Newspaper Clips
July 25, 2014

Premier tech institutes run low on teaching staff

By Kumar Vikram
in New Delhi

LACK OF quality teaching staff is hurting India’s showpiece Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) hard. A number of well-qualified teachers are refraining from joining the premier institutes owing to various reasons, which also include unsatisfactory pay packages.

Teachers’ unwillingness to join the IITs has led to a shortage of around 41 per cent in the faculty. According to norms set by the Human Resource Development Ministry, IITs must have a teacher-student ratio of 1:10, but the current ratio is 1:17.

A document — student and faculty position in IITs — has revealed that of the 3,887 sanctioned faculty positions, 3,478 are unfilled in old IITs at eight locations across the country. Thus, across the old campuses, there is an approximate 41 per cent shortage of teachers.

A senior official of the ministry acknowledged that student intake has risen by over 50 per cent since 2006 in the wake of the 27 percent quota for OBCs and an expansion in seats, widening the gap between the number of students and teachers. The teacher-student ratio among the old IITs is the worst at IIT BHU at 1:22.

The total number of IITs is 16, with eight institutions having opened in the past few years. The data also revealed that the new IITs are in a better position in terms of student to faculty ratio. In half of the new institutions, the ratio fulfills the criteria of 10:1.

Speaking about the issue, Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar recently told Parliament that “the reasons for faculty shortage at these institutes are retirement, resignation, increase in students’ intake and non-availability of qualified candidates for taking up teaching assignments.”

Explaining further, a senior official said salary is the main issue. “Being government institutes, salary of the teachers can’t be equal to that prevailing in the industry. We need to spend years even after B.Tech and you would get about Rs 70,000 a month. And an IIT graduate gets this salary when he starts his career. Due to this, not many B.Tech students like to study further and get into research to finally become teachers at a salary which they can get right after graduation,” he said.

An assistant professor at the entry level in an IIT will earn anything between Rs 7.3 lakh and Rs 8 lakh a year. That is the average salary of students graduating from the IITs, with the highest salary package even touching Rs 50 lakh per annum.

The official said the older IITs generally have been picking up 50-60 new teachers annually. But the student strength has risen rapidly because of the OBC quota and the Ph.D numbers too had gone up. “Even at this ratio, teaching quality is the best. The IITs have started offering various incentives to attract the best teachers,” the official said.

Similar situation is prevailing in at the four IITs too. While the sanctioned strength of faculty is 253, only 162 teachers teach around 4,770 students. IIT-Alahabad is in the worst position, around 55 per cent teaching posts are vacant and a student-teacher ratio is 46:1 there.

FACULTY CRUNCH — REALITY CHECK

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IIT और NIT में टीचर्स का टोटा

HRDM के मुताबिक 35 से 40 परसेंट पोस्ट खाली

पूनम पाण्डे, नई दिल्ली

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (IIT) और नेतृत्व इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (NIT) अच्छे टीचर्स की कमी झेल रहे हैं। हूमन रिसोर्स डिवीजन मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक IIT और NIT में 35 से 40 परसेंट टीचर्स की जगह खाली पड़ी है। इसकी एक बड़ी वजह यह है कि इंस्टीट्यूट के क्वालिफाइड कैडेंट नहीं मिल रहे हैं। यहाँ क्वालिफाइड कैडेंट टीचर्स असाइनमेंट लेने के लिए दूर भाग रहे हैं।

एचएसई मिनिस्ट्री अभियंताओं ने राज्यसभा में कहा कि देश के 16 IIT में 36.5 परसेंट और 30 NIT में 40.8 परसेंट टीचर्स की जगह खाली है।

मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक इसकी वजह रिटायरमेंट, इस्तीफा देना और छुट्टियाँ की संख्या बढ़ना है। मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक अच्छे कैडेंट IIT और NIT में कैडेंट के तौर पर काम करने के लिए कई कदम उठाए गए हैं।

