Newspaper Clips
October 22-25, 2016

October 25

Financial Chronicle ND 25.10.2016 P-10

Govt may offer OBC quota in varsities, IITs: Kushwaha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government is in the middle of a process to offer quota to OBCs in recruitment of faculties in central universities and IITs as per ‘already existing’ policies and will ‘soon’ arrive at a decision in this regard, Union minister Upendra Kushwaha said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters here, the minister of state for HRD also said the NDA government will ‘soon’ reach a decision to give OBCs reservation in list of students nominated to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas every year.

The comments from Kushwaha, an OBC leader himself, assume significance as they come ahead of assembly election in Uttar Pradesh -- home to sizable OBC population -- as constituents of NDA are pulling out all stops to woo voters there.

‘There is no provision for reservation for OBCs in recruitment of faculties, associate professors and professors in central universities, IITs. This is when the government of India has a policy of following reservation in these places. In other words, this (not giving quota) is violation of the policy. We are now paying attention to this. We are in the middle of the process and soon we will arrive at a decision in this case too,’ Kushwaha said.

The minister said further said students from SC and ST communities have been offered reservation in list of between 80 and 100 students nominated to each of country’s Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas from rural parts every year, but there is no such provision for OBCs.

“I was surprised to know this. Our ministry is now paying attention to this and we will soon arrive at a decision. An arrangement will be made for providing reservation in nomination for OBC students in these Vidyalayas,” he added.

Kushwaha rued that strength of OBCs among Supreme Court and high court judges was “negligible”. “OBC people will not get justice until they make it to the judiciary. The Constitution provides for Indian Administrative Service. There is also a provision for Indian Judicial Services. But it is not being followed up,” he said.

He also pitched for giving quota to OBCs in private sectors and the sector of media too as the number of government jobs is “shrinking”.

“Our party has taken up these programmes. We will take up the issue at the level of government and our workers will also hit streets if need be,” the minister added.

Dainik Tribune ND 25.10.2016 P-5
IIT Delhi’s Rendezvous: Euphoria dedicates performance to Indian soldiers

Palash Sen and DJ Bhaduri perform along with their band Euphoria, on day two of IIT Delhi’s annual fest Rendezvous (2016).

The dhoom pichak at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi’s fest, Rendezvous 2016 was one helluva experience for youngsters attending the annual fest. Coming to stage after much-wait, the band Euphoria’s lead singer Palash Sen soon made the crowd shout ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’ and in quick succession announced, “We dedicate this show tonight to soldiers who are standing on the border. And for Pakistan we would like to say this (shows a fist).”

The band was performing for the fourth time at IIT, and Sen didn’t mind flattering the IITians apart from making them groove to his music. He said during the performance, “After DU’s Lady Shri Ram College for Women, IIT Delhi was the second college to invite us to perform and since then this is our fourth and the maximum number of times we have performed at any college.”

Lead singer of the band Euphoria, Palash Sen, during the performance.

He added, “I went to a medical college, and can say that jo ladka-ladki IIT-JEE clear kar sakta hai, use achcha koi bhi nahi (that boy-girl who can clear IIT-JEE, there’s no one better than them)!”

The act of Euphoria was the highlight of day two and drew massive young crowd from colleges across the city, including Delhi University. The stage was set by the four bands who competed in the Hindi rock band competition Spectrum. Post
this, the wait for the final showdown by Euphoria was made worth by the vocalists of the band TMKC (Teri Music Ki Chahat). With their versions of popular numbers such as Muqabala Muqabala, they kept the crowd entertained.

![Enthusiastic crowd at IIT Delhi switched on mobile flashlights to ring in the countdown for Euphoria’s performance.](image)

Even on day one, street plays by various colleges and beat boxing competition kept the audiences’ adrenaline rush high. The fun factor continued by Blitzkrieg – English rock band competition, which had the crowd head-banging. The love for Blitzkrieg was visible in its audience which comprised not just college but even school students. Kavya Vignesh, a class seven student and Urvi Butola, a class eight student were among these. Vignesh says, “This was our first metal performance. We have specially come with our families for this event. And it’s so cool! We can’t wait for Drowning Pool. They’re my favourite band!”

