‘Depressed’ over poor grades, IIT Bombay student kills self

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Mumbai: A 21-year-old student of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) was found dead on a hostel terrace on campus on Saturday. Jitesh Sharma, a third year chemical engineering student, was believed to be depressed due to academic stress. He also left a suicide note. IIT officials said the body was found on the terrace of hostel 15, while Sharma was a resident of hostel 18.

Sharma usually kept to himself and didn’t interact much. “The suicide note stated that he regretted passing JEE to make it to IIT,” said a cop. “He had previous subjects to clear and was depressed and was taking psychiatric treatment for the past one year.”

Investigation revealed that Sharma had consumed a poisonous substance from the institute laboratory.

IIT-B director Devang Khakhar said, “Though he was poor in his academic performance he was coping with it. It has more to do with his emotional status.”

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

See more at: http://naidunia.jagran.com/madhya-pradesh/iit-361873#sthash.0mzhmsa6.dpuf
According to IIT students, they came to know about Sharma's death through social messaging applications. However, the fact that Sharma committed suicide in another hostel has baffled all of them.

"Jitesh's room was in Hostel 8. Though he was not doing well in his studies, he used to take active part in other extra curricular activities," said another third-year chemical engineering student. The student added that Jitesh had not fared well in the previous semester and was worried about getting FRs in the recently concluded exams also. "His name did not feature in the internship list. That coupled with the FRs could have caused him to go into depression and take the extreme step," said another student.

Third-year students said that after Jitesh went to Hostel 15 as it is meant for freshmen. The police confirmed that Jitesh had consumed some poisonous substance.

Jitesh's parents in Rohtak also came to Mumbai after they were informed of their son's death on Saturday.
कॉमन काउंसलिंग से आईआईटी और एनआईटी में एडमिशन होगा

जोईई एडवांस की वेबसाइट पर सूचना, 18 जून को एडवांस, 24 को जारी होगी ऑन इंडिया रैंक

देश के प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में साल 2015-16 के लिए कॉमन काउंसलिंग के जरिए ही दाखिला मिलेगा। जोईई एडवांस की वेबसाइट पर हस संबंध में डिटेल्स रिपोर्ट जारी कर दी गई है। जिन्हें एसएसए की टाइम लाइन की जारी कर दी गई है। इनमें जोईई एडवांस की ओल्इंडिया रैंक 18 जून और जोईई मेन्स की ओल्इंडिया रैंक 24 जून को जारी कर दी जाएंगी। 25 जून से 15 जुलाई तक जारी होगा।

इसके बाद 23 जुलाई से आईआईटी और 23 जुलाई से एनआईटी सेंसा रैंक 18 जून को जारी कर दी जाएंगी। जोईई सेंसा एनआईटी में सेंसा रैंक वर्तमान संस्थाओं का कैरेक्टिस्ट सुपरवाइजर की जारी करेंगे। अब तक जोईई मेन्स के आवश्यकता पर एनआईटी और एनआईटी सहित अन्य संस्थाओं में और एडवांस के जरिए आईआईटी संस्थाओं में दाखिले के लिए आवश्यक काउंसलिंग होती थी। मानसंद आईआईटी और ब्रांच नहीं मिलने पर कई संस्थाओं ने आवश्यकता के अनुसार एनआईटी में इंडिया रैंक के लिए एडवांस की अनुमति दी।

क्विटा: जल्दी शुरू होगा सेंसा

कॉमन काउंसलिंग से सबसे बड़ा फायदा रहा होगा कि एनआईटी और एनआईटी संस्थाओं में रैंक शुरू हो जाएगा। इसके लिए अभी तक कोई कोई लाइसेंस रैंक देखते होने के बाद जल्दी एनआईटी और एनआईटी की अपनी शुरुआत की जारी करेंगे। एनआईटी के आवश्यकता के लिए 23 जून को तक शुरु हो जाएगा। इससे स्टडेंट्स की अनुमति आगे बढ़ता है अभी तक काउंसलिंग में विभिन्न हिस्से के लिए आवश्यकता है। इसलिए एडवांस के सहयोग के लिए एडवांस की वेबसाइट पर जारी गई है।

बोर्ड रिजल्ट भी पहले आएगे

जोईई एडवांस के लिए एडवांस की रिजल्ट 2015 की वेबसाइट पर जारी की जाएगी। इसके लिए एडवांस की रिजल्ट 2015 का वेबसाइट पर जारी की जाएगी। इसके लिए एडवांस की रिजल्ट 2015 का वेबसाइट पर जारी की जाएगी।
86 संस्थानों की 32 हजार सीटों पर समान मौका

देहरादून (ब्यूरो)। देश के नामी तकनीकी शिक्षा संस्थानों में एक ही काउंसिलिंग की शुरुआत होने के बाद इंजीनियरिंग करने वाले युवाओं की कई लापर हुई। एक और इंजीनियरिंग की सीटें खाली नहीं रहनी तो दूसरी ओर छात्र का समय भी बचेगा। एक ही काउंसिलिंग से छात्र आईआईटी, एनआईटी के कॉर्स के विकल्प भर सकेंगे।

देश के 20 इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी), एक इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ मैथ्स (आईएसएम) धनबाद, 31 नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एनआईटी), 16 इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग टेक्नोलॉजी (आईटीपीआईटी) के अलावा 18 से ज्यादा केंद्रीय राज्य सहयोगा प्राप्त तकनीकी शिक्षा संस्थानों की करीब 32 हजार सीटों के लिए एक ही काउंसिलिंग इस साल से होगी। मुंबई में हुई बैठक के बाद इसका श्रेय जारी किया गया है। इससे छात्र को कई लाफ पर होगा। हालांकि, आईआईटी और एनआईटी में दाखिलों की योग्यता अलग-अलग है, लेकिन छात्र अगर आईआईटी की जेडबी एडवांस क्वालिफाई कर चुका है तो वह न केवल आईआईटी की सीटें पर दवा पेश कर सकेगा, बल्कि एनआईटी का विकल्प भी एक साथ भर सकेगा। इससे एक फायदा यह भी होगा कि एक छात्र कई सीटों पर दवा नहीं कर सकेगा। उसे केवल एक ही सीट मिलेगी।

