केंद्रीय इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए होगी एकल परीक्षा!

केंद्रीय भावन संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के अनुसार 16 आईआईटी, 31 राज्यीय प्रोफेशनल संस्थान (एनआईटी), 10 भारतीय विद्यालय, अशोक ऐंटार्कटिक संस्थान (आईआईएसआईआई) तथा राज्यीय इंजीनियरिंग, विद्यालय और तकनीकी संस्थान (एआईआईएसआईआई) हैं। पिलाशिल संस्थान के लिए छात्रों की अवधि-अवधि प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाओं से नुकसान पहुँच नहीं है।

इससे न सिर्फ छात्रों की आर्थिक परेशानियों का समापन करना पड़ता है, बल्कि उनका समय भी जाया होता है। मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि सरकार अंपल सत्र से एक ही प्रस्ताव परीक्षा का आयोजन करने जा रही है।

इंजीनियरिंग के प्रारंभिक छात्रों में कम हो रही रूचि के कारण सरकार से समय निवृत्त इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में हजारों सीटे खाली रह जाती हैं। सरकार के लिए यह प्रतिष्ठा काफी बना हुआ है। हालांकि हर बार उच्च सरकारी पैठक में केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्वीकार की उन्नी ने कहा कि एकल परीक्षा के बजाय एनआईटी, आईआईटी, आईआईएसआईआई, आईआईएसआईआई और अन्य सरकार के द्वारा सहयोगी प्राप्त प्रोफेशनल संस्थानों (जीएफआई) के लिए समान कार्यालय को लागू करने से न सिर्फ छात्रों और अभ्यासकों को प्रभाव कम होगा,
IITs likely to hike tuition fees to become self-reliant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Nudged by the Centre, the IITs could witness a hike in tuition fee for students after a two-year gap.

According to an IIT Director, a crucial meeting of the IIT Council in this regard has been called on Tuesday in Mumbai to discuss the modalities and funding pattern including a hike in fee structure to make IITs self-reliant. And also, to “recover” the running expenses of the institutes which include laboratory facilities.

The last time IITs hiked the fee was in January 2013 when it was almost doubled — from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 annually.

The Council of IITs is a Government-nominated body of the 16 IITs vested with all executive powers.

Sources said the meeting could also discuss a proposal to increase the quota of students appearing for JEE Advance in the 2016-2017 academic session from the existing 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh. At present, after the first stage, JEE (Main), 1.5 lakh students are selected for the second stage of the selection process in JEE Advance.

Sources in the HRD Ministry said the IIT Council has been advised to deliberate on adopting a funding mechanism where the Government will appreciably enhance investments in capital assets, labs etc but the bulk of the running expenses would be met by the students.

According to sources, this could potentially raise the tuition fee, though the increase would be met by 100 per cent interest free student loan. The model has already been accepted by the NITs. These institute charge ₹70,000 annually and with the implementation of the funding mechanism, the fee could double, said an NIT director.

On the agenda would be increasing the number of students appearing for JEE Advance from 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh from 2016 onwards. “The number of seats available at the IITs has increased considerably as new IITs have also come into existence.

“But, over the past three years, only 1.5 lakh students could make it to the IIT-JEE (advanced) examination. We wanted to ensure that more students could take the competitive examination as seats have remained vacant even this year,” said an IIT Director. IITs, on the other hand, are mulling holding a single entrance test by reverting back to the old format as the existing format is proving to be “cumbersome” and “time consuming.”
IIT Ropar missing campus, faculty

KOMAL AMIT GERA
Chandigarh, 3 October

Among the eight new IITs established in 2008, the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar topped its peers in Scopus Data with an average citation of 4.93 and an h-index of 23.

The institute, set up to facilitate research in the region, has since not been able to achieve its potential due to a shortage of faculty and infrastructure. Operating out of a transit campus on 25 acres in Punjab’s Roopnagar district, 50 km from Chandigarh, the institute has been keeping a low profile.

Construction of the new campus is delayed by two years. IIT Ropar is the slowest among its peers in this respect. Against an allocation of ₹760 crore for the first phase of construction, the institute used only ₹294 crore till March 2015. This includes ₹90 crore of advance payments to meet the deadline for fund use.