One of the performing bands The Forbidden Ritual, had an embarrassing moment during Blitzkrieg, when its vocalist Shourya Mehta addressed the IIT Delhi crowd as “IIT Guwahati”. The error elicited some boos and jests from the crowd.

**FIRST TWO DAYS OF RENDEZVOUS, IIT DELHI, FULL OF ACTION**


IIT Delhi’s Cultural Fest, Rendezvous 2016, took off on 21st October, 2016. The day opened with the immensely energetic street play acts by the dramatics societies of various college like IIT-Delhi, Hansraj College and Kirori Mal College. The fest also hosted one its most awaited events on Day 1 which was the Campus Princess. Another much anticipated event of the fest, Mr. & Ms. Rendezvous 2016, saw huge participation from across Delhi. The finale round of the event consisted of two stage rounds. The judges then presented the prestigious title of Mr. Rendezvous to Monis Ahmad Khan of Jamia Milia Islamia University, and Ms. Rendezvous to Sanya Devgon.
Blitzkreig- the battle of bands, added to the energy of the day. Bands like High Frequency, Knight Shades, The Forbidden Ritual and many more gave power-packed performances. The first prize was bagged by Knight Shades and the second by the band High Time.

The first pro night of IIT Delhi featured Drowning Pool, an international rock band, that gave their first performance in India, and brought the first day to a close.

The second day kicked off with Tatva, the fusion band competition. The event witnessed participation from various colleges across the country. Infusion band of IIT Delhi stood first, while Chaos Theory of Shiv Nadar University came second. Twelve Strings of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS) bagged the third position.

Mimansa, the street play competition was held simultaneously, where teams depicted various issues like the caste system and religion wars. The first prize was won by Ankahi – the dramatics society of IIT Delhi, while Anubhuti – the dramatics society of Janki Devi Memorial College (JDMC), and Ijaad – the dramatics society of PGDAV College (Evening) came second and third, respectively.

The day continued with several informal and competitive events like Voice of Rendezvous, Story Teller, Paintara, Scooter Stunts and Chakravyuh among others. It was followed by the event YouTubers United, where series of events celebrating the rise of these new celebrities took place. Its second series witnessed various pranksters like Rishabh Rai, The Teen Trolls, Love Rudrakash, The Trouble Seeking Team and The AVRprankTV.

The day concluded with Euphoria Band, energetically performing its various popular numbers.

October 24

Times Nation ND 24.10.2016 P-1

From 2017, IITs to have 528 seats more

Somdatta Basu
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Kolkata: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will implement a 5% increase in their total student intake from the next academic session.

The decision to increase the number of students from 10,572 to the current academic session to 11,100 the next year — was taken at a recent meeting of the Joint Admission Board (JAB), which is the highest decision-making body of IIT-JEE (admissions). The meeting was attended by the chairpersons of all IITs.

While this increased number was to be absorbed by all 23 IITs, several of the older institutes said they wouldn’t be able to immediately increase their intake with their current infrastructure. The country’s premier engineering and tech scho-
Centre plans to link varsity autonomy to performance

Vikas Pathak

NEW DELHI: The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry is considering linking the autonomy of higher education institutions to their performance as measured by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

The NIRF is a comprehensive ranking system for universities developed by the Ministry. The first NIRF rankings were released earlier this year.

Three categories

“We are thinking of dividing universities into three categories — A, B and C — on the basis of their NIRF rankings,” HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said. “The first will be most autonomous while the last will require more regulation.”

The A category will comprise institutions with high NIRF rank and these will be highest on the autonomy scale, the B category will comprise middle-ranking institutions with part autonomy but also government regulation, and category C will mean institutions with low ranking that will require greater regulation and holding for improvement.

