Newspaper Clips
April 9-11, 2016

April 11

Economic Times 11/04/2016   P-14

IIT Fee Hike: Step in the Right Direction

The decision to hike annual fees from ₹90,000 to ₹2 lakh for the undergraduate programme at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is a welcome step towards reducing its dependence on the government to meet recurring costs. The human resource development minister, who heads the decision-making IIT Council, carries forward the logic of expanding the IITs' financial autonomy as had her predecessors in the UPA, who had raised the fee from ₹25,000 to ₹90,000 but baulked at accepting the Anil Kakodkar committee recommendation of 2011 to raise the fee to ₹2 lakh.

This will not keep out any eligible youngster either: the tuition is waived: in full for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, differently-abled, and those with annual family income of up to ₹1 lakh, and two-thirds for those with family incomes below ₹5 lakh. Up to 50% of the students will pay the enhanced tuition fees. Students admitted to IITs are guaranteed interest-free loans, and the bankability of the degree means a high approval rate with little or no collateral. The Australian model of deferred payments would be still better. In this, the fees are low for everyone but those who take up employment outside defined national priority areas have to pay additional fees, which make up for the subsidy, over a certain number of years. In the current Indian model, further innovation is possible to reduce the cost of educational loans for all disciplines.

The substantially higher tuition fee, however, is only a third or a fourth of the government's actual expenditure on an undergraduate IIT student. The IITs must aggressively focus on getting endowments, alumni contributions and donations, and increased earnings from consultancy, research and patents if they are serious about financial autonomy.

Times Of India ND 11/04/2016   P-2

Dreams take flight as aspiring aviators ply their craft

Manash.Gohain
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New Delhi: Young engineers from across the country gave wings to their ideas in aero modelling — showcasing their expertise in building an aircraft as well as an array of manoeuvres — at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on Sunday. The mini-aircraft, made by 11 teams from materials like plywood and fibre, displayed the passion that these students have to make it big in the aviation sector.

The highlight of the event was that the finalists were all non-IITians after IIT-Kanpur failed to reach the last stage.

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

For these participants, their sleek machines flying at the IIT-Delhi hockey ground was a result of burning the midnight oil for long. "Hours of hard work, reworking of formulae, fine tuning every aspect to meet various challenges and endless flying hours were key to our success," said Gaurav Joshi from Priyadarshini College of Engineering, Nagpur.

Joshi and his teammates, Omkar Pande, Sumit Choure
y and Niraj Khattar, won the competition, followed by the team from Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering and Research, Nagpur and Kalyani Government Engineering College, West Bengal.

The participants said that using the right material was important for making their machines to avoid 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.

With the competition crossing 300 teams this year, Pratyush Kumar, president of Boeing India, felt they are closer to their goal. "The primary reason is to generate awareness, which is being successfully served," he said. Kumar also linked the initiative to 'Make in India'. "When we speak of manufacturing, we need to have design, intellectual property, skilled workforce and capital. What you saw today is creation of a skilled workforce. For R&D, we are working with the IITs and other institutions as well as suppliers," he said.

"Many auto companies wants to enter the aerospace business. We are teaching students how to deliver to global standards. We are also skilling youths who cannot afford training through the 'learn and earn' programme at NSDC. The results are phenomenal as 30 such youths are with Boeing now," Kumar added.

Conducted in two stages — zonal and national level — the competition assessed the participants' expertise in building an aircraft. The machines were evaluated on parameters such as 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 in 2015.

Boeing India also sponsored aero modelling workshops conducted by the IITs where students interested in designing and building radio-controlled planes got a practical experience.

FLIGHT OF FANCY: The highlight of the event was that the finalists were all non-IITians

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Times Of India Education Times ND 11/04/2016   P-2

YOUNG SCIENTIST

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Geoscience Awards — 2014 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 5, 2016. The winners included Indra Sekhar Sen, assistant professor at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, selected for the Young Scientist Award, among others. The President said the exploration of mineral resources in the country required a stronger thrust with greater caution.

Times of India Education Times 11/04/2016   P-3

SCREENING

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay hosted the screening of *Buddha in a Traffic Jam* recently. Its director, Vivek Agnihotri, along with film actress Pallavi Joshi, attended the premiere. The screening was followed by an interactive session with Agnihotri. The discussion focused on understanding the need for technical and social innovation to address the challenges faced by the country today. Students said entrepreneurship was the key to uplifting people in society.

New director of IIT Delhi felicitated

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-telangana/new-director-of-iit-delhi-felicitated/article8459876.ece

The Industries Minister in the Government of Telangana, Jupally Krishna Rao, on Sunday felicitated Prof. Ramgopal who has been appointed director, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi.

