Mandi-IIT Director gets extension

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, SEPTEMBER 3
Mandi Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Director Prof Timothy A Gonsalves has been given extension for another five years.

In a statement issued here today, IIT Registrar Mohammad Shakeel said the President has given him extension on the recommendations of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development with effect from January 15, 2015. He said the students, faculty and staff at IIT were overwhelmed with the news. "The IIT is under rapid growth under the guidance of Prof Gonsalves. We look forward to work with him to elevate the standards of the IIT-Mandi to be at par with all other premier institutes of the world," he said.

On the occasion, Prof Gonsalves said, "I have just received an order informing me that the President has approved my second term as Director up to January 14, 2020. I am honoured by this mark of appreciation for the remarkable growth of IIT-Mandi in the remote Kamand valley."

The growth was possible only through the selfless efforts of numerous faculty, students, staff, alumni and well-wishers in building the IIT, he said. He especially thanked his wife Priscilla, who, he said, had been a constant source of inspiration and ideas.
100 smart cities: Think tanks to converge for IIT-B initiative


MUMBAI: IIT Bombay Alumni Association is looking to collaborate with the government to assist in providing solutions for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship programme of creating 100 smart cities.

The association has conceptualised a platform ‘Global Business Forum’ (GBF) under which it will bring all the stakeholders in the realty industry under one roof to discuss the issues related to the sector, during a seminar to be held between October 16 to 18 this year.

Through GBF, representatives from national and international businesses, trade delegations, academia and governments will be able to link directly with latest innovations in technology, explore collaborations and seal partnerships through a single platform.

"As per reports, the smart cities programme can create business opportunities to the tune of USD 30-40 billion for the IT sector over the next 5-10 years. We will ensure that the ideas formulated, technologies used and policies framed are realistic and that all elements are considered at an implementable scale," Ronita Bardhan, professor at IIT Bombay, told reporters here today.

This will ensure that the discussion is not theoretical, but practical and realistic, she said.

The review committee, which includes an independent group of experts, would look at innovation proposals from the IIT Bombay community, specifically in the area of smart green buildings, mobility, water, solid waste, power, governance and healthcare.
IIT-Kgp software to convert Indian languages into Braille


Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) have developed a unique technology via a software that enables conversion of Indian languages into Braille for the visually challenged.

The institute is also planning to go for large-scale deployment in West Bengal and other states.

The Sparsha Transliteration System developed by IIT-Kgp's Communication Empowerment Lab, led by Anupam Basu, can accept Indian language texts (such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Oriya, Kannada) as input and convert it into Braille.

"The software takes any Indian language text as input in Unicode and can convert it to Braille and facilitates the production of Braille textbooks," Basu, a professor at IIT-Kgp's department of computer science and engineering, told IANS on Wednesday.

"This helps the visually challenged to access information from a variety of sources," Basu said.

The converted files can be printed out through any Braille embosser (printer for Braille).

IIT-Kgp recently inked a deal with Odisha's Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University to produce necessary Braille books in Odiya through Sparsha.

"It is being used in many places in India and we are planning to go for large-scale deployment. We have talked to blind schools in Bengal and also the Bengal government. We are planning to approach other state governments as well," Basu said.

Among the variety of pioneering and award-winning assistive technologies developed, there is also the 'speech-enabled Baishakhi keyboard' for the blind.

"Using this software, the blind people will be able to type (Bangla and English) and hear what they are typing,' Basu said.

The purpose is that blind students who sit for exams... they need writers... that will no longer be needed. They can use internet, email themselves through the technology," he added.
**Improve ISM's faculty before IIT upgrade: Expert panel**

New Delhi, Sep 03, 2015, dhns:

[http://www.deccanherald.com/content/499012/improve-isms-faculty-iit-upgrade.html](http://www.deccanherald.com/content/499012/improve-isms-faculty-iit-upgrade.html)

Despite Centre’s assurances to upgrade Indian School of Mining (ISM) Dhanbad into an IIT, an expert committee has said the school’s faculty should first be upgraded to the level of the premier technology institute.

