New Delhi: Environment minister Jairam Ramesh had implied that the quality of teachers at IITs has slipped over the years. While the facility was understandable both to critics of the institutions. Many agree that their research output began to decline. They have been pressured too — pressure from academics and not enough support from industry.

Jairam, an alumnus of IIT, had recently said that his alma mater, the IITs, has become more of an academic institute than a research institute. The students of IITs are expected to do well in their research work, but the IITs are facing a lot of pressure from the industry, especially from the private sector, to do more research. This has led to a decline in the quality of research being done at the IITs.

A professor at IIT Delhi, Dr. Vinod Khanna, disagreed with Jairam's statement. He said, “IITs are still the best institutions in the country and their students are still the best in the world. They are doing great work in their research and are making a lot of contributions to society.”

Congress plays safe, BJP attacks minister

New Delhi: Congress dismissed Jairam Ramesh’s criticism of IITs and ISMs, saying the union government was supportive of these institutions. The government had made a big contribution to academics in the country.

Government minister Ramesh acknowledged that there were some issues with the quality of teachers in IITs and ISMs. But he said that the government was working on addressing these issues.

Before Jairam Ramesh talks about IIT/ISM faculty being world-class, he should consider if our politicians are world-class. The term “world-class” is a euphemism for “excellent.” The Indian educational system is far from world-class.

Ramesh’s comment fires up Twitter

Twitter user “@TheRealBJP” said, “Are our politicians world class? Really? Jairam Ramesh talks about IIT/ISM faculty being world-class, he should consider if our politicians are world-class. The term "world-class" is a euphemism for "excellent." The Indian educational system is far from world-class.”

The Indian Times Network

Let Jairam have his opinion, says Sibal

Union minister for New and Renewable Energy, Jairam Ramesh, has been vocal about the need for better education in India. He has been批评ing the quality of education in India and the need for reforms in the education system. He has been highlighting the need for more research and development in the country.

Ramesh had recently said that his alma mater, the IITs, has become more of an academic institute than a research institute. The students of IITs are expected to do well in their research work, but the IITs are facing a lot of pressure from the industry, especially from the private sector, to do more research. This has led to a decline in the quality of research being done at the IITs.

The Times of India

New Delhi: The words were barely out of Jairam Ramesh’s mouth when the newspapers had already pronounced on him. The 53-year-old Union minister was content. “The faculty in the IITs is not world-class. It is the students in IITs who are world-class. So the faculties and ISMs are excellent because of the quality of students, not because of quality of research or faculty,” he had shot off.

But the response was not as expected. The faculties of the IITs and ISMs were not pleased with Ramesh’s comments. The faculties said that they were working hard to improve the quality of research and education in the IITs and ISMs. They said that the government was giving them enough support to do their work.

Ramesh’s comment was a surprise to many on Twitter. The term “world-class” is a euphemism for “excellent.” The Indian educational system is far from world-class.

Unfortunately Ramesh’s tweet created a storm on Twitter. People were not happy with his comments. They said that the faculties of the IITs and ISMs were working hard to improve the quality of research and education in the IITs and ISMs. They said that the government was giving them enough support to do their work.

Ramesh had recently said that his alma mater, the IITs, has become more of an academic institute than a research institute. The students of IITs are expected to do well in their research work, but the IITs are facing a lot of pressure from the industry, especially from the private sector, to do more research. This has led to a decline in the quality of research being done at the IITs.

Ramesh had recently said that his alma mater, the IITs, has become more of an academic institute than a research institute. The students of IITs are expected to do well in their research work, but the IITs are facing a lot of pressure from the industry, especially from the private sector, to do more research. This has led to a decline in the quality of research being done at the IITs.
Ramesh draws ire for saying IIT, IIM are not world class

UNION environment minister Jairam Ramesh, an alumnus of IIT Bombay, got a sharp retort from his alma mater, albeit the Kanpur branch, for his comment on Monday that the elite IITs and IIMs were “not world-class”.

Said IIT Kanpur chairman M Anandakrishnan: “He (Ramesh) doesn’t have the academic credentials to judge the IITs and the IIMs and (he) has hardly understood what world-class means. He sometimes seeks cheap publicity by making unsubstantiated comments. He has run down and denigrated these eminent institutions that have received international awards. He must see how many international awards have been won by the IIT faculty.”

However, Gupta said, it was not right to say that the faculty was not contributing.

An IIM director, who did not wish to be named, said he was “upset” by the remarks, merely saying: “Why should I comment on what the minister has to say?”

HRD minister Kapil Sibal too tried a side swipe at Ramesh, while simultaneously conceding his main point. “He (Ramesh) is himself an IITian. He might be having inside knowledge. Even otherwise, do we have world-class institutions? As education minister, I am striving towards achieving world-class standards for our institutions. It is a fact that our institutions don’t figure in the top 150 list,” he said.

