New Delhi: IIT-Delhi’s board of governors is said to have proposed the name of K. Gupta as its interim director as the HRD ministry is set to relieve incumbent R. Shevgaonkar of his duty. Mr Gupta, a faculty member of IIT Delhi’s mechanical engineering department, is one of the senior most professors on the campus and could take charge as Mr Shevgaonkar’s notice period, following his resignation, ends on June 11. However, as Mr Gupta is on leave, the board has suggested the name of Anshul Kumar of the computer science department to take charge till Mr Gupta resumes duty, sources in the HRD ministry said.

— PTI
Has govt signalled an end to the row with IIT-Delhi director?

Hindustan Times (Patna)

The Centre asked IIT Delhi’s governing body for advice on Friday to appoint an acting head for the premier engineering school, signalling an end to a protracted confrontation between the government and institute director RK Shevgaonkar.

Shevgaonkar resigned in December — two years before the end of his term — amid reports that he was pressurised to quit, while the Opposition blamed the Smriti Irani-headed human resource development (HRD) ministry for interfering in the functioning of higher education institutes.

The ministry’s latest move came after Shevgaonkar shot off a letter this week, reminding the government that June 12 will be his last day in office.

Sources said the HRD ministry asked the IIT board to look for an acting director, but it was yet to relieve Shevgaonkar of his responsibilities with his file lying with Irani.

_critics accused the ministry of shifting its position on Shevgaonkar’s resignation which, according to some media reports, came after a tiff with the department over payment of ₹70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears._

Following his resignation in December, Shevgaonkar wrote three letters, including the latest one, requesting to be relieved of his duties so he could join IIT Bombay as a teacher.

Former higher education secretary SN Mohanty recommended that Shevgaonkar be allowed to leave on June 12 before he was transferred from the ministry this week.

_Sources said while the ministry had at first hinted at irregularities on the part of Shevgaonkar in setting up an offshore IIT campus in Mauritius, it softened its stance after no evidence was found but kept sitting on the matter._

K Gupta likely to take interim charge of IIT-Delhi


IIT-Delhi's board of governors is said to have proposed the name of K Gupta as its interim director as the HRD Ministry is set to relieve incumbent R Shevgaonkar of his duty.

Gupta, a faculty member of IIT Delhi's mechanical engineering department, is one of the senior most professors on the campus and could take charge as Shevgaonkar’s notice period, following his resignation, ends on June 11.
However, as Gupta is on leave, the board has suggested the name of Anshul Kumar of the computer science department to take charge till Gupta resumes duty, sources in the HRD Ministry said.

The Ministry, which is all set to forward the relieve order of Shevgaonkar to the President for approval, had asked the board last week to propose the names of the candidates to replace the present director, who would be moving back to IIT- Bombay as a faculty soon.

Shevgaonkar had resigned last December amid reports that he was under pressure from the Ministry on a controversial move to set up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in Mauritius.

An MoU was signed between IIT-Delhi and Mauritius Research Council for setting up of the academy.

The Ministry had delayed accepting his resignation even as the board of governors in March this year recommended to the Ministry to accept his resignation.

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आईआईटी-दिल्ली का प्रभार संभालेगे के गुप्ता!

एजेंसी. नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी-दिल्ली के संचालन मंडल की ओर से के गुप्ता को संस्थान का अंतरिम निदेशक के तौर पर नामित किए जाने की खबर है, क्योंकि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय मौजूदा निदेशक आर शेखगांवकर को पदमुक्त करने की तैयार है।

गुप्ता आईआईटी-दिल्ली में मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग में वरिष्ठ व्यक्तित्व है और शेखगांवकर का नोटिस अवधि पूरी होने के साथ कार्यान्वयन संभाल सकते हैं। शेखगांवकर का नोटिस मीरियह आगमी 11 जून को पूरा हो रहा है। उन्होंने अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। मंत्रालय के सूत्रों में बताया कि गुप्ता फिरहाल छुट्टी पर है और ऐसे में मंडल ने सिफारिश की है कि गुप्ता के पदभार संभालने तक अंशुल कुमार इस जिम्मेदारी को संभालेगे।

