

Newspaper Clips

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AT IIT-D, YOUNG MINDS TOUCH THE SKY AS TOY SQUADRONS TAKE OFF

Budding techies from across the country display aeromodelling skills at contest finale

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New Delhi: Giving wings to their ideas, 12 teams, comprising young engineers from across the country, showcased their aeromodelling skills—expertise in building an aircraft and an array of manoeuvres, including airdropping—on Saturday at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. And as the real machines flew past to land at the Delhi airport, the mini-versions, made right from plywood to fibre, displayed the passion of these budding engineers to make it big in the aviation sector.

The competition was organized by a global major in aircraft manufacturing in association with the five IITs—Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Madras. On Saturday, the finalists reached Delhi with their machines after winning the competitions at the zonal level held in the other IITs.

For these participants, their sleek machines on flight at the IIT-Delhi hockey ground were a result of hours of hard work. “Sleepless nights, reworking of formulae, fine tuning every aspect to meet various challenges and endless flying hours were key to our success,” said Arijit Mukherji of Sagar Institute of Research and Technology, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. He, along with his partners Deepansh Malviya of Oriental Institute of

Science and Technology, Bhopal, and Ram Prasad V S of Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, bagged the top position this year. After the competition, this team demonstrated its flying skills. The participants said it was important to use the right material for making their machines as there is always a possibility of a crash. The teams were permitted only one model and they had to immediately repair their existing one to be eligible for the next trial. The

final round was about negotiating a hurdle, manoeuvring on air to form an “8”, and finally airdropping a payload on a designated area. An impressed Pratyush Kumar, president of Boeing India, said, “This aeromodelling competition energizes young minds

As the real machines flew past, the mini-versions, made right from plywood to fibre, showed their makers' passion to make a name in aviation

and this year, the response of the students across the country was overwhelming. They will shape the future of the Indian aerospace industry.”

The schoolchildren, who came there to watch the show, too had a field day. Many clicked pictures with the amazing machines, while

others admired them.

Conducted in two stages—zonal and national level—the competition assessed the participants' expertise in building an aircraft. These aircraft were evaluated on parameters such as showcasing efficiency in climbing and gliding, and swift manoeuvring skills. The number of teams that participated in the second edition was 300 as compared to nearly 160 in the inaugural edition last year.

Apart from the competition, Boeing India also sponsored aeromodelling workshops conducted by the IITs. It was an additional platform where students interested in designing and building the radio-controlled planes got a practical experience.

Photos: Sanjay Sekhri



IDEAS TAKE WINGS: 12 teams are in the capital to find out who among them makes and flies the best aircraft

Navodaya Times ND 12.04.15 P-7

एयरो मॉडलिंग कॉम्पटीशन फाइनल में 12 टीमों ने दिखाई प्रतिभा

नई दिल्ली, 11 अप्रैल (ब्यूरो) : बोइंग (एनवाइएससी:बीए) की तरफ से बोइंग आईआईटी नेशनल एयरो, मॉडलिंग कॉम्पटीशन के फाइनल राउंड का आयोजन इंडिया इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलोजी (आईआईटी-दिल्ली) में शनिवार को किया गया।

फाइनल राउंड में देश भर से चुनी गई 12 टीमों ने प्रदर्शन किया। कॉम्पटीशन का उद्देश्य छात्रों में एयरोस्पेस में कैरियर बनाने के प्रति

जागरूक करना व उनका मनोबल बढ़ाना है।

बोइंग इंडिया के अध्यक्ष प्रत्युश कुमार ने बताया कि देश भर से कॉम्पटीशन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए मिले छात्रों के रिस्पॉन्स से वह काफी खुश हैं। इसके लिए हम विशेषतौर से आईआईटी दिल्ली सहित मुंबई, कानपुर, मद्रास और खड़गपुर को धन्यवाद देते हैं। देशभर के तमाम इंजीनियरिंग इंस्टिट्यूट की दौ सौ टीमों ने कॉम्पटीशन में हिस्सा लिया।



आईआईटी परिसर में एयरो मॉडल प्रदर्शित करता प्रतिभागी।

Amar Ujala ND 12/04/2015 P-8

आईआईटी में जहाज उड़ाकर छात्रों ने दिखाए करतब

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। कहीं रिमोट से चलने वाले छोटे प्लेन का प्रोटोटाइप, तो कहीं हवा में करतब दिखाता फाइटर प्लेन। यह किसी एयर शो का नजारा नहीं, बल्कि आईआईटी दिल्ली में हुए नेशनल एयरो मॉडलिंग का नजारा था। यहाँ देश के विभिन्न इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों ने खुद के बनाये हुए छोटे-छोटे मॉडल यान को हवा में उड़ाकर अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवाया। बोइंग इंडिया और आईआईटी के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आईआईटी

दिल्ली में शनिवार को दूसरे नेशनल एयरो मॉडलिंग कॉम्पटीशन का आयोजन किया गया। प्रतियोगिता में पहला स्थान भोपाल, और दूसरा नागपुर और तीसरा स्थान बंगलूरु की टीम ने हासिल किया।

बोइंग इंडिया के अध्यक्ष प्रत्युश कुमार ने इस तरह के आयोजन में सहायक बनने के लिए आईआईटी कानपुर, दिल्ली, मुंबई, मद्रास और खड़गपुर का धन्यवाद किया। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा लेने वाली टीमों को देखकर लगता है कि भारतीय युवा एरोस्पेस



आईआईटी दिल्ली में शनिवार को आयोजित एयरो मॉडलिंग में उड़ान के लिए अपने मॉडल तैयार करते छात्र। अनिल कुमार

उद्योग के भविष्य को आकार देंगे। प्रतियोगिता का उद्देश्य विभिन्न प्लेटफॉर्म पर लाकर एयरो स्पेस के उन्हीं बताया कि इस पूरी संकायों के छात्रों को एक प्रति उनका क्रेज बढ़ाना है।



आईआईटी में हुई राष्ट्रीय एयरो मॉडलिंग प्रतियोगिता

भोपाल पहले और नागपुर की टीम ने दूसरे नंबर पर बंगलूरु की टीम ने हासिल किया तीसरा स्थान

आईआईटी के डीन एकेडमिक्स डॉ. अनुराग शर्मा ने कहा कि इस तरह की गतिविधियाँ कराकर छात्रों के बीच डिजाइन और इनोवेशन को प्रमोट किया जा रहा है। ऐसे आयोजन से छात्रों को अपने हुनर को दिखाने का अवसर भी मिलता है।

Nai Duniya ND 12.04.15 P-14

आईआईटी छात्रों की प्रतिभा ने भरी उड़ान

- » आईआईटी, दिल्ली में एरो मॉडलिंग शो आयोजित
- » भोपाल व नागपुर की टीमों को पहला व दूसरा स्थान