The BJP, however, took up the cudgels on behalf of the IITs and IIMs. BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said that “there is hardly a Fortune 500 company which does not boast of an IITian and an IIM alumnus in its top decision-making echelons.”

“I can count many world-class achievers from these institutions including BJP member and former Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar who is an IITian,” he said.

Continued on Page 2
Ramesh’s IIT-IIM barb kicks up storm

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh’s controversial remark on the quality of the faculty members of the IIT and IIM has triggered major row with outraged professors pouring their feeling on cyber net work and in public.

The faculty members of the nation’s prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) have also received support from Ramesh own colleague, Minister of State for Science and Technology Ashwani Kumar, as well as the main Opposition BJP. The Congress on the other hand chose to play safe by distancing itself from the acerbic Minister.

Ramesh on Monday had stated that the faculty members of these premier institutes are not world class.

"Does the minister know of the trying circumstances in which we have to work? Professors do not even have a secretary and are compelled to do everything - from typing, performing administrative jobs to teaching, why does the Government not provide us with world class ambience and facilities to work?" shot back Professor SS Murthy, president, IIT Delhi Faculty Forum.

Taking a dig at Ramesh, Prof Murthy said, “Let us bring students from the other lesser known technical institutes in the country to IITs and send our students to study there for four years, the Minister for himself can see the difference.”

According to him it is the teaching process in IIT which makes it a class apart and this could not have been possible without the quality of the faculty members.

Joining the debate, Anil Gupta, a professor with IIM-Ahmedabad, said, "It (the remarks) shows that Jairam Ramesh has shown tremendous ignorance about the intellectual capabilities of these institutions. I would not deny the fact that these institutions need to do much more.”

Another senior professor of IIT said on the condition of anonymity, “In the first place IIT/IIM faculty largely comprise their own students whom Jairam holds as great. He added the faculty here is from the top bracket of IIT/IIM students, or from the best PhDs from US or outstanding Indian PhDs.

He also asked if IIT/IIM faculty is not good, then what is the magic in the system that causes a number of top world-class students to crowd around these institutes? Alternatively are we to surmise that these world-class students are fools to head to institutes which have non-world class faculty?”

A professor from IIM Indore pointed out: “We are clubbed with all kinds of non- teaching duties apart from teaching which is not done in any of the world-class institutes, the comparison should be on level playing field, besides our salary too is peanuts compared to them.”

The enraged academic fraternity of these institutions found support in the Minister of State for Science and Technology Ashwani Kumar, who commented on Ramesh’s remarks as “unfortunate”, adding that these institutions had done India proud on many occasions.

"I am the Minister for Science and Technology... I am better equipped to say that out scientific and technological institutions have done us proud... It is time to loudly celebrate achievements of the Indian establishments," he asserted.

Kumar said while he agreed that there could be inadequacies, “We cannot demoralise our scientists... I cannot appreciate the statement that lock, stock and barrel condemns our public sector institutions and IITs.”

Meanwhile, a wary Congress chose to distance itself from the acerbic Minister. “I do not know in what context and what circumstances Jairam Ramesh has made the remarks,” said Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari. He, however, clarified that there is no doubt on the academic contributions of these institutions.

BJP spokesperson Rajeev Pratap Rudy, on the other hand, lashed out at Ramesh saying that several top honchos of Fortune 500 companies from these institutions have proved their contribution in the field of education. Turning the tables further at him he said, “How can we have world-class institutes if our Ministers are not world class?”
Ramesh slammed for IIT, IIM remarks

NEW DELHI, 24 MAY: The controversial Union environment and forests minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh’s remarks that the faculty of India’s premier educational institutions, IITs and IIMs, are not world class today drew flak from their dons and the BJP, even as his own party Congress as well as the UPA government snubbed him too.

An IIT alumnus himself, Mr Ramesh, known for frequently stirring up a hornet’s nest by commenting on a wide range of issues, yesterday sparked off this new controversy by claiming: “There is hardly any worthwhile research from our IITs. The faculty in the IIT is not world class. It is the students in IITs who are world class. So the IITs and IIMs are excellent because of the quality of students not because of quality of research or faculty.”

A slew of teachers from IITs and IIMs dismissed Mr Ramesh’s view as “simplistic” and “betraying tremendous ignorance”. Declining to comment on Mr Ramesh’s position, the HRD minister Mr Kapil Sibal said, “Jairam has an opinion. Let Jairam have an opinion.”

But, the Congress leader and Union minister of state for science and technology, Mr Ashwani Kumar, rejected Mr Ramesh’s statements as “unfortunate” while breaking into a tirade against him.

“I am the minister for science and technology... I am better equipped to say that our scientific and technological institutions have done us proud... It is time to loudly celebrate achievements of the Indian establishments,” Mr Kumar said. “We cannot demoralise our scientists... I cannot appreciate the statement that lock, stock and barrel condemns our public sector institutions and IITs.”

