New Delhi: A meeting of IT directors and experts on Project Vidyapeeth that seeks to make IITs world class institutes decided to modernize five laboratories each in seven IITs. They will be made at par with the best in the world.

IT directors presented detailed requirements to turn the dream of Vidyapeeth into a reality. Five laboratories each at IIT Kharagpur, Roorkee, Madras, Delhi, Kanpur, Guwahati and Roorkee will get funding from proposed Higher Education Finance Agency, directly from government and industry.

“Now it is for ministry to decide how it can be implemented,” one official said.

It was also said they want to bring teacher-student ratio to 1:10 from current 1:15. The HRD ministry has asked them to hire faculty, even foreign

The Japan government has also taken a decision to offer 30 scholarships for IITians.

Japan agency’s

scholarships

for 30 IITians

Hyderabad: Thirty graduate students of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad will be offered scholarships by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to study in Japanese universities. These scholarships would be offered to graduating students of IITs to pursue masters or PhD and would cover tuition fees and logistics.

The project has been initiated by JICA to facilitate the development of research networks between institutions of higher learning and industrial clusters in Japan with IIT-H “that would lead to excellence in education and applied research in science and engineering”, it added.

Hari Bhoomi ND 21.10.2016 P-11

आईआईटी को वर्ल्डक्लास बनाने पर मंथन

नये मुद्दों पर हुई चर्चा

आईआईटी में आईआईटी संस्थानों के लोगों के मानस में रचना हो रही है। उन्होंने जोरदार अंतरिक्ष आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए रचना की है। आईआईटी संस्थानों के लोगों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआইटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी नौकर करने वालों के लिए आईआईटी कालेज के पड़ोसी ।
MEA, MHA agree to ease norms to recruit foreign faculty at IITs

New Delhi: Ministries of external affairs and home have agreed to liberalise the regulatory regime so that foreign faculty can be appointed at IITs.

In a meeting among representatives of external affairs, home and HRD ministries earlier this month, foreign ministry officials had said except for teachers coming from Prior Requirement Countries (PRC), faculty selected for teaching in India should not need prior political clearance. MEA had also said that for securing political clearance, the examination of the details of the mode of requirement is not required.

Subsequently, the education secretary has written to his counterparts in MEA and MHA for changes as per the agreed issues.

MEA officials had said in case of faculty hiring there should be no need for prior clearance since antecedents of applicants get checked at the time of granting visa. MEA had also said it is moving a Cabinet proposal to relax work visa regime by bringing down the threshold annual salary to Rs 9.1 lakh per annum from the current limit of Rs 16.7 lakhs ($25,000). MEA had said that once this proposal secures Cabinet approval, there will be relief for foreign teachers in IITs, since they will be paid above this threshold.

On the issue of overseas citizens of India (OCI) teaching in India, MEA had argued that under section 7(R) of the Citizenship Act, OCIs are not permitted to take government employment. However, HRD ministry said that since IITs are autonomous institutions which only get grants-in-aid by central government, therefore its employees are not classified as government employees. Arguing that it is a settled law, these officials said employing OCIs will not be a violation of Citizenship Act. MHA said it will examine it again.

In case of foreign participants in scientific conferences, HRD wanted that since these meets are held by premier institutions like IITs after a great deal of consultation the system of further approval of MEA and MHA should be done away with, especially since antecedents of the visiting participants get checked at the time of visa application. It was decided that till a policy decision is taken, MEA should take a maximum of eight weeks to decide on proposals for conferences.
Times of India ND 21.10.2016 P-09

'Inside air in AC buildings far worse'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indoor air quality in centrally airconditioned buildings is far worse than outside or in naturally ventilated buildings, according to a recent study.

IIT Delhi professor Mukesh Khare, whose team conducted the study, said on Thursday that the city master plan should address these issues and ensure that schools, hospitals, residences are away from sources of pollution.

Khare’s team is currently working on a study on air quality inside two metro stations—Chandni Chowk and Patel Chowk—in comparison to the quality outside. The study results will be shared with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) before they are made public in a couple of months.

Khare told a news agency, “Premises of metro stations have high concentration of PM 2.5, at places over 600 micrograms per cubic metre. Even level of PM10 remains high. Not only the air ducts suck polluted air, but pollutants get carried inside through clothes people wear as well, like on their rough textures of shirts, through shoes.”