कुमार ने कंप्यूटर विज्ञान विभाग में शिक्षक हैं। शेखगांवकर ने मौरियास में अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान अकादमी संस्थान स्थापित करने संबंधी कदम को लेकर हुए विवाद की खबरों के बीच बीते साल दिसंबर महीने में इस्तीफा दिया था।
के. गुप्ता आईआईटी-दिल्ली का अंतरिम प्रभार संभाल सकते हैं

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के. गुप्ता बन सकते हैं आईआईटी दिल्ली के अंतरिम निदेशक

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। आईआईटी दिल्ली के बोर्ड ऑफ मैनेजमेंट द्वारा संस्थान के अंतरिम निदेशक पद के लिए के गुप्ता को नामित किया गया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय संस्थान के मौजूदा निदेशक और शोषणकर को पदमुक्त करने की तैयारी में है। गुप्ता आईआईटी दिल्ली के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के फैक्टरी में वह कॉल में स्वीकार की गई न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में शामिल है। शोषणकर के इसके का नोटिस पीरियड 11 जून को खत्म हो रहा है। इसके बाद वह पदभार संभाल सकते हैं। मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के मुताबिक, हालांकि अभी गुप्ता खुद छुट्टी पर हैं लेकिन उन्हें लौटने के लिए अंतरिम निदेशक को अक्षम निजी भूमिका सीकरने का अनुमति दी गई है।
IIT-B to Start a Co to Run Research Park

Not-for-profit company to manage and govern park

Rica.Bhattacharyya@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: IIT Bombay is starting a not-for-profit company that will manage the affairs and governance of the institute’s upcoming research park. The institute will soon appoint a CEO for the company. IIT Bombay director, professor Devang Khakhar, will be the ex-officio chairman and member of board. The board will have alumni, industry professionals and some faculty as members.

“One of the mandates of the company will be to evangelise the concept with industry, understand the match and identify the companies,” said Abhay Karandikar, professor, department of electrical engineering at IIT Bombay and in charge of the research park.

Earlier, the premier institute had announced setting up of a research park on its campus, with a partial funding from ministry of human resource development to promote innovation. The main objective of the research park is to build an ecosystem where academic researchers from IIT-B and industry partners work in close collaboration on cutting-edge research problems, technology challenges and product innovation.

Several top companies have expressed interest in the project, prompting the institute to look into the possibility of interim accommodation for some of them either in existing building or build some kind of a temporary structure before the one year deadline for the first phase.

“It is important to engage with industry to convert technology being developed and IPR into tangible products,” said Karandikar. The proposed park, where research centres of companies will be co-located, will be built on 7 acres on campus. The first phase of the project will involve the development of 250,000 sq ft plot, Karandikar told ET. Thrust will be on sectors like nanotechnology and semiconductors, mechanical and heavy engineering, chemical and bioscience, energy, among others. “The project aims at improving manufacturing competitiveness of the country”, said Karandikar.

Both Indian entrepreneurs and companies who would like to take advantage of the research. “We would also encourage start-up accelerators and help them accelerate and reach a level of high end state of the art technology,” he said. The park will house modular units of large companies, mid-sized companies and start-ups.

“There will be a system wherein a company that wants to remain on campus has to earn credits based on metrics such as quality and volume of collaboration with faculty, number of research projects a company is engaged in on campus, joint patents filed, technology development and publication, masters and PhD fellowship, and internships offered,” he said.
ITDs Plan Corporate-Funded Science, Research Parks

Prachi Verma

New Delhi: The country’s premier technical institutes are considering corporate-funded science parks and research and development facilities to scale up their research activities. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of Delhi, Kharagpur and Kanpur have held out extensive plans to establish state-of-art centres of research.