IITs and IIMs dons dismissed Mr Ramesh’s position, even though they conceded that there were inadequacies, including research funding, in these elite government institutions.

“Fifty per cent of my current faculty strength can get jobs in the best of the institutes in the US and other parts. However, they have preferred to teach here,” said the IIT Madras director Mr M S Ananth.

In the same vein, the IIM-Ahmedabad professor Anil Gupta said Ramesh’s remarks have “shown tremendous ignorance about the intellectual capabilities of these institutions.”

“I would not deny the fact that these institutions needs to do much more... But to say that faculty is not making any contribution and and it is just because of the quality of students... then people should take the CAT scores and give job to them. Why don’t companies give jobs on the basis of CAT scores,” Prof Gupta said.

Another IIM-Ahmedabad professor, Sebastian Morris said: “If you look at it, a fairly significant part of the faculty in IIMs and IITs would be having same qualification and same background as the faculty in the top class institutions, which means they have done their PhDs abroad.”

Mr Ananth also debunked Mr Ramesh’s comments that there was hardly any worthwhile research from IITs, saying IITs are “active” in research.

Picking up the issue, the BJP hit out at Mr Ramesh while asserting that the party is “proud of our IITs and IIMs”,

“There is hardly a Fortune 500 company which is not headed by or has somebody in a senior position who is a former IITian or an IIM pass-out,” the BJP spokesman Mr Rajiv Pratap Rudy claimed. Railing against Mr Ramesh, Mr Rudy said: “We cannot have world class institutions unless we have world class ministers.”

Firmly distancing the ruling party from Mr Ramesh’s comments, the Congress spokesman Mr Manish Tewari said: “There is absolutely no question about the contribution of our IITs and IIMs to known institutions in India and around the world.”
Tribune, ND 25-May-11 P-1

Don’t need certificate from you, faculty to Ramesh
IIM, IIT teachers ask minister to refrain from making ‘insensitive’ statements

ADMIN TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 24
Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh’s dismissal of the faculty’s contribution in making the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) world-class institutions sparked a debate today, with teachers at these institutes asking Ramesh to refrain from making “insensitive” statements.

Incensed at the conclusions the Minister drew yesterday, the IIT and IIM faculty today said they needed no certificate of performance from Ramesh and his remarks that these institutes were excellent because of their students and not teachers were “misplaced”.

“My question to the minister is: Why would an excellent student go to an institute that is not excellent? His statement defies logic. Moreover, he has no right to sit in judgment of the IIMs of which he was never a part. Let us not forget that global corporate firms pay a premium on students who pass out of the IIMs and not those that enter them,” Professor Himanshu Rai of IIM Kanpur told The Tribune.

A student of IIM Ahmedabad who went on to teach at IIM, Kanpur, Rai also questioned Ramesh’s poor opinion of research outputs at the IIMs and IITs.

“Research doesn’t happen in thin air. For good research, you need good money and that money must come from the government of which Jairam Ramesh is a part,” Rai said, Professor Sangata Ray, acting Director of IIM Kolkata in tow. Both said Ramesh was no one to judge them.

Even within the IIT system of which Ramesh is a part (he studied at IIT Bombay), the faculty was “insensitive”, with top administrators reportedly sending letters to officials in the HRD

Continued on page 8

Ramesh’s remarks irk IIM, IIT faculty

From page 1

Ministry, “They say the Minister is not attuned to the recent strides in research the IITs have made despite their resource constraints,” a Ministry official said.

Professor Vinod Tare of IIT Kanpur, Coordinator for “Clean the Ganges Project” which the Ministries of Environment and HRD are running with the IIT Consortium, today said Ramesh is mistaken in his conclusions that students alone make the IITs world-class.

“At any institute of excellence, the faculty and students share a symbiotic bond. One is incomplete without the other,” he said.

MUMBAI: At the IIT Mumbai from where Ramesh himself qualified, the minsters remarks have drawn criticism from the organisation. “Jairam Ramesh is within his rights to voice his opinions on the quality of faculty at the IITs. However, our record speaks for itself. The alumni from the IIT are have succeeded in all walks of life,” a spokesperson for IIT Mumbai said.

Members of the faculty who were busy with the summer projects of students resident at the IIT hostel at Powai were clearly unhappy at the minister’s remarks.

“The faculty at various IITs in the country are staffed by alumni. So the minister’s remarks were not in good taste,” a professor told this reporter. However, senior members of the faculty felt that the institutes were not drawing the best of talents.

“The minister should look into the pay scales at the IIT which make it difficult for them to lure experts from corporations in India and abroad,” one member of the faculty said.

(With inputs from Shiv Kumar)
Cong-BJP spar over Ramesh's IIT barb

By Kavita Chowdhury

ENVIRONMENT minister Jairam Ramesh's disparaging comment on the quality of faculty and research in the IITs and IIMs has sparked off an ugly debate. Both the BJP and the Congress have come out with guns blazing, taking potshots at each other and the debate that should have best been conducted at the academic level, has been reduced to a streetfight.

