Newspaper Clips
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MHRD's new project Vishwajeet aims to put IIT in top league of global rankings

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/mhrds-new-project-vishwajeet-aims-to-put-iit-in-top-league-of-global-rankings/articleshow/53626151.cms

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NEW DELHI: It's called Project VISHWAJEET. The name — which means Conqueror of the Universe — may suggest it is a defence mission, but it isn't that. The project is aimed at catapulting Indian Institutes of Technology to the top league of global academic rankings.

The game plan is currently being worked on at the Ministry of Human Resources Development. VISHWAJEET will aim to pick the IITs with greatest potential to climb up the global pecking order and then ensure close focus on them, backed with funding, so that they excel on all parameters.

The IIT Council is set to discuss the plan with all IITs and other stakeholders at a meeting presided over by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar on August 23. Among a handful of Indian institutes that figure on global listings like QS and Times, IITs are mostly ranked the highest.

However, their positions on the overall global list aren't very enviable, standing mostly at 200 and below. The Indian Institute of Science was ahead of IITs at 147 in the 2015 QS World University Rankings. Five IITs made it to the rankings in 2015 with IIT-Delhi at 179, IIT-Bombay at 202, IITMadras at 254, IIT-Kanpur at 271 and IIT-Kharagpur at 286. It is expected that IITs among thetop 250 will be selected for Project VISHWAJEET.

VISHWAJEET will towards identifying on which parameters the chosen IITs may be lagging behind and work in a targeted manner to address the shortcoming. For instance, QS Rankings rates institutes based on six indicators: academic reputation, employer reputation, student-faculty ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty and student ratio. Times Higher Education rankings have a set of similar five performance criteria. Indian institutes typically fall behind on the internationalisation parameters and also academic reputation when seen globally.

Minister Javadekar recently observed that the local institutes were lagging behind on the rankings due to "perception" issues.

The IIT Council will also look at such associated issues like opening up the IITs to foreign students —a plan that is expected to take off with the JEE 2017 entrance test which will be held abroad as well. Other issues expected to be on the agenda are proposals to bring in a campus recruitment format for faculty to catch the pool of young and new PhD holdersAlso in the works is a proposal to bring in a programme, Prime Minister's Research Fellows, to encourage research at IITs.

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boosting research and creating a new faculty pool.

Special funding will be earmarked for this. Reforms in the M Tech admission system as well as better paid teaching assistantship formulas are also planned. Other topics to be discussed by the IIT Council include setting up of Tinkerers' Labs at all IITs and the conduct of JEE 2017.

IITKGP gets Rs 48.75 cr for digital library
http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

NOW, THE LIBRARIES OF ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

KOLKATA: Following the successful launch of the National Digital Library (NDL) project at IIT Kharagpur (IITKGP), the Union ministry of human resource development (HRD) wants the institute to take it to the next level. It wants a National Digital Library (NDL) that will pave the way for easy access of quality educational material to various learners. The HRD ministry has already sanctioned Rs 48.75 crore to IIT Kharagpur for the second phase of the NDL project. Soon an NDL will provide opportunities to develop knowledge and skills to the entire population and help in building the human capital of the nation. "Now, the libraries of all colleges and universities will be available online. We would be asking all the institutions to digitise their libraries so that it can be linked with NDL. This will be a huge knowledge resource at the disposal of students free of cost," said PP Chakrabarti, director of IITKGP . At the end of PhaseI, NDL will have moderate volume of resources, fairly comprehensive PP CHAKRABARTI, director of IITKGP for school education, science and technology, researchers and general learners. But it will not be for post graduate and professional studies and domains like medical, law, management and banking, among others. PhaseII will cover these gaps and further scale up with respect to content volume, diversity, features and vernacular user interfaces. Also, books related to school level would be made available. This time, NDL will also have vernacular user interface for six more languages and the portal will be secure against cyber attacks. A mobile App would also be launched, along with provision of audio books. The portal will have special user interface for the differentlyabled users. The NDL PhaseII will take three to four to years.

