FOREIGNERS NOT IMPRESSED BY IIT

NEW DELHI: Despite opening the gates for foreign students and foreign nationals, very few such students actually join the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology.

“The numbers are always in single digit, on an average 4-5. Many, even after selection, don’t join,” sources said. This year only 3 foreign nationals have been selected including one South African who has got admission in IIT Madras. Last year 10 were selected but they were all Indians who were born outside. Many however did not join.

In the mid 1990s, there used to be direct admissions for foreign students. In the initial years, a good number of such students were selected. But most were not able to cope up with academic pressure.
Under new Director, research to remain top priority at IIT-KGP

Shiv Sahay Singh

Kharagpur: Emphasising that research will remain top priority for Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), Professor Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, who was appointed as the institute’s director on Saturday, said the institute would emerge as a premier research and innovation-based educational institution by 2020.

IIT-KGP will also continue with its drive to attract bright young faculty to the institute, which now has a little over 50 per cent of the sanctioned strength, he told journalists at the sideline of IIT-KGP’s 59th convocation ceremony.

Since January, the institute has made 70 new offers of entry-level appointment, most of which have received a positive response, he added. “The IIT faculty is a homogenous mass across the country. We do not want to create a heterogeneous mass of faculty members by compromising on quality of the faculty,” Prof. Chakrabarti said, pointing out that ensuring the faculty’s quality remained a challenge. The institute, with about 10,000 students, should have about 1,000 faculty members as the sanctioned teacher student for IITs is 1:10, officials said.

On increasing the number of research students, Prof. Chakrabarti said the institute planned to increase the intake of PhD students. “At present, the number of PhD students is 10 per cent of the entire intake. We want to increase it to 20 per cent in the next five years and to 30 per cent in the future,” he said.

IIT-KGP is likely to start imparting medical education by 2016 after the completion of a 400-bed hospital at the institute. The institute is exploring, whether without changing the IIT Act, medical programmes could be offered, Prof. Chakrabarti said, adding that medical graduates emerging from the proposed medical school, who would take up different streams of bio-engineering as part of their curriculum would be a “new breed of doctors”.

IIT-KGP is considering a tie up with Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore College and Imperial College, London for biomedical research and medical education, Prof. Chakrabarti added.
IIT-Kharagpur gets director after a year

NEW DELHI: Giving in to protests by students, faculty and alumni, the government Saturday appointed Prof Partha Pratim Chakrabarti director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. His appointment was announced a day after the CVC cleared him of corruption charges. The government had failed to name a director for more than a year, igniting protests against the delay in Chakrabarti’s appointment last month. Hundreds of alumni sat on a hunger strike July 17 and marched in Delhi, Bangalore and Kolkata on July 20. They also petitioned President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and HRD minister M M Pallam Raju. The alumni association was planning a nationwide hunger strike when the government announced Chakrabarti’s appointment at the IIT convocation. ENS
Disservice charge

Wasting study leave to cost employees

NEW DELHI: A government employee who avails paid study leave for obtaining a higher degree and fails to complete the course can be asked to refund the money as he commits disservice to the organisation, the Supreme Court has said.

Explaining provisions of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, a bench of justices of K S Radhakrishnan and Pinaki Chandra Ghose said public money spent for the purpose of study leave can not be squandered.

The apex court’s order came while dealing with a petition filed by Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology against a decision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, refraining it from raising Rs 12.32 lakh from a lecturer, Suresh Chandra Verma, for failing to complete PhD from IIT-Kanpur within the designated three-year period.

The institute wanted the amount paid to him as salary and other allowances during the study leave back. Verma said he could not submit his thesis as his guide retired. He wanted a six-month extension, which was declined.

The court said study leave, with salary and other benefits, is granted in the interest of the institution and persons concerned, so that once they re-join the institute, students benefit from their knowledge and expertise.

“A candidate who avails of leave but takes no interest to complete the course and does not furnish the certificate to that effect is doing a disservice to the institute as well as the students,” the court observed.

“In other words, such a person only enjoys the period of study leave without doing any work at the institute and, at the same time, enjoys the salary and other benefits, which is evidently not in public interest. Public money cannot be spent unless there is mutual benefit,” the bench said.