Despite support from the Union ministry of human resources development and the Punjab government, construction is delayed because of a lax local administration. S K Das, director, IIT Ropar, says the teething problems are over. Construction has resumed and the new building will be ready by March 2017.

A teaching faculty of 65, against the sanctioned strength of 90, has also plugged the scope for research. Industry in Punjab is grappling with obsolete technology and synergies with a premier technology institute are necessary to face global competition. Agriculture, the lifeline of Punjab, is also waiting for customised technologies. “We will hold interviews in December to hire faculty. A delegation from IIT Ropar will travel to the UK, the US and Canada next summer to recruit post-doctorates,” Das adds.

The institute faces the ignominy of not being able to find jobs for all its graduates. The director attributes this to the tedious journey from Chandigarh that dampens the spirit of corporates. “The computer stream has 100 per cent placement, but the other two engineering branches offered here, mechanical and electrical, have a lower placement ratio. We have formed a centre for career development to mentor students for campus interviews,” says Das.

Around 480 undergraduates and 100 postgraduate students are preparing for the placement season that begins in October. Their lack of soft skills has been identified as an issue, says a faculty member, and it is being addressed.

New courses will be added in phases. Civil engineering will be introduced in the April 2016 session and new postgraduate courses a session later. “It is not possible to excel in every field so we will not replicate the old IITs. We have identified agriculture engineering, bio-medical science, additive manufacturing (3D printing) and energy as areas for research,” says Das.

IIT Ropar set up an entrepreneurship cell in 2010 and a business incubator in 2014 but its own students are yet to begin their start-up journey. Limited funds and a small pool of mentors are barriers to the startup wave that has swept the established IITs in the last few years.
Mumbai: The Dry San Hygienic Rural Toilet is a waterless system where waste doesn't have to be flushed. Prof Dr Kishore Munshi, senior professor and former dean of the Industrial Design Center at IIT-B, has developed the Dry San to reduce open defecation, improve hygiene, and help vulnerable sections including women and children.

"The project has been developed for rural India, targetting mainly the farming community with the basic premise that there is dearth of water in most rural areas. Thus, the flush toilet cannot be part of the solution. Therefore, an autonomous solution based on water-less or minimal water usage was invented," said Prof Munshi. The Dry San has been developed after garnering financial support from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, along with CTech, an IIT-B incubated designed company. It comes in various dimensions, along with an easy manual.

While work on the project started in 2011, the final product was ready by 2014. For starters, a design was put in place, which is not only easy to build but maintain too. "In the conventional water-based sanitation system, there is heavy use of water to maintain the water-trap and for flushing requirements.

Flush-toilets and sewerage systems not only involve huge infrastructure and high maintenance costs, they also cannot ensure a clean environment. In case of failure, they pose a far greater risk to public health and environment, which is more likely to happen in rural, semi-urban situations," said Prof Munshi.

The Dry-San converts waste material, which otherwise pollutes land and water bodies, into a resource (fertiliser from urine and manure from solid waste) for the farmer. The conversion is done by non-chemical and natural aerobic decomposition, facilitated by a patented design.

Another highlight that sets this design apart from others is that, while in septic tanks, there are chances of poisonous gases leading to explosions, there are no gases formed in Dry San's underground pit. Water is seeped into the soil and only solid waste remains, which eventually decomposes.

"If a family of five uses this toilet every day, they can open the pit once in eight or 10 years to clean the decomposed waste, which can easily be used as fertilizer," added Prof Munshi. While there have been various sanitation projects introduced by the government, most have lacked maintenance.

"During an all-India survey, we found out that most public toilets use ceramic tiles, which eventually give away and make the toilet unusable. Instead, our design uses stainless steel - easy to use and maintain," he said. Building one Dry San toilet from scratch can cost up to Rs. 70,000, including labour cost. This cost can be reduced if they are built in bulk.

One of the first such units was placed at a labour camp next to the IIT-B campus, where labourers have been using it. "The workers decided that this particular cubicle will be used only by women and children. After a year, it's still functioning well. BMC authorities have also touched base with us to place such toilets in slums that are not accessible to the main drainage system of the city," he said.
Smriti Irani's obsession with ranking is unhealthy for India's education system

It distracts from real debates and controversies on the ground.


Globalisation is often a seductive game inviting people into unnecessary comparisons and unreal clubs.