साल भर अपने विज्ञापन रहता है साथ ही इंटरनेशनल जनरल में भी विज्ञापन देते हैं।

सिलेक्शन कमिटी की मीटिंग वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए करते हैं और आउटस्टाडिंग युवा कैडेंट को भी नियुक्त किया गया है। टीचर्स की कमी पूरी करने के लिए IIT नौं रिजिडेंट इंडियन (NRI) और परसेंट ऑफ इंडियन ऑफिसियल (PEO) को भी क्वालिफिकेटेड कैडेंट देने में कर्मधारकों की रुलेटर इंडियन में परसेंट फैक्टरी पोस्ट नियुक्त किया गया है।

NIT तो टीचर की कमी के रूप में स्पष्ट प्रायोजन के लिए आन्तरिक मोड ऑफ टीचर्स का इस्तेमाल कर रहा है। साथ ही क्वालिफिकेटेड फैक्टरी को अंतर्गत करने के लिए IIT की फैक्टरी की तरह दे रहा है। फैक्टरी IIT और NIT जोड़ने कर सके इसलिए मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ होम के अनुच्छेद ने फैक्टरी के लिए इंजीनियरिंग भी वृत्तियाँ प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

लिमिट 25 हज़ार यूएस डॉलर से घटाकर 14 हज़ार यूएस डॉलर भी कर दी है। फैक्टरीयं मिलने से भी विज्ञापन के शुरु होने वाले नए IIT पर भी सरकारी खेतरों हो रहे हैं।

मोदी सरकार ने अपने पहले बजट में 5 नए आईआईटी का आलोचना का भी ऐतिहासिक किया है। जम्मू, अमृतसर, गोवा, आंध्र प्रदेश और केरल में नए आईआईटी पहले लैंगिक। लेकिन जब मौजूदा आईआईटी ही टीचर्स की कमी से जुड़े रहे हैं तो नए आईआईटी का क्या होगा?
IITs to discuss model for virtual tech varsities

Aanchal Bedi

As part of the broader plan to expand the concept of Technology Enhanced Learning, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science will soon meet to discuss feasibility of setting up of a virtual technology university.

A workshop has been planned in September by various stakeholders including the national and international experts to discuss and deliberate the pros and cons of such a university including the employability of graduating persons in various industries and organizations.

“It has been a dream that was articulated in the 11th plan to have a virtual tech university. The workshop that has been planned could be a precursor to moving in the direction. The theory part of various courses has been covered through NPTEL. Some experiments are also being designed under virtual labs project. Serious efforts have also been made in the country on standardization in the delivery process. We have to see how to take this forward,” Dr Kushal Sen, professor IIT Delhi, who is one of the coordinators of NPTEL said.

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), a project funded by the HRD ministry was first conceived in 1999 to pave the way for introducing multimedia and web technology to enhance learning of basic science and engineering concepts.

In the first phase of the NPTEL project (June 2003-June 2007), seven IITs and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have worked together to develop web and video based material for basic undergraduate science and engineering courses in order to enhance the reach and quality of technical education in the country. The next phase associated many other partners. NPTEL has been able to make available a large number of technical courses online. These are freely downloadable and are free to students and teachers across the country.

The proctored certification programme (MOOCs) in the area of computer science was an experiment in this direction with NASSCOM and some IT majors as partners. This is a direct offshoot this of the ambitious project of NPTEL. Nearly 1300 students will get soon their certificates.
अध्यापन के क्षेत्र में बड़े बदलाव की तैयारी में सरकार

धीरज कानपुरिया

नई दिल्ली। देश भर में अध्यापकों को कमी दूर करने और अध्यापन का क्षेत्र बड़ा करने के लिए सरकार ने नयी योजना लांच की है।

प्रशासनिक निर्देशनों ने खुद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की इस योजना में कई सालों तक दी है। इसके आसपास पर सरकार ने अध्यापन के क्षेत्र में बड़े बदलाव के लिए नए प्रशासन शैली किए हैं।

