Post-graduate science students get to experiment at IUAC centre

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NEW DELHI: There seems to be some ray of hope for students pursuing MTech in Nuclear Science and Technology and MSc Physics in Delhi University who have been unable to conduct experiments since the Cobalt 60 leakage incident earlier this year.

The two departments have approached the University Grants Commission (UGC) recognised Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) located at Vasant Vihar to let the students conduct their experiments there.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on September 15 had withdrawn permission given to Delhi University (DU) to use any radioactive source in its labs as it failed two deadlines to submit its final report on the radiation exposure incident at Mayapuri scrap yard within the stipulated period.

Around 350 students from both the departments have been affected due to the ban. With just about one and a half months to go for the first semester examinations, which are scheduled in November, the students have not been able to conduct a single experiment.

The second-year students of MSc Physics with specialisation in nuclear science have already started conducting experiments there.

“Students have already done few experiments at the centre and will be given marks based on those,” said professor SK Mandal, associate professor, department of Physics and Astrophysics.

But the problem for the first-year MSc Physics students whose number is 300, persists.

“We are still to figure out how to allocate the marks meant for experiments,” added Mandal.

The Department of MTech Nuclear Science and Technology have also confirmed that their students will go to conduct the experiments at Inter University Accelerator Centre.

Meanwhile, the Delhi University vice-chancellor had recently convened an emergency meeting of the members of the Executive Council where the enquiry report on the Cobalt 60 leakage incident that was to be submitted to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board was tabled.

In the same meeting, a three-member sub-committee was also formed to fix the responsibility of the persons who have been named in the report.
Hindustan Times, ND  p.8
13-Oct-10

IIMs to discuss reforms today

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Management and the government on Wednesday hope to seal a reform blueprint for the country's top B-schools based on a set of three reports aimed at enabling the IIMs to emerge as global leaders.

Greater autonomy coupled with performance evaluation of faculty and research are key aspects of the proposed reforms which IIM Directors will discuss with HRD minister Kapil Sibal, government sources told HT. The discussions are crucial because influential sections within the IIMs are not comfortable with some of the proposals, Institute sources said.

One of the three panels set up by the government earlier this year, headed by IIM Calcutta chairman Ajit Bala-krishnan, has suggested that the IIMs focus on increasing research output from about 50 PhDs annually at present to 150.

AUTONOMY, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION OF FACULTY TO BE DISCUSSED WITH SIBAL

The panel has suggested the government fund up to £50 lakh for each PhD scholar.

"PhD research is not something from which the IIMs earn any revenue, which is why we need the government's financial support if we are to increase our PhD output," a member of the panel said. The panel has also suggested that teachers at the IIMs teach up to 160 hours in classes annually. This proposal is the subject of discussion among teachers.

Another panel — under Maruti Chairman R.C. Bhargava — whose reports will be discussed on Wednesday, has proposed streamlining of the Boards of Governors. Directors are also likely to seek greater autonomy in faculty appointments.
Tech perfection

Testing software is a science and not an art, says Vandana Ramani

A software engineer has not only to make sure that the software he has developed meets the requirements set by the customer, but also that it is free from any defects or bugs. This is where the role of an IT tester comes in. The tester is responsible for ensuring that the software meets the specified requirements and is free from any defects.

IT testers have to be familiar with the software they are testing and have a good understanding of the software development process. They are also responsible for documenting the test results and communicating any defects found to the development team.

The role of an IT tester is not just about finding defects, but also about ensuring that the software is easy to use and meets the requirements of the end user. IT testers have to be problem solvers and have good communication skills.

Promoo Chennaikula, an IT tester, said, "Testing is not just about finding defects, but also about ensuring that the software is easy to use and meets the requirements of the end user. IT testers have to be problem solvers and have good communication skills."
New Delhi: China could give a serious competition to Indian IT companies in coming years, said HCL Technologies CEO Vineet Nayar. China would pose a serious challenge to Indian IT companies over the next five years because of its low labour cost,” he said.

At the same time, he felt if the Indian companies plan properly China could also provide huge opportunities for them. Indian companies should take advantage by setting up shops in China. HCL Tech has a presence in China. It had set up a development centre with a seating capacity of 150 employees in 2007. The company is planning to increase its headcount.

Nayar in an open session with HCL employees said that the success of Chinese companies in the field of technology-intensive sectors like telecommunication and electronics hardware clearly suggests that they are capable of much more than cheap labour factor.

