almost two decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (2007) has concluded that, unequivocally, the earth’s warming is man-made,” said FEU scientific adviser Dr Osvaldo Canziani.

—PTI

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p-6

‘New IITs’ poor infrastructure hits teaching’

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The eight new IITs that were permitted to be set up in 2008 do not have the necessary infrastructure and are not up to the mark making it difficult for these institutes to retain their faculty, Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said on Tuesday.

“These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and unable to attract new faculties. Due to the same reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculties. We need commitment from State Governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it,” Sibal said on the sidelines of Geospatial World Forum.

The Minister blamed the State Governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses for these institutions.
Panel for autonomy of IITs & aid to students

By Kavita Chowdhury

The government could effect a major change in its funding pattern for the IITs. Instead of funding the management and functioning of these institutions, it could instead fund the tuition fees of students. This will allow the IITs greater autonomy in fixing the salaries of teachers, recruitment and in increasing student fees.

A government-appointed panel headed by nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar is expected to discuss these recommendations at the IIT council meeting this week. A senior official of the human resource development ministry said: “The proposed model aims to provide autonomy while also paving the way for IITs to generate their own funds.” The IITs could increase their fees from ₹50,000 to ₹72,5 lakh per student if the changes are implemented.

“As the government will be stepping out of its existing role, the gap in funding of the operational costs of the IITs will be filled by permitting the IITs to hike student fees,” the official said.

Fee hike also to be proposed

The committee has proposed that the government should grant scholarships to undergraduate students — not only to those from economically weaker sections but also to a select 25 per cent of them. Students belonging to SC, ST and OBC would also be funded. Postgraduate students, too, are proposed to be helped with funding.

The committee, expected to make a presentation before HRD minister Kapil Sibal at the IIT directors’ conference, is likely to put forward many proposals to decrease the dependence of IITs on government funds.

The other issues to be discussed at the meeting include reforms in the Joint Entrance Examination. Since the report of the Acharya committee was not acceptable to IITs, a new committee, headed by science and technology secretary T. Ramesh, is preparing a report. Two other reports are also expected to be submitted at the meeting.
Telegraph Kolkata 18.01.2011 P-4

IIT panel’s fee-hike formula for autonomy

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, Jan. 17: The tuition fees in the 15 IITs could increase five-fold, from Rs 3,000 a year now to nearly Rs 2.5 lakh, if the expected recommendations of a committee are accepted.

The elite tech schools should raise the money even underguaranteed courses entirely through tuition fees and not depend on government grants, the committee headed by IIT Bombay chairman Anil Kakodkar is likely to suggest.

However, the committee is unlikely to recommend raising the postgraduate fees, a source told The Telegraph.

The IITs want more students to join their postgraduate courses, hoping some of them might later take up teaching jobs in the institutes whose faculties are short-staffed by nearly 50 per cent.

The Kakodkar committee formed to suggest a road map for the IITs autonomy and growth, will submit its report on Friday at a meeting of the IIT Council, the apex body that decides matters relating to the institutes.

The committee believes that increasing the undergraduate fees would make the IITs more self-sufficient and ease the way for more autonomy. The institutes will no longer depend on government grants for their recurrent expenses, and would be able to create faculty and non-faculty posts on their own without seeking government clearance.

If the government grants that the IITs receive to run their undergraduate courses are divided among the 10,000-plus students, every student will have to pay around Rs 2.5 lakhs a year.

In February 2010, IIT Kanpur had proposed raising the tuition fee, suggesting a gradual hike to Rs 4 lakh a year over a period of 10 years. The government had not accepted the report.

The Kakodkar committee is expected to cite the IIM fee structure while pitching its fee-hike formula for the IITs.

At present, the IIMs charge fees ranging from Rs 3.5 lakh to Rs 6.5 lakh a year per student for their two-year programs. This allows the IIMs to pay the faculty salaries on their own, so they can create posts and fill them without having to approach the government.

The five-member Kakodkar committee is also likely to suggest an endowment scheme for the socioeconomically disadvantaged student.

The human resource development ministry has plans to set up a National Education Finance Corporation to facilitate loans to students at low interest.

HRD minister Prakash Javadekar had said on Friday that a five-member committee is likely to be formed to look into the issue of student loans from the government.

The committee is also likely to suggest an endowment scheme for the socioeconomically disadvantaged student.

The committee visited Fudan University and Jiaotong University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, Tsinghua University in Beijing and Tsinghua University in Shanghai.

On Friday, the IIT Council is also expected to discuss the format of the IIT Joint Entrance Examination. A committee headed by science and technology secretary T. Rama Rao is likely to submit a report suggesting ways in which candidates’ Class XII scores can be made to count while Laurinumbering the merit list.

This is not done now.

Another committee, under IT Kharasur director Damodar Acharya, had suggested a two-tier format for the entrance exam — a screening test followed by the main test.

Sibal did not approve this format and set up the Kishanabadi committee to suggest a better system.
आईआईटी की फीस में होगी पांच गुनी वृद्धि!

