No extension for 2 IIT directors

New Delhi: Two of the six IIT directors whose terms are ending by June 2014 have been denied clearance by the HRD ministry for renewal or selection to another institution. Madhusudan Chakraborty, director, IIT-Bhubaneswar and Anil K Bhowmick, director, IIT-Patna will not get another term.

In case of Chakraborty the ministry said though he had vigilance clearance, it was found that he had overrun travelling allowance. Though he had refunded the extra amount, a complaint was forwarded to Central Vigilance Commission and a warning is issued to Chakraborty. The CVC is yet to take a view on Chakraborty’s actions.

The ministry said it had also received some complaints about irregularities by Chakraborty in recruitment, purchase of equipment, fraud etc. The board of governors of IIT-Bhubaneswar has been asked to send a report on these complaints.

Bhowmick, the ministry said, was “not clear from vigilance angle as regular departmental action for major penalty is underway against him”. Bhowmick, as dean of Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy of IIT-Kharagpur, had outsourced the work given to the institute by Coal India Limited despite a clear condition that “all documents received from CIL for study will be treated as confidential and not divulged to any third party” without CIL approval.

Sources said Bhowmick’s appointment as director of IIT-Patna should not have taken place as it was done without proper vigilance clearance.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Global accreditations to help attract exchange scholars

Global accreditations to help attract exchange scholars

Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIMC) is pitching for international accreditations to attract foreign students for full-time courses beginning next year.

IIMC has an exchange programme for global students during the fifth term of a full-time course. The exchange programme can be of a maximum duration of three-and-a-half months.

Students of IIMC currently go on exchange programmes to 58 global business schools and CEMS, a club of European management schools. While around 80 foreign students came this year to IIMC, close to 110 students of IIMC went to the partner schools and CEMS.

According to Anindya Sen, Dean, Academic, IIMC, the institute has approached UK-based Association of MBAs (AMBA) and US-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for accreditations. Both are prominent international authorities that recognize business programmes across various countries. “We expect to get global accreditations by the end of this year. Once you get accreditations, global students become more confident. I think this will enable us to get more students for full-time courses,” Sen told Business Line in an interview.

Constraints

But, according to Sen, there are a few constraints too. Proper infrastructure for such students is yet to be developed at the IIMC campus. “There is already so much competition among the domestic students. So, if we take more international students it may not go down well with the Indian students, since we only have a fixed number of seats,” Sen said.

IIMC is simultaneously working out alternative plans to create packages, including internship, for a period of up to six months for global students.

“We are also looking into possibilities where global students come and do internship along with the courses. We have had a Japanese student who pursued a course here and went to Mumbai for internship,” Sen pointed out. Asked about the possible criteria for such students to enrol for full-time courses, Sen said the institute was still working out procedures. “If we want to bring in students from abroad, we have to ensure that they can take CAT from abroad, which is not possible now,” he said.

IIMC will, however, not make a completely different programme to suit the global students, Sen added.
‘We’re able to produce barely 8,000 PhDs’

HURDLES Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao says absence of proper funding main reason

HT Correspondent
editorbhoad@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: Do the unconventional. Think out of the box. This was the advice that Bharat Ratna CNR Rao had for students of IIT-Indore where he had come to deliver a keynote lecture on chemistry organised under the aegis of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Science and Research (JNCASR) on Thursday.

Emphasising the need for having an independent approach while on the path of research, Rao said, “Layering knowledge after knowledge on the same topic will not do us any good. We need somebody who can strike a new course with a completely different idea.”

Comparing the educational figures of the country with China, Rao said, “Even after 40 years of Raman’s death, we are barely able to produce 8,000 PhDs. This figure is a huge contrast with China which has around 22,000 research papers and PhDs.”

When asked about the reason for this huge difference, he cited absence of proper funding, grooming to think differently and lack of proper work environment. “Private industries make a lot of money due to breakthroughs in research but they do not share it with the researchers or fund new research. I did not get even a Rs 5 note from private industrialists; whatever I got was from the government,” he said.

Rao said, “There is a lot of talent in the society but no one to trap it. Our students do exceedingly well when they step outside the country but they hardly show any extraordinary traits here. The reason is we value and promote everything except a new discovery or innovation.”

Quoting Vivekanand and Gandhi, Rao said, “Great people have said there can be progress only when there is a collective approach. We need to embark on a healthy competition in society. The day this happens, India will have mass progress.”