IT Bombay has already started groundwork for establishing a research park on the campus while IIT Madras, which already has successfully built a research park, is working towards a second one in Chennai.

These institutes plan to approach corporates to fund these projects, which they say will also help in bringing researchers and students together as professors look to do research.

IIT Delhi has already formed an expert group of most prominent stakeholders in the industry for setting up two research centres in Hyderabad that would fund 40-60 per cent of research costs. IIT Kharagpur is also in the process of setting up a research park.

Research Push

Science and research parks to help promote research and fund raising among leading IITs

IIT Delhi, which is already working towards setting up a ₹150-crore science park within its campus, is also working towards setting up parks in Sonapur and Juagir in Puducherry, which will create space for heavy research in chemical, mechanical and electrical engineering, apart from high-performance computing and bio-engineering. IIT Madras, which already has successfully built a research park, is now working towards its second park in Chennai with the support of the state government.

At IIT Bombay, the groundwork for establishing a research park on the campus had also started. Partially funded by the MHRD, an initial grant of ₹15 crore has been approved.

“The idea is to build an ecosystem where IITs academic researchers and industry partners work in collaboration to solve industrial problems and promote innovation,” said IIT Bombay director Devang Rikhair.

IIT Madras, which already has successfully built a research park, is now working towards its second in Chennai with the support of the state government. "Research driven by faculty and funded by industry is healthy for the IITs. With the additional 300 seats granted by the state government, we are focusing on setting up other large research centres," said its director, Shashikant Ramamurthy.

Dainik Jagran ND 09/06/2015
IISc TOPS NEW TIMES RANKINGS

The new Times Asia Univ rankings show that India has a lot of catching up to do

By Education Mail Bureau

I NDIAN INSTITUTE of Science, Bengaluru, known for its contributions in the field of advanced computing, space anderonics, publishing, among others, has emerged as the top ranking Indian university, as per the latest Times Higher Education rankings of top universities in Asia, released on Monday.

"It is a cause for concern that India has lost ground in the league table and has one fewer representative this year," said Sunil Sinha, Times Higher Education Rankings. "However, some universities on the horizon are moving in the right direction, especially those in the top 50.

Authorities at IISc, Bengaluru, have displaced last year's winner Punjab University to top the Times Higher Education rankings.

"It is reassuring to see that India has maintained its position in the top 50," said a university official. "We are working hard to improve our standing in the next few years."

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings is an annual publication that ranks universities based on a combination of metrics including teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and industry income. The latest rankings include 1,000 universities from around the world, with 100 universities from Asia.

India's top universities include the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, the Indian Institutes of Technology Kharagpur, Madras, and the Indian Institutes of Technology Guwahati, Roorkee, and Bombay.

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'REWARD TO PROF FOR COURSE ON KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT'

GUWAHATI: Union HRD Minister Smiti Irani on Monday announced a Rs one lakh reward to any IIT faculty member who designs a new course for knowledge development. "Faculty are the fulcrum of our education system. But when discussions are held on the status of education, people often cringe that they have not been able to develop new courses," Irani told the 17th convocation of the IIT-Guwahati. "I now announce a Rs one lakh reward to any faculty member who designs a new knowledge development course," the minister said. On a lighter note, Irani added, "Faculty members think these politicians only think for the youth and not for us. The faculty of the IITs are as important as their students."
**Reward to IIT prof for new course on knowledge development, says Smriti Irani**


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"The Director was telling me that the graduates have got very good placements in the country and globally. I was hoping he would pick one of these graduates to be part of the faculty. I shall be grateful for life if any one was picked," Irani said.

She lauded IIT-G for its support to government's 'Ishani Vikas' and 'Unnat Bharat' programmes to integrate the nearby school children with the institute, and efforts to train 10,000 school teachers.

While congratulating the graduates of IIT-G, she told the parents, "You put your children here with a lot of faith and in our hand with a lot of trust. We are proud to be a part of their journey".