Nayar said in the software sector Indian companies are much ahead of their Chinese counterpart but to maintain their lead they must keep on moving up the value chain.
TAPPING ALUMNI

IIMs to raise funds
Yale University style

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The elite Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which largely rely on government support, may soon raise money from their alumni.

On Wednesday, the IIMs will discuss the report of a government-appointed panel that outlines the need for professional fund-raising by setting up dedicated offices and appointing experts, two human resource development (HRD) ministry officials said.

The committee has suggested an initial plan for the four oldest IIMs—at Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore and Lucknow—to raise ₹400 crore from their alumni.

The plan follows Yale University’s fund-raising model, under which the institutes will identify prospective fund givers, solicit money from them and keep them informed about how it is being used.

“The committee has given its report and has some forward-looking proposals. It will be discussed at the IIMs meeting, chaired by HRD minister Kapil Sibal,” one of the officials said.

“The proposal for raising an initial ₹400 crore by four IIMs over a period of three years is an achievable target, looking at the wide alumni base of these institutes.”

The committee which was set up by the HRD ministry, is headed by Hari S. Bhartia, chairman of the board of governors of IIM Raipur and co-chairman of Jubilant Life Sciences. The promoters of Jubilant and HT Media Ltd, which publishes Mint, are closely related, but have no cross-holdings.

Bharat Gulia, manager of education at audit and consultancy firm Ernst and Young, said the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been successful at pooling resources from alumni.

“These B-schools have not done so. Their students are in good positions worldwide and it would be great to leverage it,” he said. “IIMs are looking for greater financial autonomy and this is a positive step.”

He added that unless professionals are hired, the fund-raising effort won’t succeed.

The second HRD ministry official said IIMs are gradually becoming global brands, and raising funds professionally to fuel their growth is an important step for them.

“A growing brand like IIM cannot entirely depend on government money. This effort suggested by the committee is one of the alternative ways to become financially robust,” the official said. Both officials declined to be named.

The Bhartia committee has proposed that, like Yale University, the four IIMs should reach out to former students who can contribute by making presentations and inviting them on campus for further interaction. Those who cannot spare the time should be given the option of donating through telephone or Internet banking.

They should also be allowed to donate in cash and kind, another model followed by Yale.

Besides the four schools mentioned in the report, India has six more IIMs at Indore, Kozhikode, Shillong, Rohtak, Ranchi and Raipur. While the older IIMs receive ₹20 crore a year from the government, the new ones at Rohtak, Ranchi and Raipur will receive ₹400 crore each over the next eight years.

“This is just the beginning. We have submitted the report, and a final decision will be taken on Wednesday by the HRD minister,” said a member of the Bhartia committee, also requesting anonymity.

Besides government funding, IIMs also raise some money through executive programmes and consultancy.

The Wednesday meeting, to be attended by the directors and chairpersons of all IIMs, will also discuss governance, curricula and branding of IIMs.
IIM-A Golden Jubilee Year

Our Bureau
Ahmedabad, Oct. 12

The Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) will launch year-long celebrations of its Golden Jubilee Year in December 2010, marked with a convocation on March 26 next year, for which it has invited the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, as the chief guest.

Since its establishment in 1961, IIM-A has produced more than 8,000 alumni who have worked across the world and brought laurels to their alma mater in the last five decades.

Among the speakers at various conferences to be organised to mark the year will be Mr Ratan Tata, Nobel Laureate Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh and Mr Sam Pitroda, said Prof Atanu Ghosh, Dean-Alumni (External Relationships), at a press conference here today.
India, Scotland ink education pacts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Scotland on Tuesday signed four Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) in various fields of education on Wednesday. They are aimed at promoting student and faculty to strengthen educational links between the two countries exchange and encourage joint degree development.

They were signed in the presence of Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal and Scotland’s First Minister Alex Salmond here.

Terminating the signing of the MoUs as “truly historic”, Sibal said the agreements will open up further opportunities for institutes of both countries and help them find solutions for problems like global warming. He said there was a need to set up a regulatory authority soon to encourage manufacture of standard medical equipment in the country.

The Minister reminded that a legislation was already under process and hoped that it will be passed soon. “We intend to empower our students by providing access to the finest university education. The world has on offer. Further, Scotland has high traditions of learning that dates back to the age of Renaissance,” he added.