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। शनिवार को आईआईटी, दिल्ली में हुए नेशनल एरो मॉडलिंग में छात्रों की प्रतिभा देखने को मिली। यहां देश के विभिन्न इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों ने अपने बनाए छोटे-छोटे मॉडल यान को हवा में उड़ाकर अपने तकनीकी हुनर का प्रदर्शन किया।

बोइंग इंडिया व आईआईटी के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आईआईटी, दिल्ली में शनिवार को आयोजित दूसरे नेशनल एरो मॉडलिंग कॉम्पिटिशन में पहला व दूसरा स्थान भोपाल व नागपुर की टीमों ने व तीसरा स्थान बंगलुरु की टीम ने प्राप्त किया। बोइंग

अर्जित-दीपांश ने किया नाम रोशन

प्रतियोगिता में एसआईआरटीई के अरिजित मुखर्जी, ओरियंटल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी, भोपाल के दीपांश मालवीय व एमएनआई, जयपुर के रामप्रसाद की टीम पहले स्थान पर रही इसके बाद दूसरा नंबर रहा राजीव गांधी कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग एंड रिसर्च की टीम का। जबकि बंगलुरु के एसीएस कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग की टीम को तीसरा स्थान मिला।

इंडिया के अध्यक्ष प्रत्युष कुमार ने कहा कि प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा लेने वाली टीमों को देखकर लगता है कि भारतीय एरोस्पेस उद्योग का भविष्य उज्ज्वल है।

प्रतियोगिता में जोनल स्तर पर देशभर के विभिन्न संस्थानों से 200 टीमों ने हिस्सा लिया, जिसमें से 12 टीमों फाइनल राउंड में पहुंचीं। उन्होंने बताया कि इस पूरी प्रतियोगिता का मकसद

विभिन्न संकायों के छात्रों को एक मंच पर लाकर एरो स्पेस के प्रति उनके क्रेज को बढ़ाना है। आईआईटी के डीन एकेडमिक्स डॉ. अनुराग शर्मा ने कहा कि इस तरह की गतिविधियों को आयोजित करके छात्रों के बीच डिजाइन व इनोवेशन को प्रमोट किया जा रहा है। इस तरह के आयोजन से छात्रों को अपने हुनर को दिखाने का अवसर भी मिलता है।

Heritage saviour rues fading interest

How an IIT professor and Beatles fan embarked on a mission to introduce classical music to the country's youth and is persisting against all odds

Shreya Roy Chowdhury & Mayank Manohar | TNN

On his deathbed a few years ago, Ram Kailash Yadav, the Bhojpuri Birha singer from eastern Uttar Pradesh, had seized the hand of Kiran Seth and said, "Birha ko bacha lo (save Birha)." That's the sort of faith artists repose in Spic Macay, a non-profit organization the IIT-Delhi professor launched in 1977 and its power to revive the dying art forms of the country.

"We have all joined the Spic Macay gharana," jokes flautist Rajendra Prasanna before performing at Maulana Azad Medical College, one of three colleges where Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (Spic Macay) organized the cultural festival, Virasat, on Monday.

Over 500 artistes—musicians, dancers, craftsmen, theatre-persons—are currently associated with the organization, which holds over 5,000 events per year in educational institutions across the world. Seth has come a long way from standing at the door of Crown Hotel, near Masjid Fatehpuri, and practically begging Bismillah Khan to perform. But another set of experiences had led him to that point.

An administrative officer at IIT-Kharagpur where Seth studied used to organize an overnight classical music programme called "Green Amateur's Night". "We used to sit at the back, keep an eye on who's coming, play cards and then go to sleep," he says.

His own taste inclined more toward the Beatles than Bhimsen Joshi. A performance by the senior Dagar brothers—Nasir Moineddin Dagar and Nasir Aminuddin Dagar—at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, changed him. "It was a very powerful experience and I felt as if the seed sown by the Green Amateur's Night had finally grown into a shoot," Seth, now 65, says.



STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE: Over 500 artistes, including veterans like Hariprasad Chaurasia, perform regularly at Spic Macay shows

Once back in India, as a faculty member at IIT-Delhi, he set up Spic Macay. The first programme was held on the IIT campus which featured the Dagar brothers. "We did a lot of publicity for the programme; initially, there were five people in the hall, it rose to 10 in the middle and then dropped to five again by the end," he says.

Seth then approached Bismillah Khan, who initially turned down his request due to low fee. "We pay the artistes who perform at our shows," explains Seth, "If the art has to survive, the artiste must survive. Now, 90% don't even ask how much we can pay." He spent long trying to convince Khan who finally said, "Chalo, ham kar lete hai (Okay, I'll do it)." Seth was then able to rally in support from many A-listers, including Birju Maharaj, Amjad Ali Khan, Sonal Mansingh, and hold concerts in top institutions.



SHIVKUMAR SHARMA

Shows are still not ticketed and the fee paid is a fraction of what the maestros charge for regular performances.

Early support from the eminent artistes has also meant Spic Macay is able to lend crucial support to little-known or neglected art forms and instruments—Birha, Pandavani, a folk singing style involving the narration of tales from Mahabharata, Koodiyattam, a form of Sanskrit theatre performed in Kerala, instruments such as rudra veena and gottuvadhyam.

"Students with whom we interact don't know much about the classical music," violinist N Rajam says, adding, "But I was a professor at Banaras Hindu University, so dealing with students comes naturally to me. I do more than 20 events in a year for Spic Macay and their vision is my vision."

Stressing the need to hold classical music shows, dhruwad singer

Wasifuddin Dagar says, "There are no dedicated channels for classical music apart from Doodarshan. Why can't private channels also host a few classical shows?" His father and uncle have long been associated with Spic Macay; even he performs at more than a dozen concerts a year.

For remote locations such as Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman, Spic Macay has a workshop-demonstration format. "The aim is not to teach," says Seth adding, "Spic Macay offers a gurusishya parampara, where youths can spend a month with a master."

Despite its unquestionable contribution and wide reach, Seth calls Spic Macay a "banjara" organization. It has a single office—a flat at Modern School, Barakhamba Road—where he and volunteers meet every Saturday. The venue changes to IIT-Delhi on Wednesdays. There are senior volunteers who helm the "movement" as Seth likes to call what Spic Macay does that as well junior ones at school and college level.

Neerja Sarin (64), a senior volunteer, who handles the folk arts and crafts section said, "I organize talks, exhibitions and workshops and have to explain to participants that this isn't a hobby class." Sarin, who also works with international chapters, says those in the US and Hong Kong are the most active.

By 2020, we hope to reach every child in the country: Seth

Kiran Seth, an operations research professor at IIT-Delhi, set up Spic Macay in 1977. He has seen classical music and dance go through phases of high popularity—such as in the 90s—and the shrinking space for these art forms. Seth spoke to TOI on the sidelines of the cultural festival, Virasat.



KIRAN SETH

Spic Macay has been around for nearly four decades. Has interest in the classical art forms increased significantly?