Mr. Javadekar said greater autonomy could imply a number of things, including the complete freedom to have their own syllabi and curricula.

Next round in April

The next round of NIRF rankings will be published on the first Monday of April 2017. As per the 2016 rankings, IIT Madras topped among engineering colleges, followed by IITs at Mumbai, Kharagpur, Delhi, Kanpur and Roorkee. IIT Madras had a score of 89.41.

Among universities, the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, topped, followed by the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, Hyderabad University and Tezpur University. Among management schools, IIM Bengaluru was ranked first with a score of 93.04, followed by the IIMs at Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Udaipur and Kozhikode.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 24.10.2016 P-3

आईआईटी दिल्ली में होगी स्कूलों की टेक्नोलॉजी विवाद

ईआईटी दिल्ली में देश भर के स्कूलों की टेक्नोलॉजी विवाद का आयोजन 12 नवंबर को होना जा रहा है। हाल में एंट्री प्रोफेसर कहते हैं, कई 8 से 12वीं तक के छात्र इस किलो में हिस्सा ले सकते हैं। हाल स्कूल में 60 सदस्य टीम इसमें भाग ले सकते हैं। प्रतियोगिता का प्रारूप लिखित प्रश्नपत्री राउंड के सब्जेक्ट चार टीमें रोजनल फाइनल के लिए क्वालिफाई करेगी। फाइनल के लिए क्वालिफाई करने वाली एक ही स्कूल की कई टीमों में सबसे अधिक स्कोर करने वाली टीम को ही मंच पर खुलासा जाएगा। रोजनल फाइनल की विजेता टीम के डिसंबर में मुंबई में आयोजित होने वाले मेना फाइनल में आये में मुकाबला करेगी। विजेता टीम एक एस्कॉर्ट के साथ मुंबई भेजा जाएगा।
Car dealers told not to stock cars with old emission norms

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: Supreme Court-appointed green body tells states not to register vehicles with standards lower than Bharat Stage-IV after March 31, 2017

Soumya Pillai
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) of Delhi and NCR has asked motor dealers not to stock Bharat Stage-III vehicles.

Sunita Narain, member EPCA and director general of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), told HT that in a series of meetings conducted on Wednesday with vehicle dealers in Delhi and the NCR region, the deadline to phase out vehicles with BS-III and below emission standards, was reiterated.

"After April 2017 the sale and registration of vehicles not complying with BS-IV emission norms will not be allowed. There was a lot of hue and cry around the phase out but there has been enough time given to the dealers to phase out their stock," Narain said.

It has been six years since BS-IV was introduced in India in 2010. Last year, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways also issued a draft notification making BS-IV norms mandatory across the country in a phased manner. The process started in October 2015.

At present, though comprehensive data is unavailable, experts estimate that out of the total vehicles registered in Delhi every day, half are still only BS-III compliant and below. About 1,500 vehicles are registered in the Capital every day.

Narain said that EPCA has written letters to all the state governments asking them not to register any vehicle with emission standards lower than BS-IV by March 31 next year.

Studies have found that the compliance of BS-IV standards will reduce particulate emissions by 80% and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels by at least 31%.

"The world has already moved towards BS-VI norms and we are still reluctant in moving to BS-IV. We have been in constant touch with the manufacturers and all the companies have the type approval of BS-IV in place, then why delay," she said.

The government has set the deadline for introducing BS-VI norms in 2020.

Automobile experts, however, say that the transition from BS-III to BS-IV is a difficult one mainly because it will call for major technology changes from the automakers' end.

"A genuine problem which most automakers have sighted is that they have not got enough time to upgrade their technology considering the two main elements — diesel particulate filter and selective catalytic reduction module — would have to be adapted to India's peculiar conditions, where running speeds are much lower than in Europe or the US," Dr Prashant Srivastava, mechanical engineering department, IIT (Delhi).

