नव भारत समाचार 18.10.2016 P-16

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Too stretched, can’t increase B.Tech seats, 7 IITs tell HRD

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

CITING STRETCHED resources—from infrastructure to faculty—the seven older Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Madras and Roorkee, have not agreed to add more seats to their four-year Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) programmes as proposed by the government at the IIT Council meeting held on August 23.

In fact, only the second-generation IITs in Hyderabad, Mandi, Ropar, Patna (set up by the UPA government) and IIT Jammu established by NDA II will increase their undergraduate student strength from next year. Currently, there are 23 IITs in the country.

Sources told The Indian Express that IIT Hyderabad, to begin with, will add another 40 seats next year. IIT Mandi will add 50; IIT Patna 25; IIT Ropar 105 seats and IIT Jammu 30 seats.

The older IITs witnessed their biggest hike in B.Tech seats at the time of implementing the 27 per cent OBC reservation. In 2008, before the quota was introduced, there were about 4,000 undergraduate seats among these.

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Too stretched, can’t increase seats: IITs

seven institutions. Now, together, they account for close to 6,500 seats.

The IIT Council—the highest decision-making body of the premier engineering schools—had given an in-principle approval to the ministry’s suggestion to increase their student strength from 72,000 to 1 lakh over the next three years until 2020. This, in effect, meant the institutes would collectively aim to add 4,000 B.Tech seats each year until 2020 and 6,000 M.Tech and research seats each year over the next three years. Currently, there are close to 10,000 B.Tech seats among all 23 IITs.

To achieve this, the IITs would have to waive the condition which makes students stay compulsorily on campus. In other words, the institutes will depend on admitting more non-resident students. All the 23 IITs were asked to assess their capacity and resources and come up with a roadmap on how to achieve the overall proposed hike.

As many as 20 of the 23 IITs have sent their feedback to the HRD Ministry this month of which only five are said to have completely agreed with the proposal. None of the seven older IITs is on board as far as increasing undergraduate seats are concerned, said sources. “They are interested in taking in more M.Tech and Ph.D students,” said a source.

“The older IITs have reached their saturation point as far as admitting B.Tech aspirants is concerned. The onus is now on the newer lot to achieve the B.Tech increase suggested by the government,” said a director of one of the seven older IITs who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

“Hostel accommodation for new students cannot be arranged overnight. We have been asked to admit more non-residential students. But this is not possible for some of the institutes which are located in remote locations. How can IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur and Kharagpur do this? Finding rented accommodation near these institutes is very difficult. Students stay back late in the laboratories. They need to stay on campus,” said another director of one of the seven older IITs, who also did not wish to be identified.

Poor faculty strength is another reason why IITs have not accepted the government suggestion. While each IIT is supposed to maintain a ratio of one teacher for 10 students, the ratio now is one for 15. There are an estimated 2,500 faculty vacancies across the IITs. Of the seven IITs which figured in the top 700 of the QS world rankings this year, six have slipped several places compared to last year. IIT Madras was the only exception which improved its ranking by five places to join the top 250 club.
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आईआईटी-खड़गपुर के छात्र स्वदेशी झूंठ बना रहे

कोलकाता। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर के विद्यार्थी पूरी तरह स्वदेशी झूंठ बनकर कर रहे हैं। इस झूंठ में स्वस्थ वाहन और सोफ्टवेयर की भी देख देख ही बना गया है।

झूंठ का विकास आईआईटी के एसीएम रोबोटिक्स खड़गपुर (एसआरआईटी) की पहल पर किया जा रहा है। इसका विकास सेंटर फर एसएसएल इन रोबोटिक्स कर रहा है, जिसमें स्कॉर्स एच डी इंडियाल सर्टिफाइड एसआरआईटी (एसआरआईटी) योजना का वितरण कर रहा है।

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Case for a parallel higher education

We need to take a number of steps, from fixing schools to ending apartheid against distance learning, to make graduates employable

The world has produced more graduates in the last 30 years than it did in the 800 years before that. This means that it is not useful to be 40 per cent of Korean employment. 70 per cent of US retail sales clerks, and 21 per cent of high-end Indian security guards now have a college degree. But while the employability signalling value of a degree has declined, the social signalling value of a degree is still strong — the more valuable part is not being at an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) but being in an IIT. We need to make the case for reviewing the regulatory disincentives that hinder the emergence of new universities with higher student numbers that focus on employability. One is the traditional definition of a university that has small numbers. This is a new world with multiple IITs.

