NATIONAL CHAMPION

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, won the grand finale of the fifth edition of the Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2011 held at IIT Delhi, beating the finalists from Bengaluru, New Delhi, Chennai and Pune to become title holders and claim the weeklong trip to Sweden. The team of three, comprising Aviral Bhatnagar, Pranav Shetty and Abhishek Padmanabhan won the grand finale. Before the grand finale, colleges and technical institutes from Delhi and NCR competed for the last qualifying round. Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani Jaipur won the Delhi qualifying round. Another Swedish online quiz competition ‘Challenge Yourself India’ is open to Indian engineering students. For more, visit the website, www.challengeyourself.in
आईआईटी दिल्ली में शुरू होगी प्लेसमेंट का दौर

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय और आमिरिया मिलिया इंस्टिट्यूट के बाद अब भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी दिल्ली) में भी प्लेसमेंट का दौर शुरू होने वाला है। यह दौर एक दिसंबर से शुरू होगा और दो चरणों के तहत जुन तक चलेगा। इस साल विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की 250 से अधिक कंपनियाँ छात्रों के चयन के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली पहुँचेंगी। छात्रों और विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन में आगमी प्लेसमेंट सेसन को लेकर जोर रंगा और उल्लास का महीना है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर इंजीनियरिंग प्लेसमेंट प्रोफेसर व्युत्तिल से ने बताया कि आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों के लिए एक बार फिर यह समय नजरदार आ रहा है जिसका उपरांत हमेशा इंतजार रहता है। एक दिसंबर से शुरू होने जा रही प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत संस्थान के सैकड़ों छात्रों के सपने सकार होंगे।

फाइनल सेमेंटर में पढ़ने वाले तमाम छात्र-छात्राएं हिन्दी में प्लेसमेंट सेसन के लिए खास तैयारियां की जा रही हैं। प्रो. सेन ने बताया कि प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया का यह दौर तीन-तीन महीने के दो चरणों में जून तक चलेगा। इस साल विभिन्न क्षेत्रों पर युवा 250 से अधिक नेतृत्वकारी और मल्टीनेट्स कंपनियाँ छात्रों के चयन के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली आ रही हैं।

ये सभी कंपनियाँ फाइनल सेमेंटर के छात्र-छात्राओं को योग्यता के अनुसार मोटे सैलरी पेक्षा ऑफर करेंगी। वहीं मिठास साल की बात करते तो वर्ष 2010 की प्लेसमेंट रिपोर्ट में भी करीब 250 कंपनियाँ छात्रों के चयन के लिए कैप्सल आई थीं।

संस्थान में एक दिसंबर से शुरू होगी प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया, जून तक चलेगी। इस साल विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की 250 से अधिक कंपनियाँ करेंगी छात्रों का चयन

बताया कि प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया का यह दौर तीन-तीन महीने के दो चरणों में जून तक चलेगा। इस साल विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से जुड़ी 250 से अधिक नेतृत्वकारी और मल्टीनेट्स कंपनियाँ छात्रों के चयन के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली आ रही हैं।

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IIT-Kgp shows bias in handling inquiries?

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: IIT-Kharagpur seems to have come up with innovative ways, when it comes to dealing with suspended employees.

Flouting the norm that different inquiry officers should deal with each case of suspension, the premier institute has a one-member standing committee of justice (retired) Ronojit K Mitra, who probes all disciplinary cases raising serious questions about bias.

Mitra, appointed in April, inquired into disciplinary case against former registrar D Gousekar, faculty member A K Ghosh and suspended professor of computer science Rajeev Kumar.

Each hearing costs the institute Rs 9,750 that has grown several times since Mitra handled three cases till recently—each with multiple hearings. IIT-Kharagpur registrar T K Gosal refused to comment since "the inquiry is going on".

The HRD ministry has turned a blind eye to the way Kumar’s suspension is being handled by the institute. Even Supreme Court’s laudatory remarks about Kumar have not helped matters, with the ministry refusing to change its views. The SC said efforts of Kumar “helped in making the merit ranking process more transparent and accurate”, and “IITs and the JEE candidates who now participate in the examinations must, to a certain extent, thank the appellants for their effort in bringing such transparency and accuracy in the ranking procedure”.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal, who is also chairperson of IIT Council, refused to intervene. Kumar’s representation to Sibal was turned down on the grounds that IITs enjoy administrative autonomy and no intervention is feasible.