Clarifying the “laudatory object” of the statutory framework, the court further said: “If a government servant resigns or retires from service or otherwise quits service without returning to duty after a period of study leave or within a period of three years after such return to duty or fails to complete the course of study and is thus unable to furnish the certificates as required under sub-rule (5) of Rule 53, he shall be required to refund the actual amount of leave salary, study allowance, cost of fees, travelling and other expenses, if any, incurred by the Government of India.”

Study leave, Page 7

Wasting study leave to cost employees

Study leave, from Page 1

But the court provided relief to Verma, in a way, by restraining the institute from recovering Rs 6.18 lakh from him. It observed that the bond between the institute and Verma was vague and did not expressly talk about refund of money. During the pendency of the matter, the institute had already obtained Rs 6.50 lakh from him.

DH News Service
हाँ, किसी देश का नाम के अलग स्थानों पर प्रकट किया होगा। इस देश की मान्यता का संबंध यह है कि यह देश एक विश्वविद्यालय के रूप में समर्पित है। परंतु, यह पूरीति से संबंधित नहीं है।

तीनी रिक्त स्थान का अभाव यह है कि देश की जनसंख्या या अन्य संदर्भों में स्थानीय हो।

यदि यह देश भारतीय कोलकाता विश्वविद्यालय के रूप में समर्पित है, तो इसे उल्लिखित किया जाए।

यदि कोई अन्य विषय जिसे यह देश समर्पित करना चाहता है, तब उसे उल्लिखित किया जाए।
Himalayan glaciers shrinking due to black carbon: Expert

Chetan Chauhan
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NEW DELHI: Black carbon, mainly produced by burning of agricultural waste and vehicles, is responsible for the quicker melting of Himalayan glaciers, according to an Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur study.

Black carbon is primarily unburnt fuel that travels from warmer to colder areas through air, settles on glaciers and makes them melt. It is the biggest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide.

In his study, IIT-Kanpur professor Mukesh Sharma found that 40% of the glacial retreat was because of black carbon impact and 75% of Himalayan glaciers that are home to 11,480 million people are shrinking at an average of 3.75 km in 15 years. “Reduction in black carbon emissions can lead to a near-term impact on atmospheric warming, which would prevent glacial melt,” said Sharma at a workshop by the Centre for Science and Environment.

Sharma found India emits 584 kilotonnes of black carbon every year. The maximum black carbon contribution was found to be from western and southern India, followed by central India — Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa. The least emissions were from the Himalayan region, which have to face consequences of glacial melt like overflowing of Kedarnath, a cause for massive tragedy in Uttarakhand.

The findings were based on data from monitoring stations on Gangotri glacier and East Rongbuk glacier near Mount Everest in Nepal. Sharma said these emissions can be reduced by promoting the use of LPG in rural areas and banning open burning of agriculture waste. Michael Walsh, founding chairman of the International Council on Clean Transportation said vehicles should come with particulate matter traps. India, however, is yet to come out with a policy on controlling black carbon.
II5 more seats in IIMs up for grabs

Bonu Points To Draw More Women

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Indian Institutes of Management are expecting an increased number of registrations for the Common Admission Test 2013 (CAT 2013) due to increase in the number of seats. 115 seats have been added taking the total seats across 13 IIMs to 3,335. The organizers are also expecting a bigger participation by women candidates as IIMs have started giving extra point during admissions to women candidates.

From this year CAT has introduced e-vouchers. However, sale of physical vouchers will also continue. Moreover, four more cities have been added to the list of 36 where CAT 2013 is to be conducted.

After gradual decline in the number of CAT takers for over five years, last year the number of registration increased marginally with a total registration of 2,14,068. Due to increase in number of seats as well as the gradual increase in interest for MBA, IIMs are expecting a 10% increase in registration. “The Indian Institutes of Management is preparing for more students to appear for CAT 2013 as students will have greater chances for admission into the IIMs,” said Rohit Kapoor, CAT 2013 convenor.

Going by the trend and IIMs initiative to give extra points to women candidates, their number is also expected to increase this year. The number of women appearing for CAT has been steadily increasing — from 53,700 in 2010 to 56,000 in 2011. For 2012, more than 60,800 women appeared for the CAT.

The registration window for CAT 2013 would start from August 5. “New to this year’s CAT is the option to purchase vouchers electronically. Details about payment of fees online will be made available on CAT 2013 website www.cat2013.iim.ac.in from 5 pm on August 3, 2013. Candidates can also purchase traditional vouchers for registration and scheduling from designated Axis Bank branches from August 5 to September 24,” said Kapoor. The results will be declared on January 14, 2014. Similar to last year’s exam, CAT 2013 will have two sections. The first will focus on quantitative ability and data interpretation and the second on verbal ability and logical reasoning.