Interest in classical art forms had gone up but now it's decreasing. Space is shrinking. Appreciation for the arts takes a certain degree of patience and of faith—you should be willing to give something a fair chance, a proper shot. But there are too many things claiming the attention of youth these days. There are internet and social media that lead to short attention spans. Compared to 10-15 years ago, it is very tough to get volunteers and to get people to come now. If you have Hariprasad Chaurasia or Birju Maharaj, people may condescend to come. Areas outside the metros are doing much better. But it's still better than how things were when we started.

What about funds?

We get a chunk from the government and some from private people. But there's less and less for intangible heritage. People don't have faith in anything we can't see. Only 0.17% of the budget is for culture. We approach the corporates for their CSR funds but they tell me they're setting up toilets or installing pumps—anything that's visible. They don't understand that the arts bear the same relationship with the tangible world that theoretical physics bears with experimental or applied physics. In Kolkata, where I grew up, mothers would take their toddlers to very stiff night-long music programmes; those kids grew up into very fine human beings.

Your primary focus is on children and youth.

Yes. By 2020, we hope to reach every child in the country. In our effort to catch them young, we are holding programmes in government schools in rural areas as well. Also, as a little experiment, I am running a programme at a Delhi play school.

How did the classical music reality show you started on Doodarshan do?

"Naad Bhed" was like putting old wine in a new bottle. It was meant to shake up the parents. It got a lot of mileage and did quite well for a classical music programme. We're trying to do a second season on dance.

Delhi's air is being polluted by three perverse subsidies

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIYA AIYAR



Delhi's air pollution is terrible. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has banned diesel vehicles more than 10 years old, having already banned petrol vehicles over 15 years old. But IIT Professor Dinesh Mohan has revealed that old vehicles constitute a tiny, almost irrelevant fraction of Delhi traffic.

Delhi has fewer cars per thousand persons than Singapore, London or Paris, but much dirtier air. Mohan says much better data and research are needed to identify all the causes. The courts have over the years passed several orders—shutting polluting industries, instituting vehicle pollution checks, converting public transport to CNG, and so on. Yet, Delhi's air is worse than ever. We have a poor understanding of the underlying causes.

Mohan cites one research study showing that

transport accounts for only 17% of particulate pollution. Yet the tribunal seems to think this is the main cause. Mohan suggests much broader solutions including a massive switch to public transport and mixed residential-commercial zoning to cut commuting.

These issues are important, but only part of the story. In this column, let me highlight three massive subsidies that encourage dirty air, yet are widely ignored in debates. The big subsidy for diesel, a polluting fuel, has now ended. The sharp fall in global oil prices has enabled the government to decontrol diesel. But kerosene remains highly subsidized. It sells for barely Rs 15/litre, a third to a quarter the price of diesel in different states. Unsurprisingly, studies suggest that up to 40% of kerosene is used for adulterating diesel. And adulterated diesel is the most polluting fuel of all.

Politicians keep kerosene ultra-cheap, supposedly to benefit poor villagers using kerosene lamps. But the main beneficiaries are blackmarketers and adulterators. Some experts suggest raising the qual-

ity of fuels produced by refineries to cut air pollution. But even ultra-pure diesel and petrol will become highly polluting if mixed with kerosene. The profit from adulteration are enormous, and the judicial system has proved incapable of checking it.

The simplest way forward is to give villagers entitled to subsidised kerosene one free solar lamp each, warranted for five years. After that, the kerosene subsidy should be abolished, and the price of kerosene and diesel should be equalized. By ending the incentive to adulterate, this will allow kerosene to be sold at filling stations.

Diesel adulterated with kerosene also spoils diesel engines, shortening their lives. The spoiled engines further increase air pollution, a double whammy. Thus kerosene adulteration has severe environmental as well financial consequences for

trucks, railways and diesel gensets. Yet, no activist will approach the courts to demand an end to the kerosene subsidy and equalization of diesel and kerosene prices. That is considered politically incorrect and anti-poor. Sorry, but the pollution unwt-

ingly ensuing from cheap kerosene is terrible for the lungs of poor people with limited access to medical help. The worst hit are pavement dwellers, who bear the brunt of vehicular smoke.

The second hidden polluter is subsidized urban electricity. Urban power supply is so erratic that diesel gensets are being increasingly used as a back up. These are highly polluting, yet serve an important and rising need. The solution is to ensure 24/7 electricity, making gensets superfluous. Alas, politicians insist on high subsidies that have crippled most state electricity systems, with annual losses of over Rs 60,000 crore and cumulative losses of Rs 300,000 crore. There is an urgent need to check subsidies, along with power theft and transmission losses.

Yet, most politicians give top priority to lower prices, regardless of the financial consequences. Today, even when surplus power is available, some states cannot buy it for want of cash. The resulting power shortage increases genset use and pollution.

No activist castigates subsidized electricity as a polluter, but it is India needs empowered inde-

pendent electricity regulators setting tariffs at levels that ensure solvency and facilitate 24/7 electricity supply, ending genset use. Limited subsidies for the poor are feasible.

A third major cause of pollution is free or highly subsidized parking. The NGT wants to end parking on Delhi roads to lower congestion. But even official parking lots are highly subsidized, and some charge just Rs 10 per day. This should be closer to Rs 200 per day, or Rs 25 per hour, to reflect the true value of social space. A parked car occupies up to 150 sq ft, as much as a small shop. When shops pay high rents, why not cars too? The higher parking charges can be used to improve public transport.

In sum, the tribunal should avoid solutions like an army of inspectors checking the age of every vehicle entering Delhi. Instead, it should curb perverse subsidies that encourage pollution.

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अपार्टमेंट की तर्ज पर बनेंगे आईआईटी, आईआईएम

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। दिल्ली और रुड़की आईआईटी जैसे विशाल कैंपस अब आपको शायद दूसरी जगह नहीं दिख पाएंगे। देशभर में जमीन की किल्लत को देखते हुए सरकार आईआईटी और आईआईएम के कैंपस निजी अपार्टमेंटों की तर्ज पर बनाने की मंजूरी देने की तैयारी कर रही है। भविष्य में ये संस्थान ऊंची-ऊंची इमारतों और छोटे कैंपस के रूप में देखने को मिलेंगे।

सरकार की विशेषज्ञ समिति ने मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय से सिफारिश की है कि उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए छोटे परिसर और ऊंची इमारतों का निर्माण किया जाए। सरकार इन सिफारिशों को मानने का मन बना रही है। अगर इन सिफारिशों को मूर्त रूप दिया जाता है तो अब आईआईएम सिर्फ पांच से दस एकड़ के परिसर में बनेंगे जबकि मौजूदा मानदंडों के मुताबिक, एक आईआईएम के लिए करीब 200 एकड़ का कैंपस होना जरूरी है। उच्च शिक्षा सचिव सत्य नारायण मोहंती की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी ने केंद्र सरकार के फंड वाले सभी शिक्षण

