Newspaper Clips
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Haryana govt gives in principle nod for IIT-D’s Jhajjar extension

NAVEED IQBAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

AFTER more than a year of correspondence between the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D), and the Haryana government, the latter has finally “agreed in principle” to provide land for a second extension campus in Jhajjar.

Registrar of IIT-D Rakesh Kumar told Newsline that the proposal to set up a second campus in Haryana “is at an advanced stage” and the institute is likely to get possession of the land “very soon.”

IIT-D had been pushing for this second extension at Jhajjar, after obtaining land for the first one in Sonepat. The Jhajjar campus, about 100 acres in area, is being envisaged as IIT’s research campus while the one in Sonepat will be used for academic expansion.

According to Kumar, a committee has been appointed to look into the activities planned for the Sonepat campus. “The site will include a science and technology park, a faculty development centre and a “high performance” computing centre,” he said.

Former director of IIT-D Surendra Prasad had announced during the institute’s Golden Jubilee celebrations in August 2011 that the Haryana government had offered 100 acres of land — free of cost — to IIT-Delhi for a second campus.

In April 2012, a six-member team comprising director of IIT-D R K Shevgaonkar, deputy director M Balakrishnan and Prasad, had visited three sites around Jhajjar and had zeroed in on a site “relatively close to Gurgaon” and next to AIIMS’s extension campus.

Shevgaonkar had written to the Haryana government in December 2012 for possession of the Sonepat campus. On March 19, the Haryana government had handed the possession of a 50-acre plot in Sonepat’s Rajiv Gandhi Educational City to IIT-D.

IIT had then asked for a second extension campus at Jhajjar to build a research facility, as the current 250-acre campus is not enough for the research needs of the institute, officials said.
World's fastest supercomp built

Beijing: China's defence scientists have built the world's fastest supercomputer, capable of performing 33.86 quadrillion operations per second, surpassing the US Titan supercomputer, according to survey results announced on Monday.

The Tianhe-2 has a peak performance speed of 54.9 quadrillion operations per second, according to the National University of Defence Technology, which built the computer.

The computer's predecessor, the Tianhe-1A, was the world's fastest from November 2010 to June 2011, when it was surpassed by Japan's K computer, state-run Xinhua News agency reported.

Tianhe-2, or Milky Way-2, will be deployed at the National Supercomputer Centre in Guangzhou, China, by the end of the year, according to TOP500, a project ranking the 500 most powerful computer systems in the world.

**MADE IN CHINA**

The surprise appearance of Tianhe-2, two years ahead of the expected deployment, marks China's first return to the No 1 position since November 2010, when Tianhe-1A was the top system.

Tianhe-2 has 16,000 nodes, each with two Intel Xeon IvyBridge processors and three Xeon Phi processors for a combined total of 3,120,000 computing cores.

The supercomputer Tianhe-2 is capable of operating as fast as 33.86 petaflops per second. It was ranked on Monday as the world's fastest computing system, according to TOP500.

Titan, a Cray XK7 system installed at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory and previously the No 1 system, is now ranked No 2.

According to TOP500 editor Jack Dongarra, who toured the Tianhe-2 development facility in May, the system is noteworthy in a number of aspects.

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Two scientists from CERN to be honoured by President

Press Trust of India

**AGARTALA:** Two eminent scientists associated with CERN, the prestigious European laboratory for particle physics, would be conferred honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.

CERN director general Rolf-Dieter Heuer and eminent scientist Bikash Sinha of Kolkata, who is also associated with CERN, would be conferred DSc at the fifth convocation ceremony to be held on Friday, NIT registrar Sumanta Chakrabarti told reporters here on Monday.

President Pranab Mukherjee will grace the occasion as chief guest and deliver the convocation speech and confer the honorary doctor of science degree on Heuer and Sinha at the NIT, Chakrabarti said.

The headquarters of CERN is in Switzerland. "The NIT, Agartala, which ranks 10th among the 30 NITs in the country also put forwarded a proposal to CERN for collaborative activities which is yet to be finalised," he said.

