

Newspaper Clips
April 10, 2015

HT.COM ND 10.04.15 P-2

Cheap technology for water treatment

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: As government and different stakeholders have been trying to devise ways to save rivers in the city from getting polluted, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi scholars have come up with a technology that can easily absorb toxic elements and allow only treated water to get discharged into the river.

Unlike the present available technology, this material uses cheap nano materials that are

readily available. Using starch and other chemicals, the material can be either coated in the pipes of the factories that release effluents or can be placed it as a gauge at the pipe's openings.

"Starch as you know is very cheap and very small amount of it is used to make this material. As per the experiment we have done this material absorb 95% of the toxic metals, which will help a lot in saving the aquatic life," said Arabinda Baruah, research scholar from Department of Chemistry IIT-D.



■ The students with their new innovation at IIT- Delhi

HT

3-member Central team to sort matters at IIT-Jodhpur: Shekhawat

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/3-member-Central-team-to-sort-matters-at-IIT-Jodhpur-Shekhawat/articleshow/46870898.cms>

JODHPUR: Over a week after the IIT-Jodhpur students and faculty members launched an agitation against the director of the institute, C V R Murty, the ministry of HRD has woken up and is sending a 3-member team headed by the former SEBI chairman, D R Mehta.

According to Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the team will arrive in Jodhpur on Friday and will hold separate meetings with the students, faculty members and the IIT administration in order to resolve the standoff.

Faculty members earlier on Tuesday met Shekhawat seeking his intervention to resolve the standoff and take the issue with the HRD ministry. "After going into the details of the issue, I had a talk with the MHRD and also had a meeting with the students, faculty members and the director and realized that there are some issues of key importance, which must be addressed for good," Shekhawat said.

The students of IIT-Jodhpur have been agitating against the director of the institute, demanding his immediate ouster, accusing him of derailing the academic and research atmosphere by indiscriminate terminations and forcing faculty resignations.

Owing to the agitation, the entire academic and administrative activities at this premier technology institute have come to a grinding halt with the students not agreeing to back off.

"This is a matter concerning our future and unless the director does not go, we do not think that things will improve here, which will have a direct bearing on our career prospects," said a student.

In a bid to make the students call off their agitation, the IIT administration has also shot off letters to the parents of the students seeking their cooperation in counseling their respective wards to get back to their classes.

Deccan Herald ND 10/04/2015 P-5

Rajasthan govt backs IIT-Jodhpur director despite protests

JAIPUR, DHNS: The week long protest by IIT Jodhpur students demanding removal of campus director and professor CVR Murthy have sparked off the rumors about the "conspiracy" to shift IIT Jodhpur to some another place.

Various legislators in the Rajasthan Assembly stated that a section of staffers were unfairly using students to agitate against the director and create instability and impression that the IIT would be transferred from Jodhpur.

"It's been two years IIT opened in Jodhpur and 16 faculty members and directors have left it. A section of staffers are engaged in unfair activities to create instability in the campus. Government should intervene into the matter and ensure that IIT stays in Jodhpur and students are not used for creating imbalance in the institute," said Kailash Bansali Jodhpur legislator.

Professor CVR Murthy is a renowned academician from



IIT Kanpur and the government should ensure his stay in the interest of institute and the state, he added.

Responding to the issue, Education Minister Kali Charan Sarraf said that he has spoken to the officers of Union Human Resource Department Ministry who told him that there was no such proposal to shift the IIT from Jodhpur. "I have also spoken to the director of IIT Jodhpur CVR Murthy and assured him support from the government. Functioning of the director was good and the government would extend all required support to him," said Sarraf.

Students in IIT Jodhpur are protesting for the past week

against the termination of one the faculty member Dr Ganesh Bagler and demanding investigation in all the past terminations during Murthy's tenure. Holding Murthy responsible for the past terminations, students are demanding his immediate removal.

According to the students, 16 faculty members were either terminated or left in last one year, which has led to a severe crunch of faculty in the campus.

On contrary Murthy, while speaking to the local media claimed that he had no role in any termination and the decision was taken by the review committee. Sources said that only four terminations have taken place during Murthy's tenure and three new teachers have joined.

Students have reportedly written to the board of governors of IIT and the HRD ministry to intervene into the matter. Sources said that out of 90 sanctioned posts of teachers, 38 posts are lying vacant.