The function was organised by the Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science (KITS), Warangal, and the Hyderabad chapter of IIT Delhi alumni.

Amar Ujala ND 11/04/2016   P-7

आईआईटी से ले सकेंगे रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग में डिग्री

अंकित कुमार गर्ग

रुड़की। अब आईआईटी रुड़की में रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग में भी पीएचडी एवं एमटेक ली जा सकेगी। सत्र 2016-17 से ही रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग के पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। हालांकि इसके लिए अभी संस्थान को आईआईटी सीनेट से हरी झंडी लेनी होगी। इन नए पाठ्यक्रमों में रेलवे अधिकारी भी प्रवेश ले सकेंगे। रेलवे अधिकारियों के लिए यह पहल उनके अपने क्षेत्र में विशेषज्ञता के लिहाज से काफी फायदेमंद साबित होगी।

केंद्र के ड्रीम प्रोजेक्ट में देश में हाईस्पीड ट्रेन चलाने, आधुनिक यातायात प्रबंधन, कंप्यूटर एवं इमेजिंग तकनीक से ट्रेनों का नियंत्रण एवं कम्यूनिकेशन, दुर्घटनाओं की आशंकाओं को शून्य करने, हाईटेक सुविधाओं के तहत

रेलवे अधिकारियों को भी मिलेगा पीएचडी-एमटेक का मौका

नए सत्र से रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग में पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने की कवायद

ई-टिकटिंग प्रणाली, खान-पान एवं ट्रेनों को विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर समय पर पहुंचने जैसी सुविधाओं को विकसित की योजनाएं शामिल हैं। कई दूसरे देशों में संचालित इन हाईटेक सुविधाओं से लैस रेल नेटवर्क को देश में भी कार्यान्वित करने के संबंध में केंद्र ने आईआईटी रुड़की को तवज्जो दी है। हाईस्पीड ट्रेन की परियोजनाओं को उन्नत तकनीक प्रदान करने के लिहाज से 22 दिसंबर को रेलवे मंत्रालय ने आईआईटी में सेंटर फॉर रेलवे रिसर्च सेंटर की स्थापना के लिए एमओयू भी साइन किया है।

JEE Main online exam held

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-telangana/jee-main-online-exam-held/article8459854.ece

The JEE (Main) exam conducted online on Saturday and Sunday was found to be moderate and balanced, and didn't bother the aspirants much. While mathematics questions were moderate, chemistry and physics were in the 'easy' category. Some students felt that though Mathematics was not tough, it was lengthy.

The exam was conducted in 132 cities in the country and abroad. According to IIT trainers, there were 90 questions from physics, chemistry and mathematics that were divided into three parts carrying 30 questions each. Each question carried four marks while 1/4 marks of total marks per question would be deducted for an incorrect answer. However, no marks would be deducted if the question is left un-attempted.

Two sheers were provided for rough work and students were asked to use the ball pen provided by the Board for rough work. Additional sheets were given to those who requested for more. Students said they were not allowed to carry a copy of the question paper after the exam.

The offline exam was held last Sunday. About 1.17 lakh candidates from Telangana and AP have registered for the test of which 59,731 are from Telangana. In the offline test, physics was found to be tough and analysts said those doing well in physics might end up successful. Scores in JEE Main will determine who would be eligible for the NITs and other centrally-funded technical institutes.

City boy wins 2 gold in IIT athletics meet

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/City-boy-wins-2-gold-in-IIT-athletics-meet/articleshow/51768888.cms

NAVI MUMBAI: Mandar Kumthekar (17), a class XII student of DAV Public School, Airoli, bagged two gold medals at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay Annual Athletics Gala held recently. He won the shot put event by sending the ball to a distance of 9.91m and obtained a 38.59m distance in the discus throw event.

"It' been a great season for Mandar who kept the winning campaign intact. He also made it to state-level athletics meet held last week at Chiplun in the shot put event," said his coach, Santosh Aswar.

Implement reservations for disabled in university: University Grants Commission

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/Implement-reservations-for-disabled-in-university-University-Grants-Commission/articleshow/51768994.cms

Aurangabad: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked state universities to send a report within a month regarding compliance with Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

In a circular issued to the vice-chancellor of state universities, UGC secretary Jaspal Sandhu has appealed to all institutions to comply with the orders and send a compliance report within one month.

"There are certain lacunas in the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act. Not complying with the orders of the Supreme Court it tantamount to contempt of court," he said.

The UGC has also mentioned the judgement of the apex court issued on March 26, 2014, observed that 18 years have

gone by since the inception of the act, but it is still be implemented in letter and spirit. The court had also directed the Centre and state governments to implement the provisions of the act by end of 2014.