In its report to the HRD Ministry, the committee noted that ISM’s traditional engineering departments and the mining department are below the IIT standards, though mining engineering, petroleum engineering, earth sciences and geophysics are found to be “excellent in several ways” during its on-site assessment.

“It is extremely detrimental for the ISM to be upgraded to an IIT without addressing this issue thoroughly. If faculty members without sufficient capabilities are left in the system as part of legacy, it will create a festering long-term problem for the new IIT,” the panel, headed by former IIT-Bombay director Ashok Mishra, added in the report.

It said each faculty at Ism should be evaluated with the same yardsticks applied at established IITs and those falling short should be trained at IISc Bangalore, while those at advanced age failing selection procedures and performance criteria could be given suitable voluntary retirement or transferred to centrally-funded institutions like National Institute of Technology (NIT).

The report, currently under the ministry’s scrutiny, has dismayed those in ISM who hoped for the upgrade to take place this year following Arun Jaitley’s proposal in his budget speech.

**HRD Minister Smriti Irani invites suggestions on new education policy**


NEW DELHI: HRD Minister Smriti Irani today invited suggestions from teachers and students of CBSE schools on the new national education policy, the draft of which is expected to be prepared by the year end.

Presenting the CBSE awards to teachers ahead of the national teacher’s day celebrations on September 5, the Minister also favoured introduction of three new award categories including a category that recognises a teacher's achievement in promoting education in rural areas.

"CBSE should also be involved in drafting the new national education policy and should ask the students and teachers about their views, the inputs of which should be collected by November 15," she said at the award function.

The new education policy seeks to involve stakeholders from cross sections of the society including the teachers and students, the consultation process of which has began from January this year.

Hailing the achievements of the teachers who were felicitated at the event, she asked CBSE to constitute three award categories, felicitating teachers who promote performing arts, who venture beyond the classrooms and promote innovation and those who promote teaching in rural areas.
Thirty-four teachers from across the country and abroad were conferred the CBSE award for their innovations in classroom teaching.

The selection of the awardees is based on the academic efficiency and desire for improvement, genuine interest and reputation in the community, love for children, perseverance and commitment towards the field of education.

Sixteen mentors were also awarded for collaboration and handholding through regular visits to clusters of schools for promoting quality.

The Mentors awards recognise principals who go an extra mile in their endeavour to promote excellence.

Mentors are selected on the basis of their training experience, professional guidance, positive role-modelling, collaboration with mentee schools and initiating innovative practices.

These awards consist of a Merit certificate, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

The process of selection is both rigorous and transparent.

### Classroom gives a sense of mission, PM Modi tells students

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an interaction with school children at Manekshaw Hall in New Delhi on the eve of 'Teacher's Day'. (AFP Photo)


Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid rich tributes to the teaching community of the country and hailed the role of mothers in shaping the lives of their children. He also interacted with young achievers from select schools across the country through video conferencing.
Modi was speaking at an event at the Manekshaw Auditorium to mark Teachers’ Day, which was attended by 800 hundred students and 60 teachers from various schools.

To highlight his point about the role of teachers, Modi invoked the life of former President APJ Abdul Kalam who he said “passed away while teaching.”

“True was his passion, he never left students for a moment in his life,” Modi added.

Speaking extempore, Modi said “all of us have a memory of something our teachers had taught us when we were young”.

Later, answering questions from students through media conferencing, Modi hailed the role played by youngsters in bringing change in the country through their innovative ideas.

Interacting with Soniya Yellapa Patil from Telangana, Modi praised the support of her mother in helping her achieve the dream of becoming a sportsperson.

“Whenever a woman shines on the sports, the mother of the child has a very important contribution,” Modi said.

Mixing anecdotes from his own life to drive home his points, Modi told a student from Senapati in Manipur that “politics had acquired a bad name in the country” and added that “good people and people from all walks of life are required in politics.”

“Leadership quality is essential. You must be clear why you want to be a leader: only to fight elections or to serve the people? If the feeling for latter is developed, then you will be on your way to be a great leader,” Modi added.

Earlier, Modi also released a commemorative coin of Rs 125 denomination and a circulation coin of Rs 10 denomination in the honour of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former president and educationist, teacher and philosopher, on the eve of his birth anniversary.

