PREZ TO ADDRESS NIT, IIT GRADS IN VIDEO CONFERENCE

JALANDHAR: The President of India will deliver a New Year message to the students and faculty of all national institutes of technology (NITs), Indian institutes of technology (IITs) and central universities through video conferencing on January 7, S K Das, director, Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, said here on Thursday. “The conferencing will start at noon and the President will address the students and faculty for 15 minutes. The programme begins with national anthem at after which a welcome address by Prof SS Murthy, vice-chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, will be delivered followed by President’s address,” he added. HTC
IIT test for common counselling

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, Jan. 3: The government has asked the Indian Institutes of Technology and the National Institutes of Technology to hold common counselling from this year to minimise seats going vacant at these engineering colleges.

But the 16 IITs, a notch above the 30 NITs in the pecking order, had defeated such a plan last year and are expected to oppose the latest Union human resource development ministry directive, too.

Over 600 seats had remained unoccupied in these tech schools last year, apparently because of separate counselling which allows a candidate to receive offers from an IIT and an NIT at the same time.

Such a candidate often hangs on to the coveted IIT seat while waiting to see whether he gets the subject of his choice in one of the NITs, which declare their merit lists a little later.

He thus blocks both seats and quits one only at the last moment, giving the institute hardly any time to fill it before the session begins.

Under the proposed common counselling, a student will receive an offer from only one institute, either an IIT or an NIT, at a time, higher education secretary Ashok Thakur told reporters today. If he rejects that offer, he may be given the option to join another institute.

“Common counselling will reduce the vacancy of seats,” Thakur said.

The 46 engineering schools were supposed to hold common counselling last year, too, and the software had been prepared. But the IITs backed out at the last moment and went ahead with their own counselling in June.

H.C. Gupta, former chairman for the IIT-JEE Advanced exam, said common counselling may not be feasible as the NITs hold their counselling a month after the IITs do.

“The IITs complete their counselling process by June 15 but the NITs wait till June 30 to get the board results, after which they can hold counselling,” Gupta said.

From last year, the IITs have been selecting students purely on the basis of their JEE-Advanced scores while the...
NITs have been doing so on the basis of the candidates’ JEE Main results and Class XII board marks.

“Our classes start by July 15. The IITs will be late to start their classes if common counselling is done,” Gupta said.

However, an NIT director alleged that the IITs consider themselves a bigger brand and feel that common counselling with the NITs would affect their brand image.

“The NITs too start their classes by July 25, just a few days after the IITs. This delay is not a big issue. This is a form of protectionism by the IITs,” the director said.

About 600 seats remained vacant in the NITs last year and a few in the IITs. In 2012, over 300 seats were wasted in the IITs and a similar number in the NITs.

TOI

Need higher stipends, IISc researcher to PM

BANGALORE: What has the PM's talk on inflation got to do with stipend for young researchers in the 104-year-old Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore?

On Friday, soon after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke on inflation, one of the most disappointed people was a research scholar from IISc who penned a letter to the PM immediately.

"The worry about inflation is legitimate but we should also recognize that incomes for most people have increased faster than inflation," wrote Pankaj Jain (26), a researcher in molecular biophysics, to the PM.

"I am sorry, but as a PhD student, our stipends have been stagnant for the past four years, while the rates of everything have been almost doubled.... In fact this is also driving many bright students away from research in India to find greener pastures either somewhere abroad or in the industries. Right from school education to higher education, India is way behind in terms of its reach and quality. The progress of science and technology is no better. How do you expect the country to excel without educated individuals and growth in science and technology?" asked Jain.

The crux:

The last stipend hike for graduate students was implemented in 2010 and for the past over three years the stipend for graduate students remains the same. A junior research fellow draws Rs 16,000 per month and a senior research fellow Rs 18,000. Inflation has been consistently high. Prices of all commodities have risen by 50-100%. In this scenario it is high time for a next stipend hike, Jain wrote.