Sanjay Shinde, public relations officer with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), said that the varsity has complied with the law. "In 2008, a recruitment drive was carried out in the university during which the provisions of the legislation were taken into account. Two persons with disabilities were recruited that time. Another recruitment is likely to begin soon and we will keep in mind the interests of persons with disabilities," he said.

Student activist Tukaram Saraf said the UGC should also prevail upon affiliated colleges to follow the act. "The UGC should also seek compliance from affiliated colleges. State universities should be asked to seek compliance on the part of colleges," he said.

The section mandates every establishment to reserve 3% job vacancies for persons or class of persons with disability. While prevailing upon the universities to show said compliance the UGC has stated that the Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity to all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including the persons with disabilities.

Business Standard ND 11/04/2016   P-6

B-School fees: Gap narrows with IIM-A benchmark

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 10 April

When it comes to tuition fees at business schools, it is a 'do what the leader does' mantra. The gap has narrowed this year between the bigger ones, including the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and that of the market leader, IIM-Ahmedabad.

Fees for the 2015-17 batch of the flagship postgraduate programme (PGP) at IIM-A are ₹18.5 lakh, while for IIM-Calcutta (IIM-C) it was ₹16.3 lakh, a gap of ₹2.2 lakh. This has narrowed to ₹50,000, with IIM-A raising these five per cent to ₹19.5 lakh and IIM-C doing so by 16 per cent to ₹19 lakh for the 2016-18 batch. Similarly, IIM-Lucknow revised its fee from ₹10.2 lakh to ₹14 lakh and IIM-Kozhikode from ₹13 lakh to ₹16 lakh, thereby reducing the gap between them and IIM-A to ₹5.5 lakh and ₹3.5 lakh from ₹8.3 lakh and ₹5.5 lakh, respectively.

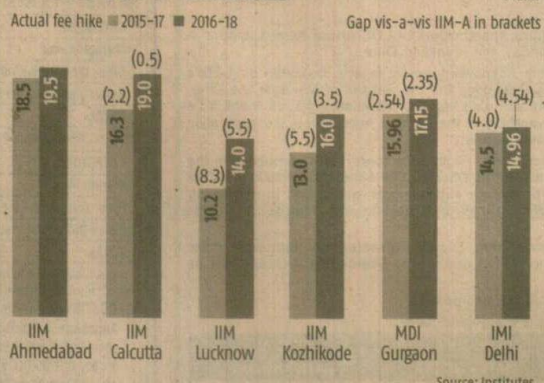According to Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner at KPMG in India, it has been a tradition in man-agement education to follow the leader in this manner. "It has been a tradition that IIM-A takes a step and others tend to follow. The only one to have taken a different path was ISB (Indian School of Business), which recognised that theirs was a one-year programme for executives and, hence, not comparable with the two-year programmes of IIMs. They went on to charge almost close to ₹30 lakh," he says.

While B-schools have cited rising costs and inflation as reasons, some also see it as a strategic move to match IIM-A in terms of quality per-ception. "Price is a signal of quality. If other IIMs and top B-schools don't increase their fees, they are afraid people will feel they are offering a lesser quality than IIM-A. Hence, we see other IIMs and B-schools nar-rowing the gap," says Anindya Sen, professor of economics at IIM-C.

"It is just a reflection of what the market is willing to pay," says Ramaswamy. "For example, next year, if technology-based learning goes to a different level, it could mean heavy infrastructure spend-ing at the IIMs and might drive the fees further. Even if the incr-ease is by ₹4-5 lakh, do you think people will not join IIMs? Curr-ently, it is a seller's market in man-agement education."

Seconding him is Shailesh Gandhi, dean, programmes, at IIM-A. "Probably, they (other B-schools) are benchmarking as to what the market is feeling to pay. In fact, if you look at mid-rung B-schools' fees, they would be charging more than the new IIMs," he says.

Sen credits IIM-A for reading the trend early. Over recent years, it has kept revising fees year-on-year, bar-ring now and then.. Gandhi says in the past four years, their average (annual) fee rise has been five to six per cent. IIM-A revised the fee for PGP programmes, including the agri business one, by 6.9 per cent for the 2012-14 batch, 7.1 per cent for the 2013-15 one, zero per cent for 2014-16 and 11.4 per cent for the 2015-17 batch.