अगर आईआईटी संस्थानों की फीस पांच गुना बढ़ जाए तो क्या होगा? यकीनी है कि इसके अतिथि ने आईआईटी को मुश्किल पेश किया है। लेकिन इसकी तैयारी कर लेना चाहिए।

सरकार ने अगर अनिल काकोडकर समिति की सिफारिश मान ली तो फीस बढ़ाने का फैसला किया जा सकता है।

आईआईटी-मुंबई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के चेयरमैन काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने सरकार से सविस्तरी (आर्थिक मदद) की व्यवस्था को बदलने की कहती है। इसके बज़ाए फीस बढ़ाने से संस्थान की आय बढ़ाई जाएगी। ठीक वैसे ही जैसे आईआईटी में होता है।

काकोडकर समिति का फैसला मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री केशव सिंहवल ने आईआईटी को आर्थिक रूप से आलोचित बनाने के संबंध में सुझाव देने के लिए किया था।
‘सुविधाओं की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं नए आईआईटी’

हैदराबाद (प्रेट्रू)। वर्ष 2008 में जो आठ नए आईआईटी की स्थापना करने की अनुमति दी गई थी उसे आवश्यक आधारभूत संरचना अभी तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकी है। इस वजह से देश के इस प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान को अपनी प्रतिश्चा अनुरूप संकाय बनाने में कठिनाई उत्पन्न हो रही है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिखवल ने राज्य सरकारों पर आरोप लगाया कि वह इन संस्थानों के स्थाई परिसरों की स्थापना किए जाने के लिए आवश्यक भूमि का भी आवंटन नहीं किया। नए आईआईटी अस्थाई परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। इस वजह से नए संकायों को लाने में असमर्थ हो रहे हैं। हमलावरों को कम से कम 500 एकड़ भूमि की आवश्यकता है। मंत्रालय ने इन तीनों आईआईटी संस्थानों को तीन वर्ष पहले शुरू किया था। प्रत्येक संस्थान को सभी संकायों में कम से कम 90 शिक्षक रखने चाहिए। मंत्री के अनुसार इन नए आईआईटी संस्थानों को स्थाई परिसरों की आवश्यकता है। सिखावल ने कहा कि मंत्रालय भूमि आवंटन के संबंध में राज्य सरकारों से बात करेगी। वर्ष 2008 में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आठ नए आईआईटी और सात आईआईएम की स्थापना की घोषणा की थी। नए आईआईटी मध, ओडिशा, गुजरात, पंजाब, बिहार, राजस्थान, हिमाचल और आंध्र प्रदेश में स्थापित किए गए।
है। आईआईटी के दौरान उपयुक्त इन्जीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम को शुरू करते हुए, तहलका स्कूल की नीति की विकास पर चर्चा करते हुए भी।

मॉरिशस में खुलेगी आईआईटी की शाखा

इसके जवाब में आईआईटी का कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष की उपयोगी इन्जीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम को संदर्भ के लिए एडवर्ड कैप्टन ने प्रकाशित की। इसके बाद मॉरिशस शाखा में इन्जीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम को शुरू करते हुए, तहलका स्कूल की नीति की विकास पर चर्चा करते हुए भी।

प्रदर्शन का मूल उद्देश्य करते हुए प्रकाशित को सम्पन्न उद्देश्यों के लिए एडवर्ड कैप्टन ने प्रकाशित की। इसके बाद मॉरिशस शाखा में इन्जीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम को शुरू करते हुए, तहलका स्कूल की नीति की विकास पर चर्चा करते हुए भी।

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 VEER ARJUN ND 19 JAN 2011 P7
आइआइटी की फीस पांच गुना तक बढ़ेगी!

सूचना के मुताबिक आईआइटी की और स्वायत्तता व बेहतर विकास के लिए परम्परागत वैज्ञानिक व आइआइटी पंजीकरण के चेयरमैन डा. अंतल काकोदकर की अनुमति मे गठित पैनल शुक्रवार को अपनी रिपोर्ट देने जा रहा है। बताते है कि उसी दिन होने वाली आईआइटी कार्यस्थल की बैठक में पैनल की सिफारिशों पर चर्चा की हो सकती है। सूचना की मानने तो काकोदकर पैनल आइआइटी में स्नातक (एंजिनियर) को स्पेशल पांच रुपये जाने के पक्ष में है।

पैनल की 50 हजार रुपये के आयाम पर, जो बढ़कर 2.10 से 2.50 लाख तक हो सकती है। तर्क यह है कि इससे सरकार पर भारतीय शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं को निर्देशित करने के लिए चिंता होगी जबकि संस्थाओं के कामकाज में और आजादी का रास्ता खुलेगा। जानिए कि पैनल बढ़ते से छात्रों व अभिव्यक्तिकों पर खर्च का बोझ बढ़ेगा। सूचना का हालांकि कहना है कि सल्माद दो व सब्सिडी पर कर्म की उन्नति के चलते प्राप्तिऑ का आवास रास्ता खुला होगा। इतना ही नहीं, छात्रवृत्तियों को संरक्षण बढ़ाने भी इसकी भरपाई होती रहेगी। बताते है कि उच्च शिक्षा में बढ़ जाय शोध की बढ़तांश देने पर है। इसके लिए चेयरमैन डा. अंतल काकोदकर को स्पेशल पांच रुपये जाने के पक्ष में है।