Deccan Herald ND 38/09/2012 p-8

IITs, medical institutes partner in Centre’s bio-design alliance

CHENNAI: The Centre has initiated steps to build a “National Bio-Design Alliance” to facilitate twinning of Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs) with institutions of medical excellence in the country that will produce a “new breed of innovators” in biotechnology and medicine, Dr M.K. Bhan, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), announced here on Saturday.

Engineers now are “disconnected” from patients and public health programmes, while doctors are “disconnected” from science and its research pursuits.

“So, we want new institutions to effect that connectivity, wherein each IIT will get to partner with one or more medical institutions of excellence to also identify and bring forth socially relevant technological systems that will enter the domain of patients or public health systems,” Bhan said here after Inaugurating the Health Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) a unique joint initiative of IIT-Madras and DBT under Union Science and Technology Ministry.

The HTIC, housed in the new IIT-Madras Research Park, is the fruition of this central initiative after the DBT cleared the proposal in September 2011. The Centre has so far sanctioned Rs 20 crore for the HTIC to set up the lab here, which is now a formal legal entity with a governing board and structurally integrated with IIT-Madras.

Dr Bhan, also a member of the Prime Minister’s Scientific Advisory Council, emphasised that a traditional institute or University “cannot bring about this connectivity” as IIT-Madras could do. Under this new initiative, the focus will be on researchers and professionals being “inspired by a medical problem in the community”, said Bhan while unveiling HTIC in the presence of IIT faculty and experts.

“This is a social elevation lab in that sense,” said Bhan. For instance, medical experts working on certain problems may require the engineering and high level computing skills of the IITs and HTIC will provide a platform for such partnerships, he noted. These new entities will be Section 25 “not for profit companies,” within institutions like the IITs.
Proline to leverage varsities to drive growth

BANGALORE, DHNS: Proline India, Mumbai-based apparel company, plans to position itself in educational institutions in India to leverage the demographic dividend and drive growth, according to its CEO Sandeep Mukim.

"We plan to open three stores in premier institutions like IITs, IIMs by March next year to sell our 'Proline Varsity' range of readymade wear. We see a lot of potential in this segment," he said, after launching a range of sub-brands targeted at multiple segments.

The company, which would be closing the current fiscal with a turnover of Rs 60 crore and hopes to achieve Rs 200 crore within five years, plans to open about 10 stores this year and another 50 over the next two years.

Proline aims to garner 15 per cent of the Indian knitwear business estimated at about Rs 1,200 crore and growing at a rate of about 15 per cent. It has a presence in West Asia and plans to extend its footprint to Sri Lanka and African countries soon. Mukim said the relaxation of FDI norms in multi-brand retail will have little impact on the apparel market as most of popular foreign brands already have a presence in India.
Times Of India ND 01/10/2012 P-8

Didn’t approve Hindon bridge: IIT Denies Claims By UP Govt, Says Gave Nod For Another Project

Ayan Das | TNN

Noida: IIT-Delhi has denied claims made by the Uttar Pradesh government that it had undertaken consultancy and design work for the under-construction bridge across Hindon River near Raj Nagar in Ghaziabad.

In reply to an RTI query, IIT clarified that the design plan for the bridge was prepared by Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) as proof of getting due approval of the project and its drawings from IIT actually pertains to the second phase of the Madhya Ganga Canal, consultancy work of which had been undertaken by the institute in 2010.

GDA had submitted the design of the Hindon Bridge, duly stamped by a professor of the department of civil engineering of IIT-Delhi, to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a case filed against it and the UP Irrigation department by environmental activists of the Rashtriya Jal Biradari, an NGO. Activists have opposed construction of an artificial embankment for the bridge across the natural course of the river and dumping of debris into it.

IIT-Delhi has replied through the RTI (a copy of which is with TOI) that the design plan submitted by the GDA pertains to “a project with a completely different name — The Design of Madhya Ganga Canal, Stage-II (GW11179).”

In April 2012, the NGT had imposed a stay on the dumping of debris and waste material in the Hindon River after the activists expressed fear of environmental threats to the river eco-system resulting from construction of the artificial embankment.

Through an earlier RTI too, IIT had apprised activists of having ever undertaken any consultancy work for this particular project. Both GDA and the irrigation department have maintained in their respective affidavits submitted to the tribunal that the project and its drawings have the approval of IIT.

The NGT has further noted in its reply that the design for the Madhya Ganga Canal had been done “as a consultancy project of the Institute through Prof AK Keshari, department of civil engineering. It was started in March 2010 and completed in June 2010.”

All the GDA and the irrigation department of having misled the tribunal on the issue of design approval, the petitioners have filed an application demanding for initiation of action against them under Section 340 of CrPC.