The event is being held on September 4 as September 5 – Teachers’ Day -- is a school holiday and the country would also be celebrating Janamashtmi.

While nine crore students had participated in the interaction last year, the attempt is to scale up the numbers significantly this time, officials said, adding that states have been asked to ensure both public and private school students listen to the Prime Minister, beamed live through Doordarshan and All India Radio.

**Here are some the quotes from his speech:**

#All of us have a memory of something our teacher taught us when we were young

#People wonder why we spend time with students on Teacher's day. I feel that students are an image of teachers

#There will hardly be anyone in the world who will not admit the role of their mother and teacher in their life

#Sometimes I feel that teachers who write should write about some students who left a mark on them, it will show their involvement

#A true teacher can never retire

#A mother gives birth, a teacher gives a sense to living
#Dr Radhakrishnan never let the teacher die in himself

#Not many of us lived at the time of Dr. Radhakrishnan, but we did interact with Dr. Kalam who wanted to be remembered as a "teacher"

#Dr. Kalam went back to teaching the moment his tenure as a President got over

#Leadership quality is essential. You must also be clear why you want to be a leader: to fight elections only or to make a difference

#Good people and people from all walks of life are required in politics

#Classroom gives a sense of mission and a sense of priority

#Can serve the nation not only by joining the armed forces or being in politics. Several ways to contribute to nation building

**Department of Biotechnology sets up DBT-Pan IIT Centre for Bioenergy**


MUMBAI: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), ministry of science and technology, government of India has set up the DBT-Pan IIT Centre for Bioenergy, a virtual centre spread across five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs): Bombay, Kharagpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur, and Roorkee and coordinated by IIT Bombay.

This is the fourth centre in bioenergy research set up by DBT in addition to the DBT-IOC Centre for Advanced Bioenergy Faridabad, DBT-ICT Centre for Energy Biosciences Mumbai and DBT-ICGEB Centre for Advanced Bioenergy, New Delhi.

This is also the largest of the four centres in terms of investigator participation. An MoA was signed between DBT and the participating 5 IITs on Thursday. Those attending included K VijayRaghavan, secretary, DBT; Renu Swarup (senior advisor, DBT); Devang Khakhar (director, IIT Bombay), Pradipta Banerji (director, IIT Roorkee); Gautam Biswas (director, IIT Guwahati), Sangita Kasture (joint director, DBT); Pramod Wangikar (coordinator of the centre, IIT Bombay); V.Narayanan (IIT Jodhpur) and Saikat Chakraborty (IIT Kharagpur).

The main objective of this centre is to develop advanced technologies in the area of biofuels, paving the way for a sustainable solution to the energy crisis. The research team from the five participating institutes consists of 32 investigators and will undertake research activities in areas such as cyanobacterial biofuels, biofuels from micro-algae, ligno-cellulosic biomass to biofuels and techno-economic and life cycle analysis.

Because of the inter-disciplinary nature of research, the researchers working at the centre will not only be trained in bioenergy but also in associated fields like directed evolution, systems & synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, process intensification & optimization, and process control.
ISI to set up campus in Tezpur

Kolkata: Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is preparing to set up a full-fledged campus at Tezpur in Assam to enhance research in the northeastern part of the country and assist in solving local problems, director Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay said on Wednesday.

The campus will come up on 75 acres allotted by the Government of Assam at a cost of Rs 150 crore. According to Bandyopadhyay, the self-sufficient campus will become fully-operational in the next 4-5 years.

"We have a centre in Assam that operates from the campus of Tezpur University. After the full-fledged campus comes up, the agricultural and ecological research unit and physics and earth sciences division can carry out research there. This will not only enhance our capabilities but provide help to the local population by sorting out their problems. Ultimately, we shall contribute towards national development," the director, who is visiting Tezpur on Thursday to take stock of the situation said.

ISI already offers a post-graduate diploma course from Tezpur University. Many locals are getting enrolled to this course. Once the full-fledged campus comes up, the number of courses on offer will go up and youngsters in the northeastern will get better career options.