जमीन की किल्लत को देखते हुए ऊंची इमारतें और छोटे कैंपस के मॉडल पर विचार

संस्थानों के कैंपस और इमारतों के लिए ये सिफारिशें की हैं। समिति ने कहा है कि अभी आईआईटी और केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए 500 एकड़ की जमीन होना जरूरी है। मगर समिति ने कहा है कि आईआईटी के लिए 260 तो केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के लिए 250 एकड़ जमीन होना पर्याप्त है जबकि एनआईआईटी के लिए 150 एकड़ जमीन को काफी बताया गया है। अभी एनआईआईटी के लिए 300 एकड़ जमीन होना जरूरी है। समिति का मानना है कि जिस तरह के घरों का निर्माण बड़े-बड़े बिल्डर कर रहे हैं, उसी तर्ज पर उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को तैयार किया जाना चाहिए। मोदी सरकार ने अपने पिछले बजट में जितने भी आईआईटी और आईआईएम जैसे उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को खोलने का ऐलान किया है। ये सब इसी मॉडल पर बनेंगे।

Hindustan Times ND 12/04/2015 P-13

IIT women game for Make in India plan

Vanita Srivastava

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KANPUR: The first All Woman Alumni meet at the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur on Saturday deliberated on how to take forward one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet projects – Make In India. It was decided that IITs should collaborate with other colleges in terms of knowledge sharing and resource participation.

The nearly hour long session on the scheme, dealt with the role of IITs in industrial growth and how women could play a greater role in this programme.

"We want to take forward this initiative on a broader scale... We have a lot of talent and IITs have a pool of knowledge. We need to diversify ourselves a little from our academics and see how our work can be translated for societal needs," said Tripta Thakur, an alumna.

Another alumna, Rupa Mukhopadhyaya, said developing a network with rural women and tapping their skills to cre-



■ **It was also decided that IITs should share resources with other colleges as well.**

ate small scale industries with locally found raw material would help village economies. "With some high-end technology support from the relevant members of the alumni and association, these goods may be of export-quality," she added.

The meet also discussed ways to make women more visible on campus. Traditionally, IIT campuses have very low numbers of women. Studies conducted on this subject reveal that in India there is one female candidate selected for every 8 to 14 men at IIT and other top engineering colleges.

NCTE's virtual call centre to address queries on institutes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to address grievances, queries and authenticity of an institute, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has launched a Virtual Call Centre. The call centre of NCTE was launched by the J Alam, Joint Secretary, HRD Ministry in the presence of NCTE Chairperson Santosh Panda on last Wednesday. NCTE is an autonomous organisation under HRD Ministry.

HRD Ministry officials said that launch of Virtual Call Centre is another step on the part of Centre's aim to provide transparency in the governance and also speedy redressal of grievances. The NCTE is a regulatory body mandated to achieve planned and coordinated development of teacher education in the country and is duty bound for speedy redressal of grievances if any, arising out of its bona fide action. The toll free helpline will immensely help in achievement of these goals.

The Virtual Call Centre is aimed to provide a platform to all the stakeholders ie students, teachers and the general public to seek any clarification regarding working of the NCTE, application for the recognition of teacher education institutions, teacher education courses and any other issues including any complaints/grievances pertaining to NCTE.

The caller can contact through a toll-free number 1800110039 and will be provided the available information with the Centre and if any information which is not available with them, the caller will be connected to the four Regional Offices of the NCTE functioning at Jaipur, Bengaluru, Bhopal, and Bhubaneswar.

'Make in India' gets a boost from IITians

Shubhomoy Sikdar

MUMBAI: Alumni from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, have come together to launch Global Business Forum (GBF) where they, current students and the faculty will form special interest groups to study and identify solutions to many challenges across key sectors, including for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet "Make In India" initiative.

During the launch on Friday, alumni representing business houses as well as academia explained that they would collaborate to come up with business models which, besides yielding profits, would provide cost-effective solutions in eight areas: energy, education and skill development, health care, environment (water), infrastructure, smart cities, information and communication technology and Make-in-India (manufacturing).

Special interest groups, one each in the energy and education sectors, have been functioning since 2012 and some of the solutions have bagged clients such as the National Skill Development Corporation. "Our aim was to combine the wealth of experience of the IIT-B alumni, many of whom already have a proven track record, with the best innovative minds in the institute or those who have recently finished college," said Damayanti Bhattacharya, chief operating officer, IIT-B Alumni Association.

Nai Duniya ND 12.04.15 P-4

छत्तीसगढ़ के 38 निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की मान्यता कर दी गई खत्म

» एआईसीटीई का निर्णय एक नए निजी कॉलेज को मिली मान्यता

भिलाई (ब्यूरो)। एआईसीटीई (ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन), नई दिल्ली ने छत्तीसगढ़ के ज्यादातर निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की मान्यता फिलहाल समाप्त कर दी है। यह सभी कॉलेज छत्तीसगढ़ स्वामी विवेकानंद तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय (सीएसवीटीयू) भिलाई से संबंधित हैं।

एआईसीटीई के इस निर्णय के बाद सत्र-2015-16 में उक्त निजी कॉलेजों में दाखिले नहीं हो सकेंगे। जबकि प्रदेश में एक नए निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज को



मान्यता दे दी है। एआईसीटीई ने यह निर्देश दस अप्रैल को देर रात जारी किया है। छत्तीसगढ़ में पहले से संचालित 39 निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों ने सत्र-2015-16 की मान्यता के लिए एआईसीटीई में आवेदन किया था। सूत्रों के मुताबिक इसमें से 38 निजी

इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों को एआईसीटीई ने एलओआर (लेटर ऑफ रिजेक्शन) जारी कर दिया है। इसके अनुसार अगले सत्र इन कॉलेजों की मान्यता पर रोक लगा दी गई है। इसमें बीआईटी, श्री शंकराचार्य कॉलेज समूह, संतोष रूंगटा कॉलेज समूह, संजय रूंगटा कॉलेज समूह के नामी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज सहित आरआईटी, डीमेट, सीएसआईटी, रावतपुरा सरकार कॉलेज समूह सहित अन्य इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज शामिल हैं। एआईसीटीई ने फिलहाल कॉलेजों की मान्यता पर रोक लगाने का कारण स्पष्ट नहीं किया है। नए सत्र के लिए कॉलेजों की मान्यता को लेकर बीते नौ अप्रैल को एआईसीटीई की

कार्यपरिषद की बैठक दिल्ली में हुई। इसके बाद दस अप्रैल को देर रात उक्त निजी कॉलेजों के वेब पोर्टल में एलओआर जारी कर दिया गया है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक पहले से संचालित सिर्फ रूंगटा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, भिलाई को ईओए जारी किया है।

सीएसवीटीयू ने की थी शिकायत : सीएसवीटीयू ने संबंधित ज्यादातर निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की शिकायत एआईसीटीई से की थी। इसमें एफिलिपेशन के निरीक्षण के दौरान कॉलेजों द्वारा एआईसीटीई व यूनिवर्सिटी को एक ही बिंदु पर अलग-अलग जानकारी देने व कॉलेजों में डिफिसिएंसी होने की बात कही गई थी।

Poor representation of women a matter of concern: IIT-K director

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

KANPUR: The daylong all-women alumni meet held at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) was marked by the director expressing concern over poor number of girl students at the institute and elucidating steps taken by the administration to make the campus more women-friendly.