Ramesh had on Monday made a flippant remark about the premier technical and management institutes in the country.

"There is hardly any worthwhile research in our IITs. The faculty in the IITs is not world-class. It is the students who are world-class. So, the IITs and IIMs are excellent because of the quality of students not because of the quality of research or the faculty," Ramesh had said.

The Congress tried to clear the air as the environment minister's remarks have already raised a storm in the IIT-IIM community.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said: "So far as IIMs and IITs are concerned, there is no question or ambiguity about their contribution to Indian academia and building some of the finest institutions around the world."

Sibal fails to defend the institutions

However, in a scathing attack on the BJP he said: "We do not appreciate unsolicited advice from third-class people as to who is first class and who is not."

What triggered off these retorts was BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy's snide remark: "We cannot have world-class institutions unless we have world-class ministers."

Rudy, who started his career teaching economics at Patna College, refuted Ramesh's stand and instead said: "The IIT is proud of these elite institutions which have produced famous names."

However, the Congress left it to Ramesh to defend himself. Tewari said: "I do not know in what context and in what circumstances Ramesh has made the remarks."

"We do not appreciate unsolicited advice from third-class people as to who is first class and who is not."

MANISH TEWARI
Congress spokesperson, reacting to the comment from BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy

"50% of my faculty can get jobs in the best of the institutes in US & other parts. But they have preferred to teach here."

M.S. AKHAND
director, IIT Madras

"Ramesh has shown tremendous ignorance about the intellectual capabilities of these institutions."

ANIL GUPTA
professor, IIM Ahmedabad

"Of course Jairam is talking about himself because he is a world-class student and he is an IITian himself, so he has insider knowledge himself," Sibal said.

He and his cabinet colleague Ramesh are not known to be the best of friends and have often crossed paths.

Ramesh, an IIT Bombay alumnus, justified his view saying "a world-class research centre cannot be built in a governmental set-up." He went on add that because of this his ministry is setting up a marine institute in public-private partnership mode with Reliance Industries.

Sibal, though, agreed with Ramesh on the absence of any world-class institutes in India.

"In today's scenario is even one of our institutions world class? If it is world class, it must be in the top-100, 150 institutions in the world. That is not evident," Sibal said.

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BJP SLAMS REMARK ON IIT, IIM FACULTIES

Sibal backs Jairam, but others will not

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

May 24: It appears that a war has broken out in the government over environment minister Jairam Ramesh’s controversial remarks on the faculty of the premier IITs and IIMs. While minister of state in planning Ashwani Kumar, who is also in-charge of department science and Technology, trashed the claim, HRD minister Kapil Sibal came out in Mr Ramesh’s defence.

Terming Mr Ramesh’s remarks “unfortunate”, Mr Kumar was of the view that it could at best be treated as environment minister’s personal opinion and the government has nothing to do with it.

He said, contrary to the view expressed by Mr Ramesh, government scientific and technological institutions have done us proud... It is time to loudly celebrate achievements of the Indian establishments,” Mr Kumar said.

Mr Kumar, who agreed that there could be inadequacies, said, “We cannot demoralise our scientists... I cannot appreciate the statement that lock, stock and barrel condemns our public sector institutions and IITs”.

Putting forth a few examples like contributions made by Professor Manindar Agarwal of IIT Kanpur on “primality of number” and Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science professor A.K. Sood’s work on “carbon nano tube”, Mr Kumar asserted that several cutting edge technologies had been developed by a number of institutions, including IITs.

Mr Ramesh, an IIT alumnus himself, had on Monday kicked up a controversy claiming the faculty of the premier IITs and IIMs are “not world class” but that these institutions are “excellent” because of the quality of students. Mr Sibal, while backing Mr Ramesh’s contentation, said, “Given the prevailing situation in the country, can we call even one of our institutions world class? If any one of them is world class, it must be in the top 100, 150 institutions in the world. But that is not evident.” In lighter vein the HRD minister said that Mr Ramesh might be talking about his own experience.

“Of course, Jairam is talking about himself because he is a world class student and he is an IITian himself, so he is an insider,” he said.

Meanwhile, the main Opposition BJP, while taking a swipe at Mr Ramesh for his remarks, said, for having “world-class institutions we have to have world-class ministers”. Reacting on the issue, BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said, “A minister, who is considered to have the image of a bright and well-educated politician, has said IITs and IIMs are not producing high-quality professionals... He has himself studied in an IIT. The BJP wants to say categorically that it is proud of our IITs and IIMs.”
Jairam attack unacceptable, says S&T Minister

"far too many to be ignored". "...For anyone to say that Indian research and development set-up can't match world class standards is not acceptable to me. We cannot demoralise our scientists. I cannot appreciate the statement that lock, stock and barrel condemns our public sector institutions and IITs," Kumar said.