आईआईटी की संयुक्त काउंसिलिंग से इंजीनियरिंग में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव

अब सीटों का आवंटन समान्य होगा, सीटें खाली भी कम रहेंगी।

इस साल अब यह होगा काउंसिलिंग श्रेयस्य

• जेडबी एडवांस की टॉप लिस्ट पर जारी होगी : 18 जून
• जेडबी मेंस की टॉपएमएम पर जारी होगी : 24 जून
• विभाजन भरने की तिथि : 25 से 29 जून
• मॉडल सीट एलोकेशन का हिस्सा : 28 जून
• प्रारंभिक चरण का सीट आवंटन : 1 जुलाई
• प्रारंभिक चरण के दिनें : 2 जुलाई से 6 जुलाई
• वन वन दो सीटों का हिस्सा नियुक्ति तथा आवंटन : 7 जुलाई
• प्रारंभिक चरण के दिनें : 1 जुलाई से 11 जुलाई
• तृतीय चरण के लिए दो सीटों का हिस्सा यात्रा तथा आवंटन : 12 जुलाई
• तृतीय चरण के दिनें : 13 जुलाई से 15 जुलाई
• आईआईटी और आईएसएम में नया सत्र प्रारंभ : 16 जुलाई
JEE: Joint Seat Allocation Authority meets for the first time, signs memorandum of agreement


NEW DELHI: The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) had its first meeting in the IIT Bombay Campus on Saturday. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Joint Admission Board (JAB), Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Advanced) 2015 representing the IITs and ISM Dhanbad and the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) 2015 representing the NITs, IIITs and other technical institutes funded fully or partly by Central or a State government.

The business rules for the joint seat allocation were finalised during the meeting. These will be made available on http://jeeadv.iitb.ac.in. Seat allocation for academic programmes offered by 88 Institutes will be done jointly through the Joint Seat Allocation Authority for the academic year 2015-16. The process of joint seat allocation will commence through a common web portal from June 25, 2015.

The JoSAA has been set up by the ministry of human resources and development to manage and regulate the joint allocation process for admissions in around 80 IITs, NITs, IIITs and other centrally funded technical institutions. Unlike individual processes followed by both sets of institutions for many years, all courses offered by these institutions will be available on the same online platform from this year.

New IITs: Challenges ahead; Innovation in pedagogy is key

As we expand opportunities for more students to study engineering, we need to find ways to train faculty that is otherwise not geared to pursue a career in research.


otherwise not geared to pursue a career in research.

May 3, 2015 11:18 pm

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In 2007, the government of India decided to establish eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country. The move was met with apprehension by IIT faculty and alumni that these new institutions may not succeed as expected, given that the existing IITs themselves had challenges with hiring and retaining faculty—a resource that is at the heart of any academic enterprise and, so, very scarce. With top teachers and researchers difficult to come by, they felt the “IIT” brand would take a beating. And yet, the decision to establish more IITs was long overdue, given that the IIT system, left to itself, had grown at about 2% per annum over a 50-year period, a period with high demand for IIT graduates and increasing educational aspirations of young men and women. The IITs, along with BITS Pilani, were perhaps the only institutions that could grow without compromising on quality. Others did not have the ecosystem or the governance structures to do so.

Benefiting from hindsight, however, the manner in which the new IITs were established must be faulted. The eight new IITs were established in the same year (and at a time when the existing seven IITs were struggling to
expand student strength in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes by 54% on account of OBC quota), forcing them to compete among themselves and with the existing IITs for the same pool of available faculty.

Another major challenge was the decision to locate these new IITs in cities or towns where available infrastructure is weak. Today, potential faculty members opt to work at an institution but only if they have ready access to high quality infrastructure, including employment opportunities for spouses, good schools for children, medical facilities and connectivity to the rest of the world.

Of these eight IITs, at best three are on track to succeed largely because of location and partly because of the leadership in these institutions. It would have been better if, for instance, a new IIT was set up every two or three years, and in locations adjacent to major metropolitan cities. This would have allowed the new IITs to invite superannuated professors from existing IITs to kick-start their programmes.

There are still ways for these new IITs to improve. While attracting and retaining faculty will remain a challenge, they should adapt practices that similar institutions in India or abroad have found to be fruitful in recruiting and retaining faculty.

First, consider sourcing faculty from the world over, including the Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America—the powerhouses for producing good PhDs in science and engineering. Reaching out to PhD graduates and post-docs using visits abroad, meaningful presence on the internet, and advertising in places that matter is needed. What is also needed is using technology to engage with potential faculty and taking decisions quickly—essentially letting them know how much their talent is valued by making them offers that they cannot refuse. This could include a personal pay that recognises their potential for excellence as also research-initiation grants that help kick-start their research careers. Above all, each new IIT must create a supportive environment that is conducive for faculty members to excel in teaching and research, and grow within their professional community.

Other innovations might be worth exploring. For example, creating a separate track for faculty members that are expected to specialise in teaching. Such “Professors of Practice” could receive necessary training in subjects they are expected to teach as also in pedagogy that includes handouts, practice sessions and teaching/learning materials specific to the courses. The latter may include selective use of content developed for courses offered as MOOCs. And blend the same with hands-on practice sessions in classrooms with fewer students. This approach will also be relevant particularly in a network of colleges that follow the same curricula.

As we expand opportunities for more students to study science or engineering, we need to find innovative ways to train faculty that is otherwise not geared to pursue a career in research. The one issue that academic leaders and university administrators have shied away from addressing has to do with revising wholesale the compensation structure for faculty, at least in good institutions in India. Unless we take that up head-on, we will continue to debate and struggle to discover ways to address faculty shortages, while the best talent is lured away seeking careers elsewhere, including multinational research labs in India or universities abroad.