Delivering the inaugural address, IIT-K director Dr Indranil Manna on Saturday said it was surprising that in undergraduate engineering programmes, the number of girls was less than 10% even as the figure went up to 20% at the postgraduate level.

“In terms of teaching too, women comprise just 5% of the total number of faculty members. However, the problem is not restricted to just IIT-K but is faced by all IITs of the country,” he added. Dwelling upon causes of indifference among girls towards engineering education, he said there was a need to change the attitude of the girls’ families as well as the society. “A broad-minded and dynamic education approach could enhance the number of girls opting for engineering education,” Dr Manna said.

Referring to the IIT-K’s effort to make the campus women-friendly, he said, “A separate Women’s Cell has been created for both girl students and women faculty members. The cell ensures action against those found guilty of causing embarrassment to them.”

Elaborating on other measures, he said, “We are encouraging appointments of couples. This will not just attract good faculty members but also help retain them as when both husband and wife are employed at one place, neither will want to change the institute.”

Dr Manna said a childcare centre has been introduced on the campus to facilitate teachers and other staff members. Besides, adequate avenues were opened for developing their respective skills. IIT-K director urged the women alumni to suggest ways through which participation of girls and women faculty members could be enhanced without compromising with existing norms of the institute.

Meanwhile, district magistrate Dr Roshan Jacob, in her keynote address, said it was encouraging that women have registered their presence in almost every walk of life, be it service sectors to adventurous missions like mountaineering. Highlighting the inherent qualities of women, she advised them to set new examples in their respective fields. “Women have already established their efficacy by being dedicated towards their job, maintaining work-life balance and promoting social values,” she added.

Faculty crunch: NIT Jalandhar to discontinue 3 courses

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/jalandhar/faculty-crunch-nit-jalandhar-to-discontinue-3-courses/article1-1336259.aspx>

The Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar, has decided to discontinue three courses — mining, electrical engineering and information technology (IT) — from the upcoming academic session due to non-availability of faculty.

The decision was taken during the recent meeting of the board of governors and decided to discontinue the three courses that were started in the 2013-14 session.

A Agnihotri, acting director, NIT Jalandhar, said, “The board has taken the decision as they do not want students to suffer due to non-availability of faculty in these courses. So we will not accept new admissions for the 2015-16 session.”

He said students already enrolled will continue with the courses started during the tenure of the then director SK Das in 2013-14. The student intake for these four-year courses is 40 each and around 10 teachers are required for every stream. Agnihotri said teachers for the first year are common due to similar syllabus.

Sources said IT and computer science departments have three contractual teachers; electrical has only one teacher who has been given additional charge though he is faculty for instrumentation and control engineering while mining has been handled by contractual teachers.

The board of governors has sent the minutes of the meeting for approval to the Union ministry of human resource development.

IIT Bhubaneswar shifting to Argul Campus by July 2015

<http://www.odishanewsinsight.com/odisha/iit-bhubaneswar-shifting-to-argul-campus-by-july-2015/>

IIT Bhubaneswar is getting ready to shift to its new campus at Argul during July 2015. This has been decided in a high level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sri Gokul Chandra Pati in secretariat

conference hall recently wherein Director IIT Sri Madhusudan Chakrabarti presented the progress of various infrastructural projects required for shifting of the campus. Reviewing the progress, Chief Secretary has directed concerned departments to complete the projects by April,2015.

It has been decided in the meeting that an interim water supply arrangement will be done for IIT campus. Public Health Department has been asked to complete the project by 30th April. It may be pertinent to mention here that a mega water supply project to IIT,NISER and other leading institutions in the area is under implementation. This is scheduled to be completed during 2018-19.

The interim water supply project has been taken up to facilitate the shifting of IIT to its new campus. Chief Secretary Sri Pati has advised Director IIT to construct roof top rain water harvesting structures in the campus to reduce dependence on ground water. It has been targeted to complete the structures before coming rainy season. Roads & Buildings department has been directed to expedite the construction of approach road and complete it well before scheduled time. It has also been decided that a police out post will be set up at Argul near IIT.

Chief Secretary has advised to locate the Outpost in a strategic place for catering to the need of various institutions coming up in the area. Lighting of the road from NISER Jn to IIT campus has also been put on the table. CESU has been asked to take necessary steps for the purpose.

Additional Chief Secretary Revenue & Disaster Management Dr Taradatt, Principal Secretary Home Sri C.J. Venugopal along with Collector Khordha and senior officers from departments of PHD, Energy and Works and Police Commissionerate participated in discussions.

Central team submits report on IIT-Jodhpur to MHRD on ‘terminator’ chief

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Central-team-submits-report-on-IIT-Jodhpur-to-MHRD-on-terminator-chief/articleshow/46893414.cms>

JODHPUR: The committee sent to IIT-Jodhpur by the MHRD to break the deadlock and ensure normalcy, left on Saturday with an assurance given to the students and faculty to table their grievances in the upcoming board meeting.

Having failed to appease the agitating students, the committee has however, prepared a detailed reported followed by a discussion in various rounds on Friday and Saturday with all the stake holders on the demands of the students and submitted the same to the MHRD.

"We held a detailed discussion in a series of rounds with the students and the faculties in these two days and prepared a detailed report, which we submitted to the MHRD on Saturday," said D R Mehta, head of the committee and member of the board of governors (BoG).

Besides this Mehta also assured them to put their grievances, whatsoever, before the meeting of the BOG for their solution, which is expected in next two weeks.

He, however, admitted that the rules of the IIT-Jodhpur are stricter in comparison with other IITs.

"I have advised to align these rules with those of other institutions besides putting up an effective grievance redressal mechanism here, so that the contentious issues could be resolved in time," said Mehta.

On the other hand, appearing appeased after the first round of talks with the committee sent on Friday, the students again changed their stand and have decided to continue their 12-day long agitation demanding the ouster of the director C V R Murti, rolling back the termination order of a faculty and inquiry into all the past faculty terminations.

Terming the agitation by the students in an institution unfortunate, Mehta said that this student agitation has dealt a massive blow to the reputation of the institution and will have far-reaching impact on the prospects of the institution.