However, The ministry has made an exception for IIT-Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya and is refusing to take action against him in the AICTE scam, despite CBI’s recommendation.
Fee sop misused, IIM-A to tighten norms

Dayananda Yumlembam | TNN

Ahmedabad: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad has tightened its purse strings this year for students who enjoy fee waivers. The move comes after it came to light that many of the so-called economically weaker students splurged during exchange programmes abroad. The institute’s financial aid committee has decided to enforce stricter screening of students who apply for a waiver. And, the results are already showing. Last year, 331 students got relief worth Rs 9.84 crore from the institute. This time around, 270 students will get waivers worth Rs 8 crore.

The fee waiver scheme is meant for students of postgraduate programmes in management (PGP) and PGP in agro business management (PGPABM).

“This is to ensure that the provision is availed by deserving candidates only. From this year onwards, we will be cross checking details of the students’ wealth to know better about their actual financial standing,” said head of IIM-A’s financial aid committee, Ajay Pande.

Until now, students could enjoy fee waivers on the basis of their income certificates. From this year, applicants will have to give more details on their family backgrounds, profile of parents, earnings of siblings among others.

The new rules will be applicable to students who joined the institute this year (2011-2013).

Earlier, students were eligible up to 100% waiver from the total fee, which has been raised to Rs 14.5 lakh for the two-year programmes from this year. From this year, students who qualify for the waiver will get a maximum relief of up to 70% of total fees. Asstudent will not qualify for a waiver if any of these indicators suggest that a student has a backup to fund his education.

“The idea is that students should support themselves as long as they could. If a student is given 70% loan, he can manage the remaining 30 percent. Paying off a loan of around Rs 4 lakh should not be a tough task for an IIM-Aite.”

Indian tops Oxford PG law course

Sruthy Susan Ullas | TNN

Bangalore: An alumnus of National Law University of India (NLSIU), Bangalore, topped in Oxford University’s postgraduate programme.

Nirajan, a Rhodes scholar, had opted for Bachelor of Civil Law course. He beat 150 classmates to top in what he said, is one of the most “demanding programmes in the world”. He topped in three of the four courses, including Conflict of Law, Restitution, Personal Taxation and Law of Evidence.

“It was lot of hard work, but enjoyable nonetheless. The course is so well taught that even the enormous workload becomes a pleasure. I was happy with my choice, it was what I wanted to do. It did not feel like an ordeal. I came down to India only once for 10 days during Christmas. The rest of the vacation was spent in studying,” Nirajan told TOI from Chennai.

The result was a pleasant surprise for Nirajan. He learnt about his result after he returned to India. “The stint there was absolutely incredible. It was an intellectual exaltation. You learn each subject in detail and in much depth. It’s not just policy-oriented law, but what a barrister interested in litigation would want to read. I interacted with the best minds in the field there, like Lord Hoffmann,” he said.

Nirajan had always dreamt of studying litigation in Oxford for the university’s close relationship to litigation.

“There is an inexplicable joy in arguing law. Litigation is an area where one gets to deal with legal reasoning. Every time you get a case, you can make legal arguments that have not been made before,” said Nirajan, who participated in moots at NLSIU. He is grateful to NLSIU which helped him build a ‘great’ platform. “I was already exposed to some aspects of English law at NLSIU, I had a strong base. At Oxford, people are familiar with NLSIU as every year there are Rhodes scholars from the institute,” he said.

Nirajan, son of a chartered accountant, is working under a senior advocate in the Madras high court and thoroughly enjoying it.
Derecognised 44 deemed universities face more heat

NEW DELHI: The 44 deemed universities facing the uncertainty of getting derecognised by the Centre are in for yet another setback. A Supreme-court appointed panel of three members has concurred with the earlier review committees stating the institutions lack requisite infrastructure and, therefore, do not justify the “deemed” status. An estimated two lakh students are pursuing various courses in these universities spread across the country.
M Tech student kills himself in hostel, ragging angle suspected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Warangal: An M Tech first year student from Delhi jumped to death from his hostel building at the National Institute of Technology in Kazipet on Sunday. Sources said stress and parental pressure led 23-year-old Ankur Bharadwaj to commit suicide. Police are investigating into a possible ragging angle.