“We have used sophisticated equipment from IIT Lab to measure PM10, PM2.5 and PM2.1. We also used samplers for gaseous pollutants to measure levels inside and outside the metro stations. We have also conducted a traffic survey outside these stations. But the results cannot be revealed before they are shared with DPCC,” said Khare.

According to TK Joshi, director, centre for occupational and environmental health, indoor pollution has been a problem for a long time that has largely been unnoticed. “People spend much of their time in cars, office or home, but are unaware of how polluted the air inside may be. Use of room fresheners can also be harmful as it contains methyl alcohol. Benzene present in most cars is a silent killer,” said Joshi.

Khare referring to earlier research studies published by their team said “Air is far more polluted in centrally air-conditioned buildings because the ventilation is not maintained. Naturally ventilated buildings can have better air quality provided they are located away from pollution sources.”

Economic Times ND 21.10.2016 P-18

This Startup Helps You Scour the Depths

Hot Startup

Planys Technologies

Carries out Underwater Robotic Inspections for Ports, Oil and Gas Industry

Shadma Shaikh
dinesgroup.com

Bengaluru: In 2013, three robotics enthusiasts pursing engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, had set out to win a contest for the best student-made underwater vehicle in India. Four years down the line, the trio—Tanuj Jhunjhunwala, Vineet Upadhyay and Rakesh Srivastava—are founders of Planys Technologies, a startup that provides underwater robotic inspection and survey services using robots, or remotely operated vehicles (ROV).

The IIT Madras incubated startup incorporated in 2015 already counts Chennai Port Trust, Vivekahapattinam Port Trust and L&T Kattupalli International Container Terminal among its customers.

Planys is a result of the profound interest invoked from companies in the oil and gas industry in Jhunjhunwala’s master’s thesis project demonstrating an underwater ROV used for pipeline inspection. The challenge was to observe the pipe in points, said Jhunjhunwala. He says that was the point when they decided to incorporate Planys’ Technologies as a startup that could provide underwater inspection services.

The founding team of the startup included two IIT Madras professors, Krishnan Balasubramaniam and Prathap Rajagopal. The team’s first underwater robot, Mike, went through several iterations, each time there was an industry demand or new requirement.

Team Planys with co-founder Vineet Upadhyay (second from right)

Team Planys with co-founder Vineet Upadhyay (second from right)

Among these was the need for ports to drill for better oil and gas extraction. Jhunjhunwala said the response to the services provided by the underwater robot has been exceptionally good, considering the lack of technologies available in the domain.

“Currently, for inspection jobs, ports employ human divers who come with limitations,” he said.

“Planys’ ROVs have unlimited endurance, are highly portable, cost-effective and can be used to reach human operators,” Jhunjhunwala said.

The startup had raised Rs 1.75 crore through an angel round of investment in December last year through Chennai and Singapore chapters of KfW iForum.

S Gopal, member of KfW iForum, said he believes Planys was among startups building cutting-edge technology out of India.

“The team has done come 16 to 17 jobs in the past one year and has already been getting repeat orders from some existing clients. That is a great compliment and boost for their team,” he said.

The market Planys Technologies operates in is a fairly unorganised one, giving the startup an early mover advantage. Having tasted success in its early days, the startup now aims to cover the breadth of inspection solutions from customised design and fabrication of robotic platforms to integrated sensing and diagnostics.
Deccan Hearld ND 21.10.2016 P-07
IIT-Madras signs pact

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) on Thursday announced that it has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Fraunhofer Institute IWU, Germany, to establish an Applied Centre for Advanced Automotive Research (CAAR), DIHNS reports from Chennai.

The CAAR is envisaged to be a centre of excellence focusing on providing research solutions to the automotive industries through focused R&D in association with the talent and capabilities at IIT-Madras and the experience and delivery mechanisms developed at the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany. Some of the areas of interest for CAAR will include frontiers in Lightweighting, Advanced Manufacturing, Emission, NVH, Engineering Design and Novel Materials of interest to the automotive sector.