Echoing similar sentiments during his lecture titled ‘Graphene and Inorganic Graphene Analogues’ he expressed concern on the over-exposure to technology amongst youngsters. He said, “It surprises me how glued people are to technology. One should understand that technology is good but using the brain is also important.”

CONTINUED ON P9
India ranked at the bottom of Intellectual Property Index

PTI Posted online: Wednesday, Jan 29, 2014 at 0000 hrs

Washington: For the second consecutive year, India has been ranked at the bottom of 25 countries in terms of protection and enforcement of intellectual property practices, a US Chamber of Commerce report said today.

India has been a low seven point out of a maximum 30, with the United States topping the Intellectual Property (IP) index with 28.5 per cent.

A report by the Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) of the US Chamber of Commerce maps the IP environment of 25 countries from around the world utilising 30 factors, which are indicative of an IP environment that fosters growth and development.

"India, which again finished last in the second edition of the Index, continues to allow for the deterioration in its IP climate," the report said adding that India continued to score lowest, most notably in categories relating to patents, copyrights, and international treaties.

China shows improvements in certain aspects of its patent regime, however, its overall IP environment continued to see challenges, particularly in regard to trade secret protection and enforcement.

The United States received the highest overall score, but came in third after the United Kingdom and France in the enforcement category.

Canada's treatment of pharmaceutical patents, copyright laws, and unwillingness to ratify international IP treaties resulted in significantly lower scores than other upper-income economies, the report said.

India continues to have the weakest IP environment of all countries included in the Index, the report said.

"Despite the 2010 declaration by the then-President of India that the next 10 years will be India's 'Decade of Innovation', the continued use of compulsory licenses, patent revocations, and weak legislative and enforcement mechanisms raise serious concerns about India's commitment to promote innovation and protect creators," it said.

According to the report, in the biopharmaceutical space, Indian policy continued to breach international standards of the protection of innovation and patent rights, revoking patents generally accepted around the world and announcing that other patented medicines are being considered for compulsory licenses.

Most notable was the April decision by the Supreme Court of India on the patentability of the anti-cancer drug Glivec, the court held that the drug did not meet patentability standards as imposed by the Indian Patent Act's Section 3(d) regarding "incremental innovation" and limiting patent protection to what is specifically disclosed, again in contradiction to global norms, it said.

"This is despite Glivec being recognised as a breakthrough drug and given protection in 40 jurisdictions around the world.

"Given the prominence and size of India's generic pharmaceutical industry, other countries have taken notice and begun to introduce similar provisions into their own laws and regulations," said David Hirschmann, President and CEO of the GIPC.

"A robust IP system provides the critical foundation needed for nations wishing to advance their economic and social progress, and provide assurances to consumers that the products they use are authentic, safe, and effective," said Hirschmann.
"By highlighting countries that are leading or lagging in fostering a strong IP framework, the GIPC Index provides a clear and objective tool for policy makers to strengthen innovative potential and for business leaders to assess risk and investment," he added.

According to Hirschmann, the United States may lead the overall ranking, but has fallen behind in its enforcement efforts.

"Therefore, we urge the Obama administration and Congress to expand on current enforcement programs and allocate dedicated resources throughout the government to effectively enforce IP rights and protect consumers," he said.
IISc to set up brain research centre

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: In the biggest initiative of its kind, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) will establish a Centre for Brain Research, having received a grant of Rs. 225 crore for the project from Pratiksha Trust for 10 years.

The Centre will specifically aim to find cure for neurodegenerative conditions accelerated by old age, the IISc said in a press release on Thursday.

Diseases such as dementia receive little attention although they are widespread, are devastating for patients and extremely challenging for families and caregivers, Centre for Neuroscience chairperson Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath told The Hindu.

“Neurodegenerative conditions such as dementia are only going to rise with increase in life expectancy. We need to look at risk factors and ways to help protect the brain better. Diabetes, for instance, has been linked to dementia. Given the diversity of India’s population and the complexity of these diseases, the scope for research is enormous,” Prof. Ravindranath said.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, trustee of the Pratiksha Trust, said: “we are working towards creating a globally recognised, world-class research facility that will be at the cutting-edge of research on the human brain.”
Asia dominates list of ‘young’ varsities

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: Universities from Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea took the top five positions in this year’s QS Top 50 under 50, a ranking of universities established within the past 50 years.

The ranking does not include any Indian university because all the 11 institutes of India, which ranked high in the main QS global list released last year and from which this list is devised, have been in existence for more than 50 years.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology bagged the top slot, followed by Nanyang Technological University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, City University of Hong Kong and Pohang University of Science and Technology, South Korea.