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थाओं में अध्यापकों की कमी की समस्या से पर पृथ्वी के लिए सरकार अपना विद्याधर्मकोष के जल्द लांच करने के लिए विभिन्न शासन ने कई योजनाओं के लिए शक्तिशाली शिक्षा को आवश्यक बना रही है। साथ ही अध्यापकों की मात्रा को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने महत्वपूर्ण आयोजनों के लिए अध्यापकों को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में लांच करने की उम्मीद की है।

सरकार ने अध्यापकों की कमी के कारण सरकार ने प्रशासनिक निष्कर्षों के लिए बढ़ती मांग को भारत सरकार को आवश्यक बना रही है। सरकार ने प्रशासनिक निष्कर्षों के पास अध्यापकों के लिए तीन वर्षों को दी गयी हैं। इसके अलावा प्रशासनिक निष्कर्षों के लिए सरकार ने प्रशासनिक निष्कर्षों के लिए अध्यापकों को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में लांच करने की उम्मीद की है।

With spinach, turn sunlight into fuel

Protein From The Vegetable Can Utilize Solar Power With 60% Efficiency

Kounteya Sinha@timesgroup.com

London: The vegetable that gave ‘Popeye’ super strength could one day help power engines. Scientists say they have discovered the humble spinach has the ability to convert sunlight into a clean, efficient alternative fuel.

Purdue University physicists are part of an international group using spinach to study the proteins involved in photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert the sun’s energy into carbohydrates used to power cellular processes. A protein complex called Photosystem II is extracted from spinach bought from the supermarket in a complicated process performed over two days in a specially built room that keeps the spinach samples cold and shielded from light. The team then excites them with a laser and records changes in the electron configuration of their molecules.

"These proteins require light to work, so the laser acts as the sun in this experiment," Yulia Pushkar, a Purdue assistant professor of physics, says once the proteins start working, scientists use advanced techniques such as electron paramagnetic resonance and X-ray spectroscopy to observe how the electronic structure of the molecules change over time as they perform their functions.

"The proteins we study are part of the most efficient system ever built, capable of converting the energy from the sun into chemical energy with an unrivalled 60% efficiency," says Pushkar. "Understanding this system is indispensable for alternative energy research aiming to create artificial photosynthesis."

During photosynthesis plants use solar energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into hydrogen-storing carbohydrates and oxygen. Artificial photosynthesis could allow for the conversion of solar energy into renewable, environmentally friendly hydrogen-based fuels.

Photosystem II is involved in the photosynthetic mechanism that splits water molecules into oxygen, protons and electrons. During this process a portion of the protein complex, called the oxygen-evolving complex, cycles through five states in which four electrons are extracted from it, she says.
Research scholars demand stipend hike

Around 1,000 scientists to protest today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Close to 1,000 young scientists from several research institutes plan to hold a demonstration in front of the department of science and technology on Friday demanding a hike in their scholarship, which they claim is too low to sustain in big cities.

The young researchers from four universities and six research institutes decided to launch the agitation after they were denied an appointment with the Union human resource development minister to air their grievances.

Currently a junior research fellow receives Rs 16,000 per month while the stipend for the senior research fellows is Rs 18,000. After completing PhD, if anybody wants to pursue a career in science and do a post-doctorate as research associate at the age of around 30 years, he (or she) would get Rs 22,000-24,000 per month.

“Around 44 per cent of eligible fellows (who have qualified CSIR-UGC JRF/NET examination) don’t join Indian institutions for PhD and more than 50 per cent of eligible fellows join doctoral programmes abroad mainly because of the abysmal pay level in India,” Anjali Khatri, a research scholar at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi, told Deccan Herald.

Scholars from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Immunology, Dr Ambedkar Centre for Biomedical Research, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Jamila Milia Islamia and Jamia Hamdard University will take part in the protest. Similar agitation has taken place at the Post Graduate Institute for Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh.

“The government is seized by the matter. I met the scholars in Bangalore last week. A committee has recommended an increase in the scholarship but it has to go through the government process that may take a while. But it should not take too long,” said K Vijayraghavan, who is officiating as the department of science and technology secretary.
The War for Talent

Big-ticket hiring returned to leading business schools for the newly-minted managers of the Class of 2014. E-commerce players gave a tough fight to the traditional bigwigs to recruit the best.