Bijendra Nath Jain

The author is vice-chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani. Views are personal.
ASHISH NANDA
ASHISH NANDA is the director of IIM-A. Before joining the Institute, he was Robert Brechner professor of practice at Harvard Law School and before that a faculty member at Harvard Business School. He has a PhD from Harvard University and an LLB from Tulane University. He is also an alumnus of IIM-A (1980-82) from where he received his postgraduate diploma in management.

If IIM bill promotes centralization, it’s bad news

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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I

f the proposed bill on Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) is used to bring about centralization of key processes, it would be bad news for these institutions and their autonomy, believes Ashish Nanda, director of IIM Ahmedabad (IIMA), India’s best-known business school. In an interview, he said some people have concerns not about what is written in the bill, but how it will be implemented. Nanda spoke about his views for the school, and his efforts to take it to the global stage. Edited excerpts.

When you joined IIMA-A, people thought it was the first step to internationalization. How is it progressing?

We try to ensure that our students view and experience the interconnections that link enterprises and people across the world. We encourage our students to go on exchange programs to other schools abroad and have students from those schools come to IIMA-A. Last year, approximately 130 of our students went abroad and approximately 80 students came from abroad. The exchange program works well with schools in most European countries because their terms and our terms match. To encourage visits to and from North American universities, we have introduced immersion programs, which are shorter, intense immersion experiences. We plan to publicize the PGX (one-year postgraduate program in management for executives) program more aggressively internationally—not only for Indian-origin students but for students in general. This may lead to some more international students coming.

Are you creating supernumerary seats for international students?

In the PGP programme, thus far we were not allowed to select international students beyond some limited categories, such as NRIs (non-resident Indians). We requested our board and the government if we could create supernumerary seats, i.e., keep the PGP class size intact, but add up to 10% additional international students. The board and the government agreed. This year, we have just done some alpha testing; next year, we plan to roll it out more comprehensively. We are not targeting a number, although there is an upper cap to the seats, which is 10% of the class size. We are very clear that the international students we select should be of the same quality level as the domestic students we select in our PGP programme.

Any geography you are targeting for international students?

I don’t have a specific geography as yet; they would come mostly from the littoral states of Indian Ocean, e.g., English-speaking parts of East Africa, the Middle East, Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations, and South Asia. They will find this an intriguing opportunity. However, we do need to publicize this programme for interested persons to apply.

How are you internationalizing the faculty?

We have 95 full-time faculty members at IIMA-A. Of these, only three are international. The major constraint to recruiting world-class international faculty is that the compensation of faculty members in India is much lower as compared to that in top international universities. To partially bridge the gap, we are requesting organizations and alumni to support endowed chairs and fellow positions. I hope the result of this will begin to show in another 12 months.

The IIM-A board has become the chairman of your board again. What can IIM leverage from him and his company?

To have someone like him (A.M. Naik) chairing the institution gives us the opportunity to do two things. One, he maintains a close touch with the ground realities of business. One of our key challenges is how relevant our work is to the practice of management. People such as he, and others, such as Mr Prakash Panel (chairman and managing director, Cadila Healthcare Ltd), and Mr D Shivakumar (chairman and chief executive officer, India Region, PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt Ltd), on our board ensure that we maintain relevance. Two, we are trying to strengthen our connect with the world of practice. We are trying to strengthen it by growing our executive education; increased case writing, having people in practice come to our class, and having them contribute financially to the institution. Mr Naik and others on the board have been terrific in talking to those in practice and bringing them on board as our partners.

The government is bringing an IIM bill. How beneficial or challenging will it be for IIMs?

Assuming the bill is very similar to the draft that was shared with the IIMs, I think the IIM bill would be beneficial—it allows IIMs to grant degrees as opposed to diplomas. That’s less of an issue for an institution like IIMA, because we have an established reputation, but some of the newer IIMs don’t have to go through the rigmarole of having to convince potential recruiters and other academic institutions that their PGDM (post-graduate diploma in management) diplomas are “as good as” MBA degrees. The IIM bill also provides a platform for the various IIMs to talk to one another and learn from one another.

The concern some people have with the bill is less about what is written in it and more about how it might be implemented. The bill is good if it encourages best-practice sharing and, not so good if it reduces autonomy and discourages innovation. If the bill is used to promote centralization of processes such as choice of curricula and selection of faculty, that would be bad news. Then, people leading the IIMs would feel disempowered and less responsible for performance of their institutions. It is important for overall excellence that the government allows various IIMs to learn from one another, but also give them room to experiment, compete, and let the stronger institutions benefit from superior performance. If the IIM system becomes too centralized, we might avoid some wasteful duplication, but we might also lose out on experimentation.

Several voices are coming about the need for fee control. What’s your view?

I have not heard those voices from the government. However, I do hear occasionally populist claims often made by concerned individuals who don’t just belong to the government about the “unsustainable” fee being charged at the IIMs and the need to immediately bring that fee under control.

How do we determine whether the fee charged is reasonable or unreasonable? One metric is return on investment. Last year, when The Economist ran such a metric for business schools worldwide, IIMA-A came out the fourth-most economical school in the world. Another way is whether any deserving student is unable to attend an institute because of fee considerations. Several commercial banks compete head-to-head to provide loans to IIM-A students, as they see those as some of the best quality loans they can make.