The HRD Minister, asked institutes from Scotland to see whether cooperation can be forged with institutes in India for providing vocational education as well. The vocational courses will sharpen skills which will help in the growth and development of the nation, he added.
I&B focuses on HRD for mass media industry

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Oct. 12: Union information and broadcasting ministry has decided to focus on the human resource development for the entertainment and mass media industry in an effort to provide adequately trained manpower for the industry.

Official sources stated that over the past few months, the Ministry has been able to embark on the expansion of facilities, like IIMC, setting up of a global film institute and establishment of animation and gaming institute to develop manpower adept for these skilled sectors.

Sources stated that this is the first time that such major initiatives have been taken to develop the human resource component of these sectors.

"There has been a focus on this sector in the UPA-II" sources added. Amongst the steps taken by the Ministry are establishment of four new IIMCs. Apart from expansion of the premier journalism and mass communication institute, the Ministry has also decided to revamp the course content. The minister has also directed the IIMCs to give more weightage to training in regional languages as well. "This will also help the regional media industry in getting a trained manpower," sources added.

The I&B Ministry has also taken steps to develop India into a global giant in movie technology. A blueprint has been cleared for the establishment of Global Film School at Pune. The proposal is to upgrade the existing Film and Television Institute of India at Pune to Global Film School. The blueprint has proposed that the Global Film School be established as an institute of national importance, its diploma will be equivalent to degrees. Another major initiative to develop skilled manpower in the sector is in a plan to establish a National Centre for Excellence in Animation, Gaming and Special Effects. The establishment of National Centre for Excellence in Animation, Gaming and Special Effects will be the first government foray into the high end commercial sector with immense growth potential.

Indian Express ND
13/10/2010

India, Scotland sign 4 MOUs

NEW DELHI: Four MoUs were signed on Tuesday between India and Scotland to strengthen education links in the presence of Union Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal and the First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond. The MOUs were signed to promote joint research and student exchange programmes.
First trial with human embryonic stem cells

WASHINGTON: U.S. doctors have begun the first tests of human embryonic stem cells in patients, treating a man with spinal cord injuries in a landmark trial of the controversial process, said the Geron Corporation on Monday.

The patient began the pioneering treatment on Friday with an injection of the biotech company's human embryonic stem cells, as part of a clinical trial that aims to test safety and efficacy toward regaining sensation and movement.

The treatment took place at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, a spokeswoman for the hospital told AFP, declining to give further details due to patient privacy concerns.

The Phase I trial is expected to involve around 10 patients. Participants in the human trials must be severely injured and start treatment with Geron’s product, GRNOPC1, seven to 14 days after sustaining their injury.

Patients will be given a single injection of two million of Geron’s GRNOPC1 cells in the trial.

Those taking part will be followed up for one year to monitor safety and also to see if they have regained any sensory function or movement in their lower extremities.

If the initial group of subjects shows no negative side-effects, Geron plans to seek FDA approval to extend the study to increase the dose of GRNOPC1 and to include patients with "as broad a range of severe spinal cord-injured patients as medically appropriate".

The ultimate goal for GRNOPC1 is to inject it directly into the spinal cord lesions of injured humans where it would, Geron hopes, prompt damaged nerve cells to re-grow, enabling patients to eventually recover feeling and movement.

Geron began working with human embryonic stem cells in 1999. Back then, "many predicted that it would be a number of decades before a cell therapy would be approved for human clinical trials," Geron's president and chief executive Thomas Okarma said in a statement.

Mr. Okarma described Monday's start of the clinical trial as "a milestone for the field of human embryonic stem cell-based therapies".

GRNOPC1 is made up of cells containing precursors to oligodendrocytes — multi-tasking cells that occur in the nervous system. Oligodendrocytes are lost in spinal cord injury, resulting in myelin and neuronal loss which cause paralysis in many patients.

Preclinical studies of GRNOPC1 found that when it was injected into the injury site of animals with spinal cord injuries, it migrated throughout the lesion site and matured into oligodendrocytes. Those oligodendrocytes then re-lined axons with myelin, the insulating layers of cell membrane that wrap around the axons of neurons to enable them to conduct electrical impulses.

The process produced biologicals that enhance the survival and function of neurons, resulting in significantly improved locomotion in the treated animals.

In the animal trials, GRNOPC1 was injected seven days after the injury was sustained.