Compiled by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the QS Top 50 under 50 is based on results from the QS World University Rankings 2013/14, a list of the world’s top 800 varsities.
Nasa to make water on Moon, oxygen on Mars

Plans Robotic Missions On Lunar Surface In 2018 & On Red Planet In 2020

Washington: Nasa is planning to launch robotic missions to make water on the Moon in 2018 and oxygen on Mars in 2020.

"The Moon mission will be the US space agency's first attempt to demonstrate in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) beyond Earth, a process that could provide a sustainable and cost-effective source of water and oxygen for future missions," Nasa said.

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The ISRU mission to Moon will use a robot to dig into the lunar regolith and extract water, which will be converted into hydrogen and oxygen using electrolysis. The hydrogen will be used as fuel for the return journey, while the oxygen will be used to support human missions.

"A lot of the technologies we have developed in the past few years are now ready to be used in space," said Jason Cassen, director of Advanced Exploration Systems at Nasa headquarters in Washington.

"We have demonstrated that ISRU is possible, and we are ready to take the next step," he said.

The ISRU mission to Mars will be more ambitious and will involve landing a rover on the planet's surface to dig into the soil and extract water. The water will then be converted into hydrogen and oxygen using electrolysis.

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नालंदा विवि में यूरोपीय यूनियन भी होगा
भागीदार, 28 राजदूतों ने देखा प्रजेटेशन

सत्र 2014-15 से इतिहास व पर्यावरण पाठ्यक्रम की पढाई होगी

नेशनल ब्यूरो | नई दिल्ली

नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय में पहले से मैजुजू सेक्शनों के अलावा यूरोपीय यूनियन के देश भी शामिल हो सकते हैं। विशेषता भाषाय, जो इस विवि के वैश्विक स्वरूप की वजह से संयोजनकता है, ने गुरुबार को यूरोपीय यूनियन के 28 राजदूतों को इस विवि की महत्व और इसके स्वरूप की लेकर प्रस्तुतिकरण दिया। इसके बाद कई यूरोपीय देशों के राजदूतों ने इसको लेकर सकारात्मक रूप दिखाया है। उम्मीद है कि इनमें से कुछ देशों के साथ आने वाले समय में अपनी समझौता पत्र पर भी हस्ताक्षर हो सकते हैं। फिल्हाल भारत में स्थापित हैं वाले इस विवि में ऑस्ट्रेलिया, ब्राउन्विया, जंगल डोयल, लाओस पीडीआर, स्पाइर, न्यूजीलैंड, बिंगार, चीन और दक्षिण कोरिया शामिल हैं।

सितंबर तक राजमीर कार्यालयः नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना से खुशा, लेकिन इसके मुख्य कौशल कार्यालय के दिल्ली में होने और वहीं से इस साल से इस विवि के शुरु होने से नारकार स्थानीय लोगों की इच्छा को देखते हुए सरकार ने सितंबर तक इसके राजमीर कार्यालय को खोलने का निश्चय किया है। एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि कोशिश यह है कि जब प्रवेश प्रक्रिया शुरु हो तो राजमीर में एक कार्यालय हो। उसके साथ ही इस अधिकारी ने कहा कि जब अवधि तक वहां पर कैप्स स्थापित करने की प्रक्रिया भी शुरु कर दी जाएगी।

रेल-आईटी हार्ड- संडक़: इस अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस विवि की लेकर बिहार सरकार की ओर से लगतार सहयोग मिल रहा है। उसने 455 एकड़ भूमि मुनातम दी है। बिहार सरकार ने यहां पर एक आईटी सिटी बनाने का इरादा जताने के साथ ही यहां पर एक पुलिस ट्रेनिंग कॉलेज खोलने की दिशा में भी कार्य किया है।
मलबे से बनी सड़कें बचाएंगी करोड़ों रुपये
लागत में आ सकती है 30 से 50% की कमी
आईआईटी के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक ने किया शोध

अकिंत कुमार गर्म

रुढ़की। आईआईटी रुढ़की के सिविल इंजीनियर ने दावा किया है कि अपने सड़कों के हिसाब से हो रहे निर्माण कार्य में करोड़ों रुपये की बचत हो सकती है।