Capping IIM-A fee at some level below cost to make it affordable, as some have suggested, would be an extremely regressive form of taxation. If we artificially reduce fee for all students to below cost and have government cover the shortfall, then the general public, most of whom are already paying very poor and whose money the government is spending, would be subsidizing MBA students who are going to shortly become high-income upper-middle-class executives. Why would such an approach ever be considered fair? I think the logic of fee capping is a red herring. If fee are capped to below cost, you are making IIMs financially unviable, thus forcing them to rely on external financial assistance. Financial subsidy does not come without strings—with the influx of subsidy, your autonomy goes. When we strive to retain the right to determine our fee, in the shadows of that debate is the real struggle: our commitment to retaining autonomy in running our institution.
पैसे भी बचेंगे, पय्यालवरण भी

श्रीमान धीरेन्द्र जोधपुर

रेल के दिनों में लाइट और पंखे चलाने के लिए अब कोच की छत पर सोलर पैनल लगाए, जाएंगे।

इससे दीवाल की बचत होगी। रेलवे में इसके लिए पहला प्रोजेक्ट राजस्थान में जोधपुर के वर्कशॉप को दिया गया है। शुरुआत में दीएमएस ट्रेन के 50 कोच पर 600 पैनल लगाए जाएंगे।

एक कोच पर 300 बॉह के कुल 12 पैनल होंगे।

परिस्थिति प्रॉजेक्ट के लिए वर्चुअल 1.95 करोड़ रुपए की लागत होगी।

शेयर पेंस "4"

कुछ इस तरह लागू गए पैनल

• पहला प्रोजेक्ट जोधपुर के वर्कशॉप को मिला

• प्रॉजेक्ट के दौरान 50 कोच पर 600 पैनल लगाए जाएंगे।

• सोलर पैनल का मॉडल आईआईटी चेनई से तैयार

पेज का शेष

श्रीमान धीरेन्द्र जोधपुर ने ट्रेनों में सोलर पैनल के उपयोग को लेकर लंबी सिस्टम की थी। इसके लिए एक ट्रेन सुनाई गई। इसमें पंच एसी कोच, 12 अन्य श्रेणी के कोच और एक पेंटर दो पाक का सहित 20 कोच माने गए। सभी कोच की छत पर सोलर पैनल लगाकर उत्पादन करने वाली सिस्टम का अलांकरण किया गया।

प्रॉजेक्ट में पाए गए कि एक साल में 20 कोच की एक ट्रेन की 188 फेरे करती है। इसमें लाइट और पंखे चलाने के लिए जितनी बिन्दुओं चालू उपर देख करने के लिए 90 हजार लॉटरी डीजल कर्मचारी का पदवा है। इसके साथ ही इतना सीधे जलने में सीधे 240 इंच बड़ी जलने उड़ान लागत है। इस डीजल के जलने का पद करता है।

इस प्रयोग के लिए जलने का नाम आधारित है उसे बचाने के लिए सीडी में सोलर पैनल का वर्चुअल निकल जाएगा। उससे बाद जितना जलने वाले रेलवे का मुक्त होगा।
Panel for easing norms for teaching post

NEW DELHI: A parliamentary standing committee has asked the government to consider easing existing norms for recruitment of faculties if this could help fill up the teaching positions, laying vacant in higher educational institutions for long.

In its report tabled in the Parliament recently, the panel recommended that Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry must increase number of research fellowships and introduce new schemes for “teaching assistantship”.

With higher educational institutions citing lack of qualified teachers for non-filling of vacant posts, which ranges from 43 per cent to 82.85 per cent, the committee suggested that the ministry should evaluate the quality and standard of the PhD holders across the country to understand why a suitable candidate were difficult to find.

Expressing displeasure over the acute shortage of teachers, it said the HRD ministry must play a “proactive role” to expedite the filling up of the existing vacancies.

Apart from possibility of inadequate number of qualified teachers, the committee felt that there should be only two other reasons for the persistent shortage of faculties—either the country’s students are not attracted towards the teaching profession or the recruitment process is complex.

“In case the stricter norms for the appointment of faculty is coming in the way, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other regulatory bodies should review them on regular basis and bring in necessary changes so as to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest,” the panel, headed by BJP MP Satyanarayan Jatiya, said.

To generate interest among students towards the teaching, the ministry should take steps to “enhance the prestige of the teaching profession”, it said.

“The committee would like to have an evaluation report, if any, about the quality and standard of the PhD holders across the country to understand why suitable candidates are difficult to find for the vacant positions. May be we need to re-orient the entire system of evaluation of PhD and other research scholars,” it added.

The committee also examined the status of technical institutes run by the private entities and expressed concern over the lack of faculties as well as quality in such institutions, pulling up the government for “inaction”.

“Last year, the committee had recommended that an assessment may be made about the quality of faculty and its positions in private universities and institutions. However, the committee is at loss to find that no action has been taken in this regard so far,” it noted.

DH News Service
शोध: दिल्ली में पुराने नहीं, नए वाहनों से ज्यादा प्रदूषण फैल रहा

जय दिल्ली | प्रभात कुमार

नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) द्वारा 10 साल पुराने डीजल वाहनों पर प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने को आईआईटी दिल्ली ने अत्याधिक बताया है। संस्थान ने अपने शोध के हवाले से कहा है कि पुराने वाहनों के मुकाबले नए वाहन राजधानी को ज्यादा प्रदूषित कर रहे हैं।

दिल्ली सरकार ने डॉ. मोहन की इस शोध रिपोर्ट को एनजीटी में पेश किया है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के शिखर कार्यालय डॉ. दिनेश मोहन ने शोध के हवाले से कहा है कि, दिल्ली में 10 साल पुराने वाहनों की संख्या महज 6% है जबकि 15 साल पुराने 1% वाहन है। इनकी प्रदूषण फैलाने में भागीदारी नहीं की गई है।

शोध में कहा गया है कि नए वाहनों से ज्यादा प्रदूषण फैलाने की चर्चा के लिए जुड़वाना चाहिए। अधिक है क्योंकि नए वाहन पुराने की तुलना में 9 गुना अधिक चलते हैं। प्रो. मोहन ने इस सिलसिले में केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव संयुक्त संख्या बंधोपाध्याय को पत्र लिख कर अपनी दिक्कतों से अवगत कराया है।

*बजतरनक सत्र तक बढ़ गई ओटो: पेज-5*
FOREIGN HAND AGAIN

A government disconcerted by non-governmental activity looks insecure and out of sync

IN QUICK SUCCESSION, the government has painted itself into two embarrassing corners. By putting the Ford Foundation on a prior permission watchlist in the interest of national security, it is inviting international ridicule. Earlier, it had amused the international community by imposing travel restrictions on a Greenpeace activist, an approach to managing dissent that fell from grace with the close of the Middle Ages, and which must reliably fail in the age of pervasive communications.