He said that a government report of 2014 said that four years after the introduction of BS-IV petrol penetration in the domestic markets of metro cities was 24% and that of high-speed diesel was only 16%.

Tribune ND 24.10.2016 P-6

₹6.25 lakh to be recovered from ex-VC's pension

SON). (G.C/DECRE.ER.23)

The authorities at DCR University of Science and Technology, Muzaffarnagar, have written a letter to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, to deduct Rs 6.25 lakh from the pension of retired IIT Prof Raj Pai Dahya. He relinquished the charge of VC in August this year. Prof Dahya allegedly withdrew salary more than what is entitled to a VC besides circumventing deduction of pension equivalent to gratuity.

According to the university rules, the monthly basic pay of a VC is fixed at Rs 75,000. If the VC is a retired person, the pension's basic pay amount is to be deducted from the salary.

Sources said, Prof Dahya got his basic pay fixed at Rs 39,500 instead of the entitled pay of Rs 35,500. He also did not allow monthly deduction of Rs 10,400 as pension equivalent to gratuity. KP Singh, registrar, said the authorities at IIT had been urged to deduct Rs 6.25 lakh from his pension, which was withdrawn in excess as salary. — OC
River pollution: IIT-D prof calls for database of sewage inlets


CHENNAI: A database of inlets into rivers is what is needed to plug the illegal flow of sewage and effluents, said IIT-Delhi professor A K Gosain as he called for a scientific approach towards restoring polluted rivers. He was speaking at the...
Regional Conference on Environment at TN Dr Ambedkar Law University on Sunday.

On the adverse impact of climate change on water resources, Gosain said, "The hydrological aspects of a river must be the basis for planning for development along a river plain." For the Ganga Rejuvenation Project, the professor said extensive data of every inlet along the gangetic plain must be mapped.

Stating that climate change could threaten biodiversity and alter coastlines, principal secretary to the state, rural development and panchayati raj ministry, Hansraj Verma, said, "Community participation is the building block of adaptation strategies towards climate change."

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) director Robert Ondhwe stressed on the importance of the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty to contain CO2 emissions, in combating climate change. Of the Paris Agreement, which India signed in April and ratified earlier this month, Ondhwe said, "The Paris agreement provides a template for international communities to mitigate emission. The role of cities, regional and local authorities is the unique feature of the agreement."

He called for a clean development mechanism and hailed India as a leader in such an approach. Echoing similar views, Justice of Kerala high court A K Jayasankaran Nambiar said rapid development has ignored the impact of industrial emissions on climate change.

Chairperson of National Green Tribunal which organised the event, Justice Swatanter Kumar presided over the conference and the Madras high court chief justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul delivered the valedictory address.
October 23

Deccan Hearld ND 23.10.2016 P-07

Kumar Mangalam Birla is IIM-A’s new chairman

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Kumar Mangalam Birla, the 49-year-old chairman of $41 billion industrial conglomerate Aditya Birla Group, is all set to take over the reigns as chairman of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A).

The premier B-school has been without a regular chairman since January, when the previous chairman A M Naik, CMD of L&T, resigned citing “paucity of time”.

Though the Union HRD ministry is yet to make an official announcement on Birla’s selection, his name was confirmed to DH by Pankaj Patel, CMD of the Zyndus Cadila group and head of the three-member search panel set up to look for a new IIM-A chairman. Patel has also been holding charge as the interim chairman of the IIM-A board currently.

The selection of Birla as the new chairman of the IIM-A board was also confirmed by another person close to the business tycoon, on condition of anonymity.
KOLKATA: Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic arm of IT giant, has signed an MoU with IIT-Kharagpur to fund travel (preferably for women) to 'Top International Conferences' and the research on the antiquity of Indus Valley, which is being carried out by the premier institute in association with the Archaeological Survey of India.

