Newspaper Clips
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IITs as accreditation agency under study

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iits-as-accreditation-agency-under-study/article18260609.ece

The Indian Institutes of Technology are likely to have the additional role of accreditation and assessing agency soon, with the IIT Council meet in Mumbai on Friday expected to discuss the possibility.

Minister for Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar threw ample hints about this at an event here a few days back.

"On 28th the IIT Council will meet. We told the IITs you too can become accreditation agencies. There is NAAC... If there are four-five agencies for accreditation, it is good. There will automatically be a competition and that will be good," he had said at the consultation meet of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

"I don't know how much NAAC people accept it. But it is not a bad thought. If we want to reach each institute and assess them properly, we need more wherewithal and therefore [we should] build three-four more institutes which will also become assessing agencies."

"There should be a new system of accreditation [and] that is our effort. Inspection is important as we get to know looking at data what is the truth," the Minister had said minutes earlier.

Centre's guidelines

The IIT Council meet comes at a time when there is concern over suicides in the institutes. This, too, may come up for discussion at the meet.

The Centre had, after the Rohith Vemula suicide at the Hyderabad University, sought to create a set of guidelines to ensure that students are not driven to the extreme step.

They were expected to include steps such as mentoring and counselling of students.

Increase in seats

The IIT Council had last year given its in-principle approval to an increase in seats in the IITs, with a vision to touch one lakh seats by 2020. This, however, is subject to each IIT's preparedness.

Recently, the IITs agreed to add some seats temporarily to increase the representation of women to 20 per cent.

The Council may undertake some stock-taking on these points too.

After 6 Years, IITs Finally Wake Up To the Rising Student Suicides

https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2017/04/iit-rising-student-suicides/

Following a spate of student suicides at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in recent months, the premiere engineering colleges are expected to take a series of measures to curb the trend. Student-suicides were included in the IIT Council's meeting agenda after an IIT Kharagpur student was found hanging in his hostel room last week, according to a report in The Indian Express. The IIT Council is the highest decision-making body of the institutes.

There have been four alleged cases of suicide this year at the IITs, three of which took place at IIT Kharagpur. A 19-year-old IIT Delhi student, who was reportedly depressed, also attempted suicide in March by jumping from the terrace of his hostel.

Sources told The Indian Express that the directors of the 23 IITs will be asked to undertake initiatives apart from those already existing at their respective institutes to curb the trend. These are likely to include measures such as compulsory induction programmes that will teach students ways to cope with stress.

Other measures that the IITs will be urged to take include early identification of vulnerable and academically weak students for referring them to counsellors on campus and sensitisation of teachers to the needs of students with different learning abilities. Directors are also likely to be told to encourage students to pursue extra-curricular activities.

In addition, the IIT administration will be asked to house students from different departments as roommates in hostels to promote healthier peer group interaction.

After a series of suicides and suicide attempts were reported from the IITs in 2010 and 2011, a task force was constituted in September 2011 to suggest remedial measures after studying the causes of those suicides. A sophisticated counselling structure at every institute, faculty-sensitisation and a session for new students focused on teaching them social, communication, and interpersonal skills were some of the initiatives that were recommended by the task force.

The IIT Council officially accepted the recommendations in January 2013. However, 4 years after the decision was taken, the four-level action plan remains ineffective.

The issue has been put on the agenda for the council meeting on Friday after the latest case of an alleged suicide at IIT Kharagpur. On April 21, a fourth-year aerospace engineering student was found hanging in his hostel room. *"Let me sleep,"* the suicide note written by the deceased Nidhin N had said.

Congress MP KC Venugopal had also written to the HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar seeking his intervention in the matter of suicides at IITs after the death of the student.

The MP told reporters last week that he had been assured by ministry officials that suicide will be probed. "The official assured me that a team headed by a director of the ministry will be appointed to probe the cases of alleged suicides happening in IIT-Kharagpur," *he said.*

JEE Mains 2017: Son of compounder from Udaipur tops exam with 360/360 score
http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/jee-mains-2017-compounder-s-son-from-udaipur-is-the-topper/story-dqfXWAf5WOCLhv2QiduoaN.html

Regular classes and a bit of confidence helped Rajasthan's Kalpit Veerwal score full marks and clinch the All India Rank 1 in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2017.

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Regular classes and a bit of confidence helped Rajasthan's Kalpit Veerwal score full marks and clinch the All India Rank 1 in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2017. The results were announced on Thursday.

Veerwal told Hindustan Times over the phone from Udaipur the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), RK Chaturvedi, called him in the morning to give him the news. He is the topper in general as well Scheduled Caste category. He has scored 360 out of 360 in the examination.

"It is a happy moment for me to be the topper in JEE Mains but I am taking it normally and focussing on JEE Advanced, which would be held next month," the 17-year-old said.

He has appeared in Class 12 board exams privately from MDS Public School this year and the result is awaited.

"I did regular studies, never missed the classes, kept my confidence high and cleared doubts from teachers to achieve success in JEE Mains 2017," Veerwal, a son of a compounder, said.

"I used to study for around 5-6 hours daily apart from coaching classes and classes in school," he added.