These two sections will be implemented sequentially with separate time limits. The examination will be for 140 minutes. Candidates will have 70 minutes to answer 30 questions within each section, which will have an on-screen countdown timer.
NEW DELHI: An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) professor has designed a pan-Indian script — Bharati — to make communication easier across various Indian languages.

“There were two reasons. First, most of the major Indian scripts share a common structure – vowels (a, aa ...), consonants (ka, kha...), consonant-vowel combinations (ka, kaa, ki...) and so on. But, we still have a large number of scripts. Secondly, though the Indian alphabet system has a logical organisation, its design has inconsistencies and the characters are complicated. Bharati tries to address this with simple and easy characters,” says Dr V Srinivasa Chakravarthy, professor, IIT Madras. There are 22 official languages and 9 major scripts in the country.

“We have applied for a patent. The next step was a software to recognise the handwritten script on a computer,” he added.
IIT-Kharagpur devises filter for village schools

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: Researchers from IIT-Kharagpur have devised a filter called ‘Kharagpur filter’ for providing clean water for village school children, who rely on well water for drinking.

“This filter requires no maintenance or any electricity,” says Dr Jayanta Bhattacharya, the lead researcher.

The idea was mooted after West Midnapur floods where people were standing around water but couldn’t drink a drop.

The micro-level tests show the bacterial level reduced by nearly 50% and the dissolved oxygen level improved by 30-50%, Dr Bhattacharya said. He is open to partnering with an agency to market the product.
I

NDIA’S system of higher education consists of powerful statutory regulators: AICTE, MCI, UGC, NCTE and those for architectural, pharma, veterinary, indigenous medicine and other higher educations. At once greedy for money, status and power, these regulators fight each other for turf and importance. Corruption is rampant and resulted in to Parliament putting in a Board of Governors to replace the Medical Council. The MCI wants to be recognized as one of the new ways of asserting its authority and importance.

What has intoxicated the regulatory tendrils is the judicially recognised fact in TMA Pai (2002) that higher education has changed immeasurably into a huge public-private partnership. This has increased the regulatory empires of MCI, AICTE and the like. On the flip side it has increased their lust for power and the spoils of regulation—with private colleges (some worthy and some not) grovelling before these authorities.

Testing

In the 11 judge TMA Pai verdict (2002) the apex court saw the need for standards and education but was worried that the State would treat private colleges as providers of largesse or treat them as “governent agents.” The Court therefore sought to protect the autonomy of private institutions in four significant areas: (i) admissions and selection of students, (ii) financial autonomy, (iii) selection of staff and their discipline, (iv) management. Two caveats were added: (a) standards were to be laid down and overseen by statutory regulators; and (b) independent admission committees would ensure clean merit-based education without capitulation fee and finance committees would ensure probity. Each committee was to be headed by retired High Court judges.

To avoid many individual college tests, room was made for state tests and collegiate tests whereby like-minded colleges grouped together to hold independently administered tests. MCI was a party to these decisions and bound by them. But, uneasily lies the head that thinks it wears an imperial crown. AICTE started the quest for an All-India admission under its control. Some Supreme Court judges liked the idea. The MCI decided to totally take over entrance examinations and announced a NEET test for graduate and post graduate courses irrespective of state, region or institutions, contrary to the Supreme Court decisions and contrary to the MCI Act which gave them no power to do so.

In the NEET judgment of the Supreme Court (18 July 2013), the Court divided 2 judges: 1 judge against the MCI usurpation of monopoly power, which was the principal issue. The MCI Act allowed regulation and prescription of standards (even for tests) but not to take over admissions. Equally, the judgments of the Supreme Courts were crystal clear: government admission should be made by government devised tests and private admissions (especially those of minority and unaided institutions) by collegiate tests—each with oversight committees.

The MCI had simply acted illegally and overreached itself. To change this situation, MCI needed not only to amend its Act but also ensure reversal of 7 and 11 judge benches of the Supreme Court.