FEES AT TOP B-SCHOOLS

₹ lakh

Actual fee hike ■ 2015-17 ■ 2016-18   Gap vis-a-vis IIM-A in brackets

B-School	2015-17	2016-18	Gap
IIM Ahmedabad	18.5	19.5	(0.5)
IIM Calcutta	16.3	19.0	(2.2)
IIM Lucknow	10.2	14.0	(8.3) / (5.5)
IIM Kozhikode	13.0	16.0	(5.5) / (3.5)
MDI Gurgaon	15.96	17.45	(2.54) / (2.35)
IMI Delhi	14.5	14.96	(4.0) / (4.54)

Source: Institutes

April 10

Ranking not IIT-M's goal, says its director

http://newstodaynet.com/chennai/ranking-not-iit-ms-goal-says-its-director

Chennai: Strongly emphasising that scoring a top rank was not in the priority list of IIT-Madras, the director of the reputed institution, Bhaskar Ramamurthi, categorically said that being picked as India's best engineering college by the HRD Ministry in the National Institutional Ranking Framework this year, was a result of the combined effort put in by research scholars, teachers and students of IIT-Madras.

In an interaction with 'News Today', Bhaskar expressed happiness that IIT-M has been ranked number one in teaching and research coming ahead of IIT-Mumbai and IIT-Kharagpur. "It is definitely a moment to rejoice for everyone associated with the institute," he said adding that the primary goal of the institute is to pursue the strategic plan. "We have a very well-articulated strategic plan for 2020," he added.

"There are several parameters that were taken into consideration by the HRD Ministry and hence the credit needs to go to the amount of research that was put in by the scholars, the industry collaborations we have had over a span of three years and the inclusive approach we have adopted," he explained in detail, adding that the outreach programmes and the international mergers the institution has had with reputed industries were taken into consideration by HRD Ministry before releasing the rank list.

"We have very clear and quantifiable objectives and our only aim is to steadily achieve these objectives," he stresses, admitting that there is a challenging task ahead for the institution. "We can't achieve these objectives overnight but our Board is monitoring how we are progressing every year," he said.

He added that the top rank has infused a sense of commitment among the faculty members. "There is a lot of commitment now. We are also planning to increase the number of PhD students dramatically. Even faculty promotions are going to be based on various parameters including research and teaching. So, all of them is what contributes to the overall progress," he said.

Boeing and Indian Institutes of Technology Conduct National Aero-modelling Competition Finals in New Delhi

http://businesswireindia.com/news/news-details/boeing-indian-institutes-technology-conduct-national-aero-modelling-competition-finals-new-delhi/48137

- *Competition attracts participation from 215 teams comprising more than 670 engineering students from across the country*
- *Encourages next generation of engineers to work for the success of India's aerospace industry*

Hundreds of young Indian engineers competed in the finals of the annual National Aero-modelling Competition organised by Boeing [NYSE: BA] in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The 2016 competition at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, which provided a national platform for students to demonstrate their aero-modelling skills, was designed to encourage future engineering professionals towards aerospace careers.

"It is inspiring to see the momentum that our National Aero-modelling Competition has gained over the past three years," said Pratyush Kumar, president, Boeing India. "This initiative has captured the hearts and minds of young engineers like never before, and will help develop talent that will shape the future of the Indian aerospace industry. We would like to thank the IITs for helping us to enable this competition where more than 670 young engineers participated this year."

Launched in 2013, the Boeing-IIT Aero-modelling Competition is designed to enhance participation and interest in aviation activities, while it educates, recognises and rewards talented aerospace enthusiasts and innovators in India.

"We believe that technical events such as National Aeromodelling Competition greatly help in exciting our present generation of students about science, engineering and technology," said Dr. Anurag Sharma, Dean, Academics IIT Delhi. "Activities such as this align with IIT-Delhi's vision to promote design/practical experience among students through multiple curricular and co-curricular activities."

Starting January 2016, the zonal competitions were organised in conjunction with the technical festivals at IIT-Madras, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Bombay and IIT-Kanpur and the final national competition was held at IIT-Delhi. A total of 13 winning

zonal teams, made it to the national level in New Delhi. Along with the competition, Boeing also sponsored aero-modelling workshops conducted by the respective IITs. This was an additional platform where students interested in designing and building radio-controlled planes got real time experience in designing and building them.

Boeing has an ongoing partnership with IIT-Mumbai for the National Centre for Aerospace Innovation & Research (NCAIR) to promote aerospace manufacturing capability development.

IIT-Ropar to start offshore teacher hunt

http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/iit-ropar-to-start-offshore-teacher-hunt/story-oBsb2m3EEVREJVaRmBq5kM.html

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here will make offshore recruitment of teachers to improve its standard.
"We will visit the UK, the US, and Canada from May 23 to June 12 for interviews to select the best teachers from the Indian diaspora and try to bring them back," IIT-Ropar director Sarit K Das told HT. The scouting team will have experts from IIT-Roorkee; Central Power Research Institute; and the Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bengaluru, as well on board.