One creates a system where one wants to rank everything from the most developed nations, the finest cars, the most beautiful women, often without wondering who the rankers are and what constitutes the basis of rankings. When it is the ten most beautiful women in the world, there is a voyeuristic enjoyment as long as one does not ask what beauty is or whether there is a racist element to it. Globalisation creates unwelcome clubs and comparisons which often destroy an otherwise welcome diversity.

Sadly, politicians too get into the business because they find it a handy tool. When you worry about rankings you convey your apparent concern for the whole without revealing any understanding for ground level realities.

When our president echoed his concern for education, he remarked that there was not a single institution in India which ranked in the first 200 in the world. A concern is then articulated about the number of institutions China has in the first 100, with the added wonder that Singapore and Hong Kong also managed to qualify.

Education

This ranking game has had a more individualistic bias. Earlier we used to worry about the number of nobel prizes a country received and wonder why India hardly made the grade. Analysts failed to understand that rankings reduced the educational universe to a flat land, a uniform terrain where diversity and difference were ignored. What one did for economic indicators one did for education with even more devastating consequence.

There was a literal economisation within the ranking game. In fact, rankings turned education into a dismal science. Recently Smriti Irani, our HRD minister, went one up on the president by unveiling an indigenous ranking system free of international bias. The model of course is China which created a similar two-set model prior to going global.

Irani’s comments are revealing. She claims employability is the central concern confronting the 23 lakh applicants, including PhDs, applying for 368 posts of peon in Uttar Pradesh. This raises two questions. Do degrees have to be connected to jobs? Can't there be other forms of learning? Secondly, what sense does it make if a man with a PhD has to apply for a peon’s job? Thirdly, why is enjoyability, the sense of play, creativity not as critical as employability? The fact that students do not get jobs might have to do with a skewed economy. In fact, few ask how many livelihoods, especially crafts, and ways of life industry and economy destroy.

The ranking game creates a set of ancillary industries very reminiscent of tutorial colleges created in the first wave of university organisation. The tutorial college is how an informal core which surrounds the university, training one for admissions and also compensating one for lack of access. In fact, the admission industry virtually destroyed education by reducing knowledge to shortcuts, techniques and guess questions. Cities like Kota in Rajasthan prospered in creating the admission and examination industry. Students felt that without this guarantee or insurance of techniques they would never make it to the bureaucracy or industry.
The corruption involved in evaluation and accreditation is frightening. The National Advisory Council (NAC) is today more powerful than the University Grants Commission (UGC). The latter had an advisory function. The NAC determines the life chances of an institute and, since its inception, is among the most corrupt organisations. What we need is not a system of rankings but an index of corruption in education.

**Corruption**

Take the NAC list of professors as evaluators and see if you can identify well-known academics. The NAC evaluators are among the new zamindars of knowledge, dalals of certification. This is a process that needs examination while colleges are wasting huge man-hours preparing reports only a kabaddilwala would be interested in.

There is an innumeracy to rankings that we must challenge. It is not just the evaluating criteria but the fetishisation of number. This equation of rankings to excellence is a reminder of the earlier disaster where IQ was related to intelligence. The idea of IQ has two flaws. Firstly, in fetished number and secondly, it hid an ethnocentricity as racial or cultural bias. IQ was used to beat black people into accepting an invidious classification as a mentally deficient people.

**Controversies**

Rankings also ignore tacit assumptions and traditions. When we rank an institution, we do so within a set of assumptions about cultures of knowledge. Ranking as a process is silent about the tacit understanding of excellence. Rankings freeze quality. In the same way one needs to ask how representational is a ranking. Does it do justice to the definition of knowledge in different cultures?

The obsession with rankings also distracts from real debates and controversies on the ground. Ranking as a form of accounting is confused with accountability. The enthusiasm for rankings has drowned the debate on the fate of liberal arts, or what the role of scientific research in a university exactly is.

Requirements of knowledge, pedagogy, creativity get lost in a standardisation process, where education as a protean process becomes a procrustean format. The academic quota of productivity and papers becomes a part of other quota games. With rankings we are destroying a university as a vibrant culture and bureaucratising it. It is just the latest fashion, but such fashions will prove costly to the academe.
The inter-IIT Student Exchange Programme is a programme wherein IIT students spend a semester in other IIT campuses and study different courses. This programme is regulated by the MHRD and through the mutual understanding between the partnering IITs. No formal documentation or MoU is required for this, unlike with foreign institutes. Despite such efforts, it has been noted that very few students opt for inter-IIT exchange and would rather go to foreign institutes for a semester.