"We can offer courses in biological sciences and economic studies. This will result in development of the local region. The Centre has already allotted funds for development of the northeastern states and these will be utilized for the campus. Even now, our faculty members from Kolkata and elsewhere visit Tezpur to attend various training programmes. We want to consolidate our position in that region from Tezpur. My visit is aimed to take stock of the present situation there and ascertain how to strengthen our position there. One can expect some major construction work at Napam (in Tezpur) where the land has been allotted for the campus," Bandyopadhyay added.

Indian Institute of Management, Shillong that was set up in 2008 is already a great hit and students from the region have been inspired to go in for higher studies and seek admission there. The ISI campus will also be a great hit, authorities believe.

The post-graduate diploma course in Business Analytics that ISI, Kolkata, started recently with IIT, Kharagpur and IIM, Calcutta, has turned into a hit. The two-year-course allows students to study at the three campuses for six-months each. The last six-months is spent on project work. The course now has 54 students.
Class No Bar: MBA Students Start Ventures

Mumbai: In a clear demonstration of how entrepreneurial fervour is reaching fever pitch — not just at the premier Indian Institutes of Management but other business schools as well — atleast 51 students pursuing their MBAs across five campuses including XLRI, MDI Gurgaon, NMIMS, IIM and Great Lakes Institute of Management are doubling up as entrepreneurs. Juggling work and study, these student-entrepreneurs are building, developing and running startups across areas such as fashion, coaching, media, mobile apps, food, renewable energy systems, travel, social networking, hardware design and video analytics. Some of these ventures took off even before these students joined campus; others are in various stages of starting up. It helps, of course, that B-schools are pushing across entrepreneur-ship very strongly. “Just as campuses once spoke about their top recruiters, they now started promoting the star entrepreneurs that came out of them. Entrepreneurship has become very glamorous,” said Sunjoy Mehta, a Mumbai-based angel investor who participated and led 11 angel deals in 2015.

There are 3,300 students pursuing their MBA across the 2014-16 and 2015-17 batches at the five campuses. The percentage of such entrepreneurs is comparable to that at the IIMs. Debashis Sanyal, dean, School of Business Management, NMIMS said that not only has the business environment changed a lot, but the new generation has got a far greater risk-taking appetite. “Failure is no longer a stigma. And if you succeed, social acceptance is very high,” said Sanyal. “A couple of years ago there were only 2-3 students interested in setting up startups; now there’s been a huge surge.”

Vijoy Nagabhushan and Mari-muthu Lakshmanan, has supplied over 350 cakes for birthdays, placement parties and other events within the campus. Social concerns are also high on the agenda. IIM’s Aditi Upadhyaya has co-founded Dorothy Social Service Society that works for child welfare, while XLRI students of XLRI is part of an initiative called Khe Khe Mein started by a group of Teach for India-Delhi fellows, which works towards creating self-sustainable sports structures in low-income schools. Interestingly enough, a couple of these startups have even been started to cater to others of their ilk. This includes XLRI’s Rohan Jha’s 21 Innovation design, started with a simple idea: “Our goal is to ‘help startup start up’. Expert Mentorship started by Vikram Aditya Rattan of Great Lakes is a platform that allows students to connect with startups for jobs, projects and internships. Rattan says they get round 5,000 unique hits a day.

Even as they focus on making their startups a success, these early entrepreneurs are well aware that an MBA comes with its own set of advantages: the network they provide, the opportunity to brush up their knowledge in areas that are lacking, and a fallback option that an education from a good B-school brings.

MDI Gurgaon’s Siddharth Srivastava, who jointly set up Co-founder, a discovery platform for established/aspiring entrepreneurs looking for business partners, says a skill set gap was what brought him back to B-school. His venture, established in January 2014, has a user base of 10,000 plus entrepreneurs and a minimum of 10,000 Eloquence loans. “I’m learning a lot about aspects such as networking, pricing etc in MDI, areas I felt I was lacking in. This will add value both to me and my product,” he says.
Padmasree Warrior in race for CEO post at Twitter

Pressure on Twitter’s board is mounting. In the three months since the company started searching for a new chief executive officer, the stock has slipped 22% and several product executives have left.