The President would inaugurate a 726 mw gas based thermal power project at Palatana, biggest of its kind in the country, near Udaipur town, about 55 km from here on the same day.
62 JEE applicants seek re-evaluation

Vanita Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: Four days after the answer sheets of candidates who had taken the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) 2013 were put on a website, only 62 students have applied for re-evaluation.

Last year, the JEE office had received 258 applications for re-evaluation. But the number of papers were 9 lakh as 4.5 lakh students had appeared in 2012.

“We have got around 62 applications for re-evaluation. The number may be even less as some applications could be faulty. Considering the fact that there were three lakh papers (two for each candidate), this is a very small number,” Dr H C Gupta, organising chairman, JEE (Advanced), said.

Last year, it was for the first time that IIT uploaded the corrected optical response sheets of all the candidates on the JEE website to maintain transparency and avoid any errors.

This year the evaluated answer sheets were made available online from June 13 to June 17. The student had to pay Rs 500 for each question to be reviewed.

“The initiative of providing solutions and uploading the answer sheets of the aspirants before declaring the results has been a great success. This year we have done double scanning and even used image integration for minimising any error in evaluation,” Dr Gupta said.

Compared to last year when IIT had admitted to two questions being incorrect and had given no marks to candidates in both, this year no question has been declared incorrect. “After getting feedback and proper examination, we have simply allowed flexibility in options in two questions, one in paper 1 (maths) and another in paper 2 (physics),” he added.
A Million Engineers, but Where are the JOBS?

That’s how many engineers graduate in India every year. And they have never found it so hard to land a job. Some blame the slack job market, others point to poor quality of colleges and graduates. Write Anumeha Chaturvedi & Rahul Sachitanand

JOBS PROBLEMS

Swarthmore between 2000 and 2005, the number of students graduating out of India’s engineering institutions was not far behind what it had been in the mid-1990s, when growth rates were slowing, according to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). But in the past five years, the number of graduates has risen to 1.2 million. This is a sharp increase in the number of graduates who are entering the job market, and it is putting pressure on employers to find jobs for them.

In fact, the number of engineering graduates in India has been increasing for the past decade. In 2000, the number was 0.8 million. In 2010, it was 1.2 million. In 2020, it is expected to be 1.5 million. This increase in the number of graduates has led to a decrease in the number of jobs available. The number of jobs for engineers has been declining for the past five years, from 0.5 million in 2000 to 0.4 million in 2010.

The deficit of engineers in India is not only a problem for India, but for the world. As the world’s largest democracy and a growing economy, India has a critical need for engineers. But the country is not producing enough engineers to meet this demand. This is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Trickle Down

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Losing Their Premium

Lawyers, Bankers, 23

Engineers and

But Power of Them

Changing Profile

Engineers are Being

Chased Out in Spaces

with Staggering

Impact

Graphic

Deepak Joshi, 30

Qualification: Electrical Engineer

Practice: Power sector

Wasted away in IT services when he was unable to find a job.

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Making higher education industry relevant

R. S. GREWAL

There is a growing need in India for skilled manpower to narrow the gap between demand and supply of skills. The Centre has set a target of 500 million skilled workers by the year 2022. Consequently, there has been tremendous pressure on increasing the capacity and capability of institutions engaged in running skill development programmes.

Simultaneously, a need has been felt to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education in the country. About five years ago, GER in India was around 13 per cent and the authorities claim that it has now risen to 18 per cent. The target is to achieve a GER of 30 per cent by the year 2020. Given the endemic obsession with degrees, higher education and skill development cannot be totally separated and these have to move hand in hand to meet the growing demand of the industry.

To make higher education industry relevant, students need to be provided avenues and options to switch from skill development programmes to higher education and vice versa. And only a select few, those possessing an aptitude for research, should branch out towards research activities. It implies that the higher education sector has to chart out a course that provides multiple options to students at different stages.