The initiative has been jointly undertaken under the leadership of Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murthy and IIT-Kgp director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti. "While advanced education helps us leap forward, studying ancient civilizations enables us to reflect on the culture of bygone societies. Infosys Foundation recognizes the importance of both and is committed to supporting programmes in both these areas," Sudha Murthy said. Murthy, one of the members of the board of governors at IIT-Kharagpur, had earlier donated Rs 5 crore to Presidency University. "It will be a great initiative as the decision will inspire many more women research scholars and students to come up with some very innovative work, publish journals or papers and take part in internationally acclaimed global conferences," added Chakrabarti.

Every year, over 250 students participate in international conferences. Murthy has proposed to provide Rs 20 lakh from her own resources to support women students for such conferences. "Such conferences have been beneficial to students in netorking for their doctoral and postdoctoral programmes. With support from Infosys Foundation, eight to 10

Infosys extends helping hand to IIT-Kharagpur
meritorious girl students will be selected by a committee at IIT-Kgp to be sent to top conferences. These students will have Infosys Foundation mentioned in their presentation," added S K Ray, dean (postgraduate studies research).

Anindya Sarkar, lead investigator of the Indus Valley project, felt the funding had come at a right time when "we just unearthed some old Indus valley settlements in India. We are seeking permission from ASI for excavating a specific site and the grant will be used for studying the causes of climate change using latest techniques of isotope and faunal analysis."

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**RESEARCH**

**Finding the right waves to cut breast cancer**

A team at IIT-Ropar is trying to use radio waves to treat this form of cancer, which is the most common cause of cancer deaths among women in India

**Jacob Koshy**

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a World Health Organisation agency that decides on the carcinogenicity of a vast list of things, lists radio waves — those emitted by mobile phones, for example — as a "possible carcinogen". However a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT-R), in Punjab, are trying to use radio waves to treat breast cancer, the most common cause of cancer deaths among women in India.

**Radio waves for treatment**

Radio waves are a big chunk of the electromagnetic spectrum and indispensable for the working of several of our communication devices from radios to satellites. However, the higher the frequency of electromagnetic waves, the more energetic they are and the greater their chances of being harmful to the body. To tune radio waves for therapy, scientists employ the low- and medium-frequency range. Over the years this insight has been used to alleviate minor ailments such as neck and back pain but with improvements in how these waves can be finely controlled, there’s now increasing attention to using it to treat cancer.

In radiofrequency ablation treatment or RFA, cancerous tissue is burned off by poking a needle electrode through the skin into the tumour. Determining the right place to insert the needle needs high-resolution images of the infected region that are taken through a range of instrument such ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The high-frequency electrical currents are passed through the electrode, creating heat that destroys the cancer cell.

According to the American Radiology Association, RFA is an effective treatment option for patients who might have difficulty with surgery or those whose tumours are less than one and a half inches in diameter. The success rate for completely eliminating small liver tumours is greater than 85 per cent.

According to Dr. Ramjee Repuka, an associate professor at IIT-F, RF treatment for cancer is still an emerging area of research. It works better for liver cancer simply because liver tissue is relatively smooth and homogenous and therefore easier to image. He and his associates are more ambitious and want to tackle breast cancer, whose cells are often clustered together and have vague boundaries, which makes successful detection extremely challenging.

"Breast tissue is far more difficult to model and so there’s been little attention paid to it so far," says Dr. Repuka. In preliminary investigations in his lab so far, the researchers have tested these waves on synthetic gel that mimics breast tissue. "The challenge is to find the optimal temperature and duration to safely target the radio waves," he adds, "the next steps are to attempt this in cell lines (tissue)."

Were such therapies to be successful, they could emerge as a competitor to chemotherapy.

**Jacak Koshy**

For India’s Christians, Christmas Day is often seen as a time of joy and celebration. However, this year the celebrations were marred by a tragic incident in Mumbai. A bomb attack at the Bhendi Bazaar area of Mumbai claimed the lives of 16 people and injured over 50. The attack was carried out by terrorists who had entered the area disguised as police personnel.