In pursuit of its stated aim of building capacities and institutions, the Ford Foundation provides financial support for research programmes in at least 10 institutes of national importance, including an IIT, an IIM, the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. In addition, its earliest interventions in India included the development of physical infrastructure like Kennedy Hall at the Aligarh Muslim University. To suggest that the foundation’s interests are spurious or disreputable brings all these institutions — and senior staffers handling funds — into similar disrepute. And since the Indian government has frequently contributed to these projects or founded the organisations in which they run, the interests of government officials who okayed the Ford Foundation’s financial support begins to look suspect, too. This is a tricky corner for a government to be in.

If a government which seeks to engage with the world and prepare India for a global role conducts itself in a seemingly xenophobic manner, the dissonance can be striking indeed. A government whose first instinct is to stifle dissent instead of persuading the dissenter is sadly anachronistic, and a handicap for a nation in search of a larger international role. Equally out of time is the convention barring non-profit organisations from indulging in or promoting “political” activities. The idea of what constitutes politics has been expanded sharply by 20th century reform movements like feminism. Today, the personal is the political. A political dimension may be read into almost every act, and these acts are performed in a world that is essentially borderless. In this globalised milieu, to insist that non-profits must be unwaveringly non-political is unrealistic, and anxieties about the “foreign hand” are symptomatic of medieval paranoias that last reared their head prominently in Indira Gandhi’s regime. But it is not just the Modi government. Its predecessor too was deeply disconcerted by non-governmental activity. This trend is dangerous and can end up isolating India in an increasingly open world.
INNOVATION IN PEDAGOGY IS KEY

As we expand opportunities for more students to study engineering, we need to find ways to train faculty that is otherwise not geared to pursue a career in research.

BUENDRA NATH JAIN

In 2007, the government of India decided to establish eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country. The move was met with apprehension by IIT faculty and alumni that these new institutions may not succeed as expected, given that the existing IITs themselves had challenges with hiring and retaining faculty—a resource that is at the heart of any academic enterprise and, so, very scarce. With top teachers and researchers difficult to come by, they felt the "IIT" brand would take a beating. And yet, the decision to establish more IITs was long overdue, given that the IIT system, left to itself, had grown at about 24% per annum over a 50-year period, a period with high demand for IIT graduates and increasing educational aspirations of young men and women. The IITs, along with BITS Pilani, were perhaps the only institutions that could grow without compromising on quality. Others did not have the ecosystem or the governance structures to do so.

Benefitting from hindsight, however, the manner in which the new IITs were established must be faulted. The eight new IITs were established in the same year (and at a time when the existing seven IITs were struggling to expand student strength in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes by 54% on account of OERs) forcing them to compete among themselves and with the existing IITs for the same pool of available faculty.

Another major challenge was the decision to locate these new IITs in cities or towns where available infrastructure is weak. Today, potential faculty members opt to work at an institution but only if they have ready access to high-quality infrastructure, including employment opportunities for spouses, good schools for children, medical facilities and connectivity to the rest of the world.

Of these eight IITs, at best three are on track to succeed largely because of location and partly because of the leadership in these institutions. It would have been better if, for instance, a new IIT was set up every two or three years, and in locations adjacent to major metropolitan cities. This would have allowed the new IITs to invite superannuated professors from existing IITs to kick-start their programmes.

There are still ways for these new IITs to improve. While attracting and retaining faculty will remain a challenge, they should adapt practices that similar institutions in India or abroad have found to be fruitful in recruiting and retaining faculty.

First, consider sourcing faculty from the world over, including the Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America—the powerhouses for producing good PhDs in science and engineering. Reaching out to PhD graduates and post-docs using visits abroad, meaningful presence on the internet, and advertising in places that matter is needed. What is also needed is using technology to engage with potential faculty and taking decisions quickly—essentially letting them know how much their talent is valued by making them offers that they cannot refuse. This could include a personal pay that recognises their potential for excellence as also research initiation grants that help kick-start their research careers. Above all, each new IIT must create a supportive environment that is conducive for faculty members to excel in teaching and research, and grow within their professional community.

Other innovations might be worth exploring. For example, creating a separate track for faculty members that are expected to specialise in teaching. Such "Professors of Practice" could receive necessary training in subjects they are expected to teach as also in pedagogy that includes handouts, practice sessions and teaching/learning materials specific to the courses. The latter may include selective use of content developed for courses offered as MOOCs. And blend the same with hands-on practice sessions in classrooms with fewer students. This approach would also be relevant particularly in a network of colleges that follow the same curricula.

As we expand opportunities for more students to study science or engineering, we need to find innovative ways to train faculty that is otherwise not geared to pursue a career in research. The one issue that academic leaders and university administrators have shed away from addressing has to do with revising wholesale the compensation structure for faculty, at least in good institutions in India. Unless we take that up head-on, we will continue to debate and struggle to discover ways to address faculty shortages, while the best talent is lured away seeking careers elsewhere, including multinational research labs in India or universities abroad.

The author is vice-chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani. Views are personal.

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3 OF 4 STUDENTS WANT DEGREE IN HUMANITIES

MUMBAI: While the country has witnessed a spurt in the number of students opting for the humanities stream in recent years, a recent survey found that three out of every four students across the country aspiring for a college degree were interested in humanities.

Out of the 36,000 students who took part in the survey from over nine cities, 74% of the students were interested in pursuing humanities. Science with biology had only 11% takers, science with mathematics 9% and commerce 6%. In Mumbai, where commerce has been the most sought after stream in First Year Junior College admissions in the last two years, 63% students said they were interested in humanities. The survey was conducted by a private career solutions firm, CareerCo.

