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Satesman ND 02.08.2016 P-5

Javadekar to meet IIT directors

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 1 August

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar will soon meet the directors of IITs and discuss various issues, including funding and vacant faculty positions.

“It has been decided that the minister will hold a comprehensive meeting with the directors of IITs later this month. A range of issues relating to these premier tech schools would be deliberated upon,” a senior HRD Ministry official said.

Indian Institutes of Technology have been facing various issues over funding and vacant faculty positions. The government has also been actively considering various steps to improve the standing of IITs in international rankings.

Recently, Javadekar had visited IIT, Delhi, and discussed several issues with the faculty and the management.

The HRD Minister has sought ideas for making IITs financially stronger. The government is also in the process of setting up a higher education financing agency to support institutions of higher learning.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 02.08.2016 P-4

आईआईटी खड़गपुर में पीएचडी स्कॉलर्स की संख्या 20 फीसदी बढ़ी

इस वर्ष आईआईटी खड़गपुर से डॉक्टोरेट की डिग्री लेने वाले छात्रों की संख्या में 20% का इजाफा हुआ है। इस वर्ष 298 रिसर्च स्कॉलर्स को पीएचडी और 28 को एमएस रिसर्च डिग्री दी गई। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में रिसर्च पर फोकस करने के कारण छात्रों की संख्या में इजाफा हुआ है। फिलहाल संस्थान में 2,550 से ज्यादा स्कॉलर्स डॉक्टोरल प्रोग्राम कर रहे हैं, जो कि पिछले वर्ष की अपेक्षा 15% ज्यादा है। इसके अलावा संस्थान में 26 पोस्ट डॉक्टोरल फेलो भी हैं। रिसर्च पर फोकस रखने के कारण आईआईटी खड़गपुर को डीएसटी द्वारा देश के शीर्ष 3 साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी रिसर्च संस्थानों में जगह दी गई है।

IIT begins operations, classes start from today

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/IIT-begins-operations-classes-start-from-today/articleshow/53497348.cms>

PANAJI: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Goa, became operational on Monday with its students reporting to complete admission formalities. The actual academic instructions for the 90 students - together in the streams of computer science, electrical and mechanical engineering - will begin from August 2. The IIT Goa has begun functioning from its temporary campus of Goa Engineering College at Farmagudi.

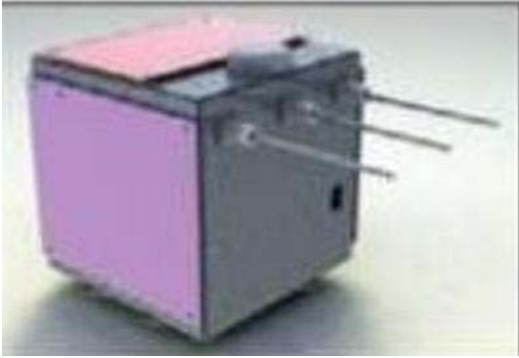
IIT-Goa will follow the same academic structure as its mentoring institute, IIT Bombay. The academic year will be divided into two semesters - from July to November and from January to April.

The curriculum will be based on the credit system. Each course is allotted credits based on the number of lectures, tutorials and lab hours that students are required to complete per week. There will be continuous evaluation through quizzes, assignments, mid-semester, end semester examinations and lab work throughout the semester. At the end of each semester, the student gets a semester performance index (SPI) which is an average of the grades in each of the courses he/she had registered for in that semester.

IIT-Goa will be mentored by IIT-B for the first three years and its operations will be coordinated by IIT-B faculty member Sharad Bharatiya.

Isro to finally launch IIT-B's satellite from Sriharikota space centre in September

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Isro-to-finally-launch-IIT-Bs-satellite-from-Sriharikota-space-centre-in-September/articleshow/53496056.cms>



MUMBAI: IIT-B's starry dreams will finally take off next month, after a nine-year wait.

The institute's 10kg student satellite, Pratham, will be launched by Isro's four-stage Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in September.

Pratham will piggy back with Isro's main satellite, ScatSat, and few other satellites. Pratham, first conceived in 2007, was dogged by delays for a variety of reasons, upsetting its launch schedule.

On Monday, Pratham project manager Ratnesh Mishra, a final year IIT-B aerospace student, said that the satellite was currently at the clean room of the Isro Satellite Centre in Bengaluru. "Only the exact launch date has to be finalized," he said. This will be an Isro decision.

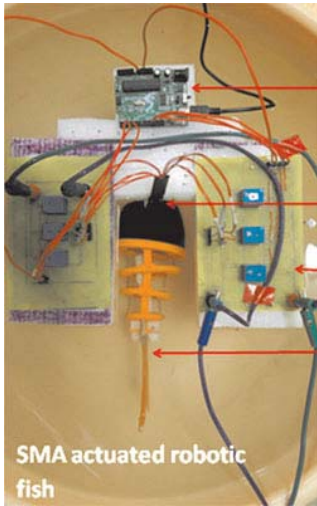
Mishra said that with a four-month mission span, the main role of the satellite, which will be placed at an altitude of 720 km, will be measurement of "electron count". This will be useful for scientific studies, correcting errors in communication like the GPS and will also help in tsunami warnings. The total cost of the project is about Rs 1.5 crore.