Four months ago, an online petition created a buzz on social networks. The two-liner, written in change.org by Sreevalsa Kolathayar, assistant professor, Indian School of Mines, said: "Research students need your care, increase the scholarship amount of research scholars."
आईआईटी में पहले भी हुई हैं 10 आत्महत्याएँ संदिग्ध मौत की जांच पर संदेह

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी अभ्यंतर

इंडियन इंजीनियरिंग इन्स्टीट्यूट

क्षनपुर। आईआईटी कानपुर में वर्ष 2005 में वह दस्तावेज मामला था जिसमें संस्थान के कई स्टूडेंट्स की क्रियाओं का विषय बना हुआ था। इससे पहले 2005 में अब तक नहीं किसी आत्महत्या का प्रेक्षण नहीं है। संस्थान के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि हमने जब तक कोई समस्या नहीं पाई है। उदाहरण के लिए एक शिक्षा केंद्र में काम करते हैं।

आईआईटी कानपुर में पहले भी पहले की मौत 2005 में थी। 6300 छात्रों में एक छात्र की मौत हो गई थी। इसके बाद आईआईटी के छात्र ने पीने के लिए एक नाश कर दिया। आईआईटी के छात्र ने गौर किया कि गौर ने छात्रों के लिए इस संदिग्ध मौत की कहानी को समझना चाहता था। इसलिए ताज़ा संस्थान के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार पिछले आठ सालों में हुई हस्तक्षेप जांच की कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है।

2012,13 में प्रेक्षण किया गया था। वह कोटक सेक्टर इफ एस्ट्रिगन ग्राउंड और मेडिकल मेडिकल इन्स्टीट्यूट की जांच साधी गई। इस विषय में संस्थान का हाल नहीं रखा गया। क्रिकेट जीतने वाले एक छात्र के लिए एक विषय का कोई नाम नहीं है।

आईआईटी के छात्र ने पीने के लिए एक छात्र की मौत की जांच की। इसके बाद आईआईटी के छात्र ने जांच की। इसके बाद आईआईटी के छात्र ने जांच की। इसके बाद आईआईटी के छात्र ने जांच की। 6300 छात्रों में एक छात्र की मौत हो गई।
Can't keep an eye on all students, says Dean IIT-Kanpur

PBD BUREAU/PTI

KANPUR, JAN 3

FOLLOWING the death of a student of IIT-Kanpur on January 1 under mysterious circumstances here, a Dean of the premier institute today said the administration "can't keep an eye on every student."

"There are about 6,300 students at IIT-Kanpur. We can't keep an eye on all of them whether they are in their rooms or moving around on rail tracks," Students Welfare Dean Prof A K Ghosh said.

He said the student's body has been handed over to his parents, after a post-mortem.

The body of G Sai Kumar Reddy (20), a resident of Prakasham district in Andhra Pradesh, was found along the Kanpur-Farrukhabad railway line on January 1.

As per the post-mortem report, he was hit by a heavy object on head, due to which it is assumed that he might have been hit by a train accidentally, Ghosh said, adding he does not believe that Reddy had committed suicide.

Reddy's family believes the student was not under any mental agony or pressure and he has not left any suicide note either, he said.

The police report also says it could be an accidental death, he added.

Asked if it was, indeed, an accident, then why a four-member probe panel has been formed, Ghosh said the committee will find out the truth about the incident.

This is the 10th incident at IIT-Kanpur since 2005 in which a student has died under mysterious circumstances, according to an official of the institute.
35,000 visitors at IIT-B campus on Day 1 of Techfest

Mumbai: The first day of Techfest, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay's annual technology festival, kicked off to a great start with an inspiring lecture by Bharat Ramaswamy, head of CR-N Rao. A jam-packed auditorium on Friday hung on to Rao's every word as he spoke about the scientific progress of the nation. "Research and development must be encouraged to help the bright minds in the country find the right direction," he said.

Apart from Rao, lectures by eminent personalities followed throughout the day. Kiran Bedi, social activist and the country's first-ever woman IPS officer, interacted with over 800 people in a lecture which focused on social development of India. The ever-changing dynamics of Indian politics and the success story of the Aam Aadmi Party were also discussed.

BINA 48, an American robot, touted as the world's most socially interactive robot, stole the show on day one with hundreds of people lining up to catch glimpses of it at the robotics exhibition.

With a footfall of more than 35,000, the festival saw wall arts and paintings by Polish muralists, and a F1 simulator, all the way from Italy, also up for a free test drive. "This is the first time a simulator of this quality has been displayed in India. It is a real treat for all the formula one fans," said Harshad Gera, auto enthusiast from Bhagol, who had come down especially for the fest.

Another eye grabber at the fest was the free 4G WiFi connection available for all, and provided by Reliance Jio.