Referring to the issue of faculty crunch in the IIT, which has only 44 teachers currently against the total proposed capacity of 90, he assured that the figure will touch the mark of 55 in next 3 months and 65 by the end of the year.

April 13

Mint ND 13/04/2015 P-32

TEACHING TOOL

Harvard B-school makes nearly \$200 mn a year selling case studies

By FRANCESCA LEVY
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Business schools like to say they're at the leading edge of corporate innovation, boasting on-campus incubators and electives on design thinking. But almost all rely on a teaching tool that's barely changed in more than a century.

To learn how to lead companies, MBA students read hundreds of case studies—stripped-down narratives about a strategy problem at a real company—and discuss how they would tackle the challenge.

For Harvard Business School, which created and popularized the method—the school taught its first case in 1912—case studies are a cottage industry as well as a bedrock of the curriculum. Harvard Business Publishing says it sells to about 4,000 schools globally; its cases account for 80% of the case studies used.

HBP, which also publishes other business materials, had revenue of \$194 million in 2014, said the business school's annual report, a 44% rise from 2010. The publisher, which doesn't break out revenue from case studies, says it sold 12 million cases last year, to schools, companies, and others. Retail prices run from \$9 to \$15 for a basic case study; schools get discounts. Case sales far outpace sales of HBP's other books and subscriptions to the Harvard Business Review, which it also publishes.

"The case method takes the learner through a reflective and analytic process that is very powerful," says Robert Bruner, dean of the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. Some of Harvard's case studies seem hardly more sophisticated than Wikipedia entries, and that's deliberate, says Willis Emmons, director of Harvard's C. Roland Christensen Center for Teaching and Learning.

"Our cases are intentionally very limited in the amount of analysis they include," he says. "The challenge for the student is to take both qualitative and quantitative information and make sense of that."

HBP also sells teaching notes for business professors to facilitate class discussion of the cases. These include suggestions for specific words instructors should write on blackboards. At Harvard Business School, professors are given detailed profiles of their students, called class cards, that dictate the order and timing of whom they call on in a typical 80-minute class. "The stronger and more experienced a faculty member is, the less visible it is how much work has gone into a session," says Emmons.

The sheer scale of Harvard's publishing machine helps it maintain dominance in the case market. Darden Business Publishing calls itself the second-biggest publisher of cases in the US, but it sold fewer than 700,000 cases in 2014, according to Steve Momper, DBP's executive director. HBP produces and

distributes co-branded case studies for about 40 business schools. These include the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business, which launched a case series last year. Haas has no designs on challenging Harvard's market share; the school publishes cases to strengthen its brand and showcase the technology industry expertise of its Bay Area-based staff, says Richard Lyons, the dean.

Case publishers often try to add variety to material that, well into the 1970s, featured subjects that were "virtually always male and in settings that were quite prominently in the US," says Darden's Bruner, who received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1974.

HBS is trying to reflect a more modern business landscape. In 2014, Nitin Nohria, dean of the business school, pledged to raise the share of women protagonists in Harvard cases to 20%.

Cases increasingly incorporate video and Web-based elements, and a few find business lessons in unconventional sources, such as the case HBP published last year by Harvard professor Anita Elberse devoted to Beyoncé's surprise 2013 album release.

Of the 25 top business schools ranked by *Bloomberg* Businessweek last year, 19 reported that they use case studies as one of their main teaching tools. At HBS, 80% of class time is spent on case studies; at Darden, the figure is 75%.

BLOOMBERG

Business Line ND 13/04/2015 P-14

'Indian case-studies missing in B-schools'

Harvard Business Publishing working with top institutions to provide content

NS VAGEESH

Mumbai, April 12

B-Schools are often criticised by their alumni for teaching management cases that have no direct relevance or belong to a different milieu (on American companies, for instance).

When we asked Vinay Hebbur, MD of Harvard Business Publishing, about whether this had forced them to change their content, he had some interesting insights to offer.

HBP is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Harvard University, engaged in bringing out books, magazines and content as well as leadership development solutions for companies.

Surprisingly, the highest numbers of cases taught in Indian B-schools are not Indian case studies.

HBP works with over a hundred top B-schools in India

to provide content, pedagogical practices and therefore has a good understanding of what is happening there.

This is not to say that Indian cases are not used and Vinay quickly points out that the Harvard Business School itself has more than 150 case studies on Indian companies.

Defending the case study methodology, he said the important thing in a case discussion is the learning objectives that have to be brought out clearly.

He said, "You are not reading about the cola wars to understand about the colas themselves or become an expert on cola wars. You are learning some concepts that you should be able to take across markets and across industries. In a sense, it teaches you how to think, how to break down a

problem, define alternatives, select one based on a framework or the thinking you have and see how you can apply it."

Asked about changes in the higher education space in the past decade, Vinay said all good schools understand and welcome participant-centred case method of study instead of the lecture method that was dominant earlier.

Even recruiters want students to learn with the case method.

Case studies help under real world situations when you don't have complete information and you put yourself in the shoes of a decision maker. Our education system does not traditionally develop these skills and faculty and students see this as very important, he said.

Secondly, B-schools use more online learning; given the pressure to deliver more within a given time as some of them reduce their program

duration from 2 years to 18 months or 16 months apart from part-time and week-end MBA programs.

There is also more diversity in the classroom. So, schools are using online portals to deliver more, Vinay said, giving the example of schools asking students to study material online before they come to class and then reinforce the concepts and learn to apply them in class.

Thirdly, B-Schools are using more simulations/gaming videos to increase engagement and make learning more interactive, referring to the core curriculum developed by HBP for various MBA programmes.

Endorsement comes from users such as Professor Jose from IIM-Bangalore and Professor Nirmal Gupta, visiting faculty of Indian School of Business, who say that attention level among students is very high when using simulations and learning is more fun.

National Centre for Mathematics to come up on IIT Bombay campus

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/national-centre-for-mathematics-to-come-up-on-iit-bombay-campus/>

Having trained around 180 teachers and 600 students each year since the inception of a virtual maths centre in 2010, the National Centre for Mathematics (NCM) — a joint initiative of IIT Bombay and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) — will now be built at IIT Bombay's Powai campus. The aim is to enable teachers to experience on-campus learning and demystify maths for students.

“According to a survey, one-third of engineers do not possess mathematical skills needed in day-to-day life for doing simple transactions, counting and arranging. They have a weak understanding of concepts as elementary as decimals, powers, operations, ratio, fractions and the ability to apply these concepts to real-world problems. Similarly, doctoral students in most universities in India are not provided basic education in fundamental areas of mathematics. The NCM is an attempt to bridge these glaring gaps,” said an IIT Bombay official.

The Centre will also enable leading mathematicians from India and abroad to get together, stay on campus and undertake joint research activities. While Rs 32 crore have been approved for constructing the building, actual construction will start from the middle of this year. “Currently, the Centre is virtual and the programmes are being run in collaboration with different institutes across the country, but for things to run smoothly and under one roof, IIT Bombay and TIFR have proposed constructing a building for NCM,” said the official.