The attack was quickly condemned by the Indian government and the Christian community alike. The government has promised to investigate the case and bring the perpetrators to justice. The Christian community has also expressed its solidarity with the victims and their families.

The attack has once again highlighted the issue of terrorism in the country and the need for better security measures. The Indian government has been criticized for its response to previous terrorist attacks, and the attack in Mumbai has only added to this criticism.

The attack has also resulted in a tightening of security measures in Mumbai and other parts of the country. The police have been加大了巡逻力度，确保公共安全。

The Indian government has also announced a compensation package for the victims of the attack. The package includes financial assistance for the bereaved families and medical aid for the injured.

The attack has also led to a renewed call for peace and understanding in the country. The Christian community has once again called for unity and harmony, and has urged people to come together to overcome the challenges faced by the country.

The attack in Mumbai is a stark reminder of the ongoing conflict in the country and the need for a peaceful resolution. The Indian government and the Christian community alike must work together to ensure that such incidents do not happen again in the future.
Full Autonomy for IIMs Soon

A quiet revolution is happening in the HRD ministry with Javadekar set to free IIMs from government control and make them globally competitive.

By MANISH ANAND

New Delhi: In line with the stated goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop 36 world-class institutions in the country, the government is set to grant full autonomy to Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Union Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar is expected to move the Union Cabinet soon with a legislative proposal for the same. This follows the briefing NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya gave the PM, where he argued that precious time should not be wasted in waiting for reforms in the UGC and AICTE to achieve the creation of world-class educational institutions. Javadekar had earlier moved the bill for inter-ministerial discussions. The law ministry is learnt to have favourably responded to the proposal. The government is likely to table the bill in Parliament soon.

(continued on Page 6)

End to President's Power as IIM Visitor to Review Work

By MANISH ANAND

New Delhi: Sources said that the HRD Minister told IIM Board of directors that soon they will never need to approach the government for approvals or permission.

“Only if you invite, will I or anyone from the government come to any of the IIMs. We will soon grant you the freedom that you should enjoy.” Javadekar is learnt to have said at the meeting.

Of the 36 institutions which have been identified for transformation into world-class entities, 10 will be from the public sector. The rest will be private. The NITI Aayog had approved Modi that autonomy for IIMs will fast track the set goals.

The discretion of the government through the power of the President as a Visitor to review the work of the IIMs will end, sources said, while adding that the Board of Governors will have full freedom to choose the directors.

The government is expected to relinquish its power in the IIMs’ coordination panels, sources said.

This comes as a marked departure from the times when Javadekar’s predecessor Smriti Irani, now the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, had clashed with the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) over the functioning of the IIMs.
October 22

Online portal for IIT-JEE

Minister for school education K Pandiarajan launched an exclusive online portal to coach IIT-JEE aspirants. The site is hosted by Chennai-based career enhancement company SMART Training Resources. Students may log on to www.iitjeeonline.com.

Deccan Herald ND 22.10.2016 P-7

Centre mulls over single entrance test for engg courses

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre is mulling over a single entrance test for admissions to engineering colleges across the country, buoyed by its experience with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Examination (NEET) for admissions to medical and dental colleges following an order of the Supreme Court.

“We are considering JEE (joint entrance examination) for admissions to all technical institutes. It is in a preliminary stage and being discussed,” a top HRD Ministry official said.

The Ministry will hold consultation with the stakeholders, including the States, he added.

“The NEET is already being conducted for admissions to medical colleges. We are now considering whether a single entrance test is feasible for admissions to all engineering colleges, keeping students’ interest in mind,” he said.

The JEE is currently conducted in two parts—JEE (Main) and JEE (Advance). The HRD Ministry, however, has decided not to continue with 40% weightage given to students’ class XII board exam marks in the nationwide test from 2017. A joint committee of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) had disfavoured it.