IIT students can chose to go for a semester, either to another IIT or to a foreign institute for an exchange programme. Prof T.A. Gonsalves, Director of IIT-Mandi, feels, "Foreign institutes give a better cultural exposure to students, but going to other IITs for a semester is academically better. Students find it easier, as compared to foreign institutes, to fit in in sister institutes and spend more time focusing on academics." Prof Ramamurthy K. from IIT Madras says, "Many of the newer IITs send their students to our institute since they may lack the infrastructure to provide certain specializations like design semantics, architecture, marine biology, etc." Some of the newer IITs are located in areas miles away from cities. They function out of a transit campuses with lesser facilities as compared to older IITs. In fact, going to other IITs is in several ways similar to foreign exchange programmes. First, students get to learn subjects not available in their maiden institutes and second, they don't need to retake the same semester once they return home from the host IIT.

There is also a Credit Transfer Policy in IITs wherein credits earned in the host IIT during the semester can be transferred to the student's home institute. According to Prof Gonsalves, "If students meet the credit distribution requirement (number of credits required to pass different sections) then they need not retake similar subjects in their home IIT." Besides, students can also choose the subjects to pursue in the host IIT, irrespective of whether they are a part of that discipline or not. Prof Vinod Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT-Roorkee says, "There is a subject mapping procedure wherein we compare courses in both colleges and depending on the flexibility of curriculum in that discipline, the student is allowed to take up courses in other specializations as well."

On the other hand, there are some IIT professors who don't find any benefit in such programmes and consider foreign exchange programmes more beneficial for students. Prof Anurag Sharma, Academic Affairs Dean IIT Delhi says, "Going to other IITs does not add much value to students at the undergraduate level. The teaching techniques and curricula are more or else similar throughout all IITs. It is advisable at the PhD or Masters level, to send students to IITs with better laboratory facilities." Raj Mohan, an exchange student to IIT Madras feels, "IIT Madras has better facilities to pursue the same curriculum. However, I would have preferred to have gone to a foreign institute instead because there isn't much difference in learning throughout all the IITs."

The Inter-IIT Student Exchange Programme is pretty unpopular among IIT students despite flexibility in procedures for the same. Professors and students feel that the NKN (National Knowledge Network) and e-resources shared between IITs have made inter-IIT learning more flexible. Hence, students would prefer to go to foreign institutes which give them an international learning perspective. As a result, every year only 3 to 4 students choose other IITs for exchange programmes. In the last 2 years, IIT Mandi has sent only 4 students to IIT Madras.
Digital India's brand ambassadors selected: 17-year-old IIT-JEE topper amongst the selected 4

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/digital-india/1/489427.html

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 'Digital India' campaign, finally has 4 brand ambassadors, who will be spreading awareness regarding the campaign.

Launched on July 1, 2015 by Prime Minister Modi, it is an initiative of the Indian government to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing internet connectivity.

On Tuesday, the names of the selected 4 were released, which included the self-proclaimed ethical hacker, Ankit Fadia, All India IIT-JEE topper, Satwat Jagwani, All India IIT-JEE-Advanced Girl Topper - Kruti Tiwari and Pranav Mistry - Computer Scientist at Samsung USA.

As per newspaper reports, Satwat Jagwani is a 17 year old, who hails from Satna district of Madhya Pradesh and has topped the IIT-JEE advanced 2015 exams this year with 496 marks out of 504.

His parents are in the medical profession and he has studied at the Bansal classes in Kota for his IIT-JEE preparation.

Kruti Tiwari is a native of Indore and has attained 47th rank in JEE Advanced 2015 and was personally picked up by the president.

Pranav Mistry is 34 year old computer scientist and inventor. At present, he is the Global Vice President of Research at Samsung and the head of Think Tank Team. He is best known for his work on SixthSense.