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इस तकनीक का नाम ‘रिसाइकल्ड सड़क’ है। इसे हिसाब से प्रत्येक वर्ष करीब 924 लाख किलोमीटर सड़कें बनाए जाती हैं। राज्य में प्रत्येक वर्ष 800 करोड़ रुपये की वर्तमान सड़कों की बजाय 900 करोड़ की बचत हो सकती है। अतएव सामग्री की कोई वस्त्र में नहीं होगी, लेकिन रिसाइकलिंग का खर्च ज्यादा होगा। इसके बावजूद कुल मिलाकर लागत बढ़ती रहती है।

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Biotech Bets Get Bolder

Lifesiences startups in India are no longer risk averse, developing applications like fuel from seaweed and nanomedicine that shrinks tumours, writes Peerzada Abrar

Turning seaweed into fuel was an idea that revolutionized the way people looked at the industry. But for a group of entrepreneurs, it was something more than just a grand idea. It was a step towards making the impossible possible. And their success story is a testament to the power of innovation and determination.

Among the pioneers of this new era is Biotech Bets, a startup that has taken the Indian pharmaceutical industry by storm. With a team of experts in fields such as biotechnology and nanomedicine, the company is revolutionizing the way we think about healthcare.

"Our technology is based on the principle of using natural compounds to treat diseases," says the company's CEO, Dr. Peerzada Abrar. "This approach not only reduces the risk of side effects, but also increases the efficacy of our treatments."

The company has already made significant strides in developing applications like fuel from seaweed and nanomedicine that shrinks tumours. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, Biotech Bets is set to redefine the landscape of healthcare.

"We believe that technology is the key to unlocking the full potential of nature," says Dr. Abrar. "With our cutting-edge research and development, we are committed to bringing innovative solutions to the forefront of healthcare."

As the company continues to expand its horizons, it is poised to become a leader in the biotechnology industry. With a focus on sustainability and innovation, Biotech Bets is a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

"We are excited to be part of this new era of biotechnology," says Dr. Abrar. "With our team's expertise and commitment, we are confident that we will continue to make significant contributions to the field of healthcare."

Biotech Bets is a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.
RAMAN EFFECT COMES TO IMPROVE BRAIN SURGERY

NEW YORK: Scientist have turned to Raman effect - named after Nobel Laureate Indian physicist CV Raman who discovered inelastic scattering of light 80 years ago - to solve complicated brain tumour surgeries. A research by the Innovation Institute at Henry Ford Hospital shows promise for developing a new method to clearly identify cancerous tissue during surgery on one
IISc develops portal on plant species

Bangalore, Jan 30, 2014, DHNS, Deccan Herald

Has collected data of over 5,000 varieties found in the State

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has collected data of over 5,000 different kinds of plant species found in the State, which will be available for the public in the form of an online portal, shortly.

The study, which was carried out by the Centre of Ecological Science at IISc, is an attempt to document and catalogue the rich flora and fauna spread over 32,000 sq km in the State. “The database will be helpful not only for education and research purposes, but also for commerce, and to help the government form a proper policy on ecology and biodiversity,” said K Sankara Rao, former professor at IISc, who led the study.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a function to inaugurate the online plant portal here on Thursday.

The database contains profiles of as many as 2,449 herb species, 933 species of trees, 759 species of shrubs, 85 under-shrub species, 156 species of climbing shrubs, 264 types of climbers, 135 species of palms, 139 species of Lianas, 62 types of parasite plants and 18 species of canes.

List of endangered plants

The database also has a list of a number of endangered species of plants. As many as 20 critically endangered, 72 endangered, 24 near-threatened, 63 vulnerable and 4,129 not-evaluated species are available.

There are descriptions of each species, complete with photographs, along with information on its phenology, distribution, threat status, habitats and comments on its special features.

Information on plant species has been alphabetically arranged with scientific and vernacular names for the user’s convenience.

It will also have an advanced search option that will help the user further explore the entire database according to their own specifications.

Will be open to public

At the moment, the portal will be open only to the IISc faculty. Within a matter of a few weeks it is expected to be open to the public.

Elaborating on the usefulness of the online database for the government, Rao talked about a number of ecologically sensitive areas that could be located with the help of the database, before the government decides to embark on various hydro-electric or mining projects.

“Before any such projects, it is necessary to compile an ecological status report. The database will help in this task. Moreover, it will also increase awareness and the sensitivity of people to the issue of biodiversity,” said Rao.

Referring to the database as a “gold mine,” N Sivasailam, principal secretary, Forest, Environment and Ecology
Department, highlighted how the database was able to trace 16 endangered plant species in Chikmagalur and how it would help the department in conservation efforts.

