Newspaper Clips
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ASIAN AGE ND 2/8/2014 P-5

IITs, NITs pulled up by HC for failing to deal with vacant seats

PREETY ACHARYA
NEW DELHI, AUG. 1

The Delhi high court on Friday pulled up Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) across the country for failing to tackle the issue of vacant seats each academic year.

"They cannot afford any red-tapism in this regard and which, if becomes known to the world at large, may make them a laughing stock in the eyes of their clients," the court said.

"It is rather intriguing to know that the IITs and the NITs, which are providing consultancy to others on technical matters, are unable to themselves find a solution for synchronising the admissions to eliminate or at least minimise the issue of vacant seats," said the court.

The court also said that they do not need years to develop a programme for synchronisation of admissions. It also added that the institutions and their students are best equipped to find a solution for the concerned issue.

"The filling up of vacant seats cannot be at the cost of maintaining standards of education and merit in IITs," said the court. It made these observations while disposing of a petition requesting directions to IITs and NITs to address the issue.

The ministry of human resource development has been directed to ensure that a Technical Committee is set up to deal with issues related to admission processes in IITs and NITs by the court. It has also been asked to hold regular consultations to figure out the process for common counselling of admissions at these institutes.

Mail Today ND 02-Aug-14 P-9

Court asks MHRD to get its NIT & IIT act together

THE Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Ministry of Human Resource Development to sort out the common counselling exercise held for admissions to NITs and IITs and implement the changes from the next academic session.

The ministry and the IITs were also directed to consider whether those reserved seats that remain vacant can be transferred to the general category. The court ordered that a decision on the transfer of seats and on the possibility of "lateral entry to IITs in the second year" be taken before November 30.

A Technical Committee constituted to look into the above needs to hold "regular sittings/consultations, as frequently as required, and sorts out the process for common counselling for admissions to NITs and IITs and the said process is implemented for admissions from the academic year 2015-16", the court told the ministry.

The court directions came on a plea seeking a direction to IITs and NITs to follow the Centre's directive that a common database be prepared to ensure that seats do not remain vacant, if a student takes admission in two different engineering colleges.

The plea filed through senior counsel Prashant Bhushan claimed that a common database will enable engineering colleges, run by IITs and NITs, in filling up the vacant seats in case a student takes up admission in two colleges.

Mail Today/New Delhi

Times Of India ND 02/08/2014
P-48

Common counselling for IITs, NITs

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New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Friday directed the HRD ministry to ensure common counselling for admission to IITs/NITs from 2015. The ministry and IITs have also been asked to consider whether a provision for lateral entry into IITs in second year from the NITs and other engineering colleges can be allowed.

The ministry has also been asked to consider that reserved seats, if not filled, can be transferred to general category students.

A bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw took potshot at IITs/NITs and said, "It is otherwise rather intriguing to know that the IITs and NITs which are providing consultancy to others on technical matters, are unable to themselves find a solution."

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

Pioneer ND 02-Aug-14
P-4

'Ensure common counselling for IITs/NITs qualifiers'

New Delhi: In a landmark judgment which will benefit several IIT qualifiers and enrolled students, the Delhi High Court has directed HRD Ministry to ensure common counselling for IITs/NITs admissions in the 2015-16 academic year.The order will prevent waste of "scarce" natural resource and the vacant seat will go to other deserving candidates. The petitioner had alleged that IITs have been opposing the suggestion that a common database be prepared of all the candidates who clear the IIT and the NIT entrance examination. ***PNS***

Delhi HC pulls up IITs, NITs for not addressing vacant seats issue

Saturday, 2 August 2014 - 6:45am IST | Place: New Delhi | Agency: DNA

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-delhi-hc-pulls-up-iits-nits-for-not-addressing-vacant-seats-issue-2007202

The Delhi high court on Friday warned IITs and NITs from making themselves a "laughing stock" in the eyes of the world if, despite being at the cutting edge of technology and innovation, they failed to find a solution to the perennial problem of seats left vacant in IITs every academic year.

Giving its ruling on a PIL by IIT professor Rajeev Kumar concerning alleged discrepancies, irregularities and arbitrariness in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology, the court said, "We wonder whether it is the proverbial situation of it being darkest beneath the lamp."