Nai Duniya ND
10.04.15 P-6

आईआईटी जोधपुर के निदेशक को छात्रों ने घर में कैद किया

जयपुर (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी जोधपुर के आंदोलनकारी छात्रों ने इसके निदेशक के घर के बाहर डेरा जमा लिया और संस्थान व छात्रों की मानसिक शांति की बहाली की कामना के साथ यज्ञ करते रहे। इससे संस्थान निदेशक डॉ. सीवीआर मूर्ति घंटों तक अपने घर में कैद होकर रह गए। छात्रों ने कुछेक प्रोफेसर को डॉ. मूर्ति से मिलने को अंदर जाने की अनुमति अवश्य प्रदान की। वहीं इस मामले में दस दिन से जारी गतिरोध को तोड़ने के लिए जोधपुर के सांसद गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने पहल की है और वे छात्रों से मिलने पहुंचे।

एक सहायक प्रोफेसर की सेवाएं खत्म करने के विरोध में यहां के छात्र आंदोलन कर रहे हैं। छात्र संस्थान निदेशक डॉ. मूर्ति को उनके पद से हटाने की मांग पर अड़े हुए हैं। शुरुआत में छात्रों ने कक्षाओं का बहिष्कार किया। उसके बाद से वे संस्थान परिसर में डेरा जमा कर बैठे हैं और किसी को संस्थान में प्रवेश नहीं करने दे रहे हैं। इस पर डॉ. मूर्ति ने बुधवार को अपने घर पर शिक्षकों की बैठक बुला ली। इससे नाराज छात्रों ने उनका घर घेर लिया। इसके बाद से छात्र वहीं पर जमकर बैठे हैं। छात्र रात को भी उनके घर के बाहर ही बैठे रहे।

Rajasthan Patrika ND 10/04/2015 P-5

आईआईटी जोधपुर की रुक सकती है फण्डिंग

देश की अन्य 16
आईआईटीज भी जोधपुर
के समर्थन में

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भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान जोधपुर के छात्र-फैकल्टी और आईआईटी निदेशक के बीच चल रहे बवाल की आंच पूरे देश में पहुंच गई है। छात्रों ने आईआईटी में अनुसंधान के लिए फण्ड जारी करने वाली देश की अधिकतर एजेंसियों और सरकारी संगठनों को ई-मेल व शिकायतें भेजी है। छात्रों की शिकायतों के आधार पर फण्डिंग एजेंसियां आईआईटी की अनुसंधान परियोजना को रिव्यू कर सकती है। भविष्य में इन एजेंसियों से फण्ड प्राप्त करने के लिए आईआईटी जोधपुर को दिक्कत हो सकती है, जिसका सीधा प्रभाव के यहां के अनुसंधान कार्यों पर पड़ेगा। उधर देश की अन्य 16 आईआईटीज के छात्र छात्राएं भी आईआईटी जोधपुर के छात्र छात्राओं के समर्थन में आ गए हैं। सोशल मीडिया फेसबुक, वॉट्सएप, ट्विटर और इंस्टाग्राम पर आईआईटी जोधपुर के सम्बन्ध में खबरें व तथ्य शेयर व लाइक किए जा रहे हैं।

आईआईटी जोधपुर को सूचना, संचार, ऊर्जा, स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के लिए सिस्टम तकनीक, पॉलिमीर रिफॉर्म का अर्थशास्त्र और कला व सामाजिक विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस के तौर पर विकसित किया जाना है। फ्रांस की सरकार ने भी सौर ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आईआईटी जोधपुर से एमओयू करने और एक दूसरे के

2008 में स्थापित
राजस्थान को
आईआईटी

केन्द्र सरकार ने 2008 में इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी एक्ट के तहत देश में आठ नई आईआईटीज के साथ आईआईटी राजस्थान को हरी झंडी दी। जुलाई 2008 में आईआईटी राजस्थान का पहला शैक्षणिक सत्र 109 छात्रों के साथ आईआईटी कानपुर में शुरू हुआ। उसके बाद प्रदेश के किसी शहर में आईआईटी स्थापना के लिए हुए सर्वे व अध्ययन के बाद 2009 के अंत में केन्द्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने जोधपुर में आईआईटी स्थापना को हरी झण्डी दी। मई 2010 में आईआईटी कानपुर से कक्षाएं आईआईटी जोधपुर में स्थानांतरित हो गईं। देश में वर्तमान में 17 आईआईटी हैं और पांच नए आईआईटीज और खुलने हैं।

साथ फैकल्टी मीटिंग में उत्सुकता जताई है। अनुसंधान के तमाम क्षेत्रों के लिए अन्य आईआईटीज की तरह आईआईटी जोधपुर को केन्द्र सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के साथ अन्य सरकारी संगठनों व एजेंसियों से परियोजना आधारित हर साल करोड़ों रुपए का फण्ड मिलता है। अगर यह फण्डिंग रुक जाए तो आईआईटीज का महत्व भी किसी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के समकक्ष हो जाएगा। छात्रों ने फण्डिंग एजेंसियों को ई-मेल के माध्यम से आईआईटी जोधपुर में हो रही घटनाओं के बारे में बताया है।