India needs to think harder about the deep connections between education, employment and employability reflected in the work of multiple Nobel Prize winners. Michael Spence got his Cardiff training, and we don’t want to be. Promoting about not being passionate about the pursuit of creating degrees for vocational training is usually for other people, children, and our children, and going to college seems to rational mortality beyond the traditional "shallow" requirement of degrees, the signalling value of higher education. Simply and Ruth got their work for how real labour markets that clear on choice, Arthur Levkovich had for working on how countries need to think about how policy can accelerate the development more important for India is the need to quickly manufacture their own employable employees. The best solution is to be an "educated" person who finds that increases in employment and capital stock only explains a small amount of long-term economic growth with the need being technological innovation.

India’s higher education has evolved. College 100 was started by the British with the objective of providing on the one hand to perpetuate their role. College 100 began with independence and led to the master creation of IITs and French institutions. However, the new law requires the lack of capacity expansion. College 100 began in the last five years with 10 per cent vacancy in the primary sector’s capacity in engineering and business.

We believe it is time for College 100 to create a parallel higher education system that focuses on employability. College 200 needs us to do five things.

First, we must fix the schools. Industry leaders might not be able to teach people in three years what they should have learned 25 years ago. The role of work, reading, writing and arithmetic are the most important employability skills, and colleges are often teaching what schools should. This needs our real time to Education Act. That confuses school buildings with building schools — to be amended to become the Right to Education Act. Second, we must reassess the dual end of vocational education. Third, we need to add new vocational and non-technical courses that are not part of the traditional college curriculum. Fourth, we need to add new vocational and non-technical courses that are not part of the traditional college curriculum. Fifth, the current higher education regulatory regime must end because we need diversity in institutional forms, innovation to deliver and massive capacity. Over the last five decades two different regulatory regimes have emerged with substantially different education outcomes because we produce 15 lakh engineers but only 16,000 doctors every year. It is now time to end the quest for quality and instead focus on scale and quality.

India today has two extremes. In a physical classroom, 80-90 lakh kids in distance education, 40-50 lakh kids pursuing vocational education and only four lakh kids doing apprenticeships. Skill sector varies, with different forms of vocational degrees in three ways.

The next step is to take in distance education, 40-50 lakh kids pursuing vocational education and only four lakh kids doing apprenticeships. Skill sector varies, with different forms of vocational degrees in three ways. We need to use these approaches, online or on the job, to get 25 per cent of their kids into a dual end of vocational and non-technical courses that are not part of the traditional college curriculum. This needs our real time to Education Act. That confuses school buildings with building schools — to be amended to become the Right to Education Act.
May the best state win
Swiss challenge for big projects is a good idea

Given the charges of partisan politics levelled by former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah at the Centre's decision to locate an IIM at Jammu—as opposed to one in the Kashmir Valley—afew days ago, it is just as well that the government has decided to adopt the Swiss challenge method to award such projects in the future. It is not just the IIM at Jammu, decisions to establish hospitals such as AIIMS or educational institutions like IITs or even refineries or LNG terminals, among a host of others, have always been controversial, with favoured states generally walking away with prestigious projects over the years—indeed, the maximum number of Railway lines are typically associated with which state the railway minister hails from. According to a report in The Indian Express, the Cabinet secretariat has put out a note saying that the Swiss challenge method is to be used for 'selection of location' for even film festivals, the National Games and Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, among others.

Each government department has now been asked to submit a list of projects/institutions/events under them along with an indicative list of what the evaluation parameters could possibly be. Once this is done, each state will be free to bid on these parameters. If, say, the most important parameter is availability of land, any state is free to bid by indicating the amount of unencumbered land it can provide and how soon. Once this is done, as per the terms of a Swiss challenge, any other state can better this, and the original state can then better it again ... and the winning state will walk away with the project. This is not only taking competitive federalism to a new level, it will be good for projects since states will end up competing over ease of providing land, extent of fiscal concessions, connectivity, provision of utilities or speedy statutory clearances, among others. Consider the fact that, while the government had announced eight new IITs to be established back in 2008-09, only three have got full-fledged campuses—with land being allocated up-front, this cannot happen in the new scheme of things. A challenge process would prevent cases like Goa where, after receiving ₹98 crore in funding, the state now wants to delay the hosting of the National Games due to the impending elections. A potential problem is that such selection will ensure only the better-off states get new institutions, but this can be fixed provided only efficiency parameters are used—in any case, if a state is genuinely keen to get a project, there is no reason why it should not have to work for it by speeding up clearances, including provision of land.
Indian scientists discover cause for preterm births

Every year, 15 million babies are born preterm. This is more than 1 in every 10 babies.