The government released a press release declaring the appointment of four Digital India Brand Ambassadors is as follows:

Shri Satwat Jagwani, All India IIT-JEE - Advanced Topper -2015 (Student)

Ms. Kruti Tiwari, All India IIT-JEE - Advanced Girl Topper -2015 (Student)

Mr Ankit Fadia, Author & Ethical Hacker

Shri Pranav Mistry, Samsung USA (Computer Scientist/ Author of 6th Sense)
Green initiatives galore at IIT Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 4 October

IIT-Delhi is all fired up about its various 'green initiatives', ranging from organic waste management, paper recycling, carpooling and wildlife conservation.

“Our team 'Sustainable IIT-D' has carried out a range of eco-friendly initiatives on the campus. We have reduced our hostel mess wastage up to 50% per cent. A bird audit was conducted and we maintain an online portal detailing the biodiversity here.

“We are currently working on a carpooling project and planning to launch it formally next month,” Archit Raj, Project Lead, Sustainable IIT-D told PTL.

Planning to take the 'green message' forward, the IIT Delhi students have refused to hand over the waste generated on the campus to the usual garbage pickers.

“Usually the waste generated here is dumped at the Okhla landfill. But we have decided to treat the waste here itself. We, with the help of NGO Green Bandhu, convert the waste into organic waste, which is later used as manure,” he said.

The ‘Sustainable IIT-D' initiative has also forayed into paper and plastic recycling. While students are offered discounts if they bring back their eco-friendly cups, PET bottles are being converted into 'eco-designs'.

“We ran the 'Take you cup campaign', wherein the students who recycle their cups, are given 'green incentives'. You have to take your eco-friendly cups to the nearest food outlet on the campus to get your discount,” Siddharth Rajan, project co-ordinator said.

“We are also working extensively on paper recycling. Students collect posters from the campus and use the non-used side of it. The idea is to minimize wastage. In another interesting initiative, we are converting used PET bottles into a renewable source of energy. The bottles are converted into bulbs, providing 750 W of power. These have been installed in the slum areas,” he said. As part of the ‘eco-design’ or sustainable architecture, Rajan said the PET bottles are also converted into 'PET bottle chairs'.” We have installed such chairs at many places on the campus,” he said.
आईआईटी दिल्ली में हरित पहल, अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, जैव विविधता संरक्षण शामिल

नई दिल्ली, (बीआई)। आईआईटी-दिल्ली अपने विभिन्न हरित पहलों से एक उदाहरण स्थापित कर रहा है। इन पहलों में जैविक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, पेपर रिसाइकलिंग, कार पूंजिंग और वन्यजीव संरक्षण शामिल है। पहलों से जुड़े 'सस्तनेबल आईआईटी-डी' के परियोजना अध्यक्ष अरविंद राज ने कहा, हमारी टीम 'सस्तनेबल आईआईटी-डी' ने परिसर में कई पर्यावरण अनुकूल पहल किए गए हैं।

परियोजना के तहत पेट फ्लास्टिक: बोतलों को 'पेट बोतल कुर्सियां' और साथ ही क्रिया के अक्षय खींच जो रहा है। बोतलों को बच्चे में बदला जा रहा है और अन्य बस्ती इलाकों में लगाया जा रहा है। जबकि पेट बोतल कुर्सियां परिसर में कई जगहों पर लगाई गई हैं। अरविंद ने कहा कि संस्थान में समृद्ध जैव विविधता है और पक्षियों से जुड़े सर्वेक्षण करने पर हमने यहां पक्षियों की 56 प्रजातियों का पता लगाया। यहां कई प्रवासी पक्षी भी देखे गए। उन्होंने कहा कि जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय जेएनयू के स्कूल ऑफ लाइफ साइंसज के प्रोफेसर सूर्य प्रकाश जैव विविधता पहल का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।

परियोजना अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि वह केवल एक संदेश फैलाना चाहते हैं और वह यह है कि 'चाहे यह कितना भी छोटा कहीं ना हो, आप उस हरित बदलाव को अंजाम दें जो आप खुद देखना चाहते हैं।
हमने 50 फीसदी कचरा कम किया: अर्चित राज