Das said IIT-Ropar would double its student-and-faculty strength in 18 months, and take it to 2,400 and 250, respectively, by 2020, besides having 10 teaching departments by then. "It is a difficult task but we will do it," said the director, satisfied by the 9th all-India rank of this IIT in the 2016 survey by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). "To break into India's top 10 engineering institutes is a big achievement for any new institute," he said, adding: "We aim at being in the top 5 research and teaching institutes now."

IIT-Ropar, he said, would also help the region's engineering colleges grow. The institute will help its associate colleges with student internship, faculty training, and field research. Das claimed that its new 500-acre campus will be ready by next summer and, later this year, it will start moving its departments from the transit campus. "We'll have a B-Tech civil engineering programme from the next session, besides chemical engineering and biomedical technology courses from 2017," he said.

M-Tech in computer science and electrical engineering are new programmes coming up in the next academic session. In quality of research, said Das, the Ropar campus was ahead of many other IITs, since it selected its focus areas (agriculture, health, defence, manufacturing, and skill development research) based on national and state interests, existing facilities, international trends, and usefulness. "These focus areas will help address the local problems of the state, by giving it better irrigation, fertilisers, and cancer research, and taking care of the needs of the state industry," said the director.

This IIT also received `5 crore from the Centre for building a technology business incubator in Punjab to contribute to the 'Start-up India' programme. The institute will hold Industrial-Academia conclave and 'Start-up' Day on May 9 and 10.

IIT-Kgp wins top award for patents

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/iitkgp-wins-top-award-for-patents/article8456374.ece

The IIT-Kharagpur has won an award by the Indian government for being the top academic institute for patents in 2016.

IIT-Kgp director Partha Pratim Chakraborty said they have received a letter from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry saying the Institute has been awarded the prize for 'Top Academic Institute for Patents 2016'.

"Our '100 patents drive' efforts are now giving results," he said while congratulating his team. The award will be given on April 26 in Delhi by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a function jointly organised for the celebration of World IP Day by the Indian Intellectual Property office.

The Indian Intellectual property office confers national intellectual property awards on outstanding innovators, organisations and companies in the fields of patents, designs, trademarks, and geographical indications on the occasion of World IP Day every year. The National IP Award carries an amount of Rs.1,00,000, a citation and a memento. To simplify the process of patent filing by students as well as professors who have done some substantial research within the institute, the IIT has been running an IP Portal.

We had no inkling about NIRF ranking drive: Varsities

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

ALL ABOUT NIRF

UGC CHAIRMAN VED PRAKASH HAD WRITTEN 'MOST IMMEDIATE' LETTER TO VCs OF ALL UNIVERSITIES (CENTRAL, STATE, DEEMED AND PRIVATE) ON NOVEMBER 21 LAST INFORMING THEM ABOUT NIRF MOVE, URGING THEM TO REGISTER AND 'ACCORD TOP MOST PRIORITY' TO IT

In what would come as a surprise, many universities of Bihar were unaware of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drive of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD), which published its report earlier this week. This, despite the chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), Ved Prakash, writing a 'most immediate' letter to the vice-chancellors (VCs) of all universities (central, state, deemed and private) on November 21 last year informing them about the NIRF move, urging them to register and "accord TOP MOST PRIORITY to it."

The vice-chancellors of various Bihar universities, including Patna University, told HT on Saturday that they had no information about the ranking drive or even the said letter. "We had no information that any such exercise was going on. As such, we could not participate," said vice-chancellor of Magadh University Mohammad Ishtiyaque. On being asked about the letter, the MU VC said he had not seen it. When asked. vice chancellor of Veer Kunwar Singh University (VKSU), Ara, Leela Chand Saha, said, "I did not know about the drive. Else, we would have definitely participated. I am also confident that we would have bagged good ranking, as we are not inferior to any university in the state." About the letter, he said, "I became VKSU VC in January this year. I had no information about the letter sent last year." The VC of KSD Sanskrit University, Darbhanga, Dev Narayan Jha, said, "It (the letter) is not in my knowledge." Even YC Simhadri, VC of PU, the seventh oldest university of India, said he had not seen the letter. "I have also not seen the rankings. If we were inspected, we would have definitely got rank, as PU is functioning with full efficiency and our academic activities are streamlined," said Simhadri. "If PU's name is not there in the list, it is the mistake of those conducting the survey and not the university," he added. In his November 21 letter, UGC chairman Prakash had the VCs of all universities, "register your university and provide data as per instructions given on NIRF website and get your institution ranked." He had also requested them "to accord 'TOP MOST PRIORITY' to the matter." The letter is available on the UGC website. HT tried