Bharadwaj, whose room was on the second floor, rushed to the eighth floor of his Ultra Mega hostel on the NIT campus around 4.30pm and jumped down. Upon hearing a thud, hostelers rushed to the spot and found Bharadwaj in a pool of blood. They alerted the warden who informed the police.

Kazipet deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Venkat Narsaiah told TOI that Bharadwaj was upset ever since his parents told him to continue his course in the NIT.

"He spoke to his parents on Saturday night and expressed his wish to go back to Delhi. He also threatened to commit suicide if they insist on him to pursue his course in Warangal," the DSP said.

A student of structural engineering, Bharadwaj was both meritorious and religious. "He used to perform puja every day in his room, before attending classes. He was good in academics too," a fellow student said.
The University of Glasgow has been ranked as number one in the UK for satisfaction in a survey of international students. Taking all the ratings for learning, living and support experience together, the university is first in the UK and third in the whole ISB survey. The summer 2011 survey compared Glasgow against 65 international universities, 44 UK institutions, 12 Russell Group universities and six Scottish institutions.

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officials who saw it as the direct interference of the government and believed that it undermined the autonomy of the UGC.
IIM Rohtak organises 'Mission India'

FeBureau

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Rohtak, the eighth member of the IIM family, organised its first management conclave 'Mission India' on October 30, 2011. The event, for which The Financial Express was an associate sponsor, had in attendance stalwarts of industries as diverse as banking, financial services, media, consumer goods, real estate and telecom.

Prof P Rameshan, director, IIM Rohtak, in his welcome address, emphasised upon the need of such events where industry stalwarts can share their thoughts and aspiring managers can draw upon these insights. The day-long event touched upon issues like strategic talent acquisition and retention in India, India, and Gagan Bakshi, director (M&A), InterGlobe Enterprises. The speakers concluded that companies need to maintain transparency and must encourage meritocracy.

The keynote address was delivered by CM Vasudev, chairman of HDFC Bank, and the first panel discussion on "Talent Management: An Indian Perspective" saw participation from Sidharath Kapur, CFO of GMR Airports, Devanshu Bhatt, country managing partner, Reval India, Alok Verma, partner at Tecnova Solutions, and Gagan Bakshi. The session sought to understand the implications of mega-mergers and acquisitions by Indian firms abroad.

Prof Rameshan summed up the event and said that IIM Rohtak, an institution born to a proud heritage, is determinedly striving forth to make its grand vision a reality.
Red tape tangles US institutes’ entry into India

Chetan Chauhan
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NEW DELHI: The United States has cited Indian bureaucracy and uncertainty over Foreign Education Providers Bill as two major bottlenecks for setting up campuses of its foreign universities in India.

A US government report finds higher education in India low on standards, warns against eyeing India as a big market.

“Disputes within the Indian government, as well as with private (education) providers has slowed down passage of the bill,” the guide named Expanding US Study Abroad to India, said.

The report suggested that US institutes’ interests in initiating large-scale operations in India may want to focus on joint and dual-degree programmes in partnership with Indian institutions, rather than wait for future opportunities to establish brick-and-mortar branch campuses in India.

The report, however, paints Indian higher education system in a bad light, saying it lacks quality control standards and national-level assessments.

“With over 21,000 colleges, creating national standards has been an arduous task, rife with political and social implications,” the report said.

The guide has advised against eyeing India as a big market unless the government brings in structural changes in its higher education system.
B-schools need to focus on under-managed sectors

By Prashant K. Nanda
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As India plans to open up the higher education sector through a proposed legislation, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are seeking more autonomy from the government and plan to market their brand globally and admit foreign students. M. Damodaran, a former chief of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India and current chairman of IIM-Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), says business schools need to focus on under-managed areas to be a part of nation-building. Edited excerpts from an interview:

Do you think the government is serious about autonomy for the IIMs or is it more of a bureaucratic exercise?

My understanding is that if you want to exercise power legitimately in public interest, I don’t think anyone has a shortage of powers. It is a question of how do you identify those powers that you need to exercise in a manner that is of public interest. Because, that is the justification ultimately of the power.

I think today it won’t be unfair to say that you don’t have power. I think powers exists. All of us who have powers want more power, but we still need to ask ourselves: are we exercising those powers we already have. And this is just not confined to only the IIMs, but across the table.

There are certain things that laws, rules and regulation tell you what you can do. Some tell you specifically what you cannot do, and there is an area in between where it is silent.