More students get a chance to join IIT preparatory programme
http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

MUMBAI: The preparatory course under the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will have 107 students studying the oneyear programme this year. While the number is lower than last year —185 — authorities said more students are making their way into the oneyear programme because they don't make the mark in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Person With Disability (PWD) quotas. "For the past couple of years, many seats under ST and PWD quotas are going vacant, which gives more chances to students to be allotted the preparatory course. This helps the institute work on those students and prepare them for the course of their choice for the next academic year," said Dr KV Krishna, chairperson of Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2016. He said the Scheduled Castes (SC) quota seats have had no vacancy, therefore no one from that category could make it to the preparatory course in the past few years. "Almost every year, not all seats under the reserved categories get taken owing to the cutoffs, so this yearlong process helps the institute train students well. We also get to help students understand their strengths, so they choose the right course in the next academic year," said Dr Rajinder Singh, dean (undergraduate), student affairs, IIT Kharagpur. Of the 107 students who qualified for the preparatory course this year, 26 and 18 have been allotted at IIT (BHU) Varanasi and IIT Kharagpur respectively. Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, has been allotted 11 students, whereas IIT Roorkee and Kanpur have 10 and seven students allotted under the course. IITs in Bombay, Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Gandhinagar have been allotted two students each.

State to seek IIT tips on flyover future

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/State-to-seek-IIT-tips-on-flyover-future/articleshow/53643001.cms

KOLKATA: The government has decided to seek IIT-Kharagpur's recommendations on what to do with the existing portion of the collapsed Vivekananda flyover. The IIT study, along with the ongoing one by RITES, will help the state decide whether to demolish the structure or strengthen it without dismantling it.

A week into the flyover collapse on March 31, the state formed a committee to fix responsibility for the crash that killed 26 people. The panel, headed by chief secretary Basudeb Banerjee and comprising ex-IIT profs Anandapran Gupta and Swapan Majumdar, met at Nabanna on Wednesday. Gupta and Majumdar submitted their report on the crash cause. "The state will ask the IIT professors to scan the remaining portion and file a report on its stability," an official said.

The IIT experts have pointed out six points that led to the crash, including design inadequacy, inconsistency of material, fabrication and drawings of fabrication inadequacy, faulty approval of design, lack of quality check and improper project execution by KMDA.
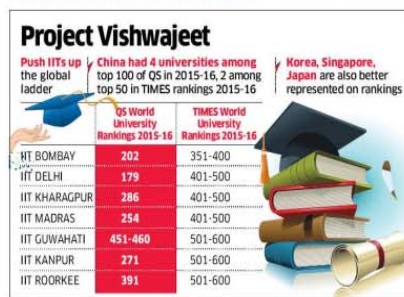
Police have started a case of murder and death due to negligence against IVRCL, the company that was building the flyover. Ten officials of IVRCL and chief engineer and executive engineer of Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) have been arrested for the collapse. Officials said more arrests are unlikely, and as police continue with the case proceedings, the government will now concentrate on "starting where the flyover fell."

August 10

Economics Times ND 10.08.2016   P-16

MHRD Plans to Put IITs in Top League of Global Rankings

ADDRESSING THE SHORTCOMINGS IIT Council is set to discuss the plan with all IITs and other stakeholders at a meeting presided over by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar on Aug 23

Project Vishwajeet

Push IITs up the global ladder | **China had 4 universities among** top 100 of QS in 2015-16, 2 among top 50 in TIMES rankings 2015-16 | **Korea, Singapore, Japan** are also better represented on rankings

	QS World University Rankings 2015-16	TIMES World University Rankings 2015-16
IIT BOMBAY	202	351-400
IIT DELHI	179	401-500
IIT KHARAGPUR	286	401-500
IIT MADRAS	254	401-500
IIT GUWAHATI	451-460	501-600
IIT KANPUR	271	501-600
IIT ROORKEE	391	501-600

Anubhuti.Vishnoi
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नौकरी में नाकाम छात्रों को मौका...