"I am not surprised by the survey... Science is getting tougher by the day with government policies and private colleges charging exorbitant fees," said Jyoti Thakur, external co-ordinator, Jai Hind College, Churchgate.

PUJA PEDNEKAR
IIM-R to switch to 10-pt grading system soon


The Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi (IIM-R) will introduce grading system from the next session like that of other IIMs in the country. During the fourth convocation of the premier B-School, Director-in-Charge and Professor Anindya Sen said for the convenience of the students, they will shift to a 10-point grading system instead of the 4-point grading system. “It is easy to mark the percentage level of a student’s performance with 10 point grading system.

Even for the PSUs, it would be easy to identify a student’s performance in terms of placement. The four point grading system creates complication. So, we have taken the decision to update the grading process,” said Sen.

The cradle was in need of adequate permanent teachers since long. Sen announced the recruitment of eight new faculty members who are to join shortly. Presently, there are 13 faculty members here.

IIM-R functioning temporarily on the fifth and sixth floor of Suchana Bhawan since its inception in 2010 has not been able to begin campus construction at the 94.36 acres land allotted at Cheri under Kanke block in 2013. Sen said out of the allotted land, they are yet to possess 4.

22 acres raiyati land. “I have requested Chief Secretary Rajiv Gauba to provide atleast 50 acres land near HEC. They are working on it.

We hope to get a response within a month,” he added. Gauba and Human Resource Development Secretary Aradhana Patnaik are the new Board members of IIM-R. Retired Brigadier of Army Aviation Corps VS Saini has been appointed as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of IIM-R in April.

Sen said he was selected after former CAO Colonel BK Nair took voluntary retirement. The institute has also selected an acting Chairman after RC Bhargava left early this year. Meanwhile, Founder of Rediff.

Com Ajit Balakrishnan who is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIM Calcutta suggested the students to be prepared for the professional debates on Land Bill. He said, “There i...

Varsities should involve scholars in courses: UGC

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Kolhapur/Varsities-should-involve-scholars-in-courses-UGC/articleshow/47137380.cms

KOLHAPUR: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a circular asking universities and colleges to involve scholars, policymakers and skilled professionals in academic courses. The commission’s objective is to tide over the shortage of faculty and boost education skills across all universities.

In a circular dated April 27, the UGC said it is imperative that the expertise and experience of such individuals, who are outside the mainstream academic system, flow into the universities. The circular stated that this would enhance, strengthen and improve the quality of teaching, training and research. "The current phase in higher education and the huge diversity in programmes also necessitates that faculty resources be augmented by using academic outside the university system," it said.
The circular suggests that for this, reputed scientists, engineers, physicians, advocates and artists, civil servants including skilled professionals, serving as well as retired be included.

A Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK) official on the UGC circular said that the decision to appoint or invite adjunct faculty members to a particular college or university will always be welcome.

"The UGC has given a gentle reminder to universities nationwide to put into practice guidelines to enhance academic communication between the experts and the students. This scheme of introducing adjunct faculty positions for professional courses was drawn long ago and has received a positive feedback from institutions" the official said.

The UGC started the scheme of appointing adjunct faculty and visiting faculty since 2009 in universities across the country.

According to its earlier September 2009 circular, professionals and experts from the institutions such as research organisations supported by the Atomic energy commission (AEC), Indian Council of Agriculture research (ICAR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) along with overseas academicians and researchers will be involved.

In its 12th five-year plan in 2012, the UGC stated a hike in remuneration of such faculties to increase their involvement in academics.

Kolhapur: In view of tackling faculty shortage and to enhance the education skills across the universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) in its fresh circular has asked universities and colleges to involve scholars, policymakers, skilled professionals and the practitioners in the academics.

In its April 27 circular, it stated that it is imperative that the expertise and experience of such individuals, who are outside the mainstream academic system, flows into universities.

According to circular this would enhance, strengthen and improve the quality of teaching, training and research. "Current massive expansion phase in higher education, mandating huge programmatic diversity also requires that faculty resources be augmented by utilizing the services of academics outside the university system," it said.

For this, the circular suggests to include reputed scientists, engineers, physicians, advocates, and artists, civil servants including skilled professionals, both serving and retired.

A Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK) official on the UGC's circular said that the decision to appoint or invite adjunct faculty members to particular college or university will always be welcome these days.

"The UGC has given nothing but a gentle reminder to universities across the country to put into practice the guidelines for enhancing the academic communication between the experts and the students. This scheme of introducing the adjunct faculty positions for the professional courses from experts in the academics was drawn long back ago and has received positive feedback from institutions" added the official.

It has to be noted that the UGC had started the scheme of appointing the adjunct faculty/visiting faculty from the year 2009 across the universities across the country.
According to its earlier September 2009 circular, for the scheme, professional and experts from the institutions such as research organisations supported by the Atomic energy commission (AEC), Indian Council of Agriculture research (ICAR), and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) along with others, including overseas academicians and researchers should be involved in it.

The UGC in the year 2012, in its 12th five year plan, it stated to hike the remuneration of such faculties so as to increase their interaction across the academics.

**Delhi University okays UGC's choice-based credit system**


NEW DELHI: Delhi University has decided to go ahead with the introduction of Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) from the upcoming academic session apparently without the "mandate" of the varsity's Executive Council.

In an official communication to deans of all faculties on April 29, DU's joint registrar (academics) has directed them to start preparations for the implementation of CBCS.

The registrar's communication came after a meeting between the vice-chancellor, Dinesh Singh, and the deans to discuss its implementation on April 23.

"I advise you to start the process of preparation of the syllabi for all undergraduate courses within the structure laid down by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The detailed guidelines, course structure, draft model syllabi for the 19 undergraduate courses which are available on UGC's website may be carefully pursued by you before starting the process," the letter said.