Rajasthan Patrika ND
10/04/2015 P-3

जोधपुर में ही रहेगी आईआईटी

मंत्री ने दिया आश्वासन

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उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री कालीचरण सराफ ने गुरुवार को विधानसभा में आश्वासन दिया कि आईआईटी जोधपुर में ही रहेगी, इसे किसी भी हालत में यहां से स्थानान्तरित नहीं किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी आंदोलन से प्रभावित होकर आईआईटी जोधपुर के निदेशक को हटाया नहीं जाएगा।

सराफ ने शून्यकाल में विधायक कैलाश भंसाली और जोगाराम पटेल की ओर से इस संबंध में उठाए मुद्दे पर दखल करते हुए बताया कि आईआईटी जोधपुर प्रदेश के लिए गौरव की बात है। इसलिए जोधपुर में रहेगी।

इस संबंध में उन्होंने केन्द्रीय मानव संसाधन एवं विकास मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों तथा आईआईटी निदेशक से बात की। वहां से बताया गया कि ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं आया है। सराफ ने कहा, निदेशक को यह आश्वासन दिया गया कि प्रशासन उनका पूरा सहयोग करेगा।

Deccan Herald ND
10/04/2015 P-4

DU's former VC supports Dinesh Singh over FYUP

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi University vice-chancellor Deepak Pental has come out in support of current VC Dinesh Singh who has been served a show cause notice by HRD Ministry over the FYUP, saying the move is reflective of "autonomy" of the varsity being "compromised".

"The manner in which the matter is being dealt by the HRD Ministry is reflective of how autonomy of the university is being compromised. It is not a matter of personal support but support to an institution. Whether the FYUP was right or wrong is a different debate but serving him a show cause notice over this is not justified," Pental said.

"What was the UGC doing when the programme was rolled out? If there were objections, they should have been raised then. He shouldn't be simply removed for introducing a programme," he said.

Singh was issued a show cause notice on March 17 after approval by President Pranab Mukherjee who is also the Visitor to the university.

Apart from inquiring about the legality of introducing the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme, the ministry had sought Singh's reply on the opening of BTech courses under the varsity without due clearance from AICTE and the diversion of funds to the tune of Rs 172 crore meant for OBC students to buy laptops.

While the Singh has strongly

defended his position on the Four year Undergraduate Programme, the HRD Ministry is believed to be dissatisfied with his response.

According to HRD sources, the ministry could send its recommendations to the Visitor (the President) soon about the likely action against the VC. His tenure ends in October.

Taking note of the sequence of events, Pental has also signed a letter along with 100 other people, which has been sent to the President raising concerns that the controversy could have a long-term impact on educational reforms.

The letter, which has been signed by prominent people like ex-President, Indian National Science Academy, Krishan Lal and former Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research S K Brahmachari, said, "If a university system is discouraged from introducing new ideas and models, then the nation is likely to suffer.

"We are thus greatly perturbed at the turn of events in the past few months whereby questions have been raised about what have been legitimately sanctioned and approved processes and programmes," Brahmachari added.

"There is also inherent danger wherein no administration would dare undertake new initiatives and programmes aimed at reforming the education system," it said.

PTI

DU VC threatens legal recourse

NEW DELHI: [Delhi University](#) vice-chancellor [Dinesh Singh has challenged the HRD ministry's authority to issue a show-cause notice to him and threatened legal recourse](#) if the notice is not withdrawn.

Meanwhile, HRD ministry sources said there is nothing new in Singh's reply and it is unlikely that there will be any change in its stance that he has to step down. But the ministry's recommendation to President that Singh be sacked will be legally vetted by top law officers of the government. Sources in the MHRD said since Singh's reply has been drafted by a lawyer, the ministry will also seek legal opinion of top government law officers. "Singh has threatened to take legal recourse. Tone and tenor of his reply is aggressive. Therefore, it is important that government is well-prepared," a source said.

In his 26-page reply, a copy of which is with TOI, Singh has expressed shock at the content of the show-cause notice and challenged it saying the show-cause notice "issued by the government of India and signed by the joint secretary is without jurisdiction and has not been issued by the competent authority" on March 31.

In his introductory statement, Singh claimed he is "not only being well-recognized as an internationally-acclaimed mathematician and educationist but also as a man of integrity and commitment to Gandhian values. A ministry source, however, said, "If he is a Gandhian, how come he is wooing RSS to save his job."