The students’ scores in the board examination will remain a “crucial parameter” for determining their eligibility to write the nationwide test, it said, announcing the changes made to the JEE scheme few months back.

“For candidates to qualify for the JEE examination, they shall have secured at least 75% marks or be in the top 20 percentile in the Class XII examination conducted by respective Boards,” it said.

Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be eligible to take the nationwide test if they secure 65% marks in the Class XII board examination.

A standing committee of the IITs has recommended that the JEE-Main be replaced by an Engineering Aptitude Test from next year. The Centre tried to introduce ‘one nation, one entrance’ for admission to engineering colleges under the previous UPA regime but did not succeed.

Asian Age ND 22.1.2016 P-5

Easier norms for IITs’ foreign staff

New Delhi: The government will ease regulatory norms to make it easier for foreign faculty to be appointed in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

According official sources, the Union human resource development ministry has put forward a proposal to the ministry of external affairs and the home ministry to ensure the norms related to allowing foreign faculty are made easier.

“The HRD ministry has proposed that norms related to allowing qualified foreign faculty to teach in the IITs be eased. Both MEA and home ministry have been positive in this regard during the consultations,” a source said. — PTI
100 per cent summer placement offers for IIM-K students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOZHIKODE: Over 100 firms, including high-profile multinational companies, showed up last week to pick up for summer placement all the 364 students in the 2016-18 MBA batch of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K).

The largest batch ever at the year-old IIM-K, these students will get on-the-job training for two months next summer at 139 firms. The 100 per cent summer placement offers, that too concluded in just six days, was a record of sorts for the institution, IIM-K officials told The Hindu.

High-profile brands

The 119 firms that participated in the summer placement event were nearly 50 per cent more than last year. The high-profile brands included Microsoft, Google, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, American Express, and Boston Consulting Group. One company alone selected 13 students; six were selected for various projects of the Kerala government, including the Kudumbasree.

A couple of start-up companies at Infopark, Kochi, also selected internees, showing a wide variety of enterprises interested in the IIM-K products.

Most of the internees will be paid handsome stipends, the largest on offer is Rs. 1.25 lakh a month. Nearly half of the students opted for sales-and-marketing training, with finance following.
Craft an innovative education policy

The policy outcomes will be tested for the innovative measures to ensure quality of the university product.

By R M Ranganath

M alharana Gandhi’s concern about the way education is defined and packaged to make it attractive to the student to earn more and hardly giving any thought to the improvement of the character remains a central focus of all global reformists agendas.

Pressure of globalising, population growth, technological revolution, universalisation and an increasing demand for access to quality education have forced the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to redefine their conventional goals. Reputed journal Nature (special issue, The University Experiment, December 2015) identifies the emerging demand for a transformation from education for knowledge to education for knowledge and a transformation from mode to game changer.

Given this global trend, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2016 has to craft an innovative policy with employability and entrepreneurial development components strategically positioned around a core matrix of knowledge and skills.

The success of NEP 2016 depends on its fundamental issues: First, empowerment of both HEIs and teachers at the cutting edge of all knowledge-driven activities should go hand in hand. Second, connecting primary, secondary and university education should be considered the unexplored reality that would moderate the programme implementation at the lower levels so far has left no stone unturned in the past few years.

For instance, language proficiency, particularly in English, is a major problem even at the UG and PG levels. Many of the states have opted for local language in the medium of instruction even at the PG level. Absence of quality textbooks in the local medium of instruction, particularly in a rapidly developing global knowledge environment, has further complicated the problem.

States need to establish a Centre for International Languages (CIL), modelled as a proactive inter-university ecosystem with a focus on English, French, German, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Russian, etc. Activities may include:

a) Networking HEIs using state-of-the-art communication technologies and delivery systems to create a "language bridge".

b) Development of modules for teaching at UG/PG levels and “Teach the Teachers” programs targeting primary and secondary school educators.

c) Serve as a novel platform for the HEIs in the areas of research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Open online courses for the benefit of distance education learners and entrepreneurs. State language could play a role in knowledge transfer activities to devolve CIL into an “international culture hub.”