He said a ground station will be set up at IIT and another at Atharva College in Malad to track Pratham. A few days before the take-off, an eight-member Pratham team will be positioned at Sriharikota for the pre-launch activities, he added.

According to institute officials, the objective of the Pratham project is to make IIT-B a centre for advancement of satellite and space technology.

IIT-Indore designs smart bio-mimetic aquatic robot

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/indore/iit-indore-designs-smart-bio-mimetic-aquatic-robot/901367>



Institute is also developing memory alloy integrated glass fiber reinforced composite flapper for missiles

Indore : A team of researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Indore has designed smart material based bio-mimetic aquatic robot that can probe underwater conditions and can be used for surveillance.

“Dr IA Palani with his research group at IIT-Indore has developed the robot,” said Nirmala Menon, media in-charge of IIT-Indore.

IIT-Indore is focused on developing smart material based micro-devices and robotic systems. Dr Palani with his research group at IIT-Indore is into the development of shape memory alloy (smart material) based intelligent devices.

The group has designed a bio-mimetic shape memory alloy actuated underwater robots.

This project aims at bio-mimicking the undulating motion of a fish, using carangiform mode of swimming and uses its tail fin for propulsion.

“The skeleton of the robot fish is designed using CAD and the final prototype is 3D printed. SMA springs were chosen as actuators and it acts as a dynamic rib between the skeletal structures. The skin and the caudal fin of the robot is manufactured at IIT-Indore using photopolymer, which was cured by UV rays to get the desired shape as an elastomer,” Menon said.

The posterior end of the fish is made with a thin skin of soft polymer. The buoyancy of the robot is set so that, robot floats just below the surface of water. Fin is flexible to mimic the motion of a real fish. This robot has a potential application in probing the underwater condition and surveillance.

Project was completely funded under promotion of research for undergraduate student (PRIUS) scheme from IIT-Indore.

Research scholars from Mechatronics and Instrumentation lab at IIT-Indore have demonstrated for the first time, a novel copper-based flexible SMA bi-morph, with high flexibility and recovery ratio.

This bi-morph has potential application towards energy harvesting and MEMS based device.

A project has been initiated in collaboration with Volvo Eicher, MHRD and IIT-Indore for waste heat recovery from automobile engine using SMA bi-morph.

Post graduate students at IIT-Indore are involved in developing several other SMA actuated micro devices which include micro-valves for drug delivery and SMA actuated Stewart platform for opto-mechatronics device.

Further the research group is into the development of shape memory alloy integrated glass fiber reinforced composite flapper for missiles. This flapper will be helpful to precisely control the orientation of missiles. This project is in collaboration with Defense Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and IIT-Indore.

IIT joins hand with MIT to preserve Tagore's Santiniketan

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-joins-hand-with-MIT-to-preserve-Tagores-Santiniketan/articleshow/53488071.cms>

Kolkata, Aug 1 () Architecture students from IIT Kharagpur and America's MIT will soon conduct a joint study on how to preserve the heritage of Rabindranath Tagore's abode in Santiniketan.

The department of architecture and regional planning at IIT Kharagpur has tied-up with the School of Architecture and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for a course to study urbanisation in the current developing world.

A group of 6-8 students, at graduate and undergraduate levels from each institute, will come to Santiniketan this October for their research work.

Officials said during this period they will make a proposal regarding an integrated site management strategy for Visva Bharati university.

They will also suggest guidelines to control the scattered and unsystematic development in the university campus and tailor it in sync with Tagore's ideology behind the inception of the place.

Visva Bharati university authorities have been unsuccessfully trying for the past few years to get the tag of a World Heritage Site from UNESCO.

A group of faculty members and researchers across MIT-Harvard Boston community and IIT Kharagpur would be guiding the students.

They will also come up with a strategic plan for environmental stewardship and watershed management of the nearby 'Khowai' (canyon created by water and wind erosion and an intrinsic part of Bolpur), officials said.

Soil loss, decreasing erodibility, change in morphology and loss of flora and fauna are some of the major issues of this sensitive ecological region.

The primary reasons for these problems are often attributed to unstable soil structure, lack of vegetation, climatic condition, proneness to natural disasters and human intervention in an unplanned manner.

Parliament passes bill to set up NIT in AP

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/561657/parliament-passes-bill-set-up.html>

The Parliament on Monday passed a law to create a National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Andhra Pradesh with Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar assuring the Rajya Sabha that funding would not be a problem to realise the institute.

The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Rajya Sabha late in the evening. The bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on July 21.