He added, "I don't think that (Jairam's) is a correct view at all to take." He cited the inputs of many IITs to India's space technology and of other scientists in the spheres of microbiology.

The BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy too mentioned the number of IIT and IIM achievers to counter Jairam.

While attacking the BJP for its remarks, the Congress left it to Jairam to fend for himself over the controversy. However, it too joined others in hailing the contribution of the institutes.

"So far as IIM and IITs are concerned, there is no question or ambiguity about their contribution to Indian academia and even to building some of the primest institutions around the world," Manish Tewari said, adding, "I do not know in what context and what circumstances Jairam Ramesh has made the remarks."
Jairam Draws Flak for Remarks on IIT, IIM Faculty

OUR BUREAUS
NEW DELHI | AHMEDABAD

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh, who triggered a controversy with his remarks that faculty at IITs and IIMs were "not world class", drew sharp criticism from politicians and academics on Tuesday.

While the BJP went on the offensive, professors at IIM-Ahmedabad said the minister's assessment was "simplistic" and showed "tremendous ignorance", though they agreed that research was lagging.

BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said, "We cannot have world-class institutions till we have world-class ministers." He said the party was proud of the IITs and IIMs, adding that "ministers should refrain from making such statements".

Terming Ramesh's remarks as "unfortunate", minister of state for science and technology Ashwani Kumar said government scientific and technological institutions have done India proud. "I am the minister for science and technology... I am better equipped to say that our institutions have done us proud... It is time to celebrate their achievements."

HRD minister Kapil Sibal said, "I don't know the context in which Jairam said this, but he must be having inside information since he is from IIT. None of our institutions are world class but we are putting things in place to make some of them world class and hope to achieve it in two to three years."

IIM-A director Samir Barua said the faculty was too burdened with teaching work to focus on research. "There is no doubt that the quantum of research done by top engineering and management schools in India is not adequate. However, institutes like IIM-A have been dealing with shortage of faculty and due to this research has taken a backseat."

Barua said the quantum of research done should not be the only criteria for judging the faculty, as there were other aspects, such as quality of teaching, advice to the practicing world, and inputs to policy-making.

Anil Gupta, professor at IIM-A, said, "Ramesh has shown tremendous ignorance about the intellectual capabilities of these institutions. I would not deny the fact that they need to do more. But to say that faculty is not making any contribution and it is just because of the quality of students... then people should take the CAT scores and give jobs to them."

Sebastian Morris, another professor at IIM-A, described the remarks as "simplistic". "Most of the faculty would be having same qualification as the faculty in top-class institutions, which means they have done their PhDs abroad," Morris said.
Get foreign politicians!

Sir — This refers to the news report, “Ramesh criticises faculty of IITs, IIMs” (May 24). The unfortunate comments made about the faculty of the prestigious IITs and IIMs by Union Minister for Environment Jairam Ramesh bring bad name to the students of these institutions which are centres of excellence. The faculty at IITs is among the best in India and compare favourably well with MIT and other institutions. The Minister must know that whatever is foreign need not be better. Foreign faculty is not welcome in India as we have better teachers available at home. Let’s look at the problem in a different way. The quality of many of our politicians is not good as many are involved in scams and corruption. Shall we then resort to importing politicians from abroad? Of course not. Similarly, we must provide better facilities and remuneration to our faculty members in the IITs and IIMs and give them due respect. A student is a product of the hard work of his teachers. He or she cannot become world class on his or her own.

CK Sharma
Ghaziabad
Aim For World Class

More autonomy and competition needed to unleash dynamism in higher education

India’s IITs and IIMs produce quality graduates, but why do they not give rise to quality research and raise the country’s innovation quotient? Environment minister Jairam Ramesh isn’t the first person to raise this question. His statement that research and faculty at IITs and IIMs are not world-class has stirred controversy. But it is telling that not a single Indian university figures among the top hundred in the 2010 QS World University Rankings. Neither do the IITs and IIMs make it to the top ranks in similar international surveys of research institutions.

The essential reason for this is the lack of quality research facilities and guidance even in some of our best institutes of higher learning. Apart from the skills gap that must be plugged to generate quality jobs for our youth, this is one more reason to remove the bottlenecks in the higher education sector. But our state of readiness for needed innovation is evident from Delhi University teachers striking work against the semester system.

The focus needs to shift from churning out degree holders to creating knowledge hubs, or clusters of universities which conduct world-class research and impart high-grade skills to students. Among neighbours, Singapore and Malaysia are creating hubs of this kind. In India the primary problem is excessive bureaucratic control in higher education, surpassing that of authoritarian China which has dramatically improved the quantity and quality of its research output. A statist compulsion to micro-manage administrative processes, under the garb of socialising education, has led to loss of operational freedom and diminished the incentive to innovate in Indian institutions. A centralised process of faculty recruitment combined with fixed salaries has entrenched complacency. With little initiative to pilot high-end research, industry too misses out on leveraging university research to solve practical problems. That there is a strong demand for quality universities is evident from the massive annual outflow of foreign exchange – to the tune of $10 billion – due to students going abroad for higher studies.