The court found it "intriguing" to see IITs and NITs, which provide consultancy to everyone on complex technical matters, unable to synchronise admissions. "The said institutions themselves and their students are best equipped in today's time of technology, when software programmes developed by IITians are serving nearly every human need, to find a solution to the malady, which admittedly exists and cure whereof has eluded all," the two-judge bench of Chief Justice J Rohini and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw said.

Noting that it doesn't need years to develop a programme to synchronise admissions, the court said that IITs and NITs cannot afford any red-tapism. "They cannot afford any red-tapism in this regard and which, if it becomes known to the world at large, may make them a laughing stock in the eyes of their clients," the court observed.

The PIL stated that there were hundreds of seats remaining vacant in IITs each year, that this had a cascading effect year after year, and that till 2004, some of these vacant seats were being filled up by wards of the employees and faculty members of IITs who were "otherwise not eligible for admission".

In its ruling, the court directed the ministry of human resource development to ensure common counselling for admissions to NITs and IITs from academic year 2015-16. And while it said that "filling up of vacant seats cannot be at the cost of maintaining standards of education and merit in IITs", it has sought to know from the HRD ministry by November 30, whether lateral entry into IITs in second year from NITs and other engineering colleges was possible. Two, whether reserved category seats in IITs, if they remained unfilled, can be transferred to general category.

Amar Ujala ND 02-Aug-14 P-7

आईआईटी और एनआईटी की खाली सीटें भरने का निर्देश

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) और नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एनआईटी) में खाली पड़ी सीटों को लेकर हाईकोर्ट ने कड़ी फटकार लगाई है। हाईकोर्ट ने कहा कि इस संबंध में किसी तरह की लालफीताशाही बर्दाश्त नहीं की जाएगी। सुनवाई के दौरान मुख्य न्यायमूर्ति जी. रोहिणी ने कहा कि जो आईआईटी और एनआईटी तकनीकी मुद्दों पर सलाह देते हैं, वह खाली पड़ी सीटों के मुद्दे को सुलझाने में नाकाम हैं, यह समझ से परे हैं। पीठ ने यह भी कहा कि इन खाली सीटों को शिक्षा के मानकों के साथ समझौता करके नहीं भरा जाना चाहिए।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 02-Aug-14 P-3

खाली सीटों की समस्या पर भी गौर करें आईआईटी, एनआईटी: दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट

▪ अदालत ने कहा : अगर यह बात दुनिया को पता चल जाएगी तो आप हंसी के पात्र बन जाएंगे

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने देश के प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी और एनआईटी जैसे संस्थानों में खाली सीटों पर समस्या पर चिंता जताई है। कोर्ट ने इन संस्थानों को इसके लिए शुक्रवार को फटकार भी लगाई। और इस पर गौर करने को भी कहा।

चीफ जस्टिस जी. रोहिणी की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने कहा, 'यह विचलित कर देता है। तकनीकी मामलों में दूसरों को सलाह देने वाले आईआईटी और एनआईटी एडमिशन प्रक्रिया से सामंजस्य बैठाने में नाकाम रहे। कोर्ट ने कहा, 'अगर यह बात पूरी दुनिया को पता चल जाएगी तो आप अपने क्लाइंट्स के बीच हंसी का पात्र बन जाएंगे।'

रिक्त आरक्षित सीटों पर विचार करे केंद्र

हाईकोर्ट ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को भी निर्देश दिया। कहा कि वह आईआईटी में खाली आरक्षित सीटों को सामान्य श्रेणी की सीटों में तब्दील करने के बारे में विचार करे। इस संबंध में 30 नवंबर तक जवाब दाखिल किया जाए।

IIT-Gandhinagar to hold third convocation today

TNN | Aug 2, 2014, 01.42 AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/IIT-Gandhinagar-to-hold-third-convocation-today/articleshow/39442070.cms?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=digest_section

AHMEDABAD: Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) will hold its third convocation on Saturday.

This year, the institute will award degrees to its first batch of PhD students. A total of 121 students of BTech, 36 of MTech and two of PhD will be awarded degrees.