Singh's reply also claims there is no basis for attributing personal responsibility, since "the decisions alluded to, have been taken accordingly, with the concerned statutory bodies discharging their role and functions, and no decisions can be, or has been taken by me, individually as the Vice-Chancellor".

HRD issued the show-cause to Singh on March 17 alleging four irregularities and seeking his response on why he should not be dismissed. The ministry will complete analysing Singh's reply to show-cause notice in the next few days.

A senior RSS functionary involved in DU politics said: "A section of Sangh is helping the VC. The leadership is not supporting him. After all, it was ABVP that was agitating against many actions by VC, including FYUP.

Denying all the charges, in his concluding remarks, Singh urged the ministry to withdraw the notice and close the matter. He also stated that in case of further action he "reserve(s) the right to seek appropriate legal remedies".

IIT leads the way to a 'green revolution'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-leads-the-way-to-a-green-revolution/articleshow/46869459.cms>

KHARAGPUR: A patch of 14 acres in Kenthia village of Kharagpur-II block, which was written off by everyone, has suddenly turned lush green. Go closer and you will see paddy, soybean, groundnuts, sweet corn and sesame plants there.

The Kenthia experiment started with three departments of IIT-Kharagpur — agriculture and food technology, biotechnology and industrial engineering — about six months ago.

The challenge was to turn a barren patch green with the help of institute-bred technology and then transfer it to farmers.

The even bigger challenge was to get the farmers of Kenthia to partner the experiment and hand over the land for cultivation to the institute.

It needed a bit of convincing, but the fact that farmers could not grow any crop on the barren land for the past eight years helped the cause. Though initially apprehensive, they finally decided to trust the professors.

The first challenge was to prepare the soil and make it fertile. The second was to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and water and the third was to do away with pesticides as far as possible.

"A long period of disuse had done a lot of damage to the land," said Pratap Bhadoria, an IIT-Kharagpur faculty member, who spearheaded the project along with 29 other teachers.

A special low-cost vermicompost was prepared by rotting water hyacinth and mixing it with "eisenia foedida", a special species of earthworm. The formula, which is indigenous to IIT-Kharagpur, has now been given to the farmers.

"The soil testing made it easier for us to ascertain the quantity of fertilizer needed. This helped us reduce the use of chemical fertilizer and maximize the percentage of vermicompost. Farmers randomly use chemical fertilizers which destroys land fertility. But, the 15 farmers who have partnered with us in the project have now been trained in the do's and don'ts like importance of soil testing etc," said Bhadoria.

The 14 acre patch looks like a green island amid a sea of grey barrenness all around. There is a bumper paddy crop that will be harvested in the next two months, interspersed with crops like til, groundnut, sweet corn and soya bean.

"While in any fertile one acre land, farmers are able to grow 800 kilos of rice, we have been able to produce two tonnes per acre. We have been able to double the production of the other crops also, which the farmers had no experience of growing," said another faculty member involved in the project, Dilip Swain.

Farmers are very happy about the project. "I have cultivated land for more than 50 years, but have never seen such a healthy crop in my life," said 62-year-old Badal Das.

"We neither knew the right ratio of fertilizers for the soil nor the advanced planting techniques," said another farmer, Bimal Bhuniya.

The union human resource development ministry has lauded the experiment. It has also awarded the institute a grant of Rs 26 crores to replicate the experiment in nine other villages.

The experiment has also been made a part of the Narendra Modi government's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

The other villages that have been adopted by IIT for replicating the experiment are — Paparara-I and II, Changual, Sankua, Lachampur, Kaliara-1 and 2, Polisa and Chakmakarampur.

Director of IIT-Kharagpur P P Chakraborty said, "We are the only IIT to have an agriculture department and related food technology schools. Our location is also unique because we are surrounded by villages where agriculture is the mainstay but the land is infertile. We are happy that years of research in our agriculture laboratories can now be transferred to the fields."

Times Of India ND
10/04/2015 P-9

AICTE denies approval to 588 colleges

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Coimbatore: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has denied 588 technical institutions across the country approval to run various programmes.

Bad infrastructure, shortage of faculty and poor academic performance are the main reasons, people involved in the process said.

When these institutions sought approval for courses for academic year 2015-16, the AICTE found they did not satisfy norms. "This is routine and every institution is expected to upload relevant documents while applying for approval. If documents pertaining to any norm are not satisfactory, the application is rejected," an AICTE official said.