Systemic reforms are in order if this brain drain is to be reversed. Quickly passing into law the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, will be a step in the right direction, despite restrictive provisions in the Bill. It is extremely important for educational institutes to cater to market needs. This doesn’t mean that the government should not have any stake in education. There is no reason to see the public and private sectors in education as antithetical to each other. What is required is a tweaking of government policies to provide more autonomy to institutions, a conducive environment for private investment in education, and more synergy between aided and unaided institutions.
Errors in IIT-JEE could play spoilsport for AP

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

May 20: Will the errors admitted by the IITs in the recent JEE question papers, worth 36 marks, ruin the prospects of Andhra Pradesh students bagging the top ranks this year? Last year, AP students bagged seven out of the top 10 ranks in IIT-JEE including the all-India first rank for the first time ever.

According to senior lecturers engaged in IIT coaching, as many as 50 students from Andhra Pradesh who had the chance of sweeping the top-100 ranks would be affected on account of errors this year both in question papers and the ‘initial key’ announced by the IITs on May 15.

Sensing trouble, several parents and students are planning to file petitions in the AP High Court questioning the errors both in question papers and the initial key.

The IITs have admitted errors in question papers worth 28 marks in mathematics and another 8 marks in physics in the JEE conducted on April 10.

Of the 2,610 students who qualified from the IIT-Madras zone last year, 2,095 were from AP. With 9,059 seats available in 15 IITs nation-wide, students from AP got 22 per cent seats. Which means that almost every fourth student joining the IITs last year was from AP.

However, the senior lecturers foresee adverse results this year, thanks to errors both in question papers, which resulted in wastage of precious time in the exam centre, and in the initial key.

The IITs have offered marks in three questions to all of the 4.8 lakh candidates who appeared for the exam. But the students are tense about the remaining erroneous questions, where the IITs awarded marks to some students and not to others.
IIT entrance exam results out today

STAFF REPORTER • NEW DELHI

The results for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), entrance exams will be declared on Wednesday. Nearly five lakh engineering aspirants had appeared for the prestigious Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) to make through the 9600 seats in the prestigious IITs, IT BHU and ISM Dhanbad. There is a total of 15 IITs in India.

The entrance exam for IITs was held across 131 cities at 1,051 centres all over India on April 10. This will be the first year when the Optical Response Sheets (ORS) of the candidates with all the details and the answer key of the JEE 2011 is to be uploaded on the JEE website. The solution of the model paper was put up on the JEE website on May 15, giving an opportunity of self-assessment to the students. After the results are declared on Wednesday the scanned image of ORS of all the candidates will be put up on the website. The candidates can enter their roll number and view their ORS.

No stay on results of IIT exams

AGE CORRESPONDENT • NEW DELHI

May 24: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to stay the declaration of the IIT entrance exam result scheduled to be declared on Wednesday on the plea that wrong answers were included in the objective type multi-choice question paper, which might jeopardise the chances of many students.

"We are not going to consider the stay of the results. Question does not arise," a vacation bench of Justices G.S. Singhvi and C.K. Prasad told senior advocate Nidesh Gupta, who took up a petition of Abhishek and some other students from Kanpur.

However, the bench permitted the students to make the representation to the director of IIT Kanpur, who would consider their applications within seven days of the receipt and form any opinion on them.
Hindu, ND 25-May-11  P.22

Minority Affairs Ministry asked to arrange land, funds for new varsities

Union HRD Ministry is planning to set up three universities

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Union Human Resource Development Ministry (HRD) has asked the Minority Affairs Ministry to make available land and additional resources if its proposal for establishing three universities — in Bihar, Rajasthan and Karnataka — is to be pushed in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The HRD Ministry has already given in-principle approval to these universities meant to address the "very high deficit as far as Muslim participation in higher education was concerned."

The Minority Affairs Ministry proposes to set up three universities on Wakf land at Bangalore, Ajmer and Kishanganj — to be known as Tipu Sultan University of Science and Technology (Karnataka), Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz University of Professional, Technology, and Vocational Education (Rajasthan) and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai University of Health and Medical Sciences (Bihar).

While conveying its in-principle approval, the HRD Ministry had pointed out that the proposed universities could not be accommodated in the 11th Plan unless additional financial resources were made available as plan outlays are being used up in the 16 new Central universities already established by it and it was the "flag-end of the plan period."

During inter-ministerial consultations on the proposed universities, the Minority Affairs Ministry had three options of either starting the universities by the minority community itself on Wakf land and declared as deemed university under the University Grants Commission Act, or to be established under an Act of Parliament declaring them as minority institutions such as the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), where the Act was amended in 1981 to define the university as established by the Muslims. The third option was to setup the universities as collaboration between the government and the Wakf Board where the latter could contribute by way of land while financing would be done by the government, and Wakf Board representatives would be included in the Senate and managing bodies of the universities.