The institute will also award 40 medals and awards for academic, sports, leadership and community service.

The number of medals and awards has increased to 40 this year, from 28 last year. IIT-Gn has introduced many medals to encourage values and ethics among students, apart from pursuit of academic performance.

The institute will also give other awards such as ?Pioneer Batch Award for Outstanding Leadership' to encourage leadership qualities among students and the ?Award for Outstanding Performance in Arts and Culture' to stimulate interest in arts and culture.

K Ventakaramanan, chief executive officer and managing director at Larsen and Toubro Limited, will deliver the convocation speech.

CBI lodges PE against top official of IIT, Bhubaneswar

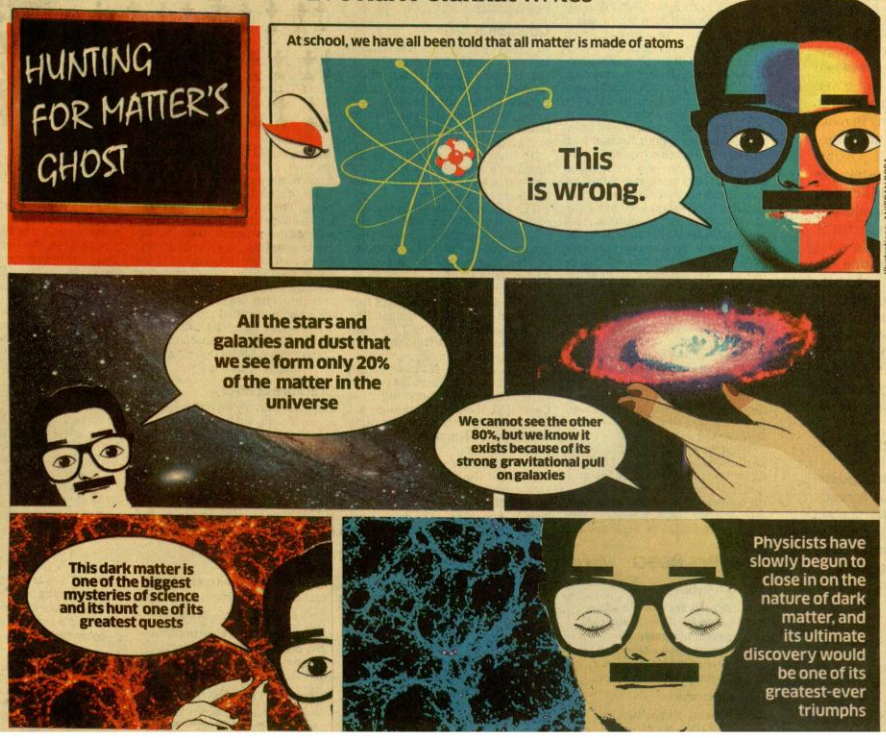
Hindustan Times (Delhi)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has begun a preliminary probe against a top official of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, to examine his alleged role in irregularities related to the appointment of a few faculty members on contract. According to the CBI’s Preliminary Enquiry, the official allegedly appointed a counsellor in violation of rules.

Economic Times ND 02-Aug-14 P-9

The Search for Dark Matter

Physicists are moving in droves to this field, as the subject has become the big physics problem after the discovery of the **Higgs boson**, ET's **Hari Pulakkat** writes



Illustrations: ANIRBAN BORA

For over 20 years, Pijushpani Bhattacharjee made a living by worrying about exotic stuff far away in the universe. Specifically, he has worked on the origin of the mysterious high energy cosmic rays and the even more mysterious dark matter, postulated by physicists like him to exist. No one can see this dark matter but everyone can sense it in the swirl of galaxies. After staring at equations for two decades, this physicist at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata decided to get his hands dirty: he would participate in a big experiment to detect dark matter.

Dark matter experiments have increased in frequency around the world, as scientists have become more and more desperate to pin down this elusive substance. It was not that dark matter was rare or that we learned about it recently. About 80% of the matter in the universe consists of this strange stuff. Physicists have known about its existence for five decades, as they have realized that galaxies do not have enough visible matter to hold them together.