Veerwal said his family, teachers and Kota-based Resonance Eduventure Private Limited's Udaipur branch helped him achieve the feat. He has been a student of the coaching institute since he was in Class 8.

"My parents looked after me well so that I do not get ill and miss studies," he said.

His father Pushkar Lal Veerwal is a compounder at Udaipur's Maharana Bhupal Government Hospital and his mother Pushpa Veerwal is a government school teacher. His elder brother is a medical student in AIIMS.

Veerwal, who is fond of playing cricket, badminton and music, said he has not yet decided about his career plans but wants to seek admission in IIT-Mumbai to pursue computer science.

JEE Main 2017: Nashik's Vrunda Rathi is topper among girls

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/jee-main-2017-nashik-s-vrunda-rathi-is-topper-among-girls/story-NaRyuuYhYZ5LwZjN7cu2QJ.html

The 17-year-old girl from Nashik will now live her dream after bagging the All India Rank 1 among girls in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2017.

Vrunda Rathi, 17-year-old Nashik girl, will now live her dream after bagging the All India Rank 1 among girls in the JEE Main Exam 2017.

All Vrunda Rathi wanted was to get into the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The 17-year-old girl from Nashik will now live her dream after bagging the All India Rank 1 among girls in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2017.

The results for the JEE (Mains), which was held on April 2, were announced on Thursday.

Most candidates want to score well in the JEE Main as it is their gate-pass to the Indian Institutes of Technology - premier engineering institutes in the country - but for Vrunda IIT was never the aim.

"I've always been sure about pursuing a career in research and for that purpose, IISc Bangalore is where I'm headed. I have not yet decided which particular course I will choose at IISc, but it will definitely be research oriented," Rathi said.

A student of IITians Pace Academy, Rathi has scored 321 - 105 in physics, 106 in chemistry and 110 in mathematics - out of 360 in the JEE Mains to get an overall India rank of 71.

Vrunda, a flute player, says her focus on the JEE exams started from Class 11 but she made sure it was never all work and no play.

"I cannot study for too many hours in a row, so I used to take breaks and play the flute off and on. After finishing my Class 12 exam I started studying around 6 hours a day for JEE," she said.

While most students received their scores and ranks from the JEE website, Rathi got a call from the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), RK Chaturvedi, congratulating her on her score and rank.

"I was surprised and shocked to receive that call and just to calm my nerves I didn't start celebrating till I saw my score on the website. I was working hard for the exam but I never expected this score," Rathi said.

She added her plan is now is to put in more efforts for the JEE Advanced exam on May 21 and maintain her score and rank, if not get better.

Out of 10.2 lakh aspirants, around 2.20 lakh students have qualified for the JEE Advanced. The AIRs were declared along with the JEE Mains results for the first time this year.

पुस्तकालय के प्रति जागरूकता को आईआईटियंस ने निकाली साइकिल यात्रा

http://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/bhu-iitians-launch-cycile-yatra-for-library-campaign

यात्रा को हरी झंडी दिखाकर आईआईटी बीएचयू के पूर्व निदेशक प्रो. एसएन उपाध्याय ने रवाना किया।

पुस्तकालय के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करने के उद्देश्य से आईआईटी बीएचयू के पूर्व छात्रों ने नेक पहल की है। इस जागरूकता अभियान के तहत बुधवार को बनारस से बक्सर तक की साइकिल यात्रा निकाली गई। सिविल इंजीनियरिंग के 2011 बैच के पूर्व छात्र व संप्रति कश्मीर में केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस के कमांडेंट विकास पांडेय ने इसकी शुरुआत की। यात्रा में उनके साथ चंद्रभूषण पांडेय और निर्भय त्रिपाठी भी शामिल हैं।

बुधवार को सिंह द्वार बीएचयू से उनकी इस यात्रा को हरी झंडी दिखाकर आईआईटी बीएचयू के पूर्व निदेशक प्रो. एसएन उपाध्याय व प्रो. एके त्रिपाठी ने रवाना किया। यात्रा का संयोजन केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग के प्रो. पीके मिश्र ने किया।

पहले पड़ाव पर पांडेयपुर में उनका स्वागत दीवा फाउंडेशन के विजय त्रिपाठी व दीपक पुजारी ने किया। दोपहर में कैथी में विश्राम कर फिर इस यात्रा की शुरुआत हुई। यात्रा गुरुवार को बक्सर पहुंचेगी।

इस यात्रा के दौरान विकास पांडेय गांव गांव शहर शहर पुस्तकालय शुरू करने के लिए लोगों को प्रेरित करेंगे।

Now, Aadhaar must for getting fellowships, scholarships from UGC and AICTE

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/now-aadhaar-must-for-getting-fellowships-scholarships-from-ugc-and-aicte/story-7s448VaxIKo3DMV5qUjXiL.html

Junior Research Fellowship, PG scholarships for rank holders among those that will be given only if students declare Aadhaar numbers

Students seeking government scholarships and fellowships will need to declare **Aadhaar** numbers by the end of June, the human resources development (HRD) ministry notified on Wednesday, putting yet another of its benefits programme behind the Unique Identity project (UID) wall.