A live demonstration of the 4G network and its capability for incredible speed was given by Mathew Oommen, director of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a New York based association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence.
Govt to Amend AICTE Act

OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The government has decided to amend the All Indian Council of Technical Education Act to restore the technical education regulator’s power to approve engineering and management institutions.

In April last year, the Supreme Court had said that the All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) was not empowered to lay down and enforce standards for technical courses. Stripped of its powers, the AICTE was reduced to an advisory role.

While the government has decided to amend the AICTE Act to restore its powers, this is unlikely to go through during the tenure of the current Lok Sabha. Hence, an interim arrangement is being put in place.

Under this arrangement, the AICTE will set standards for technical institutes and higher education regulator University Grants Commission would provide the affiliation. The institutes will have to be assessed by the National Board of Accreditation. Higher education secretary Ashok Thakur said that the amendments and the interim arrangements have received the law ministry’s nod.

Thakur, who headed a committee to coordinate between AICTE and UGC on the issue, said the broader guidelines would be finalised at a UGC meet on January 10 and directives would be issued about providing affiliations by the universities. The decision to amend the AICTE Act comes 8 months after the Supreme Court struck down the council’s regulatory powers, saying colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the purview of the definition of “technical institution” as defined in AICTE Act, 1987.
Rs 90,000 crore RUSA plan to be implemented soon: M Pallam Raju

By PTI | 3 Jan, 2014, 11:18 PM IST

RAJAHMUNDRY: The Union Minister for Human Resources Development M M Pallam Raju today said Rs 90,000 crore Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) plan will soon be implemented for development of education sector in the country.

Speaking to reporters after visiting a vocational college in Kadapa, he said, "During the 12th and 13th five year plans Rs 90,000 crore RUSA plan will be implemented in the country for the development of education and for its infrastructure facilities."

The Union Cabinet has approved the plan in its meeting held on October 3.

"This plan will also help in bringing education reforms, besides developing infrastructure facilities in the education sector," he said.

Raju later visited Dhummulapeta in Kadapa, where fire mishap took place yesterday. He assured that pucca houses will be constructed for all the families, who lost their homes in fire accident.

Row over Jamia Hamdard PhD to UGC chief's wife

TNN | Jan 4, 2014, 03:21 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from Delhi-based Jamia Hamdard Deemed University to a petition alleging that it had awarded PhD degree to Ms Shimla to allegedly curry favour from her husband Prof Ved Prakash, who at present was the chairman of University Grants Commission.

A bench of Justices R M Lodha and S K Singh issued notices to the University, Ms Shimla and the UGC on the petition by NGO 'Society for Value and Ethics in Education', which alleged that the Delhi High Court had rejected its petition despite a clear-cut case of favouritism was made out.

The NGO said Ms Shimla was ineligible to be admitted to the PhD course in the University's Centre for Federal Studies, which required the candidate to have a Masters degree in political science, public administration, sociology, history or economics with at least 55% marks or a recognized MPhil degree.

"Ms Shimla possesses none of the above. She is an MA in English, which is not even a related, contiguous, listed or relevant subject and has secured barely 52.5% marks from Meerut University as against minimum 55% marks required. She does not possess an MPhil degree. She not being a teacher in Jamia Hamdard University, enjoyed no special treatment or exemptions," the NGO alleged.

Terming her admission as fraud that deprived a deserving candidate, the NGO said she had wrongfully gained the degree and that the HC failed to notice this.
Funding for state varsities need to be increased: UGC official

Press Trust of India | Coimbatore  January 03, 2014 Last Updated at 20:20 IST

University Grants Commission today stressed on the need to increase the funding for state universities to bring an end to the mismatch between them and central varsities.

Funding for state universities needed to be increased as there was a mismatch between them and the central universities, UGC Vice-Chairman Dr H Devaraj said.

"While 641 state universities together get a sum of Rs 9,500 crore only, the 44 Central Universities were allocated Rs 10,000 crore," he said at a function in a college in nearby Pollachi.

"This needs to be corrected," a release from the NGM College quoting Devaraj said.

He also stressed on the need to have a greater focus on skill based training.
Reliance Jio tests 4G network at IIT-M fest

MUMBAI: Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd has tested its 4G network at the Techfest event in IIT Mumbai campus by running trials of video calls and Jio television service, among others. Jio television has a feature that eliminates the need for recording content.