Backers of the research believe the field holds huge potential for treating serious diseases including cancer and Alzheimer's, and even for reversing paralysis.

Opponents argue that living embryos are destroyed to obtain the potentially life-saving embryonic stem cells.

Legislation passed by Congress in 1996 bans federal funding for research in which human embryos are either destroyed or discarded.

In lifting the ban on embryonic stem cell research, the Obama administration argued the research does not require disposal or destruction of the embryos, which were created for in-vitro fertilization treatments but never used.

Last month, a U.S. appeals court ruled that the federal funding can continue, dissolving a lower court's ban.

— AFP

Cabinet nod for Bengal engineering varsity takeover

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the takeover of the Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU) at Shibpur in West Bengal for converting it into an Indian Institute of Engineering and Technology (IIST).

The five-year project will be set up at a cost Rs.592.20 crore (Rs.300.30 crore as non-recurring cost towards capital expenditure and Rs.291.90 crore as recurring expenditure).

The BESU will be turned into the IIST by amending the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) Act, with the inclusion of special clauses, reflecting its exclusive character. The IIST will be an 'institute of national importance' covered under the NIT Act and its organisational and governing structure will be on the lines of the National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

The new IIST will integrate undergraduate and postgraduate education and research in engineering and science under the same umbrella. It promises to be an institution of international standards and to produce quality manpower for the strategic sector of the country, research laboratories and quality teachers for engineering and science institutions.

The Centre constituted an expert committee in 2005 to evaluate and suggest a plan of action for upgrading seven institutes, including the BESU, which had earlier been identified by the S.K. Joshi Committee. The expert committee had recommended the establishment of a new system of IISTs as institutes of national importance through an Act of Parliament.

The committee also recommended upgrading five institutes, including the BESU, to IISTs. Admissions to the IIST will be through the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination.
Sir Isaac Newton, the alchemist

The 17th century genius' other career rivaled and sometimes surpassed in intensity his devotion to celestial mechanics.

Sir Isaac Newton was a towering genius in the history of science, he knew he was a genius, and he didn't like being called that. Born on December 25, 1642, the great English physicist and mathematician, in late infancy ostracized from his peers and frustrated in his work, he devoted his life to the study of the properties of light, the nature of matter, and the mysteries of the universe. He is best known today for his contributions to physics and mathematics, but he was also a prolific alchemist.

Newton's interest in alchemy had kept him busy for decades. He was a perfectionist, and his work on the properties of light was a testament to his dedication to exploring the mysteries of the universe.

Newton is often remembered as one of the greatest physicists of all time, but he was also a keen observer of the world around him. He was particularly interested in the properties of light, and his work on the nature of light and color laid the foundation for modern physics.

Newton's work on the properties of light was not just a demonstration of his brilliance as a scientist, but also a reflection of his love for the natural world. He was fascinated by the way light interacted with matter, and he spent much of his life trying to understand the mysteries of the universe.

Newton's work on alchemy was also a testament to his dedication to exploring the mysteries of the universe. He was interested in the properties of matter, and he spent much of his life trying to understand the nature of the elements.

Newton's work on alchemy was also a reflection of his love for the natural world. He was fascinated by the way light interacted with matter, and he spent much of his life trying to understand the mysteries of the universe.

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NET-qualified researchers to get higher fellowship

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: There is good news for National Eligibility Test (NET)-qualified researchers, who will get higher fellowship.

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry, in consultation with the Finance Ministry, has approved the revision which will come into effect from April 1, 2010. However, the Finance Ministry has sought from it a separate proposal for increasing the number of researchers from 3,200 to 6,400.

Junior Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship for the NET-qualified candidates have been revised from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 16,000 a month for the first two years and from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 18,000 for the remaining three years. This follows a similar revision of fellowship by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The host institutions would review the performance of research fellows at the end of two years through committees constituted by their heads. Extension of the fellowship beyond two years will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.

The last revision of fellowship was done in 2007-08.