Our visible universe consists of particles and forces, and the Standard Model of particle physics provides a beautiful framework to describe them in one overarching theory. But it has missing pieces

Scientists don't know what it is or how it interacts with normal matter. Light does not shine off it, and so it came to be called dark matter.

Around 2008, Bhattacharjee decided to take part in an experiment in Canada. Called Picasso, it consisted of immersing superheated liquid deep underground and creating a tiny droplet of a special liquid in it. When a dark matter particle hits it, this droplet would vaporise and become a bubble, creating sound waves in the process. Bhattacharjee's team made the simulations that would help in the detection of the sound waves when they come. "The challenge is to identify all the background noise and eliminate everything other than the dark matter signal," says Bhattacharjee. Physicists expect a few hits to the droplet in a year.

THERE HAS BEEN NONE IN FIVE YEARS.

The other major dark matter experiment in the US, called Lux, has also not found any particle yet. Bhattacharjee has now got involved with an Indian experiment to detect dark matter, deep in the mountains near Ooty and to be ready within five years. For dress rehearsal, Indians are trying to build a prototype detector in the Jaduguda uranium mine in Jharkand, or find some other place if the Atomic Energy Commission does not clear the venue. "There is no guarantee that current experiments will find dark matter," says Rupak Mahapatra, associate professor at the Texas A&M University. "So in five years, the Indian experiment will become attractive."

Mahapatra, an IIT Kharagpur alumni, is one of the key motivators for this project and intends to bring the best available technology to Ooty. Last week, he was the recipient of a big but unspecified amount of funding from the US Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to build the next generation of dark matter experiments, using exquisitely tailored detectors ten times more sensitive than the incumbents. Physicists are now moving in droves to this field, as dark matter has become the big physics problem after the discovery of the Higgs boson. "We are closer than ever to detecting dark matter," says Sudhir Vempati, associate professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore.

Vempati, a theorist, works on the so-called physics beyond the Standard Model. Our visible universe consists of particles and forces, and the Standard Model of particle physics provides a beautiful framework to describe them in one overarching theory. But it has missing pieces. The Standard Model does not incorporate gravity. It does not explain dark matter either. So physicists are looking for extensions of the model, and theorists like Vempati have begun to look more closely at dark matter. "It will be a tremendous input to our understanding and theory of elementary particles," says Stefano Profumo, associate professor of physics at the University of California in Santa Cruz.

Profumo's work consists of looking for signals that may be connected with dark matter. Give him a signal, a weird phenomenon that you do not understand, and he will tell you whether dark matter has anything to do with it. Profumo likens the current intimations of dark matter with the discovery of radioactivity.

At the end of the 19th Century, the phenomenon of radioactivity gave the first hint to physicists that there was something out there in the sub-atomic realm, something unusual and rich that could one day be exciting and useful.

Investigations of radioactivity led to the discovery of the atom and a world of immense possibilities. Where will dark matter lead us?

There is a tremendous amount of matter in the universe. Our own galaxy contains half a trillion stars, and there are 100 billion such galaxies in the universe, and more dust and gas than the stars. All of this together forms just 4% of the universe. Dark matter constitutes 23%, and the rest is another mysterious entity called dark energy.

At the end of the 19th Century, the phenomenon of radioactivity gave the first hint to physicists that there was something out there in the sub-atomic realm

When you consider matter alone, the visible stuff forms only 20%, but it is enough to make such a rich and sophisticated world that includes us. Is there a similarly exciting world happening around dark matter?

Current theories say that there won't be too many particles of dark matter. But do they interact with normal matter? Are some of the mysterious phenomena that we do not understand due to dark matter? Do living beings interact with dark matter? There are many such questions that remain unanswered till we find out what constitutes dark matter. It is actually a bigger and more significant problem than Higgs boson. "We knew where to look for the Higgs boson," says Mani Tripathi, professor of physics at University of California in Davis and a long-time dark matter hunter. "Dark matter can be anywhere."

The search for dark matter can yield some immediate practical benefits. The detectors are so sophisticated and sensitive that they can be used to detect minute sources of radiation. Applications abound in security and healthcare. These applications may pale into insignificance when we discover the substance, and if it turns out to interact with visible matter. We would then enter a new world of science and technology, rich enough to occupy the best minds for a long time.