calling UGC chairman Ved Prakash's office in Delhi for a comment. However, the office landline was not answered despite several attempts. On a different note, Ishtiyaque said, getting a rank would have been difficult, as state universities did not have the required faculty strength. "It is impossible to conduct research, publish papers or conduct classes without the required faculty strength. Why would any university, which lacks adequate number of teachers or sufficient classrooms, participate in the survey?" he wondered. "Students are suffering. Classrooms built 50 years ago to teach 50 students are inadequate to teach the large number of students that are admitted now," he added. The Central University of South Bihar, which figures at the 94th position, is the lone university from Bihar to figure Set up by MHRD in September last year, NIRF had sought participation from universities, besides institutes of engineering, pharmacy and management for ranking survey. Altogether, 3,565 institutions from all categories, including 233 universities, participated in the drive. The MHRD then released four lists, identifying top 100 universities and 100 institutions, each of engineering, pharmacy and management in India. The parameters for ranking were 'Teaching, Learning and Resources' (TLR), 'Research Productivity, Impact and IPR' (RPII), in NIRF top 100 university rank list. Among engineering institutes, IITPatna is positioned at the 10th spot, while NITPatna 'Graduation Outcome (GO)', 'Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)' and 'Perception (PR)'. Different weightage was given to each category based on the type of institution. For universities, the weightage of RPII was highest at 40%, followed by 30% for TLR, 10% for perception, and 5% each for GO and OI. Participation was voluntary. A webbased platform Institutions accredited/ affiliated to University Grants Commission (UGC) of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had been made available for registration from November 2. bagged 84th rank. No institution from Bihar figures in the list of management or pharmacy institutes

April 09

After IIT, NIT Set to Undergo Shocking Fee Structure Revision

http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/After-IIT-NIT-Set-to-Undergo-Shocking-Fee-Structure-Revision/2016/04/09/article3370753.ece

NEW DELHI: Close to the heels of the government clearing a 125 per cent fee hike for IIT undergraduate programmes, the tuition fees of National Institute of Technology (NIT) is also set to rise, a final call of which is expected soon. In October last year, the NIT council had proposed a fee hike from `70,000 to `1.25 lakh-1.4 lakh.

Officials in the HRD Ministry on Friday indicated that the hike was imminent. HRD Minister Smriti Irani is expected to take a call soon on the proposed increase. A hike can also be expected for programmes offered by Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research. The hike, the officials said, was in line with a new funding model where the entire running costs of the publicly funded institutes would be recovered from students. The government will bear the capital expenditure for infrastructure creation, labs, equipment and research.

Meanwhile, even as the steep hike in the IITs are yet to sink in among a larger section of the students, officials made it clear that the hike in fees is also applicable to students who have already enrolled for the B.Tech programme. The Ministry had on Thursday cleared a proposal to hike the tuition fee of these prestigious institutes from `90,000 to `2 lakh. Along with this, it also approved the other proposal to scrap the weightage given to class XII board exams for calculating the JEE scores for admission to IITs and NITs. The changes were effected in keeping with the recommendation of an expert committee headed by IIT-Roorkee chairman Ashok Misra.

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IITs must expand too

To raise the annual fees to the IITs was the easy part. The need for pro-affirmative action with regard to tribals and SC/ST students has also been well met in the blanket concessions ordered, but more must be done with regard to helping the economically weaker students of merit gain access to interest-free bank loans. In doubling the scholastic fees, the institutes may realise a higher proportion of their actual costs. However, so much more needs to be done. First, the teacher-student ratio must be raised nearer to the ideal 10:1 in undergraduate courses and 1:1 in PG-UG ratios, as recommended by the Kakodkar Committee. Second, the best teaching talent must feel encouraged to join these elite institutions so that the quality of IIT's 6,000 engineers who graduate annually from among the half a million engineers produced nationwide remains the highest.

While India produces just so many elite engineers a year from IITs, leading global institutions produce two and a half times that, besides hosting eight to 10 times as many scholars in research. Capacity expansion is a major task, but one that the ministry must find funds for. Given the largely deficient national scenario in research and postgraduate studies, scholars are still tempted to join the queues of our best youngsters going abroad. No sea change can be brought about in this in the short term. What is, however, most needed is a thrust towards higher quality in all technical education as it is often the industry's grouse that most graduate engineers are hardly employable. There is a national need to raise the quality of technical education to keep the wheels of production moving.

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Sisodia hits out at Centre over hike in fees at IITs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

Asserting that policy decisions regarding premier institutions need to be deliberated by various stakeholders, including academicians and students, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Friday criticised the fees hike and changes in admission process for selection to the IITs.