आईआईटी कराएगी प्री-इंटर्नशिप

80% को मिलती है नौकरी

नई दिल्ली. देश के आईआईटी इंस्टीट्यूट्स हर साल 05 से 15 फीसदी छात्रों को नौकरी दिलाने में नाकाम साबित हो रहे हैं। इसे देखते हुए लगभग सभी आईआईटी संस्थानों ने प्री-इंटर्नशिप स्कीम तैयार की है। इसमें छात्रों को विभिन्न कंपनियों में इंटर्नशिप के लिए भेजा जा रहा है।

दरअसल, यह स्कीम पहले से जारी इंटर्नशिप प्रोग्राम से अलग है। इसके तहत नौकरी के लिए प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए भेजा जा रहा है ताकि वे दिसंबर में होने वाले फाइनल प्लेसमेंट में अच्छे पैकेज पा सकें। फाइनल प्लेसमेंट की तिथियों को देखते हुए इसे मई के बाद शुरू किया जाएगा। यही नहीं, बाकायदा छात्रों को लिए प्री-इंटर्नशिप प्रोग्राम के सत्र भी आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं। इनसे छात्रों को फायदा होगा।

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी के प्लेसमेंट कमेटी के प्रमुख कस्तूब मोहंती ने बताया कि इसमें सभी संस्थान एक साथ एक समय पर विभिन्न सत्रों में वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस के जरिये क्लास आयोजित करेंगे। शैक्षणिक प्रदर्शन बेहतर करने के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली ने इस साल की शुरुआत ट्यूटोरियल स्कीम लॉन्च की थी।

साक्षरता मिशन भी जुटेगा गंगा को निर्मल रखने के कार्यक्रम में

■ **विनोद के शुक्ल**

नई दिल्ली। एसएनबी

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से जुड़ा साक्षरता मिशन अब गंगा के किनारे बसे ऐसे गांव जो साक्षरता मिशन से जुड़े हुए हैं उन गांव के लोगों को गंगा को प्रदूषण से बचाने व मुक्त रखने को लेकर जागरूक करेगा। मंत्रालय ने इस काम के लिए बच्चों के बीच डिबेट और क्विज प्रतियोगिताएं और बड़ों की लिए गोष्ठियों के माध्यम से गंगा को निर्मल रखने की बात पहुंचाने का निर्णय किया है और इसके लिए गंगा रही पुकार का नारा दिया गया है।

मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि पांच प्रदेशों से होकर बहने वाली गंगा लगभग 1657 ग्राम पंचायतों से होकर गुजरती है और 53 जिले इसमें शामिल है लेकिन साक्षरता मिशन के अंतर्गत पड़ने वाले 45 जिलो के 1438 ग्राम पंचायतों को ही इसमें शामिल किये जा रहा है। इस काम में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय का साक्षरता मिशन और नेशनल मिशन फॉर क्लीन गंगा मिलकर काम कर रहे है। मंत्रालय की योजना है की पहले चरण में गंगा के किनारे के बसे गांव के लोगों को इसके लिए जागरूक करने की है।

सूत्रों के अनुसार हालाँकि इस काम के लिए सरकार की कई एजेंसिया काम कर रही है यहाँ तक कि भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) भी इस काम में कुछ भूमिका निभा रहे है लेकिन आईआईटी इस काम में सिर्फ तकनीकी मदद कर रहे है जबकि साक्षरता मिशन लोगों को इसके लिए तैयार कर रहा है जो लोगों को गंगा प्रदूषित करने वालो को रोकेंगे। साक्षरता मिशन के माध्यम से लोगो को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए मंत्रालय लगभग 250 गैर सरकारी संस्थानों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है और इससे जुड़े कार्यकर्ता गांवों में अब तक पहुच कर काम शुरू भी कर दिया है।

मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि साक्षरता मिशन के तहत अब तक लोगो को इलेक्टोरल लिटरेसी के बारे में बताया जा चुका है, इसके आलावा दूसरा थीम है फाइनेंसियल लिटरेसी जो की मंत्रालय ने स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के साथ मिलकर किया है, लीगल लिटरेसी पर भी मंत्रालय ने लोगो को जागरूक किया है और इस बार मंत्रालय की योजना पर्यावरण साक्षरता देने की है और गंगा की सफाई उसी कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है। मंत्रालय का मानना है कि अगर गंगा के किनारे के गांवों के लोग जागरूक हो जाते है तो गंगा को प्रदूषित होने से काफी हद तक रोका जा सकता है।

Hindustan Times ND 10.08.2016   P-15

Reconsider expulsion of SC, ST students: Govt to IIT-R

Neelam Pandey

■ neelam.pandey@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The ministry of human resource development (HRD) has asked the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee (IIT-R) to reconsider the decision to expel 10 students — belonging to socially backward sections of the society — for poor academic performance, sources said.

The BJP-led government's move comes months after it burnt its fingers over its handling of the death of Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula.

IIT-R had expelled the BTech students, who had scored a cumulative grade-point average (CGPA) of less than five, in their first-year exams. Sources said all of these students belong to either SC, ST or OBC categories.

In 2015, the institute had expelled 72 students for poor academic performance. But the students were later readmitted on strict conditions.

"The ministry has asked the institute to reconsider its decision. The matter will be presented before the senate that will take a final call," said a senior HRD official.

Sources said the senate is likely to take a decision on August 20. The ministry official said only

INTERVENTION

Sources said as many of the expelled students belong to socially backward sections, the BJP-led central government does not want to take harsh decisions against them as it is already facing a backlash over its 'anti-Dalit' attitude.

IIT Roorkee could take a decision on their re-admisssion but said the ministry has requested them to consider it. As per IIT rules, if a student fails to get a minimum CGPA of 5, they have to be expelled as there is no provision of repeating the semester.

Ministry sources said the 72 students who were expelled and were given another chance managed to perform quite well in their re-examination.

On June 7 this year, an official memorandum had announced the expulsion of 11 first year BTech students.

However, one student was later given a chance to take a re-exam after taking into account his physical disability. The names of the rest of the students were removed from the rolls and they were denied a chance to register themselves again.

Indian Express ND 10.08.2016   P-12

Students protest outside the IIT-Kanpur campus on Tuesday. *Express*

IIT-Kanpur student dies, protest erupts

ISHITA MISHRA
AGRA, AUGUST 9

HUNDREDS OF students of IIT-Kanpur Tuesday blocked G T Road and staged a demonstration outside the campus accusing the doctors of the institute's health centre of harassment and medical negligence after a 26-year-old research scholar died of cardiac arrest Monday.

Four employees of the IIT were booked in connection with the death, even as the institute formed a committee to probe the incident.

Police said Alok Pandey, a PhD student from Ghazipur, complained of severe pain in the chest and neck on Monday afternoon. He was rushed to the health centre of the institute, from where he was referred to Kamlapat Singhania Heart Institute. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Soon after the news of Alok's death spread, students from his hostel alleged that he was administered a wrong injection by IIT-Kanpur Medical Officer Dr Shailendra Kishore that led to his death.

Alok's brother, Adarsh, got an FIR lodged against four employees of the institute. Alok's guide Professor Kamal Kekar, Dr Shailendra Kishore, the administrator of the health centre and the warden in-charge have been booked under Section 304 of the IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

Adarsh alleged that his brother was under acute pressure in the IIT. "He was in depression and had complained of harassment by the hostel warden and his PhD guide," he alleged.