While annual foundation schools will be targeted at first year PhD students, advanced instructional schools will be for second to fifth year PhD students. Besides, there will be workshops for researchers, instructional schools for college and university teachers, and teacher's enrichment workshops for college teachers. “Teachers' enrichment workshops have been started in few metro cities. It is meant to introduce college mathematics teachers to interesting topics in the basic subjects they teach,” said another official.

Mysuru and Raichur in race for IIT

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/mysuru-and-raichur-in-race-for-iit/article7097137.ece>

The government has decided to recommend Raichur, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Mysuru for establishing an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

“These names will be forwarded to the Union government,” Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said at a public function here on Saturday.

He was responding to demands by speakers, including Jagadish Shettar, former Chief Minister; Pralhad Joshi, MP; Prasad Abbayya, MLA, and Basavaraj Horatti, MLC, for recommending Hubballi-Dharwad as the location for the proposed IIT.

“Ever since the Union government sanctioned the IIT, there have been demands from various districts, including my home district Mysuru, that it be located there.

“During the Cabinet meeting in Gulbarga when Jagadish Shettar was Chief Minister, a decision was taken to recommend Raichur.

“We can’t overrule the previous government’s decision. In the light of these demands, we will recommend Raichur, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Mysuru,” Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He said as per the norms, the Centre would send a study team and then take a decision.

He clarified that as Chief Minister, he wanted uniform development of the State and would be happy with any district being chosen for setting up the premier institute.

Decision

Earlier, referring to the Cabinet decision on recommending Raichur for establishing the IIT, Mr. Shettar clarified that the people of north Karnataka would not quarrel over the issue of location, whether it is Raichur or Hubballi-Dharwad.

“We want the IIT in north Karnataka,” he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says he wants uniform development of the State and would be happy with any district being chosen for setting up the premier institute

HRD ministry's global education conference to focus on skill development

Brajesh Kumar

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NEW DELHI: The human resource development ministry (HRD) ministry is planning to hold an international conference on education in November this year with a view to raise India's profile globally in the field. The event will be on the lines of London/Chicago international education conferences.

The HRD ministry will hold first event at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, the venue of Gujarat's annual investor's summit.

The agenda for the two day conference, which is at its conceptual stage, will include education empowering the economy, education and innovation, technical expertise and improving skills, vocational education, language and path for foreign collaboration in primary education among others.

Sources in the ministry said different sub groups for identifying specific topics and speakers both national and international will be formed soon.

To rope in sponsors the ministry will reach out to the UN bodies and World Bank.

The conference the ministry believes will show to the world

THE HRD MINISTRY WILL HOLD THE TWO-DAY EVENT AT MAHATMA MANDIR, GANDHINAGAR, THE VENUE OF GUJARAT'S ANNUAL INVESTOR'S SUMMIT

that India is not lagging behind in both primary and higher education.

The latest United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report on education said India has made striking progress towards reaching its 'Education for All' goals reducing its 'out of school children by over 90% since 2000 and achieving "universal primary education."

The report however slammed the country for tardy progress on adult literacy and quality of learning outcomes.

"While India's education system succeeded in enrolling many more children, there were wide disparities in students' achievement of basic skills across the states," the report said.

International conferences are a regular feature abroad with London holding it annually.

Times Of India ND 13/04/2015 P-5

No choice in 'cafeteria system'

Syllabi Will Be Static Under UGC's Choice-Based Credit System: Academics

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New Delhi: In less than 15 days, all "stakeholders" at central and state universities across India are expected to review the new course structure under the choice-based credit system and the draft syllabi of 18 subjects, and get back to the University Grants Commission with comments.

The UGC posted these documents on its website on April 10. Academics who have seen them—dropped inconveniently in the middle of evaluation and end-semester pressure—have found so much wrong with it, they don't even know where to begin.

The UGC document explains that the implementation of CBCS is predicated upon the acceptance of a "minimum course curriculum" and an individual university's "allowed deviation" from this is just 20%. All public universities will teach very much the same thing.

One outcome, feels Sunaina Kanojia, member of Delhi University's commerce department and Academic Council, will be "a static syllabus and little scope to incorporate the department's own research into the curriculum."

Another casualty will be a university's unique "character", "We have foundation courses that help students place an individual's distress in a larger social context. We also review our syllabus every year. Our programme has a certain flavour that'll be lost," observes Anup Dhar,

NEW FRAMEWORK



➤ **57 courses to be run in choice-based credit system (CBCS) format**

➤ **Courses for which draft syllabi have been posted** Psychology, economics, history, psychology, BA programme with economics, commerce, botany, microbiology, zoology, anthropology, biomedical sciences, chemistry, forensic science, physics and BSc programme with physics-chemistry, life sciences, chemistry & physics.

➤ Central/state universities have to follow a 'common minimum syllabi of the core papers'. The 'allowed deviation' is a maximum of 20%



➤ No. of core papers for all universities have to be the same for UG honours and programme courses

psychology department, Ambedkar University. "No matter where they enroll, they'll wear the same uniform. In the US, universities may be special in quantitative and statistical, or qualitative or clinical psychology. That's a strength." While CBCS promotes the "cafeteria system", choice is precisely what is being denied.

The UGC document acknowledges that lack of infrastructure may be a problem but doesn't go into detail. "You can't just have a wishlist. You need to figure out if

you have people to teach these courses, if libraries are stocked," argues Saumyajit Bhattacharya who teaches economics at Kirori Mal College, DU. There are still universities that yet to introduce semesters.

COURSE SHIFT

Bhattacharya has found that "90% of the drafted economics syllabus is from the current DU undergraduate one." "This was put together in a hurry at the time of semesterisation." He also points out that while course

WHAT YOU HAVE TO COVER

➤ Core courses

- Elective courses
 - Discipline specific elective course
 - Dissertation/project
 - Generic elective course

➤ Ability-enhancement courses

- Ability-enhancement compulsory courses
- Skill-enhancement courses

➤ Honours courses

CORE | 14 papers and 14 practicals/tutorials

ELECTIVE | 8 papers (4 each for discipline-specific and generic) and 8 practical/tutorials

OPTIONAL DISSERTATION/PROJECT in lieu of one discipline-specific elective

ABILITY ENHANCEMENT | 2 papers on environmental science and English/MIL

SKILL ENHANCEMENT | Minimum 2 (maximum 4 for BA and BCom honours students)



The UGC document acknowledges that lack of infrastructure may be a problem but doesn't go into detail. One teacher argues that UGC just can't have a wishlist

on e-commerce is only conceptual covering plastic money and credit cards."

Even the reading-list is out-dated. "The authors have passed away and the publishers are constantly re-printing the books," she says. The head of the department J P Sharma simply states, "Neither ours nor any other department of commerce was consulted on the syllabus."