"How are these policies formed without any discussion? All of a sudden fees was hiked. There should be discussion on it as to how much government and students are bearing and how much more is needed and whether fees should be increased," he said.

The annual fees for undergraduate courses in IITs has been hiked from existing ₹90,000 to ₹2 lakh from the upcoming academic session, by the HRD Ministry on the basis of recommendations of an IIT panel.

Mr Sisodia also questioned the evaluation of students merely on the basis of entrance examination, adding, "overall performance" should be a basis for such judgment.

The HRD ministry based on the recommendations of the committee set up by IIT Council has also changed joint entrance examination pattern whereby Class 12 marks will not be considered in determining rankings for admissions to IITs from 2017. "Assessment of students merely on the basis of entrance test is not a good policy. I believe academicians, students, those studying in IIT should be consulted in such decisions," Mr Sisodia said.

Rashtrya Sahara ND 09/04/2016 P-09

आईआईटी : बढ़ी फीस का बोझ पुराने छात्रों पर भी

■ नई दिल्ली।
सहारा न्यूज ब्यूरो

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने नियमों में थोड़ा बदलाव करते हुए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के उन छात्रों से भी 90 हजार के बदले 2 लाख रुपये ट्यूशन फीस लेने का निश्चय किया है जो पहले से आईआईटी में हैं। इसका सीधा मतलब यह है कि ऐसे छात्र जो दूसरे साल, तीसरे साल या चौथे साल की पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं उनपर भी फीस बढ़ोतरी का असर होगा।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, इस संबंध में बनी हाईलेवल कमेटी चाहती थी कि प्रत्येक छात्र से कुछ न कुछ अतिरिक्त फीस लिया जाए। इसलिए उसने सिफारिश की थी कि अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के छात्रों से भी कुछ फीस ली जाए और सरकार फीस को स्कॉलरशिप के जरिए उन्हें वापस कर दे। हालांकि आईआईटी काउंसिल ने इस सुझाव को नहीं माना और उनसे फीस न लेने का फैसला जारी रखा। मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी के मुताबिक, इस संबंध में एक सर्कुलर सभी आईआईटी को भेज दिया गया है।

मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने बताया कि अजा, अजजा और भिन्न रूप से सक्षम छात्रों की पूरी ट्यूशन फीस माफ रहेगी। अभी तक भी अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के छात्रों की पूरी ट्यूशन फीस माफ ही होती है। इसमें बदलाव के नाम पर भिन्न रूप से सक्षम छात्रों को भी जोड़ा गया है।

आईआईटी रोपड़ के डायरेक्टर प्रो. शरित के. दास ने 'राष्ट्रीय सहारा' को बताया कि कोई छात्र ऐसा नहीं होगा जो खर्च की वजह से आईआईटी में नहीं पढ़ पाएगा। क्योंकि, बहुत सारे छात्र छूट में शामिल हो जाएंगे। इसके अलावा काफी छात्र ऐसे हैं जिनके परिवार की आर्थिक हालत अच्छी है और उनके लिए बढ़ी फीस बोझ नहीं होगी। फिर भी किसी छात्र को दिक्कत होती है तो ब्याज मुक्त लोन का भी प्रावधान रखा गया है।

Tech campuses to go green with central aid

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/Tech-campuses-to-go-green-with-central-aid/articleshow/51750815.cms

GUNG-HO ON SOLAR POWER

Benefits
➤ The institute's power consumption will reduce the burden on the power grid
➤ Institute's own system will become more reliable
➤ Reduction of carbon footprints
➤ Decrease in pollution

Subsidy may increase depending on campus location

MHRD to provide 30% subsidy to major academic campuses, including IIT-Kharagpur and IIEST, for installation of rooftop-mounted solar panels

Kolkata: Top technology institutes in Bengal like Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), NIT-Durgapur and IIT-Kharagpur, will soon turn into solar hubs with many already installing solar panels to become energy-efficient campuses.

The national solar mission, through the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) has persuaded the ministry of human resource and development to request all academic institutes to set up roof-mounted solar plants.

The HRD ministry is providing 30% subsidy, in some cases even more depending on the campus location, for the project.

By introducing solar panels, every institute's power consumption will reduce the burden on the power grid. "They will be less dependent on the power-grid supply and it will make their own system more reliable. Academic institutions will use this opportunity to enhance teaching and research activities and not merely as a capacity-building mechanism," said Prabodh Bajpai of IIT-Kharagpur, who is involved the solar power project.

The ministry has asked all major Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and National Institute of Technologies (NITs) to "go green".

While at IIT-Roorkee, the work on the solar campus is nearing completion, IIT-Kharagpur has embarked upon a completely new mission. The country's oldest IIT not only wants to become a solar energy efficient institute, but also wants to be self-reliant in power generation.