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी-दिल्ली अपने विभाग हरित पहलों से एक उदाहरण स्थापित कर रहा है। इन पहलों में जैविक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, पेपर रिसाइकलिंग, कार पुलिंग और वन्यजीव संरक्षण शामिल हैं। पहलों से जुड़े ‘सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी’ के परियोजना अध्यक्ष अर्चित राज ने कहा कि हमारी टीम ‘सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी’ ने परिसर में कई पर्यावरण अनुकूल पहल किए गए हैं। हमने अपने होस्टल के कचरे को 50 प्रतिशत तक कम कर दिया है। पक्षियों के संबंध में एक सर्वेक्षण कराया गया और हमने यहां जैव विविधता के ब्यौरे देने वाला एक ऑनलाइन पोर्टल बनाया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हम इस समय कार पुलिंग (कार साझा करना) परियोजना पर काम कर रहे हैं और हमारी अगले साल औपचारिक रूप से इसे शुरू करने की योजना है। हरित पहल के तहत संस्थान में पैदा होने वाला कचरे का परिशोधन परिसर में ही किया जा रहा है। ग्रीन बंधु एनजीओ की मदद से हम कचरे को जैव अपशिष्ट में बदल देते हैं जिसका बाद में खाद के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।
NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi is all fired up about its various green initiatives, ranging from organic waste management, paper recycling, car-pooling and wildlife conservation.

“Our team ‘Sustainable IIT-D’ has carried out a range of eco-friendly initiatives on campus. We have reduced our hostel mess wastage up to 50 per cent. A bird audit was conducted and we maintain an online portal detailing the biodiversity here. We are currently working on a car-pooling project and planning to launch it formally next month,” said Archit Raj, Project Lead, Sustainable IIT-D.

Planning to take the ‘green message’ forward, the IIT-Delhi students have refused to hand over the waste generated on campus to the usual garbage pickers. “Usually the waste generated here is dumped at the Okhla landfill. But we have decided to treat the waste here itself. We, with the help of NGO Green Bandhu, convert the waste into organic waste, which is later used as manure,” he said.

The ‘Sustainable IIT-D’ initiative has also forayed into paper and plastic recycling. While students are offered discounts if they bring back their eco-friendly cups, PET bottles are being converted into ‘eco-designs’.

“We ran the ‘Take you cup campaign’, wherein the students who recycle their cups, are given ‘green incentives’. You have to take your eco-friendly cups to the nearest food outlet on campus to get your discount,” said Siddharth Rajan, project coordinator.

“We are also working extensively on paper recycling. Students collect posters from the campus and use the non-used side of it. The idea is to minimize wastage. In another interesting initiative, we are converting used PET bottles into a renewable source of energy. The bottles are converted into bulbs, providing 750 W of power. These have been installed in the slum areas,” he said.
IITs to push for more financial autonomy

Council to bat for better financing pattern and a likely fee increase at its meeting tomorrow

Kalpana Pathak
Mumbai, 4 October

Days after the National Institutes of Technology increased their fees by 300 per cent, the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) could also be considering a fee increase.

The IIT Council, which is slated to meet in Mumbai on Tuesday, is likely to discuss a proposal to increase tuition fee. At the root of the proposal is an agenda point that says the IITs could manage their recurring expenditure from their earnings.

The agenda mentions discussions on the pattern of financing for IITs. It also mentions that the older IITs will have to manage their recurring expenditure from their earnings. To increase our earnings, the council will have to approve a fee increase,” said the director of an IIT who did not wish to be named.

Though he did not comment on the extent of fee increase, another director said the increase should be to the extent of covering the per-student cost for the IITs to be in a stable financial condition.

“Increasing the fee is within the purview of the IITs. We are spending around 33.5 lakh per student per year, against the fee of 90,000 per year that we charge. But one needs to see what kind of a fee increase the council agrees to, as not all students can afford to pay higher fees,” said the director of another IIT.

IITs waive 90 per cent of their tuition fees for about 22 per cent of their students who come from scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) categories. The remaining 10 per cent fees (including examination fee and other miscellaneous charges) are paid by the students. Besides, another 25 per cent of IIT students who come from financially weak families (where parents’ annual income is less than 4.5 lakh) get a waiver of 90 per cent on their tuition fees. The remaining 5 per cent of students pay their tuition fees in full.

If IITs agree to a fee increase from next academic year, this will be a hike after three years. Earlier, the IITs had increased their fee in January 2013, by 80 per cent from Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000 a year. Before that, the premier institution had in 2008 doubled its fee for undergraduate courses from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 a year.