The legislation seeks to create an NIT in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. With an initial funding of Rs 40 crore sanctioned in the 2016-17 budget, the institute has begun operating from a rented space with 900 students. A 140-acre area has been earmarked for the NIT.

“The detailed project report for the institute would be ready in two months. As soon it is there, the funds will be immediately released and granted. So there will be no dearth of funding, let me tell you,” Javadekar said.

Moving the bill, the minister said the purpose was to fulfil a promise made to the people of Andhra Pradesh by establishing an NIT in the state.

Most of the political parties supported the legislation, but the AIADMK opposed it.

After changes, IIM bill heads to Cabinet

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/After-changes-IIM-bill-heads-to-Cabinet/articleshow/53494967.cms>

NEW DELHI: IIM bill is all set to go to the Cabinet. In June, the bill sent for Cabinet clearance was returned to HRD ministry for further changes.

Sources said most of the changes made are in the language of the bill so that there is little ambiguity in autonomy of IIMs. A source explained that IIMs will have the freedom not to have reservation in faculty jobs. IIM Forum will be just a forum to debate but not take decision. Instead, IIMs will have complete freedom to decide fee as well take decisions for resource mobilisation. They do not need to inform the HRD ministry. Six IIMs - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode - are financially independent and have not taken any assistance from government for long. As for the composition of IIM boards, five of the 14 members will be from among alumni. IIMs need not come to government for any change in regulation. All the powers of approval will rest with the board of governors.

However, HRD ministry will have some role in the appointment of directors.

Sources said IIM bill is different from the Institutes of Technology Act, as it is loaded too much in favour of institutes. For instance, while IIM Forum will be powerless, its equivalent IIT Council, takes policy decisions for IITs. The government insists that since IIMs are different from IITs, same legislative framework cannot be used.

Economic Times ND 02.08.2016 P-14

New Panel Set Up to Select IIM-A Chairman

New committee formed after the HRD ministry rejected the three shortlisted candidates put forth by the former panel

Kala Vijayraghavan & Rica Bhattacharyya

Mumbai: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, has set up a new search committee to identify a chairman of the institute under the directive of the ministry of human resource development, officials aware of the development said.

The post has been lying vacant since January when Larsen & Toubro chairman AM Naik stepped down as chairman of the premier B-school where the undue delay in appointing a chairman has raised disquiet.

The new search committee comprises former Nasscom president Kiran Karnik, Arvind Ltd chairman Sanjay Lalbhai, and PepsiCo India chairman D Shivakumar, highly placed sources told ET. The panel has yet to commence the search, they said.

The move comes after the HRD ministry rejected the shortlist of three candidates — HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, Hero MotoCorp joint managing director Sunil Kant Munjal and Infosys chairman R Seshasayee — put forth by the earlier search committee. The earlier search panel included Naik, Lalbhai, Shivakumar and Cadila Healthcare chairman Pankaj R Patel.

When contacted, new HRD minister Prakash Javadekar told ET that it was not an area that he looked into and that there are other officials concerned with it.

Officials close to the development, requesting anonymity, alleged that the ministry wants the new search committee to include its “preferred candidate” who is the honcho of a leading conglomerate in the next list of candidates. While ministry officials offered no comments, an official close to the development alleged that the post seems to have been promised by the government to the said industrialist whose name was among the list of candidates discussed earlier.

An IIM official, who was unhappy with this development, said, “It took a lot to convince the three high-calibre candidates to be part of the list. If the ministry already has a ‘preferred candidate’ in mind why go through a search committee.”

When contacted IIM-A director Ashish Nanda declined to comment.

Naik also declined to comment.

In April, ET had reported that Parekh, Munjal and Seshasayee were shortlisted for the chairman’s post. However, in the end of

On The Lookout

New search panel comprises former Nasscom president Kiran Karnik, Arvind Ltd chairman Sanjay Lalbhai and PepsiCo India chairman D Shivakumar

Former IIMA chairman AM Naik had stepped down in January

All hopes regarding shortlisted contenders getting reconsidered after Prakash Javadekar took charge of HRD ministry have been dashed

Officials close to the development alleged that the ministry wants the new panel to include its “preferred candidate” who is the honcho of a leading conglomerate in the next list of candidates



NO ROLE TO PLAY



HRD minister Prakash Javadekar said this is not his area and other

officials are in charge of the selection process

May the HRD ministry rejected the shortlist.

Some reports earlier stated that the names were rejected since no government representative was present at the meetings of the search committee.

However, IIM-A officials said there are recorded minutes of the meeting showing the government representation on board.

IIM-A's 15-member board has two central government representatives and one from the state government headed by the chairman. Officials close to the development said the candidates named earlier would not be part of the new list.

Top officials associated with the institute said that after the disgruntlement following the decision to scrap the first list, there were hopes that those candidates might be reconsidered after Javadekar replaced Smriti Irani as HRD minister.