You should not see (this) as forbidden territory. Because what the laws, etc. not either expressly or by necessary implication preclude, you must see that as your legitimate... If you look at it that way, then you will see that there is a lot of empowerment. It is a question of how quickly you exercise those powers.

How relevant is the current management education provided by the IIMs for the country?

We have deliberated on whether the management education provided today is relevant to the India growth story. If management education is aimed at producing only investment bankers for foreign companies or management personnel for multinationals, and not looking at under-managed sectors like health, education, physical infrastructure or agriculture. They need management as much as the areas of finance or marketing. To what extent is the IIM bunch contributing towards this (under-managed sector)—as of today, hardly anything.

So we have to look at those under-managed sectors. We have to see how thousands of management institutes with the IIMs in the forefront address some of those.

What are the challenges?

We have more institutes (IIMs) now; secondly, some thought is being given to improving the quality of the faculty and incentivizing them for producing better results. (The process of) selecting good students is in place. In terms of empowerment of faculty and people who run the institutes, I don’t think anyone can complain. There is complete functional autonomy. It’s not like independence. You don’t fly a flag and say you are independent.

But to the extent you need powers to run a good institute, they are all in place. The new IIMs will take some time because there is an issue of branding. They don’t have a brand like the IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore or Calcutta. So, getting faculty to the new IIMs is a bit of challenge, but it’s insurmountable.

What is going to improve management education are three, four things—good students; good, committed faculty; and (a management) that sees itself as a part of transformation to take people with hardly any experience, and moulding them into good managers.

To become global brands, the IIMs are talking about marketing themselves worldwide in the face of foreign institutes showing an interest in India. Your view?

I think the IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and IIMs are two Indian brands already known. Within India, there is a huge demand for management education. The IIMs are not positioned to fulfill those numbers today. That’s why new IIMs are being set up. Institutions from outside are recognizing that there is a whole lot of Indian students seeking admission outside... They say why not move to India. There is a space for everybody and will lead to competition, better quality and, of course, more choice for students.

This is something we need to welcome. It will ensure that our IIMs do better than what they are doing right now. Just that these people are coming does not mean they are superior. Maybe their brand story is better known, maybe the foreign tag appeals to some Indian students. As we manage to market our brand better globally, and as newer IIMs establish them, there is no reason to feel threatened by anyone.

But a faculty crunch is hampering their growth and the quality of education.

We recognize that a good faculty is always a constraint because you are looking for top-class faculty for a larger number of institutions. When you are doing that, you discover that it is not available. Of course, there are issues that industry pays much more than academic institutions. A lot of people don’t see teaching as their lifetime occupation and you have all those issues. Yet there are a bunch of new youngsters who think they can bring new things to the table.

What we are looking at is how quickly you can make new IIMs institutions of great learning. If you wait for everyone to have their own faculty and have their own processes, then it will take longer. One of the ways to do that is to pool resources (among the IIMs). But you will not see them function as mirror images of each other. They have to cooperate to become stronger, yet remain competitors. They will compete for better students and better faculties.

There were talks about a joint interview among the 13 IIMs for selecting students. Why was that abandoned?

The ministry wanted was that students seeking admission go from one town to another for interviews. You don’t know in a competitive situation whether you will get selected. Let’s recognize the travel time and money.

Now, what has been talked about is can we ensure that you do it jointly, but do it in a manner so that students don’t face such problems. Do interviews on subsequent days (in the same city) so that students don’t have to travel from town to town.
Bit by bit, it evolves

Among the finest technical schools in the country, BITS Pilani has charted an evolutionary path for itself.

Prof G Raghurama, the director of the institute, shares how BITS is realising its dream of being among the leading universities in the world

A

Unless you come to BITS Pilani, you won't get a feel for how the campus is working, how the students are doing and what's happening. It's a bit like being on a cruise ship. You wake up in the morning, have breakfast, go to class, have lunch, go to class again, have dinner, have a meeting, then go to bed. It's a routine that you get used to.

But there's something special about BITS Pilani. It's not just a place for learning, it's a place for living and growing. The campus is like a big family, and everyone is a part of it.

The campus is located in Goa, which is a small city situated on the west coast of India. It's surrounded by the Arabian Sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other.

The campus itself is spread over 180 acres of land and has a population of around 15,000 students and staff. It's a lively place, with a lot of energy and activity.