CBCS allows students' "seamless mobility" across higher education institutions and transfer of credit earned by them.

However, members of the executive council, which is the supreme decision making body of the varsity, said the matter has not been reported before it.

"The matter has not come for its perusal before the executive council. Like the FYUP, this matter is also being forced in a fast-track manner following the UGC diktat. The university has all the rights and autonomy to reject the proposed programme," Abha Dev Habib, an EC member said.

"How can the faculty deans decide on the matter with the vice chancellor and initiate the proceedings without the EC mandate?" she asked.

The communication sent to deans and faculties to roll out CBCS merely refers to the meeting held between them and vice chancellor Dinesh Singh but did not elaborate further.

The decision of the university came against the backdrop of a section of its teachers submitting a feedback of 40 affiliated colleges to the UGC opposing implementation of CBCS on the ground that its roll out without exhaustive deliberation would prove to be "disastrous" for the varsity.
Surviving the Shakes

Predicting an earthquake may not be possible, but preparing for one certainly is. A peek into the experiments under way within the labs of IIT-Roorkee

Shantanu Nandan Sharma

sitting in a small corner room overlooking a large laboratory in IIT-Roorkee, professor Ashok Kumar decides when to engineer the next big earthquake. Unlike the natural and destructive tremors, however, which can't be predicted, Kumar can rely on the press of a button to cause a shock and, for good measure, determine its intensity.

Welcome to the earthquake testing laboratory of the department of earthquake engineering in IIT-Roorkee that is currently testing three models that are expected to withstand earthquakes of higher magnitude than the one that devastated Nepal and parts of India and Bangladesh last weekend.

"The model building that I have been working on now does not use cement at all. It's 40% less costly than a conventional building, it's environment-friendly and I expect it to withstand earthquakes of 8.5 magnitude (on the Richter scale) and more," says Amit Goyal who has been pursuing a PhD degree in the institute and wishes to patent the structure if successful (the Nepal earthquake was of 7.9 magnitude).

Goyal's claims will be tested in a fortnight when his model structure is placed on a platform called a 'shake table' and a device called a 'controller' is switched on to create an artificial earthquake. Goyal and his guides will then video-record the event to assess the dynamic behaviour of the experiment. If cracks do appear on the model structures on the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Making structural models, including those of multi-storeys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need about 3-15 days to prepare a one-room building model</td>
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</table>

| Step 2 | Cranes are used to carry the building model to a shake table |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 3</th>
<th>A device is switched on to shake the table</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A 3.5 X 3.5-metre shake table can take a payload of 20 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test specimen fixed to the table gets shaken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Step 4 | Video recorder, other gadgets are used to record data |
|        | Dynamic behaviour of the specimen is then analysed |

Takeaway

If cracks do appear on the model, it's time to build another one.
3 Models Are Being Currently Tested in the Lab

1. Interlock Block Masonry
AMIT GOYAL, a PhD student, has been experimenting with this model where he uses:
- No cement
- Rubber separators
He claims the structure will be 40% cheaper, environment-friendly and sound-proof.

And yes, Goyal expects the model to withstand a quake of more than 6.5 magnitude on the Richter scale once it is placed on the shake table.

2. Reinforced Masonry Model
SHERMI has been working on new ways of reinforcing an existing structure. This PhD student’s model:
- Is 2.25 metre by 2.25 metre in size, and 2 metre in height
- Will need 3 more days to complete
- Will have a curing period of 28 days before it’s placed on the shake table.
- And she claims the model will be able to withstand any earthquake of Zone V intensity.

This structure is often used for high sensitive buildings such as nuke plants.

3. Dampers Load Bearing Structure
NITESH AHIR, a student, has already tested this structure successfully. This model:
- Has 4 storeys with dampers being used.
- The dampers dissipate kinetic energy and act like shock absorbers.
- It is costly but highly effective against earthquake of highest intensity.

Is Delhi’s AIIMS vulnerable to an Earthquake?

Seismic engineers and experts from IIT-Roorkee audited three hospitals located in Delhi last year:
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
- Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital
- Hindu Rao Hospital

Experts deployed the following methods to find out the deficiencies:
- Deficiencies were spotted and additional shear walls were proposed as an immediate measure.
- Additional shear walls alone can’t prevent the building from collapsing.
- The findings added strengthening of infill panels against out-of-plane failure.

The Findings:
- Seismic load analysis
- 3D modeling etc.

As academics, our job is to spot the deficiencies. It’s up to the authority concerned to implement. AIIMS is however implementing our retrofitting recommendations.

ML Sharma,
Head, department of earthquake engineering, IIT-Roorkee

What about Taj Mahal, Red Fort?

Red Fort in Delhi (Zone IV) and Taj Mahal in Agra (Zone III) don’t fall in the highest risk zone, or Zone V.

An IIT-Roorkee assessment in the 80s found the Taj Mahal as vulnerable. But no remedies were implemented, as retrofitting would have marginally altered some features of this 17th century Mughal monument.

Indian heritage buildings are better off, as compared to those in Nepal as they used lime mortar and not mud mortar.

Shake table, it will be back to the drawing board for Goyal and his team.

The lab, which was set up in 1960 as a school of research and training in earthquake engineering within the erstwhile University of Roorkee, has over the years assessed many a building across the country and suggested retrofitting measures. In the 80s, experts at the institute did extensive studies on the earthquake vulnerability of the Taj Mahal in Agra, which falls in Zone III on a scale of one to five of seismic zones. The remedial measures suggested by the experts were not implemented on the ground as they were seen to be interfering with the aesthetic beauty of the original structure.

Does that mean the Taj Mahal or other heritage buildings in seismically-active north India would fall if there is an earthquake of high intensity?