To the graduates, she said, "When you turn around, remember your teachers and parents as part of your success and remember them for their love and affection."

**What next in IIT Madras? A Hindutva lab?**


The revoking of the de-recognition of a student’s body, the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle (APSC), at the IIT Madras is not only an endorsement of political freedom in Indian campuses, but also a body-blow to the increasing institutionalisation of intolerance to free speech in government institutions.

The IIT’s decision to withdraw its bizarre action was out of sheer helplessness because its intemperate ban was neither logical nor legal. The circumstances that led to the ban also smacked of a minor conspiracy because the decision was followed by a Human Resources Ministry enquiry based on an anonymous letter.
The anonymous letter against the APSC, alleged that the organisation was trying to polarise SC/ST students and spreading hatred against the Prime Minister and the Hindus. The letter also alleged that the group was politically motivated and received “funds and encouragement” from an outside organisation.

What followed was bizarre. The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) immediately issued a letter to the IIT Director asking for his comments on the complaints and he promptly banned the organisation saying that it violated certain guidelines of the institution. It later turned out that the so called “guidelines” were published four days after the APSC held its contentious meeting. In other words, the entire development was a set-up - the unsigned and unsubstantiated letter of complaints against the APSC, the MHRD’s follow up communique to the IIT director, and the de-recognition.

Perhaps this was the first time after Indira Gandhi’s emergency that an organisation with bonafide credentials, engaged in purely democratic activities, was banned in India because it criticised the Prime Minister and the Union Government. However, given the spate of controversial decisions of the MHRD since Smriti Irani took over, IIT Madras’s overzealousness was not surprising. The conflicts that the director of IIT Delhi; Anil Kakodkar, chairman of the board of governors of IIT-Mumbai; Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and several officers of the MHRD had with the minister in the recent past did show that there was resistance to Irani’s allegedly overbearing ways. The Madras IIT director too should have resisted; instead he brought disrepute to the institution by de-recognising the organisation.

The ban also bespoke of the growing tendency to keep educational campuses free from progressive political ideas. Indian democracy is in serious need for committed fresh blood and new streams of thought. Unfortunately, students at learning places such as the IIT's, tend to overlook socio-political issues outside their campuses and use their time only for furthering their careers. If at all they intervene in social issues, it usually happens in a piecemeal project-basis that is devoid of an overall political thought.

When the students organised themselves around the ideas of Ambedkar and Periyar and questioned the twin danger of Hindutva and neo-liberal economic policies, the authorities chose to clamp down on them. In fact, at its meeting in the campus on 14 April, the APSC did raise these issues and quoted from Ambedkar’s seminal essay, “annihilation of caste”. There was nothing inflammatory, illegal or against the rules of the IIT.

An encouraging spinoff of this development, however, is the support that the APSC and free political speech received in Chennai and across the country. It also exposed the apolitical mindset of India’s premier technical education institutions. The climbdown of the IIT authorities was obviously a result of the swelling protest against the move, not only from political parties and student bodies, but also from public intellectuals and academicians.

Of late, IIT Madras, considered among the top engineering and science institutions in India, has been in news for wrong, mostly regressive, reasons. Some time back, the city was shocked to hear that the authorities had enforced a night-curfew for girls in the campus. The move, that cited their safety, irked students because it amounted to curtailing the freedom of girls in the name of their safety. It also painted boys in a wrong light. Then came a letter from an RSS man, forwarded by the MHRD, which wanted the IITs to have separate dining areas for vegetarians and non-vegetarians. The MHRD, in fact, wanted the directors to keep it informed on their decisions on the letter, which meant that the ministry wanted the IITs to act on a third-party letter.