October 20

Bulk in increase in seats should come from new IITs, says institute heads

Indian Express ND 20.10.2016 P-11

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

With the government pressing for a significant increase in engineering seats, a top official insisted that the new IITs should be set up only where they are needed. Speaking to a journalist at BIT, the director of the German institute in Chennai, told reporters that the institute is ready to collaborate with IIT-Madras. ^It is always a good idea to start new IITs in new locations, as it will be beneficial for students and the country. However, there must be a careful selection process to ensure that these new institutes are able to meet the needs of the students.

October 20

Nai Duniya ND 20.10.2016 P-05

देश भर के आईआईटी, आईआईएम के 800 युवा शिक्षित जुटेंगे भोपाल में

दिनेश संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

आयोजित महामिलन 12 से 14 नवम्बर के बीच देश भर के आईआईटी, आईआईएम ने नवीकरण के कर्तव्यों में 800 युवा शिक्षित और विद्यार्थियों का एक बड़ा काम किया गया, जो देश के लाभ में जल्दी निभाएंगे। इसकी पूर्व शिक्षा संस्थाओं को लेंकर चर्चा की गई है, अपने कार्य का अंतिम लक्ष्य को पूरा करने उन्हें कहा गया है।

October 20

Rashtriya Sahara ND 20.10.2016 P-09

‘ईशान विकास’ योजना में हिस्सा लेने को आमंत्रित किया गुवाहाटी। आईआईटी गुवाहाटी ने आगामी महीनों में इस कार्यक्रम के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। इसके साथ ही, जिसमें शामिल होंगे आईआईटी, आईआईएम, और संस्थानों के निकट स्थित शिक्षा संस्थान।

October 20
IIT-Kharagpur develops app that can detect malaria parasites in the body


KHAGARGPUR: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, have developed a potentially life-saving mobile application which can detect malaria-causing micro-organisms in the body.
It’s the fastest way to detect malaria, they claim.

The software, installed on a smartphone connected to a microscope, can examine images of blood samples and identify the malaria-causing parasite. Tests have been conducted on 200 photographs from 80 patients, and the app performed accurately on 90% of them.

Professor Chandan Chakraborty and his team from IIT-Kharagpur’s Biomedical Imaging Informatics Lab conducted research for the app, with help from Dr. Ashok Kumar Maity, a pathologist from Midnapore Medical College and Hospital.
**Hindustan Times ND 20.10.2016 P-03**

**JNU students ‘lock up’ officials**

**MISSING STUDENT** The JNU students’ union blocks admin building and asks the authorities to file a missing person report

**New Delhi:** Students blocked the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administrative building, continuing the vice-chancellor and other officials, demanding an FIR in connection with the case of a missing student.

The JNU students’ union said the student had gathered at the building and wouldn’t move unless their demands were met. “We demand an FIR from the police,” said one of the students.

Officials said that more CCTV cameras will be installed in the campus to ensure safety of the students in the aftermath of the recent incident.

Times Of India ND 19.10.2016 P-17

**IIT directors oppose non-resident students**

**Akhshaya.Mukul@timesgroup.com**

New Delhi: IITs have shown reluctance to the HRD ministry’s idea of having non-resident students at the undergraduate level. Sources said most of the IIT directors have expressed serious reservations against the idea, arguing that non-resident students will change the character of IITs. They have argued that at the undergraduate level, it is important that students imbibe the spirit of the campus and be a part of the IIT ecosystem.

“IIT is also about the larger environment of free debate and intellectual atmosphere. Most of our undergraduate courses are most sought after,” one director said, adding that IITs are not averse to having non-resident students at post-graduate and doctorate level.

IITs feel that the institutes will have to get involved with the well-being of students even if they live outside the campus. At the IIT Council meeting last month, many directors had supported the idea subject to clearance from their respective senates. Sources said that senates of many IITs have not shown any enthusiasm.

On the contrary, chairperson of one IIT has even suggested that IITs should outsource the job of hostel upkeep to outside agencies. Idea is that the outside agency will pay fee to IITs and charge students at market rate. Money that IITs get from outside agencies, sources said, can be used to subsidise hostel charges of needy students. However, a source clarified that this is one of the many ideas on running of hostels.