“First of all, Nepal can’t happen either in Delhi or in Agra (because they fall in less vulnerable zones). Also, heritage structures that fell in Nepal earthquake were made of mud mortar unlike the ones in India that are built of lime mortar. Among our heritage buildings, those built with stone (like the Red Fort) are, however, more vulnerable than those in bricks. The challenge is: how do you retrofit without altering any original feature,” explains professor DK Paul of IIT-Roorkee who also chairs a panel in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which decides on codes for regulating construction activities for buildings, flyovers, metro tunnels and the like.

North Indian cities house a large number of structures that can’t withstand high-magnitude earthquakes.

For example, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which was set up six years before BIS-prescribed building codes were released in 1962, was declared vulnerable by a team of IIT-Roorkee experts after extensively auditing the building last year. Now the panel’s recommendations are being implemented to strengthen the structure.

“As academics, our job is to spot the deficiencies. It’s up to the authority concerned to implement,” says ML Sharma, head of department of the institute.
मप्र के 125 आदिवासी बच्चे आईआईटी की दहलीज पर

जेईई मेन्स की कीर्ति, फहली बार बैगा छात्र भी सफल

सभी बच्चे एकलय और सरकारी स्कूलों के

अफसरों ने की निगरानी, उम्मीदों से बढ़कर आए नीतीजे

प्रोफेसर (क्यूटी)। न लाखों की पूर्व के बुधे कोटियाग का सहारा, न सुपर 30 जैसे बस्तास। इसके पाश पर या तो सिर्फ कठोर परिश्रम और आसानी जैसे लघु को भेजना का जुआ। सफलता की ये वहाँ है मान के आदिवासी किशोरों के उन 125 बच्चों की, जो सरकारी स्कूल में पढ़कर आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान में दर्ज नहीं करने को शर्त है। जेईई मेन्स के बाद आब ते इस संस्थान दे सिर्फ एक कमांड आता है। ये सात पाले हो संबंधित सिर्फ ने।

इसकी सफलता इस मामले में जनता बढ़ाई है कि ये जिन किशोरों के जीवन में तो है, वहां आईआईटी में प्रवेश का समय कोई बिगाड़ना ही चुकी आसानियों से भी देखभाल है।

आदिवासी बच्चों प्रेमी होने के खास को सात पाले तक जेईई मेन्स से जीवन पर राज करना आदिवासी बच्चों के लिए सभी को तरह है। लेकिन खुशी की महत्ता, व्यक्तित्व पढ़ाई और राज तौर पर मानियियर के प्रति प्रतिकूल रिश्ते रखने जा रहा। ज्ञान का, धारा का, खोजने का, मानव का और वास्तव में आदिवासी के लिए मध्य परिवार में सफलता पाने लागा। अब उनके सामने जेईई एडवास परिवार का समाप्त है इसके बाद देश में तकनीकी शिक्षा के सभ्यता संस्थान आईआईटी में उन्हें चलन सफल हो जाता। पाये हुए 125 बच्चों में 28 बच्चे एकलय स्कूलों के। बाकी सब मैं वामसमाज स्कूलों का पढ़ाई के नम पर यह मुकाम हासिल किया है।

सफलता के सूत्र

बच्चों में से 28 एकलय स्कूल के है, बाकी सरकारी स्कूलों में 97 हुए है। जेईई के लिए इनलों को कार्य परिश्रम तो किया ही, दृष्टियों की ओर से निर्देशित मानियियर भी की। सब ही कारों को व्यावहारिक स्तर से बंद करने में समय से पहले तैयारी की और काफ़ी बार रिहेज ही लिया।

व्यविश्लेषत तैयारी

मेन्तर जितें ज्ञानजीवन प्रोफेसर राजपूत। बच्चों के सिर्फ व्यक्तित्व का पहली बार तीर्थकर को दूरी के हिसाब से शिक्षण का समय तैयार किया। संसाधनवर्ग के जरिये मान्यतागार्ड की गई। बच्चों के लिए कड़ी लगाते साइस के हिजट पर विशेष मेन्तट की गई। दो साल की मेन्तट का निदान उल्लक्षण रहा। – लोकप्रिय जातियां, कलेक्टर मेन्तर।

मेन्तर रंग लाई

“यह बार आईआईटीजिते के बाकी को सफलता देख सभी उमड़ते है। बच्चों के लिए हौस्टल, एक्स्ट्रा क्लास एवं कार्यक्रम प्रदायक के अलावा शिक्षित शिक्षकों की मेन्तट रंग लाई है। आईआईटी के लिए यह एक स्वीकृति नई बाी है।

– धन राज, सीएएसएस

पहली बार बैगा छात्र हुआ सफल

इस संस्थान में बालाकृष्ण- मेन्तर का बैगा सख्ताहु छात्र संस्थान के छात्र सत्येकुमार का नाम भी शर्मिश्त है।
IIT, NIT in Andhra Pradesh to start from 2015-16


Hyderabad: Though they are yet to be set up, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Tirupati as well as the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Andhra Pradesh, will be taking in students for the 2015-16 academic year.

The Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs and the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) of the NITs have included these two yet-to-be-set up institutions in their joint list for counselling released on Monday.

Counselling this year will also be common for all the IITs, NITs, ISM Dhanbad, central varsities and other colleges, unlike individual counselling processes followed by different institutions every year. The JAB and CSAB signed an agreement to this effect forming the Joint Seat Allocation Authority.

According to the schedule released on Monday, the results for JEE (Advanced) will be declared on June 18, while the JEE (Main) ranks will be out on June 24. Candidates will have to fill their choice of seats between June 25 and June 29. The first round of seat allocation will be on July 1, while the second and third rounds of seat allocation would be on July 7 and July 12 respectively. Academic sessions at the IITs will begin from July 17.

This year, because of common counselling, students can choose to apply for IIT, NITs and central varsities at the same time. Students who obtain ranks in JEE (Advanced) and JEE (Main) will be eligible to participate in the counselling process. Confusion prevailed for several months regarding whether the new institutions in Andhra Pradesh will begin operations this year. But the announcement of the participating institutions’ list has dispelled all doubts.