SMOOTH TRANSITION

More combinations on top score and hiring through off-the-shelf technologies, for instance, opting for TOEFL or GMAT scores as well as in the case of POST-GRADUATE MANAGEMENT in consulting domain.

DIVERSE ROLE PLAY

The demand for top MBA talent has been highly significant in areas across campus, pointing to the growing concern on digital marketing, and digital marketing was among the core planks. Several campuses including IIMs and IIMs and IITs have had a significant rise in the number of offers from the number 1 employers.

IM AMRINBAD,
Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM BANGALORE

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM CALCUTTA

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM KASHMIR

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM MUMBAI

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM NAGPUR

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM SRINAGAR

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IM DELHI

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

IIFT DELHI

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

FMS DELHI

Bhargav Rana, Techie Consulting Group

Number of Hires by Top Recruiters at Each of the Top 10 B-Schools

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The Top Guns

Arindam Bhattacharjee, executive director at the top multinational and boutique companies, joining the consulting and digital marketing domain.

THE WAR FOR TALENT

At the Top 3 IMs

Economic Times ND 25/07/2014 P.8
Chinese billionaires criticised for giving Harvard $15m

Hindustan Times (Indore)

A Chinese billionaire couple have faced a deluge of criticism for donating $15 million to one of the richest and most prestigious universities in the US, with Internet users saying it would be better spent on students in China. Pan Shiyi and Zhang Xin, the husband-and-wife duo behind real estate giant SOHO China, are giving $100 million to fund disadvantaged Chinese students at top universities across the globe.

IIT-Bombay students deploy robot to spot leopard


MUMBAI: IIT-Bombay students on Thursday evening used a robot fixed with a camera to locate the leopard that was spotted in the metallurgical engineering and material science workshop in Powai a day earlier, but forest officials who watched the footage on a laptop were unable to detect any sign of the big cat. Two forest personnel were also sent into the lab in a caged trolley but to little effect.

K D Thakare, deputy conservator of forest-territorial, Thane, said, "25 forest officials are trying to trap the leopard. A few onlookers spotted it late on Wednesday night and our officials heard its movements. A trap, with a bait of four chickens in the lab, has been unable to attract the animal, which seems to be holed up in a corner."

IIT-B PRO Rashmi Uday Kumar said, "The leopard’s exact location is still uncertain." Meanwhile, there were unconfirmed reports of another big cat being sighted elsewhere on the campus.

Pawan Sharma, founder of the NGO RAWW (Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare), who was present with forest officials at the Powai campus, said, "Many strategies are being planned by the forest officials to trap the animal. The remote-controlled mini-car sent in did not help. But since the leopard is a nocturnal animal, it gets active at night. He was located once on Wednesday night."

Government to allot 4.85 lakh sqm land for AIIMS, IIT

TNN | Jul 25, 2014, 09.10 AM IST

PORVORIM: The government will allot over 4.85 lakh sq m of land at Bambolim for the AIIMS and IIT institute proposed for Goa, chief minister Manohar Parrikar told the Goa legislative assembly on Thursday.

Replying to the general discussion on the budget, Parrikar said that the Centre has sanctioned 1,000-crore for the new Zuari bridge, which will be operated without levying a toll on motorists.

The government will also widen the NH 4-A and the NH 17 and efforts will be made to minimize demolition of structures along the routes.

The state government will also undertake six projects worth about 970 crore. Of these, 800 crore worth of projects will be executed by the PWD and only 170 crore worth of projects by the Goa state infrastructure corporation. A four-lane road from Panaji to Old Goa is one of these projects, Parrikar said.
The government is working on freeing the 35 lakh sq m land locked in litigation due to SEZs in Goa. The government will explore various routes including giving the pertinent promoters about 30% of the land and taking over the rest. This is not finalized yet though, Parrikar said.