Team of Indian researchers who discovered the cause for preterm birth (From left to right) Manalee Surve, Anjali Anil, Prof. Anirban Banerjee, Kshama Kamath, Dr. Deepak Modi (NIRRH), Smita Bhutda.

Chennai: In a new study which eventually can bring down the pre-term births and neonate deaths, Indian scientists have discovered that the tiny toxic balloons emitted by the bacterium can cause preterm birth and stillbirths.

According to reports, preterm delivery is the single largest cause of death among neonates and young children. During a collaborative study between Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC), National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH) and IIT-Bombay, it was found that a class of bacteria called group B Streptococcus (GBS) produces membrane-bound vesicles which move from the vagina to the uterus and cause inflammation of the membranes surrounding the foetus, leading to preterm and stillbirths.

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is a type of bacterial infection found in a pregnant woman’s vagina or rectum. While most women are asymptomatic, many women with GBS deliver preterm, but the infection is rarely found in the womb.

The researchers from IIT Bombay wondering how the GBS sitting at a distant place can cause preterm births, started growing GBS in liquid media. When they removed the bacteria and examined the remaining liquid by electron microscopy, they found numerous small spherical structures. In the surface of growing bacteria, vesicles were seen just budding off the bacterial cell, confirming that GBS produces membrane bound vesicles (MVs).

“This was a breakthrough in my lab as these vesicles were found to be loaded with tonnes of bacterial virulence factors, particularly toxins and collagen-degrading proteases,” Professor Anirban Banerjee, a microbiologist from IIT Bombay told Deccan Chronicle.

The researchers then deposited the MVs without the bacteria into mouse vagina and hours later they found them throughout the uterus and in the developing fetus. “Not only these MVs could reach the feto-maternal barrier, but they lower the elasticity of the membrane holding the foetus so that it can’t expand to accommodate the growing foetus leading to its rupture and preterm birth,” said Deepak Modi, one of the co-authors and a reproductive biologist from the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH).
Acknowledging the gap between the experimental results in mice and human pathogenesis, Anirban Banerjee said this discovery is a paradigm shift as it shows how GBS by simply sitting in the vagina can damage the baby in the womb without even physically going there and cause preterm birth.

“In our next step we plan to do a study among the pregnant women in India to know whether they carry GBS and if yes, how many of them carry and those who carry give preterm birth or not,” he added. “This will pave the way to discover new drugs to halt the vesicle production by GBS. But it is not in the near future,” he said.

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**Beating all odds, Midnapur lad makes it to IIT, state govt to honour him**

**Siliguri (West Bengal):** Chandan Roy, belonging to a poor household in West Bengal’s Midnapur district, has made his family proud after earning a seat in the coveted IIT Bombay.

His father is a priest who struggles to make ends meet. But this did not stop Chandan from achieving his dream. “I didn’t take any coaching. The only help I got was from my school and tuition teacher. I have a dream to become a scientist. My father is a Brahmin priest and owns a small grocery shop, where I help my father,” Chandan said.

Through his sheer hardwork and dedication, Chandan secured 314 in JEE Advanced (All India Rank) and 78 in JEE Main examination. Chandan loves to read novels and when he is not doing that he loves to explore his hometown on his bicycle.

Describing Chandan’s ordeal during preparation, his teacher Nirmal Mondal said, “I bought and collected many books for him. He is a meritorious student. He is an inspiration to many in the village. We hope he gets help from government.” Chandan said he received Rs50,000 as scholarship and the rest of the amount was paid with the help of his teachers.

However, his father, Suchinta Roy, is worried as he is cash strapped and wonders how he would continue to pay for rest of his education. —Anil