India inherited its higher education system from the colonial era that had altogether a different objective. Policy debates were initiated after Independence to change the paradigm but the industry dominated by the "Licence Raj" was unable to forestall the hand of the bureaucracy in the education sector. At that time, the sector was limited by its size and it would not have been that difficult to bring about a change. But the industry was content with the type of students graduating from universities and our bureaucracy did not show the needed foresight.

However, the liberalisation of economy in the 1990s changed the needs of the industry that started demanding problem solvers and knowledge creators. Our universities were not prepared to meet that challenge. The problem got compounded with a large number of young aspirants who wanted to pursue higher education. The preference of parents for white-collar jobs put further strain on the higher education sector. Both the Central and state governments were unable to meet the demand and, thus, private players made an entry into the higher education sector.

Today, almost 90 per cent of management education, 80 per cent of engineering and 68 per cent of medical institutions are in the private sector. Its size can be gauged from the fact that the number of universities in India has risen from 17 at the time of Independence to around 670 till date. Similarly, the number of colleges has grown from 496 in 1947 to more than 40,000 now. This exponential expansion coupled with a slow pace of reforms has raised concerns about unemployable degree holders being produced by higher educational institutions. Interestingly, the worst form of sledding has been inflicted on private universities. But in the present vitiated environment, we have to ask if the private universities have really been as awful as these are made out to be?

Ironically, a distinct pattern is emerging in the debate relating to higher education in the country, where the private sector is being painted as the main villain. We need to pause and think if that is indeed the case. The matter is serious both for the private sector in particular and the higher education sector as a whole. If the private sector, with such a large presence, cannot be trusted, the fallout might hurt it but it will not spare the public sector either. A scorching-earth policy invariably engulfs all. The debate and the consequential efforts need to be geared towards enhancing the quality of higher education both in public and private universities and other higher educational institutions.

For higher education to improve the measures adopted should include both the ground realities and the enlightened view of education. It is futile to accuse educational institutions merely based on their origin. All the stakeholders carry different perceptions of the two sectors based on their experiences, ethos, expectations and social milieu. A debate throws up differences but it also opens the doors for opportunities to harmonise and iron out the differences. It does not entitle the opponents to paint all private universities and institutions with the same brush. The mere fact that industry has not subscribed to that trend and has been recruiting students from private institutions in large numbers reinforces that argument.

On the other hand, the general public, including bureaucrats and politicians who are more than keen to get their wards educated in private schools, change tack when it comes to higher education and prefer government-run institutions. This should make the private sector sit up and introspect. There is a need to institute measures to change this social perception and that can come about only with an honest approach.

That brings us to the twin issues of autonomy and accountability. Granting autonomy to higher educational institutions is a must to enable them to acquire their own ethos, character and operational freedom. Is our assumption that autonomy begets honesty really tenable? Perhaps the reverse is true, and we could say that honesty strengthens the claims to autonomy. Dishonest autonomy can cause great harm to the higher education sector and, consequently, to the future generations and national strength. Therefore, there is a need for checks and balances to ensure 'chaotic autonomy' does not take the centre stage merely to satisfy the rhetoric.

No doubt the autonomy goes hand in hand with accountability, but any questioning of accountability has to be tempered with in composure with prevailing environment. Applying rules and laws blindly could be counterproductive. The rule of law must prevail impartially and realistically, irrespective of the origin of the institution, and not submit to the ideologies or biases of certain people. In a socialistic environment it is difficult to follow this dictum but we must remember that hard cases make bad law, and it is not that hard cases are confined to private universities alone. The Indian higher education sector would do well to keep in mind and remove the 'caste system' of public versus private that has been created.

The writer is a former Vice-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Himachal Pradesh
आईआईएम-आहमदाबाद, बंगलुरु और कलक्ता ने अभी तक 294 विभिन्न स्टूडेंट्स को कंफर्म किया।

आईआईएम में ज्यादा से ज्यादा महिलाओं को एडमिशन देने में निषिद्धता है। तो आईआईएम के लिए बेहतरीन भाषा है। अभी तक 294 स्टूडेंट्स को कंफर्म किया। आईआईएम के 2012-14 के लिए विभिन्न स्टूडेंट्स को कंफर्म किया।