A leading internal candidate, according to people close to the board, is interim leader and co-founder Jack Dorsey — who’s already CEO at a company on the verge of an initial public offering. Twitter’s search firm, Spencer Stuart, has also been reaching out to potential leaders, including former Cisco Systems executive Padmasree Warrior and CBS Interactive’s Jim Lanzone.

Twitter’s board meets on Thursday and plans to discuss the results from the search so far, said the people, who asked not to be named because the process is private. Investors are getting impatient for directors to make a decision, or at least give a detailed update on the process, said Colin Sebastian, an analyst at Robert W Baird & Co. “The company, its employees and certainly its shareholders are in a little bit of limbo,” Sebastian said. “That qualifies it as an urgent matter of business.”

CEO searches take time, and even with the urgency, the board needs to be careful not to make a decision that’s too rushed — as was the case when Hewlett-Packard chose Leo Apotheker in 2010 in the wake of Mark Hurd’s departure, said Jo-Ellen Pozner, who teaches corporate governance and organizational misconduct at the University of California, Berkeley. Apotheker lasted a year and is mostly known for a disastrous acquisition and a series of reduced sales forecasts.

Even so, the San Francisco-based social-media company doesn’t have the luxury of a long, drawn-out process. Twitter’s board didn’t have a succession plan in place when former chief executive Dick Costolo departed, even though it wasn’t a surprise exit. That means they’re doing the search with the public knowing it’s happening, opening themselves up to scrutiny about their every move, Pozner said.

“The board needs to take some action and communicate it to shareholders,” she said. “There’s a huge amount of uncertainty, which creates a really uncomfortable feeling for shareholders and internal stakeholders.”

Jim Prosser, a spokesman for Twitter, declined to comment. Some who were contacted don’t think they were seriously considered as candidates, given Dorsey’s position, said the people. Adam Bain, Twitter’s revenue chief, is also an internal candidate, though he’s unsure whether taking the job might jeopardize his relationship with Dorsey, people familiar with the matter have said. BLOOMBERG
ये हैं IIT ग्रेजुएट्स की फेमस जोड़ियां, नौकरी छोड़कर बनाई खुद की कंपनियां


नई दिल्ली। भारत में तेजी से स्टार्टअप शुरू हो रहे हैं। इनमें से कुछ सकसेसफुल स्टार्टअप के पीछे IIT ग्रेजुएट्स की वे कामयाब जोड़ियां हैं, जिन्होंने नौकरी छोड़कर खुद का कारोबार शुरू किया। इन जोड़ियों द्वारा यूनिक आइडिया और खास प्लानिंग से शुरू किए गए ये स्टार्टअप आज करोड़ों रुपए के टर्नओवर वाली कंपनियों में तब्दील हो चुके हैं। मनीबास्कर आपको बता रहा है ऐसे ही IIT ग्रेजुएट्स की फेमस जोड़ियों के बारे में....

ब्लूगैप
आयुष वार्ष्णेय और साहिल बंगला ने ब्लूगैप की शुरुआत की। उन्हें किंवक और क्रिएटिव पोस्टर प्रिंटिंग के आइडिया का इन्वेस्ट चाहा जाता है। इन दोनों ने आईआईटी कानपुर से पढ़ाई की। हॉस्टल में दोनों साथ रहते थे, तभी उन्हें क्रिएटिव पोस्टर का आइडिया आया। दोनों ने उसी समय 2 लाख रुपए का इन्वेस्टमेंट किया और ब्लूगैप स्टार्टअप शुरू किया। शुरुआत में ये दोनों सिर्फ पोस्टर से जुड़े प्रोडक्ट्स बनाते थे। लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने कॉफी मस्फ, लेपटॉप लिक्स, टी-शर्ट्स और कुशन कबर्स भी उतारे।

Hyderabad Missile complex to be named after Kalam

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

HYDERABAD: The missile complex in Hyderabad would be named after the missile-man APJ Abdul Kalam and his statue would be unveiled at Research Centre Imarat by defence minister Manohar Parrikar on Saturday. The Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Advanced Systems Laboratory and RCI are together known as the missile complex.