Wednesday's order covers fellowship schemes implemented by the **University Grants Commission** and the **All India Council for Technical Education**.

"The use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplifies the government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency, and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity," the government stated in its notification.

Students have till June 30 to declare their Aadhaar numbers, or apply for one and declare the enrolment number, to their colleges.

The notification, a copy of which is with HT, came into effect from Wednesday, covering all states excluding Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir.

Activists have criticised the government's move to make the Aadhaar programme – the enrolment to a national database with biometric information such as fingerprints and iris scans – must for those drawing state benefits. The criticism has centred around a Supreme Court order in September last year, when it said that people without UID numbers must not be denied assistance.

The UGC in July last year asked universities to mandatorily ask fellowship and scholarship beneficiaries to declare their 12-digit UID numbers but backtracked on it two months later, around the same time as the SC order.

Sources said there will be a delay in processing fellowship amount in case students are unable to provide their Aadhaar number.

In addition to the JRF, 17 fellowship schemes — including the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), the Emeritus fellowship, the Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Candidates — will be covered under the rule.

Post graduate scholarship for university rank holder, post graduate scholarship for single girl child and other UGC scholarships will also be awarded only after Aadhaar is declared.

Internshala and AICTE tie-up as the latter makes internships mandatory for students
https://mybigplunge.com/mybigplunge/education/internshala-and-aicte-internships/

Internshala and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) signed an MoU facilitating internships for all students enrolled in AICTE-approved academic institutions. Basis the agreement, all colleges affiliated under AICTE, the regulatory body under the HRD Ministry can now offer students internships through Internshala for free.
AICTE Chairman, Dr. Anil D Sahasrabudhe, said, "We have made internships mandatory for students so that they can be equipped with skills before they take up jobs."

As per the statement released, the platform will provide counseling and guidance in addition to helping students find the right internships. The move is expected help students in getting exposure to work environments and hone their skills in multiple areas including managerial, technical and communication.
Sarvesh Agrawal, the founder and CEO of Internshala said, "The Government of India has identified Skill Building as a top national priority and it is heartening to see AICTE take concrete steps to improve the employability of our graduates."

Internshala believes that through internships, students get top apply whatever they learn in classrooms. They are looking to provide "meaningful" internships to the college students giving them a great launchpad to their careers.
"We are hoping that, through our partnership with Internshala, colleges and students get easier access to more and meaningful internships," added Dr. Sahasrabudhe.

In 2016-17, Internshala claims to have listed 400,000+ internships (across different streams) with an average stipend of Rs. 7,500/- per month. Of this, 40% of the internships also came with the option to convert it into full time employment upon completion.

Common Entrance Test for Engineering colleges hits a roadblock

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/608577/common-entrance-test-engineering-colleges.html

The Centre's plan to hold a common entrance test to engineering colleges seems to have hit a roadblock.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), clearing the Centre's proposal, had last month formulated a regulation for holding a nationwide test for entrance to all engineering colleges from 2018.

However, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has put the plan on hold for evolving a consensus among the states.

"The common entrance test plan has been put on hold for now as its successful implementation would require a consensus among the states," an AICTE official told DH.

A consensus is required to bring in clear provisions for common counselling.

"This is necessary to ensure that engineering colleges offer seats only on the basis of all India merit list of the candidates," the official said.

The ministry initiated the move to hold a common test for entrance to engineering colleges, taking a cue from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical and dental colleges introduced last year.

TheCBSE conducted NEET following a Supreme Court order. "Under NEET, there is no clear provision for medical colleges to offer seats on the basis of all India merit list. This leaves scope for the colleges to continue with their past practice of admitting students on the basis of their capacity to pay for the seat," the AICTE official said.

The ministry does not want to roll out its plan for holding a common entrance with "such a loophole".
"It wants to start holding a common entrance test with a clear provision which makes it compulsory for all engineering colleges to offer seats to candidates as per their rank in the all India merit list.

Otherwise, the purpose of holding such a test will remain unfulfilled. This is possible only when the states come on board. We are holding a consultation with the states," the official said.

IIM-A Director Ashish Nanda resigns

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-iim-a-director-ashish-nanda-resigns-2419398

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) director Ashish Nanda on Thursday stepped down from his position, one year ahead of his tenure. Nanda, who was the first professor from a foreign school to head an IIM, cited personal reasons for his resignation. While the real reason is not known, his resignation has some as a surprise in the academic circle. It is so far unclear whether he resigned because of any differences with the HRD ministry.

He is a former professor from Harvard Law School. He was appointed for a period of five years, and when he relinquishes office on September 1, 2017, he will be complete four years of his tenure.

In his resignation letter and a subsequent mail to the IIM-A fraternity, Nanda said he enjoyed his association with IIM Ahmedabad but he needs to give more time to his family.

"Professionally I have enjoyed the experience immensely and learned a lot. However personally, living long distance from my wife and son has been a challenge. When I joined, I had committed to serving at most one term. On September 1, it will be four years to the day since I took charge…I will hand over responsibilities of director at the end of that day,"

IIM-A chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has accepted his resignation.