For conventional courses (BA, BSc) where the problem manifests the most, two approaches seem relevant: a) using of the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) to insert employability and entrepreneurship components as one of the choices under discipline and skill-based electives; and b) develop novel Fusion Courses – BA and BSc (Industrial Production) – by customising the UGC subject templates and participation of all the three disciplines of science, humanities and management. Joint certification by the HEI concerned and the industry partner (e.g., proposed Sector Skill Council) could authenticate the training imparted by these courses.

Interwoven tussle

Creation of a separate cadre of education administrators (EAS) should be shelved. The NEP should introduce a new interwoven tussle for positions and supremacy between academics and the board. An additional layer of hierarchy is unavoidable.

Key areas include cost-effective knowledge delivery systems and modern instrumentations. Although UGC has established inter-university Accelerators (incubators), they are only a few chosen tracts.

There is enormous scope for establishing many such institutions to leverage the education services in a big way. For this purpose, the proposed number of DSkOs/Institutions may be increased to help states to set up a unique category of institutions.

State Inter University Accelerators. In Karnataka, for example, one such “knowledge hub” could leverage the capacity building of 20 universities and over 4000 colleges, some located in remote, rural areas.

The current metrics to measure research output is in terms of publications in journals with impact factor, higher the impact factors of the journals, higher the credit given to the research. Given that there are very few Indian journals with high impact factor, a culture of publishing in foreign journals has taken strong roots in assessment and accreditation. Such publications also involve transfer of copyright to the journals of publication, that is transfer of intellectual property rights. Publishing high quality Indian journals/thesis is the only solution.

The NEP outcomes will be tested to the hilt, particularly for the innovative measures to ensure quality of the university product. The state and Central governments have to play their role, more as enablers rather than overbearing, administratively driven regimes. All stakeholders need to demonstrate commitment to promote HEIs at centres of alternative values rather than mirroring the rampant commercial activities in the society. True, it is a huge ask, but it has to be accomplished for succeeding in a highly competitive 21st century knowledge society.

The author is a retired Professor of Economics and former Registrar, Bangalore University.

CBSE moots restoration of Class X board exam

Javadekar says advisory board to take final call

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The CBSE has favoured restoration of compulsory board examination in its schools from the academic year 2017-18 with 80% weightage for summative (board examination) and 20% for school-based assessment.

“Students will have to secure 33 marks in each to pass the examination,” the board has proposed on the basis of feedback it received from parents, teachers in an online survey.

More than 65% parents/students and close to 85% principals/teachers who submitted their response to the survey on the continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, favoured restoration of compulsory board examination, the CBSE said.

“As much as 57% parents/students and 65.66% principals/teachers opined that the option to choose between school based Class X examination and examination by the board had resulted in reduced commitment to learning,” it added.

A committee set up by Educational Consultant India Limited, a public sector unit, has also favoured re-introduction of the compulsory board examinations for students of Class X.

However, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday said the Human Resource De-

 development (HRD) Ministry has not yet taken any decision on whether to reintroduce Class X board examination or not in schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

“There are demands from parents to reintroduce Class X board examinations. That’s why we have listed the issue in the agenda for upcoming meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE). But we have not taken any decision on it,” he told DH.

The minister’s clarification came when asked if the government was going to reintroduce grading system in the CBSE schools and bring back old system of holding board examinations for Class X, which was scrapped in 2010 to introduce grading system and continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) of students’ performance.

He also dismissed reports about the Centre’s plans for re-introducing compulsory board examinations for students of Class X from 2018.

“The issue will be discussed at the CABE meeting. A decision on whether or not to make Class X board examination compulsory will come later,” the Union Minister said.

The CABE, which is highest advisory body on education, is scheduled to meet here on October 25.