In the last named collaborative model, one option was that while the universities would be set up under an Act of Parliament, they will not have any explicit minority character; however as provided in Article 46 of the Constitution, a special dispensation could be made for preference to candidates of economically weaker sections.

Another option in the third model was to examine if it was legally permissible to admit Muslim minority students in recognition of the contribution of Wakf land for the purpose.

The expert committee ruled out the option of deemed university; the Ministry of Law and Justice ruled out the second option as it would have been inconsistent with the Aziz Basha judgment of Supreme Court and the Ministry of Minority Affairs is left with the third option. The HRD Ministry is willing for setting up these institutions in any of the modes — as deemed university if otherwise eligible as per the new UGC Regulations for Institutions Deemed to be Universities, 2010 or as Central Universities, subject to 'Aziz Basha' or as collaboration with Wakf Boards, subject to land being made available free of cost and free of any encumbrances (particularly satisfying the purpose for which the land was in Wakf).

The HRD Ministry had also suggested an alternative of accommodating the three universities within the AMU as part of ongoing expansion of AMU instead of setting up new universities. The suggestion to establish campuses of AMU at the three places was not agreed to on the ground that the ongoing expansion of AMU has serious misgivings amongst the alumni who feel that off-campus would dilute the residential character of AMU.
A cocktail of learning, fun

Home to some of the best institutions such as the IIT and IISc, Bengaluru is popular among students from all across the country.

Shruti Salvekar

It's sunny, happening and cool. That's how foreigners describe the 'Garden City' of Karnataka. Magnificent palaces, colonial culture, multi-cuisine restaurants, mushrooming of IT and IT-related firms...you name it and Bengaluru has it.

Besides being associated with venture capital, the city has also earned respect ages such as IT capital, Pub City and Educational Hub. Though Bengaluru may not be very famous for its monsoon, it still attracts tourists from different parts of the country.

It's easy to miss some well-known landmarks such as the Bangalore-Lakecrs Bangalore Guesthouse, which is thronged by more than a thousand morning walkers; Cubbon Park; the Vidhana Soudha, home to the secretariat; the Karnataka High Court; Kempegowda Fort; MG Road and Brigade Road, which have the maximum pubs and shopping around Commercial Street, where everything is sold at a 'fair price'; is a favorite for window shoppers.

Located 100 meters above sea level, the city has pleasant weather round the year.

Not just that, "For starters, the pace of the city is just right. It's neither too fast, nor too slow. The mix of people from all across the nation and the globe makes Bengaluru culturally rich as well," says Aditi Godbole, who works with a private firm. He hails from Mumbai and is settled in Bangalore for some years now.

Another Bengalurian, A. Ravindra, agrees that the city may not have much to offer by way of historical monuments, but it is home to some famous temples. "The Nandi Temple and Doddagidargiri are major tourist attractions. The fact that there are several pubs and clubs also add to the fun quotient of the city. Besides these, there are a number of restaurants located on theFnallities of Bengaluru where families or students can enjoy some great weekend.

A number of famous restaurants will offer you all kinds of cuisines," he says.

"The IT Hub is also a great place to pursue science and management education as it is home to the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management. The reason you have so many students coming to Bengaluru could be the great weather, opportunities and mushrooming of firms. The cost of living is better and there are many good institutions here," says VG. Jose, chairman, Christian City Group of Institutions.

In his college alone, 70% of students are from outside Bengaluru. They have students from 66 countries pursuing various programmes. Tushar R, a fourth sem-ester bachelor of computer Applications (BCA) student from Jaipur, studying in Bengaluru, says that he had made up his mind to study BCA in Garden City College. "I decided to study in Bangalore as it's the IT capital," he says.
A potpourri of cultures

Pune has a whole variety of colleges for arts, engineering and management. Moreover, it's an upcoming IT hub and is an extremely safe city for women

Shashikant Manale

For many dreamers and people all over India have known Pune as a major student destination in the country. So much so that many have called it the 'Oxford of the East'. If you go to Pune, you'd probably understand why. With the highest number of colleges in a city in India, one can find everything in this city - restaurants, businesses, college campuses, shopping complexes and more prominently on their two-wheelers. There are many reasons why students from all over India flock to Pune for college studies.

Firstly, there are a number of engineering institutions here, thus making entry into a difficult stream like engineering much easier than it is in other cities. Secondly, a number of good private institutions such as the Deccan College and the Symbiosis Group have established many institutes for various streams. Thirdly, it also boasts its small-town charm, which gives a feeling of security to students and their parents. Moreover, Pune is considered to be a very safe city for women.

You can find a good college for yourself here in almost any stream. Pune's famous colleges like Fergusson College, Veer Nariman College, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIMS) and many others are considered to be among the best in India.