The idea of non-resident students was mooted to help expand student strength of IITs at undergraduate/post-graduate and doctorate level to one lakh by 2020.
GAS CHAMBERS Industries and power plants contribute maximum amount of poisonous gases and particles to Delhi’s air, showed a study by IIT Kanpur

HOW INDUSTRIES POLLUTE DELHI
Several small and medium-size industries were relocated from Delhi in the 1990s as a measure to control pollution but that has not been enough. The city has two power plants — at Rajghat and Badarpur — and about 20 big industries (having stack height more than 20m) which contribute more than 90% of the SO2 and more than half to the NOx emissions, the IIT Kanpur study says.

The two power plants are also major sources of fly-ash. Officials in the environment department of the Delhi government asserted that they have implemented strict measures to control fly-ash. However, they admit that fly-ash from poorly-maintained disposal ponds becomes a problem in summers. Coal and fly-ash contribute about 30% of PM10 in summers, the study said.

The city also has about 25 industrial clusters, many in close proximity to residential areas, emitting more than 5.6 tonnes of SO2, 1.9 tonnes of NOx, 1.4 tonnes of PM2.5 and 1.6 tonnes of PM10 per day, the study says. “Many of these industrial units use low-quality fuel, including furnace oil, illegally. This causes more pollution,” said Bhuire Lal, chairman of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA). While the government has banned use of oil with over 500ppm sulphur content in the city, Lal said the government has not conducted any inspections to check if the industries are violating the fuel norms.

TANDORS AND DG SETS
The DPCG records show there are about 9,000 hotels and restaurants in the city that use coal, mostly for tandors. They contribute about 1.5 tonnes of PM10, 1.5 tonnes of PM2.5 and 2.7 tonnes of SO2 in Delhi per day and are a major source of fly-ash, the IIT Kanpur study said. It recommended that restaurants with a sitting capacity of more than ten should not use coal and shift to electric or gas-based appliances.

Besides, diesel generator (DG) sets are significant contributors to the pollution. As per the study, close to 20 tonnes of NOx (6% of the total NOx) is produced by DG sets in the city per day. There is a minimum two-hour power cut in the city per day, especially during summer and the use of DG sets is common in shopping complexes and industrial units. The study recommended that all DG sets of size 2KVA, or less, should not be allowed to operate; fuel of more than 500ppm sulphur content should be checked and solar powered generation, storage and inverter should be promoted.

An official in the DPCG said the measures were not practical. “Tandors are a part of Delhi’s food culture. Why would the restaurants want to move away from it? Do we have a better alternative? Also, it is not possible to inspect each and every DG set. The only solution is to make DG sets uninterrupted power supply,” he added.

OUTSIDE POLLUTERS
The study also said that there were at least 13 thermal power plants (TPPs) within a capacity of over 11,000MW within a radius of 300km of Delhi, which contribute majorly to secondary particles. Secondary particles, formed from chemical transformation of SO2 and NOx gases, have been the most consistent sources of PM2.5 and PM10 levels in Delhi both in summer and winters. As per the study, the North-West winds transport SO2 emitted from large power plants and refineries in the upwind of Delhi and transform it into sulphates.

What is more worrying is that nine more coal-fired power plants are under construction and 36 units are in the pipeline within 500km radius of Delhi. Our satellite-based analysis revealed that there is a direct co-relation between increase in coal consumption and increase in SO2 and NOx levels in the NCR,” said Nandikesh Sivalingam of Greenpeace India.

The IIT study recommended that del-SOx-ing and de-NOx-ing — processes of removing SO2 and NOx through chemical reactions at the production stage — at all power plants within 300km of Delhi should be carried out. This could reduce PM10 concentration approximately by 99 microgram per cubic metre (µg/m3) and PM2.5 concentration by 57 µg/m3, the study said. The government has not taken any step in this direction yet, officials in the environment department told HT.
IIT-Roorkee preparing plan for Dal preservation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18
The government today informed the Jammu and Kashmir High Court that the vision document for the preservation of the Dal Lake was being prepared by the IIT-Roorkee and would be received by the J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) soon.

In its status report, LAWDA has given details of 14 persons whose illegal constructions have been demolished by it. “LAWDA to file report of further action taken in accordance with law against these violators,” the High Court said in its directions today.

Meanwhile, the HC today asked the management of Hotel Grand Palace to show cause as to why action shall not be taken against them for not complying with the court orders over the replacement of its sewage treatment plant.