“My officers and I should make sure that the 16 species in Chikmagalur are now off the endangered list. The database is surely helpful for the policy makers,” he said. He also spoke about the lack of staff at the Karnataka Biodiversity Board. “The board, in fact, has a secretary and a chairman, along with non-official members,” Sivasailam added.

**Indian Educators Ignorant of Country's Academic Contributions to West**

By Express News Service - CHENNAI Published: 30th January 2014 09:17 PM Last Updated: 30th January 2014 09:17 PM

"Why aren't Indian epics a part of our syllabus?" asked Amita Sharma, Additional Secretary (Technical), Department of Higher Education, MHRD. (Express Photo)

Despite scientific evidence to prove that the West is indebted to India for its contributions to education, Indian students have low self esteem as global citizens. This came up during a discussion on 'Indian Higher Education is overly influenced by the West'. And while mixed views prevailed, one point was spelled out loud and clear -- "Indian educators need to be educated about India," said S Gurumurthy, co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. Most teachers are not aware of the fact that several 'lauded' systems of education used in the West originated from right here (India), albeit centuries ago. And Taxila and Nalanda weren't the only references in this regard.

"Not many people know that we as a nation have contributed to primary education in Britain," said S Vaidhyasubramaniam, dean-planning and development, SAstra University. He was referring to Andrew Bell's 'Madras system' that was inspired during a visit to the South when he came into with a school conducted by a single master through the medium of the scholars themselves. According to the method, every boy was made once a master and a scholar. The panelists went on to add that such glorious accounts of our nation's academic contributions to the world were not taught in Universities. "It's ignorance," said Gurumurthy. "For example, how many people know that a majority of our plumbers come from one small village in Orissa?"
This apart, the cultural merits of the country have not been embraced by the current academic syllabus in schools and colleges. "Why aren't Indian epics a part of our syllabus?" asked Amita Sharma, Additional Secretary (Technical), Department of Higher Education, MHRD. "We grow up reading Homer and Dickens, but not the Panchatantra or Jataka tales... " While most of the panelists agreed that students and educators were more ignorant than anything else to India's academic legacy from centuries past - the present academic scenario was reflected on in shades of grey. "Our schools bring in specialisations too early," said Savita Mahajan, deputy dean, Indian School of Business (ISB). "Fifteen-year-olds are asked to decide on their choice of subjects and then they're bound to them for life," she elaborated. In this regard, drawing from the West seems a good idea, the speaker opined. "Every University in the American system is multi-disciplinary," she cited and went on to add further, "the transfer of credits is another system they have that would offer our students more flexibility".

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**NUMBER OF INDIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA INCREASING**

Australia has welcomed a sharp increase in the number of Indians applying for student visas to Australia. India remains the second largest source of overseas students in Australia after China.

The latest immigration figures show 4,148 Indians made offshore applications for student visas between July and September last year -- more than double the figure for the same period in 2012, according to a news release by the Australian High Commission.

More than 90 percent of Indians who applied for student visas were successful, compared with 74 percent in 2012. "These figures show that an increasing number of Indian students are being drawn to Australia's world class higher education system," Australian High Commissioner Patrick Suckling said.

"Australia provides an academic environment that has been internationally recognised as secure, culturally diverse and intellectually rewarding," Suckling said.
Scientists appear to have located the conscience

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The part of the brain that makes humans superior to all known animals, and which also functions as the voice from within — popularly called conscience — has finally been found.

Scientists from the Oxford University have for the first time identified an area of the human brain that appears unlike anything in the brains of other primates. It is part of the Ventrolateral Frontal Cortex, a region of the brain known for over 150 years for being involved in many of the highest aspects of cognition and language.

To look into which part of this region actually controls our superior decision making, scientists carried out MRI scans in both humans and monkeys. They found one area of the cortex that had no equivalent in the macaque monkeys — an area called the lateral frontal pole prefrontal cortex.

"We have established an area in human frontal cortex — the brain area known to be intimately involved in the most advanced planning and decision-making processes — that we think of as being especially human. It does not seem to have an equivalent in the monkey. This area has also been identified with multi-tasking," says author Franz-Xaver Neubert of Oxford University.

Scientists also believe that lateral frontal pole prefrontal cortex is the loud (inner) voice that pricks whenever we are inclined towards evil or blunder in our lives. Oxford scientists say this is the region that tells us when we go wrong and whether we have been well advised to do something better.

MRI imaging of 25 adult volunteers was used to identify key components in the cortex area of the human brain, and how these components were connected up with other brain areas.

The results were then compared to equivalent MRI data from 25 macaque monkeys.