In contrast, the per-student fee at private engineering institutes like SRM University, VIT University, Velore and Manipal Institute of Technology is far higher.

At SRM University, the fee for the four-year Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) programme is between Rs 74 lakh and Rs 84 lakh, depending on the course taken. VIT Vellore charges Rs 6.52 lakh for its B.Tech courses, while Manipal Institute of Technology charges between Rs 10.50 lakh and Rs 11.61 lakh, depending on the course.

According to the IITs, with salaries and staff cost being fixed, they have to budget for other expenditures as well. The small amount left is then used for developmental activities on the campus. IITs’ annual expenditure ranges between Rs 350 crore and Rs 550 crore. Around 80 per cent of the operational expenses are funded by the government. While 10-15 per cent is taken care of by earnings from tuition fees for various programmes, the rest is managed with returns on endowments and investments.

From alumni stand at about 3-5 per cent of the operating revenues for older IITs, compared with 10-50 per cent for top American universities.

However, not all directors agree to the fee increase, as many IIT students come from economically weak families. If the government puts a financial model in place to support needy students, the fee increase could happen, said an IIT director.

A 2011 report by the Anil Kakodkar committee, appointed by MHRD, then under Kapil Sibal, to recommend autonomy measures to facilitate IITs’ scaling greater heights, had proposed: “Fee charged by the IITs should cover the full operational cost of education, which works out to roughly 80 per cent of the total current cost of education.”
बायो गैस से चलेंगे वाहन

प्रोजेक्ट पर काम कर रहा है आईआईटी दिल्ली, एक साल में पूरा होने की उम्मीद

सतोष कुमार

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी दिल्ली पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतों के उत्तर-चढ़ाव से निकलने का रास्ता खोज रही है। इसके लिए, संस्थान में एक प्रोजेक्ट पर काम चल रहा है। कोशिश सफल रहने पर कैप्स के सभी बाहर बायो गैस पूरा हो सकते हैं। प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़े वैज्ञानिकों का दावा है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली एक साल के भीतर देश का पहला गैस एनजी का इस्तेमाल करने वाला कैप्स बनेगा।

विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक, देशभर में सभी मीट्रो सेवाओं के निकलने वाले एंरीज को जीविक करने में रोजनामा 50000 मिलियन मौंट्रिक लेखिक मौंट्रिक बायो गैस का निर्माण सक्ता है।

इससे पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की खपत में करीब 86 फीसदी तक की कमी लाई जा सकती है। बायो गैस ईंधन सीएचजी से भी सस्ता होगा। हालांकि इसमें लागू होगा किसी भी उद्देश्य के लिए एक अद्वितीय स्तर पर कोट-कोट प्लांट लगने वाला है। यहाँ से पैदा होने वाली बायो गैस का कमांडिनत स्तर पर इस्तेमाल करने आसान नहीं है।

इस अड़चन से बचने के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली ने एक मोबाइल बैन तैयार की है। इसमें स्थानीय स्तर पर बायो गैस को इकट्ठा कर किसी रिफिल सेंटर तक पहुँचाया जा सकता है।

यहाँ, कैप्स के भीतर से भी निकलने वाले जीविक कच्चे कर का आकलन किया जा रहा है। प्रोजेक्ट के एक साल के भीतर पूरा होने की उम्मीद है।

प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़े आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर बीके विजय के मुताबिक, फिलहाल हम इस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं। हमारी कोशिश कैप्स की जरूरत व यहाँ से निकलने वाले जीविक कच्चे कर का भार का पता लगाने की है।

यहाँ, कैप्स के बआर के छोटे-छोटे प्लांटों से बायो गैस एकत्र करने के लिए एक मोबाइल बैन भी बनाई गई है। उम्मीद है एक साल के भीतर कैप्स की सारी बाहर बायो गैस पूरा होने से चलने लगेंगे।
UGC asks univs to churn out graduates ‘ready for industry’

Chethan.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all registered varsities to set up ‘University-Industry Inter Linkage Centres’ (UILCs) in order to launch integrated initiatives that allow colleges to produce “well-groomed, tailor-made” graduates for industry.