In addition, house rent allowance will be admissible to junior and senior research fellows where hostel accommodation is not provided by the host institutions. Those selected junior and senior research fellows would also be encouraged to register for higher degrees, for which the tuition fee would be reimbursed by the UGC.
आईआईटी की टीम ने की समीक्षा

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

प्रेटर नोएडा। आगामी 29 अक्टूबर से हाइटेक सिटी स्थित इडिया एक्सपो मार्च में पूर्व आईआईटीईसकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनी बैन आईआईटी 2010 कोविंड का आयोजन होने जा रहा है। आईआईटी के टीम ने इसके चलते मंगलवार को एकसपा मार्च का दौरा कर तैयारियों की समीक्षा की।

क्या है पैन आईआईटी

देश के विकास को पंख लगाने के लिए और नए भारत के सतत रुपांतरण के लिए देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र एक जुट होंगे। 29 अक्टूबर से प्रशंसा रहे रहे इस लेख विशेष आयोजन में जुलाई भर में फैले पूर्व आईआईटीईसके अलावा विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के विभिन्न मौजूद होंगे।

प्रमुख वक्ता

केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री करिम सिव्वल, केंद्रीय नव एवं समतल जर्ज मंत्री फारुख अख्तून, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री सुभाष राज सचवाणे, मुख्यमंत्री दिल्ली शीला दीक्षित, कोलंबिया विवि के निदेशक जेफ को साइक्स, हर्ष के मुताबिक ज्योति एन. राजस्वेकर, निर्मल निर्मल, नीलकंठी नीलकंठी जैसे विभिन्न मौजूद होंगे।

आईआईटीईसके आयोजन

दुनिया भर में फैले आईआईटी कानपुर के 452, दिल्ली के 421, खड़गपुर के 261, बायपा के 179, राजस्थान के 162, मध्य प्रदेश के 117 और गुवाहाटी के 21 निकाय कुल 3016 पूर्व छात्रों आईटी के संगठन में शामिल होने के लिए पंजीकरण कर लिया है।
आईआईएम की सीटें बढ़ीं आवेदक घटे बी-स्कूलों की भारी फीस और ऑनलाइन कैट बना वजह

अमर उजाला घृता

नोबदार आईआईएम संस्थाओं में अपने स्तर से 500 में याद सीटें बढ़ रही हैं जबकि आवेदकों की संख्या में भारी गिरावट हुई है। आईआईएम के मुख्य कॉम्यून सेंटर 18 में इस साल 15 प्रतिशत की गिरावट हुई है। यह आवेदन लाखों के साथ 36 प्रतिशत का बढ़ता आ गया है। प्रत्येक बाली की जानकारी का बढ़ता रहने की आवश्यक जी-स्कूलों की फीस प्रदान की और ऑनलाइन कैट के लिए कभी सभी रूप का सक्सेस क्रेडिट गिए जा रहा है।

कैट 2007 में दो लाख 76 आवेदन, 2008 में दो लाख 46 आवेदन, 2009 में दो लाख 42 आवेदन और 2010 में दो लाख 6 आवेदन आदर्श आदर्श है। 2009 में आवेदकों की संख्या में लगभग 12 प्रतिशत की गिरावट हुई थी। जब भी आपने इस साल में फीस बढ़ाई हुई थी इसके प्रभाव का कहना है कि आईआईएम समेत तीन के टॉप-50 में स्थान के दायरे में अपने अन्य स्कूलों की संख्या पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं दिखा है।

यदि अनुमान बढ़ाने के लिए, इतने आवेदकों की संख्या का केवल 22 प्रतिशत का उपयोग किया जा सकता है। फिर भी, नई आवेदकों की संख्या में भारी गिरावट हुई है। आईआईएम की तौर पर, इस उपयोग का आवेदन किया गया है।

इस साल इस कैट में 36 प्रतिशत आवेदनों का आवेदन किया गया है। इस आवेदन का आवेदन किया गया है। 2011 के साथ से 13 आईआईएम के ही लिये दाखिले नैतिक है।

जैसे हुए हैं उतार चढ़ा

- 2007 में कैट आवेदकों की संख्या 22 प्रतिशत बढ़ी
- 2008 में आवेदकों की संख्या 12 प्रतिशत बढ़ी
- 2009 में कैट पहली बार ऑनलाइन किया गया
- 2010 में आवेदकों की संख्या 15 प्रतिशत की हुई है
- इस साल 15 प्रतिशत की हुई है कैट
- फिर से 4 सालों में संख्या 36 प्रतिशत कम हुई
- बी स्कूलों की फीस बढ़े और तक करना बड़ा कारण

2011 के साथ से 13 आईआईएम में ही दाखिले नैतिक हैं.