“In their affidavit, the letter number dated by the irrigation department as reference for approval from IIT-Delhi is actually a reference number of one of their own documents. We have got this clarified through an RTI,” said Vikram Sharma of Rashtriya Jal Biradari.

Published: The Times Of India Delhi Date: Oct 1, 2012; Section: Times Nation Page: 18;

Just 3.5% of global research output from India

Keonetya Sinha Irw

New Delhi: At a time when India is being looked at as the next big knowledge superpower, this could come as a shocker. Just 3.5% of global research output in 2006 was from India. In most disciplines, India’s share in global research output was much below the overall average count.

Sample this: India’s share of world research output in clinical medicine was a roly-poly 1.9% in 2010, psychiatry (0.5%), neurosciences (1.4%), immunology (1.6%), molecular biology (2.1%) and environmental research (0.5%).

In mathematics, India’s share of world output stood at around 2% in 2010, while in materials sciences, India’s share stood at 4.9% in 2010. India’s share of world research was at 6.4% in 2010, while China’s stood at 26%, a rise from 5% in 1996.

While India’s research on physics was 4.9% in 2010, China’s stood at 19%.

In 2010, India’s largest share of research output was in chemistry (6.8%), material sciences (4.4%), agricultural sciences (5.2%), pharmacology and toxicology (5.1%), microbiology (4.9%), physics (4.1%) and engineering (4.2%).

India is often referred to as the next big player for computer sciences. But the figures on its research are abysmally low. Only 2.4% of global research on computer sciences was from India in 2010 while the world share moved to three emerging research economies — China (15.6%), Korea (6.4%) and Taiwan (5.7%).

These are the findings of the study on India’s research output and collaboration conducted by Thompson Reuters and recently submitted to the department of science and technology.

“India has been the sleeping giant of Asia. Research in the university sector stagnated for almost two decades, is now accelerating. It will be a great test to ensure India as an Asian knowledge hub,” the report said.

The biggest declines in volume of research between 1991 and 2010 were in plant and animal sciences (32.2%) and agricultural sciences (4.8%). The most significant expansions were in pharmacology and toxicology (+4.4%), microbiology (+3.1%) and materials sciences (+51.1%).

India, where agriculture dominates economic standards, had quite a large share in agricultural sciences that averaged 7.4% between 1981 and 1986, well ahead of other emerging research economies. Its share, however, fell to 6.2% in 2010.”

Source: Thomson Reuters study; Figures for 2006 (figures in %)
NIT weak students may get more time to finish BTech

Neha Arora
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JALANDHAR: Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) here is contemplating starting a “slow pace programme” for academically weak students to allow them to complete bachelor in technology course in eight years instead of the current limit of six years.

The NIT management has formed a three-member committee headed by dean (faculty) AS Ghosh to work out the modalities on extending the time limit by two years.

NIT director SK Das said the proposed programme would result in identification of academically poor students based on their performance in exams in the first two years of the course.

“Currently, if students fail to get 30 out of 50 credits in first year, they are promoted to second year,” Das said. “If the students fail to fetch 60 credits (including those obtained by clearing supplementary exams) at the end of the second year, they are not promoted to fifth semester. Such students are then reverted to first semester on the condition that they will not flunk in any of the exams else their names will be struck off.” He said such students were currently allowed to clear their supplementary exams within six years of their admission.

“Under the slow pace programme, these students would be allowed to enter the fifth semester even if they fail to secure 60 out of 100 credits and continue to be upgraded to the next level,” said Das.

“From the fifth to the eighth semester, they will be allowed to choose theory subjects according to their academic capability from among the total number of available subjects for every semester,” he said. “This will lessen their academic burden. The remaining subjects can be taken up and cleared later on.”

“As these students will study two to three subjects less than regular ones each semester, it has been decided in principle to increase the duration of the BTech course to eight years so that the remaining subjects can be taken up and cleared.”
INTERVIEW VINEET JOSHI

‘CBSE continuously experiments to improve education system’

The school education in India took a challenge to move away from the traditional form of learning. Best brains in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are at work to ensure that Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) is successful. Vineet Joshi, CBSE chairman spoke to HT on a range of issues. Excerpts:

CBSE is adopting new methods as it continues to play a crucial role in the education system. What are the new challenges?

CBSE continuously experiments to improve education system. For instance Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) programme. It was introduced in 2009 and has done well. There are a few areas that need to be fine tuned and can be done in an organised manner. For the success of CCE, we require 100% commitment, from schools, teacher, parents and stakeholders. Teachers understand CCE but parents have to support teachers.

Has grading system become better over marking system that existed prior to 2009?

We find that merits of grading system far outweigh the demerits, if any. There is a challenge of replacing marks with grades in a system which has been primarily marks oriented and dominated. The perceptions will change once stakeholders understand the merits and appreciate them.