The campus has a variety of buildings, including lecture halls, dormitories, research labs, and sports facilities. It also has a library, a gym, a restaurant, and a shopping center.

The campus is designed to be self-sufficient, with its own water and electricity supplies. It also has its own farm, which provides fresh produce for the campus.

The campus is surrounded by lush greenery and natural beauty. The Arabian Sea is just a short walk away, and the Western Ghats provide a beautiful backdrop.

The campus is not just a place for studying, it's a place for living. The students are encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, and drama.

The campus also has a strong focus on research. The faculty members are all experts in their fields and are actively involved in research projects.

The campus is not just a place for students, it's a place for teachers as well. The faculty members are dedicated to teaching and are always available to help the students.

The campus is not just a place for learning, it's a place for growing. The students are encouraged to think critically and to develop their own ideas.

The campus is not just a place for the present, it's a place for the future. The students are being prepared for the challenges of the future, and they are being given the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

The campus is not just a place for BITS, it's a place for the world. The students are being prepared to be global citizens, and they are being given the tools they need to make a difference in the world.

The campus is not just a place for BITS, it's a place for BITS Pilani.
3 new elements added to Periodic Table

Three new elements, including one named after famous astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, have been added to the Periodic Table. The general assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) has approved the names of the new elements numbered 110, 111 and 112 and are called darmstadtium (Ds), roentgenium (Rg) and copernicium (Cn).

The general assembly, which consists of 60 members from different countries, approved the new names at its meeting at the Institute of Physics (IOP) in London, the Daily Mail newspaper reported. Although they have only just been approved to the table, the elements were discovered a long time ago. But names needed to be officially given to them by scientific organizations. According to Universe Today, Copernicium was created on February 9, 1996, but its original name — ununbium — didn't get changed until almost two years ago when German scientists proved its existence.
इंजीनियरिंग छोड़ सभी कोर्स में बढ़ेगी सीटें

*अमर उजाला ब्यूरो*

नोएडा। आई इंडिया काउंसिल फार टेकलकल एज्वीकेच्यून (एआईसीटीई) ने इंजीनियरिंग को छोडकर चाकू सभी पाठ्यक्रमों में हादसे कोर्स की एक अतिरिक्त दिविजन यानि 60 सीटें बढ़ाने की अनुमति दी है। 2012 सत्र से एआईसीटीई ने डिस्टोमा, यूजी और टेक्नीकल के लिए फामेसी, आक्टेक्ट्रर एंड टेकनोलॉजी, एलएलए एंड क्राफ्ट और होटल मैनेजमेंट के पाठ्यक्रमों में अधिकतम दिविजन की संख्या 2 से 3 यानि सीटें की संख्या 120 से 180 करने की इजाजत दी है।

दरअसल, इंजीनियरिंग कोर्सों में फेल होने से ही भारी संख्या में सीटे खाली रहने के कारण एआईसीटीई ने 2011-12 के सत्र में बीटीक की सीमित सीटें ही बढ़ाई थी। मौजूदा सतर के 40 पारंदुदी सीटे खाली रहे गए। इसे देखते हुए एआईसीटीई ने नए कोर्सों में इंजीनियरिंग एंड टेकनोलॉजी पाठ्यक्रम में 2011 की तरह ही 2012 में भी अधिकतम दिविजन यानि 300 सीटें चलाने की ही अनुमति दी है। ये व्यवस्था नए कॉलेजों के लिए एआईसीटीई की व्यवस्था एक दिविजन यानि 60 सीटें अतिरिक्त बढ़ाई।

डिस्टोमा और बीटीक-बीई पर बकाया रखी गई है।

पूर्वी और फामेसी, आक्टेक्ट्रर, एलएलए एंड क्राफ्ट और होटल मैनेजमेंट के डिस्टोमा और यूजी पाठ्यक्रमों में फिल्टर साल के मुकाबले सीटों की अधिकतम संख्या 120 से 180 तक कर दी गई है। बीटीक के बीमारों के साल के मुकाबले दूसरे साल आक्टेक्ट्रर देखा गया है। इससे सी संस्थान अगस्त इस्तेमाल बढ़े सकते हैं बंकन छात्रों के दाखिले की मासूमी भी कुछ हद तक कम हो सकेगी। एआईसीटीई ने 2012-13 की मान्यता प्रक्रिया में इसे प्रमुख करते हुए संस्थानों से 31 दिसंबर तक आवेदन मार्ग है।