UP tops the list with 107 colleges being denied, followed by Maharashtra with 88.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

In a first, IIT-Kanpur to hold an all-IIT alumnae meet

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

A FILM AND QUIZ ON IIT-K, A PHOTO EXHIBITION, TOUR OF IIT-K AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME WILL BE AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT.

In a first-of-its kind initiative, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) will organise a special alumni meet - exclusively for its female ex-students.

The alumnae of all IITs of the country will come together on real as well as virtual platforms to discuss how IITs could play a pivotal role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' campaign.

The meet, to be held on Saturday, will be inaugurated by institute's director Indranil Manna at 10am and will see Kanpur's district magistrate Roshan Jacob delivering the keynote address.

Two of the main sessions will be web enabled to allow more number of women to participate in the discussion in which the alumnae will dwell on why the campaign was important for the country's progress.

The meeting will also throw light on women in technology and poor ratio of female students visa-vis male students at the IITs.

"The event has been planned with the objective to kickstart new ways for networking among women. Instead of making it just a routine annual event, we will like to build a permanent structure to empower women to meet social and economic challenges," said an alumna, who did not wish to be named, associated with the event.

The event will witness an interesting session called 'chai pe baatcheeet' (discussion over tea) in which the alumnae will discuss ways to take the 'all women' network forward and chart roadmap for better participation. Other issues to be taken up for discussion include raising corpus for giving an annual award to a woman alumnus, publishing a six-monthly magazine themed around women, raising fund for educating a girl child and raising scholarship for funding academics of a deserving girl student at the IIT.

A film and quiz on IIT-K, a photo exhibition, tour of IIT-K and cultural programme will be other highlights of the event.

"Traditionally, women have been very low in number on IIT campuses. This certainly is a matter of research. Studies have shown that in India, there is just one female candidate for every eight to 14 men at the IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other top state engineering colleges. Women at the doctorate level also constitute a tiny percentage," said a senior official at the IIT-K.

"As of now, going by the passout data with the alumni association, IIT-K has only 2,100 female alumni. The faculty ratio too is dismal with only 36 women as against 342 men," he added.

The percentage of aspirants, which get selected also shows a huge difference. While 6-7% of male aspirants make it to the prestigious institute, only 1 to 2% females are selected.

Rajagopalan Award for IISc Scientists

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/Rajagopalan-Award-for-IISc-Scientists/2015/04/10/article2756920.ece>

BENGALURU: IISc Alumni Association celebrated the birth centenary of eminent scientist Dr Srinivasa Rajagopalan here on Thursday. Dr Rajagopalan's family has instituted a biennial cash award of ₹1 lakh to be given to an outstanding young Indian scientist. The first award ceremony was shared between Dr Santanu Mukherjee of the Department of Organic Chemistry, IISc and Dr Govardhan Reddy of the Solid State Chemistry Unit, IISc. The award was given away by IISc Director Anurag Kumar.

Dr Shantanu Mukherjee is a young faculty at IISc. He works on chiral molecules that are mirror images of each other, their preparation and analysis. Dr Govardhan Reddy works on protein molecules, their folding and aggregation.

Dr Rajagopalan made a mark for himself in organic chemistry especially in the field of tropical medicine and early research on steroids. He began his scientific career as a research scholar at IISc in 1938.

Business Line ND 10/04/2015 P-4

India poised for better economic growth: OECD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 9

Paris-based think tank OECD today said India's economic expansion continues to firm up even as growth is easing in the neighbouring China.

The projection comes on a day when the country's credit rating outlook has been upgraded to 'positive' by global agency Moody's.

The think tank's assessment is based on its Composite Leading Indicators (CLIs) that are designed to anticipate turning points in economic activity relative to trend.

"CLIs signal growth easing in China and Canada, albeit from relatively high levels. In Brazil and Russia, CLIs point to a loss in growth momentum while in India, the CLI continues to indicate firming growth," it said in a statement.

India's CLI has been on the rise since October 2014 and touched 99.5 in February this year.

On the basis of new GDP series, the Indian economy is estimated to grow at 7.4 per cent this fiscal. This would also make India the fastest growing large economy in the world.

In 2015-16, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is pegged at 8-8.5 per cent.

While presenting the Union Budget for 2015-16, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in February, had said that "aiming for a double-digit rate seems feasible very soon".

OECD, which is also a grouping of mostly rich nations, noted that growth momentum is strengthening in the Euro area. Italy and France are witnessing signs of a positive change in momentum.

"The outlook is for stable growth momentum in the OECD area as a whole as well as for the US, the UK and Japan. On the other hand, CLIs signal growth easing in China and Canada, albeit from relatively high levels," the grouping said.