Consequently, questions being raised about the authors of the drafts. The commerce one was authored by two academics (on retired) and it's not clear who they consulted; most others don't offer even that information. The 20% elbow-room won't help, argues Dhar, because the remaining 80% "is the fantasy of the particular group of scholars who designed it." "It's to reductionist. Too simple."

"We have been giving feedback and have written to UGC but is anyone listening?" asks executive council-member Abha Dev Habib. "We send new courses to UGC for approval anyway and entrances tests like the UGC-NET have set a minimum benchmark. Is the UGC ready to review reforms like semesterisation first? It's not even willing to learn from its mistakes!"

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Kanpur mechanic's son all set for MIT sojourn

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Kanpur: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is the dream destination of budding engineers from across the globe. In September next, the premier US institute will open its doors to an unlikely candidate — son of a mechanic from Kanpur — with full scholarship to the tune of Rs 1 crore. When he passes out from MIT two years from now, Ayush Sharma will become the first graduate from his family.

Nobody at his school, Kendriya Vidyalaya on IIT-Kanpur campus from where he has appeared in class XII board this year, had any doubt about 17-year-old Ayush being a brilliant student. But, MIT was something of a dream even for Ayush. "I had heard a lot about MIT in my school. I came across many path-breaking research its students and professors were doing. As I am one of the three people selected from across the country, I am feeling elated," an enthusiastic Ayush told TOI on Sunday.

A resident of Panki area of the industrial city, Ayush's father Rakesh Sharma is a mechanic with Pub-



Ayush Sharma does not want to gain knowledge just for himself, but wants to transform the whole education system and make a real impact on the society

lic Works department and his mother Manju Lata Sharma retired as a constable with the Central Reserve Police Force.

A jubilant Rakesh Sharma said, "We never had to force him to study. I always used to say to him don't study so much."

"We never bothered about his studies, what we always bothered about his health as he would not eat and sleep properly," said his mother. "But I am feeling elated now that he has been selected for MIT," she said with pride.

Studying on the IIT campus has come as a blessing for Ayush. At his school, he came across Avanti, a coaching programme run by IIT students and alumni for children from lower income group. He joined Avanti two years ago and through its efforts got selected for Yale University's prestigious Global Scholars Program last year.

The competitive summer programme targets outstanding high school students globally, giving them the opportunity to meet a talented community of fellow students, engage with world-renowned professors and interact with extraordinary visiting experts. While Ayush secured a full tuition waiver from Yale, he needed to raise funds for his travel to the US. He accomplished this through a crowd-funding campaign that raised \$1,500 (90,000 INR) in just six hours. Ayush plans to do the same for raising money for his September trip.

At MIT, Ayush does not want to gain knowledge just for himself, but wants to transform the whole education system and make a real impact on the society.

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

Millennium Post ND 13/04/2015 P-4

'Six-hour' deadline for AICTE nod leaves DU colleges stumped

V-C has stood his ground over validity of FYUP to a showcause issued by HRD Ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a fresh twist to the stand-off between DU V-C and the HRD Ministry over the FYUP, many colleges were left dumbfounded over an order of AICTE asking them to submit an affidavit within "six hours" to get approval for its B Tech courses.

The deadline has been termed as "impractical" by many college principals, who could not manage to meet it.

B.Tech programmes in Computer Science, Electronics, Food Technology, Instrumentation Electronics and Polymer Science were launched as part of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), which was last year scrapped following UGC intervention.

UGC had, however, directed DU to continue with these five B.Tech programmes but only for benefit of over 6,000 students



admitted in the academic year 2013-2014.

The colleges were asked to seek approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the apex advisory body regulating technical education in the country.

With several deadlines passing over months, students had raised concerns over non-approval of the courses with HRD Minister Smriti Irani in February

this year who, in turn, had directed the VC to do the needful.

Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh has stood his ground over the validity of FYUP to a showcause issued on him last month by the HRD Ministry.

A decision on Singh's continuation as the V-C is likely soon.

Last week, about 27 colleges stuck in midst of this stand-off were taken

for a "surprise" when they received a communication from AICTE to submit an affidavit promising to address the shortcomings of faculty and infrastructure within the next six months.

The affidavit came after review of these colleges to offer the B.Tech courses.

"The mail from AICTE was received after 9 PM on last Thursday and the deadline was given for six hours, which meant even before the opening time of the colleges next day.

"There were certain clauses in the affidavit which needed to be worked out, hence we chose not to submit it," said a Principal on condition of anonymity, describing the deadline as "impractical".

As a result, sources said, only about six colleges could submit the affidavit.

AICTE is understood to have refused giving further extension.

"Non-submission of affidavit by the stipulated time will be considered that your college is not interested and approval will not be granted to your institute," the communication sent to the colleges by AICTE said.

"It requires an affidavit. We could not have submitted a wrong affidavit just for the sake of meeting the deadline.

"How did they expect us to meet it?" said another Principal.

The development came against the backdrop of standoff between DU V-C Dinesh Singh and the HRD ministry over the FYUP.

The ministry had issued a showcause notice to Singh on March 17, seeking his reply on the FYUP issue, opening of B Tech courses without clearance from AICTE and allegations of diversion of funds to the tune of Rs 172 crore meant for OBC students to buy laptops.

HT.Com ND 13.04.2015 P-6

India shines in Unesco's education for all report



■ Globally 47% countries have achieved Universal primary education.

HT Correspondent

In April 2000, the governments of 164 countries adopted the Dakar Framework to deliver Education For All commitments by 2015. On Thursday Unesco published a report evaluating the progress. India has made striking progress towards reaching the goals reducing its "out of school" children by over 90 % since 2000 and achieving "universal primary education", a UNESCO report said.

"Globally, 47% of countries achieved universal pre-primary enrolment and another 8 % were close, including India. 20% of countries were very far from the goal," Education for All 2000-2015 report said.

Releasing the report, Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani said that "the number of out-of-school children in the age-group from six to 13 years had declined from 13.45 million in 2005 to 6.06 million in 2014".

Noting India's achievement on gender parity the report said, "In fact, India is predicted to be the only country in South and West Asia to have an equal ratio of girls to boys in both primary

and secondary education."

The report however criticised India on its tardy progress on adult literacy saying 32 % of the countries including India are still "very far" from achieving it. As against the target of reducing adult illiteracy by 50%, India since 2000 has reduced it by 26%, the report said.

Globally, the percentage of adults with minimal literacy skills fell from 18 % in 2000 to 14 % in 2015, but this is almost entirely attributed to more educated young people reaching adulthood.

It said women continued to make up almost two-thirds of the adult population denied the right to literacy. "In India the percentage is 68 %," the report said.

The report said globally, just one-third of countries have achieved all of the measurable Education for All (EFA) goals set in 2000.

"Only half of all countries have achieved the most prominent goal of universal primary education," it said.

The report called upon all the countries to ensure that children and adolescents complete pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education by 2030