In August, you joined hands with Pearson Foundation, a private education company. How will this help CBSE?

We have signed a MoU to form a centre for assessment, evaluation, and research. This will evaluate CBSE examination system, undertake research on schemes implemented and those to be implemented and also develop research based resources to help teachers.

Early this year, you unveiled a vision plan for the year 2012. Can you elaborate on that?

It is not a vision but activities that schools should strictly follow and implement the guidelines set by CBSE. The CBSE has a monitoring system and an effective mechanism to monitor it. You may call it a vision, because we want all stakeholders to be part of the process. For example, this year we plan to introduce ‘Sports Journalism’ and have assessed the vocational course on ‘Fitness and Gym Operations’ at the +2 level.

You mentioned about importance of every stakeholder’s role. Parents are one of them. They seem confused with CCE? There is no confusion. Parents are aware of CCE. However, their involvement in school and the child’s affairs has to be more, as it would be beneficial for harnessing the full potential of CCE system. We have told the heads of schools to have interactions with parents on a regular basis. Schools should utilise the vast resource of parent interactions for quality enhancement of schools.

Is CCE the best system?

As I have already said, CBSE regularly evaluates its system. We have launched CCE and is doing well. There is a system in place for evaluating performance. CBSE is always receptive to new ideas and suggestions to make education robust and effective.
पीजी इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रमों की बढ़ी राही मांग, सीटों की भरमार

कवर्ता पाठक

आधुनिक कार्यक्रम के संबंधत, इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा का दर्जा सिविलियम प्रदर्शक मांग बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसके लिए सभी संस्थानों के साथ 160 सीटों की भरमार और इस तरह के संस्थाओं की तादाद भी बढ़ा रही आराम पर 100 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है।

एक नया भारतीय तकनीकी सरकारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार के अंतर्गत भर्तियाँ 2012-13 में 888 राशी दी गई, जबकि पिछले साल 342 सीटों बढ़े गए थे। इस साल 10 एक चौथा पीजी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान खोले गए, जिसके पिछले साल इस तरह के 5 नए संस्थान खोले गए थे।

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थान अंडर प्रेस्ट, हरियाणा, जयपुर और उत्तर प्रांत में खोले गए। इस तरह से प्रेस्ट्रेंच के 82 संस्थान 32 नए संस्थान खोले गए थे।

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थानों से तीन वर्षों में इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा विकास में 21% वृद्धि हो गई थी।

वर्तमान स्तर पर जब रहने वाले स्थान नहीं हैं। ऐसी राजस्थान की सीटों में जाकर इस तरह के पाठ्यक्रमों में दर्जों के लिए आवेदन करने वाले छात्रों को संख्या में अभाव हो जाता है जिससे जब वैदेह भुगता पूरा करने के लिए असर पड़ गया। इसके लिए 50 सीटों में से 14 सीटों को बढ़ा दिया गया।

पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थानों की तादाद 71,064 बनी, जबकि पिछले साल 6,000 सीटों का तकरीब लगा हुआ था। अंडर प्रेस्ट्रेंच में सीटों की तादाद 71,064 बनी, जबकि पिछले साल 32,000 सीटों का तकरीब लगा हुआ था।

बड़ी जनसँख्या

- पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के नए संस्थानों में अंडर प्रेस्ट्रेंच, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रांत में खोले गए।
- एक मूलाधारी पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के मूलाधारी इंजीनियरिंग के मूलाधारी संस्थाओं की संख्या में वृद्धि हो गई।
- अंडर प्रेस्ट्रेंच के 700 से ज्यादा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में तकरीबन 70,000 छात्रों को इंजीनियरिंग के पाठ्यक्रम में भर्ती किया गया।

एक मूलाधारी पीजी इंजीनियरिंग के मूलाधारी पीजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के प्राथमिक शिक्षा की योजना के लक्ष्य में पीजी की ही भूमिका होगी।


"FOLLOWING THESE TWO, SEVERAL OF THEM ALSO WISH TO GET INTO THE INDIAN FOKOS SERVICES (IFS), CUSTOMS, INCOME TAX AND RAILWAYS. SOME 10-15 YEARS AGO, A LARGE NUMBER OF ASPIRANTS WANTED TO JOIN THE FOREIGN SERVICES FOR GLOBAL EXPOSURE, BUT THIS IS GRADUALLY CHANGING WITH AS MANY TAKERS FOR POLICE AND REVENUE SERVICES," SAYS AYANGAR.

WITH THE UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER, VATSALA SHRANGI FINDS OUT WHY THE WORLD OF BUREAUCRATS STILL HOLDS A CHARM FOR THE INDIAN YOUTH.