It was then known that IIT Madras already had a separate vegetarian mess. The APSC in 2014 took out a campaign against the move and told the authorities: “wheat or meat, don’t segregate”. In 2012, a Hindu evangelist delivered a lecture under the auspices of Vivekanda Study Circle hailing India’s civilisational and spiritual supremacy over modern science. In fact, reportedly the dean of students himself had communicated about the activities of the Circle. Another student body that’s sufficiently patronised is titled Vande Mataram.
There has been an organised campaign for a few years from Hindutva forces against the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for its alleged “Marxist”, “Dravidian” “anti-Hindu” “feminist” pitch. It was thus not surprising that the only organisation that came out strongly in support of the APSC ban was the RSS.

Anyway, yet another effort to saffronise IIT Madras has been defeated by public pressure.

However, the efforts to dismantle the rational architecture of the institution are not going to stop because several influential stakeholders are working hand-in-glove.
A mistake is rectified

The decision of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, to restore recognition for the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC) organised by a group of students, brings to an end an unseemly episode that was threatening to politicise the campus and distract from its academic focus. The restoration was on a technicality — the meeting of the study circle that supposedly violated the guidelines for student groups was held on April 14, four days before the institute publicised the guidelines on its website. But after hours of discussion with representatives of the study circle, the IIT-M management also agreed to look into issues raised by the APSC with regard to uniform application of the guidelines for independent student bodies. While some of the requests for modification of the guidelines would be implemented by the Office of the Dean (Students), the others would be taken up for consideration by the Student Affairs Council, the Board of Students and the Senate in due course “as per established procedure”. That the management did not stand on prestige after members of the APSC campaigned against the withdrawal of recognition as an issue of freedom of expression is a good sign, and the student representatives would do well to drop their demand for an unconditional apology. The withdrawal of recognition was a mistake. With that mistake corrected, matters must now be allowed to rest.

The episode, beginning with the hasty withdrawal of recognition based on an anonymous complaint to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, is a reminder of the vulnerability of freedom of expression in the face of institutional authority. Quite unmistakably, the controversy is closely related to recent attempts of the Sangh Parivar and Hindutva elements to appropriate the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. A study circle that sought to bring his legacy in line with that of the iconoclast Periyar (notwithstanding some irreconcilable ideological differences between the two) must have upset many in the ruling establishment. Indeed, the RSS supported the withdrawal of recognition on the ground that the study circle was indicative of the pervasiveness of the ‘red’ ideology of the communists on campuses, and that while Ambedkar might not have adhered to all the tenets of Hindutva, he was certainly anti-communist. As one of the charges against the study circle was that it was extremely critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the inescapable conclusion is that the withdrawal of recognition came at the prompting of the powers-that-be in New Delhi. In such a context, the study circle’s success in its battle for recognition is surely a victory for liberal forces, and a blow for freedom of expression.

New Delhi: In what seems to be becoming an annual ritual, problems have been noticed in this year’s answer keys of JEE (Advanced). IIT has conceded errors in two physics questions that could make a difference of nine marks. Answer keys were released on Monday after a delay of 15 days.

Like previous years, there were ambiguous questions in which a candidate failed to find a single set of correct answers since there were more than one correct answer.

The first error is in Physics question number 12. The second error in Physics relates to question 19.

IIT has asked the candidates to file objections till June 11 only by fax. Last year IIT called for objections through any mode including email. This year candidates have restricted choice.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com
IIT flunks again: Concedes errors in physics question paper


NEW DELHI: In what seems to be becoming an annual ritual, problems have been noticed in this year's answer keys of JEE (Advanced). IIT has conceded errors in two physics questions that could make a difference of nine marks. Answer keys were released on Monday after a delay of 15 days.

Like the previous years, there were ambiguous questions in which a candidate failed to find a single set of correct answers since there were more than one correct answer.

The first error is in Physics question number 12. Due to ambiguity in the question, IIT announced two correct answers: either C or D. If IIT had said C and D then it will be considered a single set of answer. Instead two set of answers are correct. This makes scoring difficult for a candidate. The marking scheme for this question is: +4 marks, if only the bubble(s) corresponding to all the correct option(s) is (are) darkened; zero marks if none of the bubble is darkened; -2 in all other cases. Going by the answer key announced by IIT, most students who have attempted the question will get -2 marks, despite solving the question correctly.