In Justice Dave’s spirited dissent, that the MCI had the power on the basis of an analogy that “even (in)... manufacturing (the attempt is) to make (the)... final product excellent. Principle is no different in the field of education.” Unexceptional for manufacturing, but a bad analogy. It was no one’s case that the best product shielded the present system. The Supreme Court in Preeti’s case (1999) decided that the relaxation of standards by states had to be reasonable and in the AIMMS case (2013) that specialities and super specialities were exempt from reservation. Supervision over collegiate and state tests existed; and this ensured that these complied with the Supreme Court’s Inamdar (2005) triple test of being fair, transparent and non-exploitative.

Standards

NEET was obviously MCI and the Union’s brain wave. But the NEET tests themselves had their peculiarities. The test was more a question and answer aptitude test. There were to be different answer sheets for different students. To get a fair standard, tougher answer sheets were to be equalised against not so tough ones, the equivalents to be worked out by different people differently. Further standards could be lowered. The cut-off was not a percentage but a percentile and could vary. If the first 50 per cent candidates got much lower than 50 per cent that would be the cut-off. Again, unlike with State and collegiate tests, the best would go to some states and institute education and other states and institutions would look at the bottom of the NEET barrel for students.

Experiment

Some have argued that a one-time NEET test is good for students. This is not how most students felt. The test was like a draw of lots forfeiting options. As with selections all over the world, the system of selection is based on choice. Choice of an institution by the student if they have reached a certain level. Choice of the institution for the kind of students they want. Christian College Vellore wants students who will work in rural areas. So, do some states. This system of choice is at the heart of a good merit-based counselling.

To assimilate this into ‘All-India Tests’ run by a power hungry MCI whose regulatory reputation is blemished seems an unworthy experiment. It is also beyond the MCI’s statutory power and an infringement of Constitutional guarantees, which form the basis of how the private-public partnership would work in medical and higher education.

Looked at every which why, the MCI’s NEET test is not so neat.

The writer is a Supreme Court lawyer
What if it's not the IIT's?
The first Mail Today-Indus Learning Engineering and Technology Institutes Ranking brings to you some of the top-notch engineering colleges in Delhi-NCR that can give the IIT's a run for their money

By Mail Today Bureau

OT EVERYONE can get a seat at the IIT's. But why would you need one when you have institutions (private and public) in your own backyard that can make you sit up and take notice.

The first Mail Today-Indus Learning Engineering and Technology Institutes Ranking conducted among engineering and technology institutes (private and government) in Delhi-NCR reaffirms this faith.

Chandigarh's DUSM engineering college emerged as the top engineering institution in the private sector, while Delhi Technological University (DTU), Rohini, leads pecking order in the combined rankings, as per the survey.

The other toppers in the private sector are Amity University, Noida; Aay Kumar Garg Engineering College, Ghaziabad; Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ghaziabad; Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi; SIBM Institute of Management and Technology, Ghaziabad and Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology, Delhi.

THE SURVEY based on fact, files and questionnaires, evaluated the participating institutes extensively on various parameters such as salary package offered to graduates, number of companies visiting for campus interviews, intellectual capital, networking opportunities, infrastructure, industry interaction, curriculum, international exposure, total number of Ph.D holders, faculty student ratio, awards and recognition won by faculty members and male and female ratio on the campus before assigning scores to individual institutes. All the participating institutes were also required to submit a proof of their claims before being considered for the final rankings.

The survey notes that some of the private engineering and technology institutes such as Galgotias College of Engineering and Technology (Galgotias University), Amity School of Engineering and Technology (Amity University), Aay Kumar Garg Engineering College, Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology and Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, which are relatively younger institutes have got their act together and are giving stiff competition to already established government colleges like the Delhi College of Engineering now DTU and Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

"Galgotias College for Engineering and Technology, for instance has scored the maximum on the parameter of intellectual capital and is just a point behind DTU," said Dhvash Mehta, CBO and Chief Editor, India Learning, a company specialising in educational products and services, which conducted the survey.

In fact, Galgotias College of Engineering and Technology, Amity School of Engineering and Technology, Aay Kumar Garg Engineering College, Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology and Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology make top five of most of the parameters on which the survey was based.

The final rankings complete the
two part survey conducted over five weeks from June to July. However, unlike the final round, the preliminary phase of the survey, based on the perception of students, faculty members, alumni and human resource managers, also evaluated a total of 400 engineering and technology institutes in Delhi NCR along with institutions from Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Agra in Uttar Pradesh. A total of 400 respondents comprising students, parents, HR experts and faculty members took part in the perception study.