The institute has initiated the process of setting up a 1MW solar plant divided among different rooftops of academic buildings and hostels with 30% government subsidy.

"More than 100kW grid-connected solar PV plant projects have been operating for more than a year and an additional 150kW grid-connected solar PV plant projects are expected to be commissioned by this July. Another 250kW grid-connected solar PV plant project is expected to be installed under a research project soon," Bajpai added.

At IIEST, the authorities have already installed several solar panels, said a senior official.

He added, "under an Indo-UK joint research project, a hybrid microgrid (of AC and DC buses) is being installed in the Sir J C Bose Laboratory complex using 40 kW rooftop mounted grid connected solar PV plant, 10 kW Fuel cell system, 25 kW wind emulator system, 25 kVA DG with battery and supercapacitor storage system. This will provide microgrid test facility for testing of various AC-DC interface devices and control algorithms on real time simulator."

"The solar mission is a priority for the government. The process is on track over the last few years," said additional secretary (technical education, MHRD) R Subrahmanyam. He said, "at the moment around 30-40 institutes have already applied to turn into solar campus. The process is on track over the last few years. IIT-Roorkee and NIT Silchar are on the verge of becoming a solar run campus," he said.

"The HRD ministry had taken the decision to turn all the central institutes into energy efficient campus by implementing renewable energy and introducing other energy conserving methods like replacing bulbs with LED lights. At NIT Suratkal, we have decided to allocate a fund of Rs 8 crore, to construct solar panels on the rooftop. The decision to attach solar panels and gradually convert into an energy efficient campus was taken in last October," said a senior faculty member at the institute.

This will not only reduce carbon footprint and make the campus green, but will also lessen pollution, feels IIT-Kharagpur director Partha Pratim Chakraborty.

The institute has also decided to set up a ground farm solar energy using solar panels. "We want to create new technology for the future apart from reducing processed fuel," added Chakraborty.

IIT professor sets up Education Park in rural Madhya Pradesh

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/iit-professor-education-rural-kids/1/638507.html

With an aim to improve education in rural areas, an IIT Bombay professor, Dr Chetan Singh Solanki has founded an educational park for kids of Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh.

The aim of establishing this non-profit school is to provide quality of education to backward students in rural areas so as to bring them in the mainstream of educational world.

"While speaking on this initiative, Dr Solanki said, "Quality education means a person should be self-sufficient after graduation." Moreover, the professor said that the infrastructure, quality of education, and teachers will be of same standard like other schools of urban areas.

While observing the basic amenities and electricity supply in rural areas, this school has been set up under fully solar powered system.

According to a recent report published in DNA, this educational park has over 1,000 kids enrolled from 40 villages.

In order to give adequate compensation and other facilities to the teachers, Solanki said that right now he is hoping to get crowdfunding to have a Teacher's Fellowship and also offer accommodation to the teaching staff.

Also, the Education Park needs funds for buying buses and building more classrooms.

Being a native of this district, Solanki himself has studied in this school that earlier had just one classroom.

He said, "Rural schools are not well equipped. Schemes like Mid-day meal are good only for enrollment."

According to Solanki, if the school's infrastructure improves, many middle-income families will be willing to send their children to study in this school.

"In such a big country, one Education Park is not sufficient. Once this model is complete, we want to replicate it in other places as well," concludes Dr Solanki.

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Academicians slam HRD's ranking of universities

New Delhi, April 8: The first-ever domestic rankings by the HRD ministry for educational institutions have invited criticism from some academicians who say that the list was full of "surprises" even as the ministry maintained that the rankings were based on the data submitted by the varsities.

The critics noted that placing of IIM-Udaipur above IIM-Kozhikode and IIM-Indore was surprising as was Jamia Millia Islamia being ranked at 83 while Jamia Hamdard University has been ranked at 18. "It is surprising that Jamia which is counted among the prominent universities in Delhi after DU and JNU has been ranked poorest at 83. We get record applications for limited seats. How have they judged us?," a JMI professor asked.

According to former JNU vice-chancellor S.K. Sopory, certain criteria were "absurd" and the HRD should do a review. "The criteria was developed by the ministry after wider consultation but there were certain absurd columns in the performa which we could not fill in. For instance, in the details of the visiting scholars there was a column asking for the PAN of the scholar, which we had to leave blank," he told PTI.

"There is a scope for improvement and HRD should do a review of the criteria for further rankings. Also I believe record keeping is an issue with universities. Not all of them maintain their records as extensively and hence could have lost out in the rankings," he added.

HRD officials said some top instituions could not have figured in the ranking because they did not participate in the process. — *PTI*