The second error in Physics relates to question 19. The question had two columns: column I had four entries: A, B, C, D and column II had five entries: P, Q, R, S, T. For each entry in column I, student had to darken the bubbles of all the matching entries. However, due to ambiguity in the question, IIT announced two correct answers: either (R) or (R) and (T). If IIT announced R and T only, this would be a single set of answer. Instead, IIT announced two sets of answers: R or R and T. The marking scheme for this question is: +2 marks, if only the bubble(s) corresponding to all the correct matches are darkened; zero marks if none of the bubble is darkened; -1 in all other cases. But due to the answer keys, most students who have attempted the question correctly, could not darken the bubble, as bubble T is correct as well as incorrect.

IIT has asked the candidates to file objections till June 11 only by fax. Last year IIT called for objections through any mode including email resulting in 1,600 objections. This year candidates have restricted choice. A Delhi IIT professor said, "It is beyond imagination that such errors keep on recurring in JEE every year." A team of 60 IIT professors (20 professors each for physics, chemistry and mathematics) participate in framing the question.
NCSC asks IIT-M director to submit fresh report

Report does not state why action was initiated against student body

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Terming the IIT-Madras report on de-recognition of a students' group as "incomplete", the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Monday sought an additional report from the institution even as its director appeared before it for a hearing over the controversy.

"They have given me a report in writing. I have asked for clarifications on why there was knee-jerk reaction on the part of IIT-Madras in a letter asking for comments from the Ministry and why straightway de-recognition of APSC (Ambedkar-Periyar Study "Circle") was issued, which was wrong," NCSC chairman PL Punia said.

He added that an additional report has been sought as Monday's report was incomplete, which does not reveal the reasons behind why action was initiated against APSC.

"It is an incomplete report. It does not mention why action was taken against APSC at the first place," he said.

IIT-M Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi and joint secretary from the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of HRD, Praveen Kumar, were present in the meeting, which was convened a day after IIT-Madras revoked its de-recognition on the student group which was critical of PM Narendra Modi.

Welcoming the move to restore the recognition to APSC, Punia said justice has been done to the study circle.

"They have restored the registration of APSC. And this is a welcome step. In fact, the injustice done to APSC was undone. I welcome this," he said, adding that IIT students have the right for intellectual exercise of criticising parties, government or policies.

Punia said the Commission has fixed a date for another hearing over the issue. Meanwhile, IIT-M director Ramamurthi said recognition of APSC has been restored but was tight-lipped about the hearing. "It (APSC) has been re-recognised. What I have told the (NCSC) Chairman is the property of the Commission. I cannot reveal (anything)," Ramamurthi said.
नई शिक्षा नीति वर्ष के अंत तकः स्मृति

भारत

प्रति पत्रिका: शिक्षा के मनोरंजन का आवेदन साल में वसंत सूर्योदय के समय, जिसमें मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। वर्ष 2015 में मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। जिस में मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। जिस में मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है।

इसी में दिखलाई देता है कि यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। लेकिन यह ठीक नहीं है कि मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। इसी में दिखलाई देता है कि यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। इसी में दिखलाई देता है कि यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है। इसी में दिखलाई देता है कि यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि मनोरंजन का सतह उठाने के कारण काफी मौसम आ जाता है।
There is no denying the fact that an engineering degree has an evergreen attraction in India. “This is not difficult to understand. In the years following independence from colonial rule, there were a few professions that the upcoming and aspiring urban and semi-urban middle-class could identify with and engineering was one among them. Crucial sectors like power, transportation, defence, real estate, telecommunications and information technology were directly or indirectly dependent on engineers,” explains PK Bhatnagar, a member of The Institution of Engineers, India.

The socio-economic dynamics that contributed to the demand and supply of engineers (in India) did not change after liberalisation of the economy in the early nineties.