From setting up industry-academia clusters, live-workplay campuses and career-oriented courses to launching startups, entrepreneurship development centres and joint research, UGC has mooted a series of initiatives that UILCs will implement. Incentives like land and tax benefits will be part of the scheme.

An elaborate plan on what universities can offer the world of industry has been discussed in the guidelines for UILCs. It will include teacher training, faculty orientation and joint research programmes.

While the industry has long complained about the problem of employability, some experts point out that turning higher education institutions into finishing schools is not a solution.

Former Bangalore University VC M S Thimmappa welcomed the move, but cautioned, “We must be wary. Turning our institutions into finishing schools will be disastrous.” “Not everything can happen through control. Industry-academia interaction is welcome but there must be a limit to the government’s role,” International Institute of Information Technology’s Bengaluru director S Sadagopan said.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com
Credits from online courses to be made mandatory: AICTE chairman

http://www.nyoooz.com/mangalore/218592/credits-from-online-courses-to-be-made-mandatory58-aicte-chairman

Summary: The AICTE has been encouraging students to take up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered by foreign universities. Manjunath

Securing marks through online courses in a semester in the undergraduate engineering course will be made mandatory once enough online courses are available, said Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education. He said this has not been made mandatory as there were not much online courses presently available. He said they need to consider having two syllabi – one for those wanting to work in the industry after their technical courses and other for those who want to continue their study. (From right) Swapan Bhattacharya, director of NITK; Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman of AICTE, New Delhi; Gopal Mugeraya, director of NIT, Agartala and K.P.

(From right) Swapan Bhattacharya, director of NITK; Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman of AICTE, New Delhi; Gopal Mugeraya, director of NIT, Agartala and K.P. Issac, Vice-Chancellor, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University at a workshop in Mangaluru on Saturday.— Photo: H.S. Manjunath

Securing marks through online courses in a semester in the undergraduate engineering course will be made mandatory once enough online courses are available, said Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education. Talking to presspersons here on Saturday on the sidelines of a workshop on ‘Make In India’ organised by NITK, Surathkal, Mr. Sahasrabudhe said that currently the AICTE prescribed that five credits, which is about 10 per cent of marks in a semester, may be earned by the student from online courses. He said this has not been made mandatory as there were not much online courses presently available. “Once it is available it will be made mandatory,” he said. The AICTE has been encouraging students to take up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered by foreign universities. Within India, a platform named “Swayam” was being developed wherein professors from IITs and National Institutes of Technology will be offering courses in the form of MOOCs. The platform will be operational in the next few weeks. Mr. Sahasrabudhe said that MOOCs will address the problem of lack of quality professors. He said MOOCs would provide the theory content, while the colleges need to have laboratories to give hands on experience for students about the course. He said they need to consider having two syllabi – one for those wanting to work in the industry after their technical courses and other for those who want to continue their study.
The dark side of Nobel Prize-winning research

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

STOCKHOLM: Think of the Nobel Prizes and you think of groundbreaking research bettering mankind, but the awards have also honoured some unhumanitarian inventions such as chemical weapons, DDT and lobotomies.

Numerous Nobel Prize controversies have erupted over the years: authors who were overlooked, scientists who claimed their discovery came first, or peace prizes that divided public opinion. But some of the prizes appear in hindsight to be embarrassing choices.

When the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize went to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, it was perhaps a way of making up for the Nobel “war prize” it awarded to German chemist Fritz Haber in 1918.

Haber was honoured with the chemistry prize for his work on the synthesis of ammonia, which was crucial for developing fertilizers for food production. But Haber, known as the “father of chemical warfare”, also developed poisonous gases used in trench warfare in World War 1.

After Germany’s defeat in the war, “he didn’t expect to win a prize. He was more afraid of a court martial,” Swedish chemist Inger Ingmanson, who wrote a book about Haber’s prize, said.

The 1918 controversy might have encouraged the Stockholm jury to think carefully about the laureates they choose after a conflict. Yet in November 1945, months after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nobel chemistry prize honoured the discovery of nuclear fission, Otto Hahn, whose 1938 discovery was crucial to the development of atomic bombs. However, Hahn never worked on the military applications of his discovery and upon learning, while in captivity as a prisoner-of-war in England, that a nuclear bomb had been dropped, he told his fellow captives: “I am thankful we (Germany) didn’t succeed” in building the bomb.