"We followed a 360 degree approach to the survey by looking at both hard facts as well as market perceptions," said Mehta. "Perception of the market is never far away from an institute’s performance," he said. "The survey limited the weightage of perceptual data to as much as 40 per cent. The remaining 60 per cent was contributed by information provided by the institutes in the fact sheets provided to them," said Mehta.

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IT (Delhi) did not participate in the fact file round of the survey.

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IIM में प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर की बहार

बड़ी कंपनियों के पिछले साल जैसी हायरिंग इस बार भी करने की उम्मीद

इंटरनेट में इंस्टूट्यूट ऑफ़ मैनेजमेंट में इस महीने प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर (पीपीओ) का सिलसिला शुरू हुआ है। इससे पता चलता है कि आईआईएम में कैम्पस रिकॉर्डिंग करने वाली बड़ी कंपनियाँ पिछले साल जैसी हायरिंग इस बार भी कर सकती हैं। इससे विभिन्न स्कूलों को बड़ी राहत मिली है।

आईआईएम बैंगलोर की 45 पीपीओ मिले हैं। पिछले साल अभी तक संस्थान को जितने ऑफर्स मिले थे, वह उसका आधा है। वह उसके लिए अच्छे खिचड़े हैं। आईआईएम बैंगलोर को इस साल 377 स्टूडेंट्स का प्लेसमेंट करना है। संस्थान को पिछले साल 48 कंपनियों से 97 पीपीओ मिले थे।

यहाँ करीब डेवलपमेंट सर्विसेज की हैड स्पना अभ्यास ने बताया, ‘हम इस साल भी पिछले साल जितना या उससे कुछ ज्यादा पीपीओ मिलने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।’

आईआईएम में जो स्टूडेंट्स कंपनियों के साथ इंटरनशिप करते हैं, उन्हें कंपनियों की ओर से मिलने वाले ऑफर को पीपीओ कहते हैं। ज्यादा कर प्रोफेसरों के अधिकार रूप से पीपीओ मिलने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं और ये दिनवार तक संभव है। यहाँ पीपीओ सितंबर में मिलते हैं। अभी इकोनामी की हालत खराब है।

इसका असर जोब मार्केट पर भी पड़ा है। ऐसे कारण के लिए इस साल स्टूडेंट्स के पीपीओ को स्वीकार करने की उम्मीद ज्यादा है। वे बाद में बहादुर जोब ऑफर की उम्मीद में शामिल हो सकते हैं। इंटरनशिप के बाद एक्सपर्सीजियों और कंसलटेंटिंग कंपनियों द्वारा सेकर जैसे क्षेत्रों में इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा।

कॉर्पोरेट अफायर्स के चीफ ह्यूमन रिसोजेंस ऑफिसर और कॉरपोरेट वाहस प्रेसिडेंट राजेश पवनानन ने कहा, ‘हमारे हायरिंग प्लान में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया है।’ पिछले साल आईआईएम कंपनी ज्यादा नीतिक देने के मामले में धौरे नंबर पर थी।

उसने 70 प्रोजेक्ट्स का हायरिंग भी किया था। इस साल भी कंपनी ने ही स्टूडेंट्स का हायरिंग करने की संभावना का संचालन किया। कंसलटेंट फॅम डेवलपमेंट इंडिया के सीनियर डायरेक्टर पी. रिकॉर्डिंग ने बताया, ‘हम इस साल के बाद करेंगे हायरिंग करेंगे।’

आईआईएम कर्मचारी ने इस साल 25 पीपीओ मिले हैं। पिछले साल उसे कुल 72 ऑफर मिले थे। आईआईएम कर्मचारी ने इस साल 430 स्टूडेंट्स का प्लेसमेंट करना है। संस्था को इस साल बोस्टन कंसलटेंट ग्रॉप, आदित्य विखला गुप्ता, एप्सुलान, टंस और एमसीज को आये से प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर मिले थे। आईआईएम कर्मचारी ने इस साल की 70 से अधिक हायरिंग विषयों के बाद बताया, ‘यह साल भी पिछले साल जितने पीपीओ मिले हैं। हम इस साल ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स को ऐसे ऑफर मिलने की उम्मीद है।’

आईआईएम कर्मचारी के एक कर्मचारी ने कहा, ‘यह साल अधिक था और आज हायरिंग विषयों का संचालन करने में भी एक संभावना है।’