Today in 2015, the demand for qualified engineers across all branches continues to increase. “And following the Modi Government’s pronouncements on 100 smart cities there is an unprecedented demand for civil engineers,” observes Bhatnagar.

Vidyur Murugan is a civil engineer who has worked on projects like the Delhi Metro, the Mumbai Metro, Mumbai International Airport and the Taj Group.

Throughout her academic life she was not just another exceptionally good student – she had unflinching passion and enthusiasm for studies. Her enthusiasm to understand the why and hows of every subject matter lent her a natural edge in the subjects pertaining to the science stream. When she chose to pursue civil engineering she was unsure about continuing in the field for long.

However, when she started her career she realised that there was a lot more to be learnt about the subject than what was contained in the course textbooks. According to her, engineering requires an aptitude for problem solving and one becomes better at this profession only through experience.

Murugan says that every day brings new challenge and it is very satisfying when the work comes alive.

Electronics Engineer

Electronics engineers design and develop the systems used by machines and equipment in a range of industries, from mobile communications and computing to aerospace.

“If you love electronics and like finding out how things work, this could be a perfect choice for you,” says Anshul Mahajan, an electronics engineer who works for a firm in the public sector.

“To do this job well, you will need to be good at science, math and information technology. Part of the job is about finding better ways of doing things, so you’ll need to be good at figuring out problems and coming up with new ideas. You’ll also need good communication skills to get those ideas across,” he says.

Employers who are looking to hire electronic engineers (those with a four-year engineering graduate degree with a specialisation in electronics) also hire people who studied aerospace engineering, software engineering and nanotechnology where electronics was one of the subjects covered in the course.

The starting salary of graduates varies from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 8 lakh per annum.

Mechanical Engineer

Every manufacturing industry, including automobiles, aerospace, power generation, railroads etc have a consistent demand for trained mechanical engineers, who have an ability to analyse, test, design, construct, develop, install and maintain equipment. “The hallmark of an engineering mind is the ability to think logically and sequentially,” says Lallit Mehra, alumnus of IIT Delhi.

The course includes topics on engineering thermodynamics, dynamics of machines, power plant technologies and renewable energy technology.

“Given the growing scarcity of natural resources, there is considerable scope for graduates in the renewable energy sector. The need for devising ways to re-use waste water and ideas for designing water treatment plants in an efficient manner have spurred the demand for mechanical engineers,” says Ankil Gupta, design and proposal engineer, Forbes Riviro Ltd.

Starting salaries of graduates in this domain vary from about Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 8 lakh per annum.

Chemical Engineer

Be it toothpaste, shampoo, detergent, medicines, paper, cosmetics or the clothes we wear, various products of chemical engineering touch our lives every day without even us knowing this fact. Chemical engineers are in demand across various sectors, including manufacturing, healthcare, food processing, and specialty chemicals, to name a few.

“The thought processes and skills developed during the course prepares one to tackle problems effectively in engineering, management and also healthcare. A chemical engineer can also move into any field of specialisation, from mathematics and physics to medicine and biotechnology. If a corporate job doesn’t interest you, one can always opt for research,” says Dinesh Bajaj, student, chemical engineering, IIT Madras.
IISc meet comes home for first time


BENGALURU: For the first time, the IISc's Global Conference will be held on its Bengaluru campus later this month, with a host of scientists, including Isro chief AS Kiran Kumar and principal scientific adviser to the Centre R Chidambaram, expected to speak on various scientific challenges.

Nobel laureates to take part: Some Nobel laureates, too, are likely to participate in the event to be held from June 25 to June 28.

Among the topics that will be discussed is improvement of IISc in global ratings. One of the sessions - IISc as a global institution reaching the top - will focus on understanding the current standing of IISc among global institutions, identify its strengths and key areas for improvement, and discuss the challenges involved, the institute said. Besides a host of alumni, the session will feature Sunil Kumar, dean, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago.