In arts courses, you get to select your 'major' or specialization in your second year of college. Every college has a limited number of seats for majors and students get admission on the basis of their first-year marks. The public transport system is not easy on the pocket. Pune Municipal Transport buses are not frequent. Autos are very expensive for long distances. Most students have their two-wheelers and the traffic in Pune is very heavy. So, a student's safer option would be an auto-rickshaw.
State’s second IT institute proposal before Centre

Subrahmanyan Viswanath

BANGALORE, DHNS: The State government, which is planning to set up a second International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Dharwad, on the lines of IIIT-Bangalore, is sending the proposal to Centre’s Information Technology ministry by the week-end.

Official sources told Deccan Herald, fine-tuning of detailed project report was currently on and soon government order issued after which the proposal would be sent to the Centre for formal clearance. A panel headed by former Infosys HR chief Mohandas Pai will be vetting these proposals, they added. The committee, they said, has suggested that only a consortium of three to five firms be allowed to partner for each IIIT. Both IT and non-IT companies can also be partners. Each industry partner will have to invest at least Rs 2 crore.

Sources said the last date for proposals from various State governments to reach the Centre is May 31, 2011 and expect the Centre’s clearance to the State’s proposal to be through latest by December. The IIIT will become functional by next academic year, they added.

The State’s proposal is in response to 20 IIITs the Centre has proposed to set up in various part of the country in association with respective State governments on private-public partnership model. The capital cost would be shared in the ratio of 50:35:15 by the Centre, state government, and industry partner/s, respectively. The Centre will also provide Rs 50 crore for faculty development programme and meet recurring expenditure upto Rs 10 crore during first four years, after which they will be run on self-sustaining model.

The State project is estimated to cost around Rs 130 crore in the first phase, sources said, adding the government has already earmarked 50 acre of land at Karnatak University campus to house the institute. It will be offering both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes for students.

The proposed IIITs, to be set up in phases over a nine-year period beginning 2011, will conduct national-level entrance test for admission of students.
फैकल्टी घटिया तो क्यों आ रहे हैं मेधावी छात्र
केंद्रीय मंत्री जयराम रमेश के आर्याईटी व आईआईएम की फैकल्टी को कमतर बनाने के बयान के बाद शिक्षक समुदाय ने की कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया और उठाए सवाल।

कांग्रेस ने बचाव का जिम्मा समेत पर छोड़ा

भाजपा ने की आलोचना

भाजपा की कीमत मारने के बाद राहुल गांधी ने दी व्यक्तिगत गुरु-शिष्य संबंधों को दिखाया। जब भाजपा ने की आलोचना, तो राहुल गांधी ने दी शांति।

जयराम रमेश के बयान के बाद क्यों फैकल्टी का क्यों कमतर बनाना है?

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राहुल गांधी का बयान

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अब जयराम रमेश व अशिवनी आमने-सामने

शोध व शिक्षकों की गुणवत्ता पर सवाल

जयराम रमेश
अशिवनी कुमार

* विज्ञान एवं तकनीकी राज्यमंत्री ने कहा, आइडीआईटी और आइडल प्रोफेसर के लिए अशिवनी कुमार ने शोध के क्षेत्र में अपने काम का प्रमाण दिखाया है।

नई दिल्ली, ज्युल्यसुल: आइडीआईटी और आइडल प्रोफेसर के लिए विभिन्न संस्थाओं की टीमें शोध को कम समय में पूरा करने की कला शिखरी और रमेश कुमार ने साझेदारी में काम कर रहे हैं। रमेश कुमार ने कहा कि वे अपने काम में अच्छे परिणाम के लिए काम कर रहे हैं।

जयराम रमेश के शिक्षकों के लिए तो कुछ समय लग सकता है, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि वे आपस में अच्छे समय में काम कर रहे हैं।
विचार से दूर जाती शिक्षा

राजस्थान प्रतिभा ND 25/05/2011 p-4
बिन बंधन प्रबंधन
एक कौशल संस्था के छात्रों को सिर्फ बिजली स्कूलों में संबंधित की प्रभाव की जा
रही है। बिजली स्कूलों के ऐसे हदकंडों पर जो जाता रहा है कर्मन पाया

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मुख्य सिद्धांत
• ब्याज में बिजली 3,000 से व्यापक
• ब्याज में संयोजन 300,000 बिजली स्कूलों का
• या ऐतिहासिक भी संयोजन का प्रमाण
• निस्संदेह कार्य का करोड़ में होना है गुरुवार
• निस्संदेह राजस्व जाने गई दो रूप में

मोहनदास कियास्त के माध्यम से ज्ञात बिजली सिद्धांत है।

• ब्याज में संयोजन 300,000 बिजली स्कूलों का

• या ऐतिहासिक भी संयोजन का प्रमाण
• निस्संदेह कार्य का करोड़ में होना है गुरुवार
• निस्संदेह राजस्व जाने गई दो रूप में