TOI had reported in August 2014 that IISc has dropped 130 ranks in 11 years in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2014.

The first IISc Global Conference was organized by the IISc alumni association of North America at Santa Clara, California in June 2007. This second conference was held in Illinois, in July 2013.

Sources in IISc said the institute was keen to host the conference this time. "Even I've attended the second conference, but keeping logistics in mind, not all students from the institute can benefit if the conference is held elsewhere. So there had been a lot of efforts to bring it home," a student said.

He said nearly 400 participants have already confirmed participation. "This is not including the panel of speakers and alumni," he added.

PMO reverses decision, Trivedi is TIFR director

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), in a reversal of its earlier decision, has accepted the appointment of Sandip Trivedi, 52, as director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

RK Sinha, secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy and TIFR Council member, confirmed the news.

“The council felt that the spirit of the procedural requirements for the appointment of TIFR director was met,” said Sinha. “Accordingly, a detailed request was made to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a review of its earlier decision. The ACC was kind enough to review the matter and decided to approve the proposal for the appointment of Professor Trivedi.”

HT, in March, had reported that the PMO had rejected Trivedi’s appointment as the director on technical grounds, a first in the history of the premier scientific research institution. The PMO wanted TIFR to advertise the position, similar to its directive to the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, and Bangalore-based Jawaharlal Nehru for Advanced Scientific Research.
While Trivedi is yet to accept the appointment, a section of scientists are unhappy with the PMO’s decision. In fact, senior scientists at the institute had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raising concerns over the selection process.

“We are aghast and disappointed by the flip-flop by the PMO,” said a senior scientist, requesting anonymity. “A person’s academic excellence has nothing to do with how they run an institute. We need someone with a vision who can take the institute to the next level.”

Last year, the TIFR Council, chaired by industrialist Ratan Tata had formed a three-member search committee with scientist and Bharat Ratna CNR Rao as its head, along with K Kasturirangan, member (science) planning commission, and Srikumar Banerjee, former chairperson of Atomic Energy Commission. Trivedi had taken over as director in January.
US degree no more a distant dream!

ANKITA SAXENA

NEW DELHI: Students, who wish to pursue their undergraduate degree programme at leading United States Universities and Colleges, can now apply to American Honours programme, a training ground for students to develop necessary skill sets and knowledge in a broad coursework before applying to their desired degree programme in the US.

American Honors has launched a 2+2 pathway programme in India to help Indian students enter community colleges with an entry to prestigious US Universities like Stanford, Ivy League and many more to pursue their degree programme of their choice.

Under this programme, a student can pursue two year selective Honours courses at any public or private funded university in India. The Indian universities with credible faculty and infrastructure will be looked at as partners with American Honors to provide their curriculum and coursework to students after high school or senior secondary school.

American Honors, offered by Quad Learning, a venture-backed startup that collaborates with leading community colleges to jointly develop and deliver the course, is designed to provide a strong educational foundation in the first two years after which the student can transfer credits to one of the top universities or colleges in the US for their final two years of the degree.

“We modelled the education system as 2+2, which is two years of foundation education in India, and the final two years in the US to make studying American courses more affordable for Indian students. The cost incurred under this programme is half in comparison to a full four-year degree course in the US and will allow more number of Indian students to apply for higher education in the US,” said David Finegold, Chief Academic Officer, American Honors. “The Indian students can pay a nominal tuition fee as charged by our partner Indian University or Community College but get the two year training equivalent to the American Community Colleges,” he added.

American Honors programme provides a 360 degree support and one-on-one advising sessions for prospective students for enrolment through transfer, personalised guidance on degree plan, course selection, choice of college, financial aid and scholarships.

In order to apply to this programme, a student has to showcase scores in English Language Proficiency (ELP) under examinations like IELTS and TOEFL. However, students without ELP scores can be awarded conditional admission, with simple demonstration of English Proficiency, without Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Students with a high school degree and competitive GPA can also be considered for scholarships of up to $4000.