

Newspaper Clips

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August 22

Economic Times ND 22/08/2016 p-4

DESIRED LIST HRD ministry will start by compiling a list of potential faculty from world's top 500 universities

'Teach in IITs' Fairs Abroad to Help Hire On The Spot

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New Delhi: In a renewed attempt to unlock the value of the globally renowned IITs, the Human Resources Development minister has plans to clear bottlenecks and ease red tape to attract talented faculty members from foreign Universities to teach on Indian campuses.

Battling near 40% faculty shortage and keen to make a global mark, HRD under Prakash Javadekar is readying a plan to get international faculty for IITs through 'Teach in IITs' fairs abroad, a database of the best foreign scholars who could contribute to the IIT system and on spot



ALL OPTIONS OPEN FOR THE DESERVING



Potential candidate may be given airfare to come and assess IIT system before signing deal

recruitment of potential scholars at the fairs. Javadekar has proposed the 'Teach in IITs' fairs on the lines

of international education fairs organised across major global education centres to attract the best of

faculty to the premier Indian engineering institutes.

IITs, as much as most Indian educational institutes, are unable to draw a healthy mix of foreign faculty and students - a parameter that weighs on the country when seeking global academic rankings for Indian schools of excellence. Efforts coordinated by IIT Bombay are already on to bring in more foreign students to the 23 IITs.

'Teach in IITs' fairs will be part of a comprehensive strategy to identify potential faculty, reach out and invite them for teaching assignments in India, ease the cumbersome visa process and make an all effort to retain them. The move is crucial to the

Centre's larger plans to increase IIT student intake to one lakh by 2020 and to ensure that the academic quality at the institutes is on par with the best institutes in the world.

The HRD ministry will start by compiling a list of potential faculty in desired areas from the world's top 500 universities.

'Teach in IIT' fairs where on spot appointment letters can be issued to candidates by an IIT team stationed there for recruitment is one of the ideas mooted. The other option could be paying potential candidate airfare for a round trip to the IIT to come and assess the IIT system and work culture before signing on the dotted line.

Millenium Post ND 22/08/2016 P-7

Government mulling PM's research fellowships for IIT pass-outs

NEW DELHI: In a significant step aimed at encouraging the best talent to take up research, the government is mulling a "Prime Minister's Research Fellowship" for students passing out of IITs.

According to top officials in the HRD Ministry, the quality of research is directly related to the quality of people who undertake it which is why it is important that the best minds are encouraged to take it.

"A committee headed by former IIT Mumbai Director and eminent scientist Anil Kakodkar too had recom-

mended that third year students of IITs and NITs should be initiated into PhD programmes," a senior functionary said.

There is a strong realisation in the government that innovation is necessary to increase productivity and raise overall standards of our country, and quality research is needed for innovation, sources said.

Keeping this in mind, the HRD Ministry is considering launching a 'PM Research Fellowship' for around 1,000 students from the next academic year.

Sources said the IIT Council, which is the top decision making body for these premier technological institutes, will meet on the August 23 and is likely to discuss these fellowships and the modalities for instituting it.

It is envisaged that under this programme, B Tech students in the IITs will register for PhD immediately on completion of the undergraduate course. It has been suggested that B Tech fourth year course students shall be eligible for fellowships.

The students would write the outline of the research

project they wish to undertake and these would be evaluated by committees formed by IIT Board, sources said.

"The idea is to make research attractive to the fresh IIT passouts so that they can focus their energies on pathbreaking research which can throw up solutions and strengthen the academic environment in the long run," an official said.

Sources also said since research is a key criterion in ranking educational institutes globally, the proposed step may benefit those in India in this respect as well. MPOST

Hindustan Times ND 22/08/2016

p-1

IIT FRESHERS TO START WITH LIGHT COURSES BEFORE THE REAL WORK

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Thousands of students who crack the prestigious Joint Entrance Examination after burning the midnight oil for months may soon get a chance to unwind before plunging back into academics.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are likely to introduce a three-week induction programme that will allow students to adapt to their new environment, take courses pertaining to languages and creative arts (for those who require them), and bond with classmates as well as faculty members. Normal classes will commence only after the induction course has ended.

The IIT council, the top decision-making body for the premier technological institutes, will take up the matter at a meeting chaired by human resource development (HRD) minister Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday.

The IIT-BHU at Varanasi has reportedly prepared a three-week induction module for all students set to join its first-year B Tech course with the objective of enhancing their basic language skills and conceptual understanding. Sources said all the IITs will be asked to design and execute similar modules for freshers, starting from the academic year 2017-18.

"These modules will also provide crash courses to undergraduate students who require assistance in meeting IIT standards," said a senior HRD official.

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IIT freshers to start with light courses before the real work

Under the proposed course, students will involve themselves in physical and literary activities, take up short courses related to the creative arts, and undergo training in the English language.

An IIT director said it was imperative that students coming from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds get an opportunity to adjust to the new environment. "They need some time to familiarise themselves with the institute, its faculty members and other students. It will help them de-stress too," he added.

There are 23 IITs in the country, with over 70,000 students enrolled in B Tech, M Tech and PhD courses. According to a statement made by the HRD ministry in the Rajya Sabha, as many as 656 students dropped out of the premier institutes in 2015-16 — IIT-Delhi accounting for the highest number of such cases.

Hindustan Times ND 22/08/2016

p-12

IITs mull ways to up number of girl students

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Concerned by the slump in number of female students entering the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Joint Admission Board has set up a committee to explore ways to increase their enrolment.

Sources said the issue was discussed at length during a meeting of the board, which conducts the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced, on Sunday. A sub-committee under the chairmanship of professor Timothy Gonsalves was formed to find ways to rectify the situation in the premier engineering institutes.

It was learnt that there has been a 2% dip in the number of girls who cleared the JEE-Advanced this year; as compared to the previous one. While over 1,000 cracked the examination (roughly 10% of the total 10,000 seats) in 2015, only 840 female students (coming up to 8%) made it to the institutes in 2016-17. As many as 10,500 students landed B Tech seats at 23 IITs across the country this time.

"Despite 50% of the successful students claiming that they used self-study methods to crack the examination, it is common knowledge that almost every IIT student comes from coaching institutions in Kota and other places. Most parents are unwilling to enroll their girls in coaching institutes because it would involve leaving home and staying in difficult circumstances. This is probably why they don't

PM FELLOWSHIP FOR IITIANS SOON

NEW DELHI: To promote research in engineering institutes, the government is likely to introduce Prime Minister's Research Fellowship for students passing out of IITs.

The HRD is mulling the fellowship for around 1,000 students from the next academic year: "The quality of research is directly related to the quality of people who undertake it. It becomes important that the best minds are encouraged to take up research," said a senior functionary. **HTC**

perform as well as male students in JEE Advanced," said an academic expert. None of the girls who were selected this year made it to the top 100 either: Riya Singh, the topper among female students this year, got a comparatively low all-India rank of 133.

Sources said the number of girls registering for the joint entrance examination had been rising steadily until the two-tier exam system of JEE Main and Advanced was introduced in 2012. The institutes have now reduced the fees for female candidates in an attempt to resolve the gender imbalance, an IIT director said.

Times of India ND 22/08/2016 P-15

2k students drop out of IITs, IIMs in 2 years

Institutes Take Initiatives To Check Attrition

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Mumbai: Getting into IIT and IIMs is tough as it involves clearing national-level entrance tests. But not all who join these institutions complete their courses. About 2,000 students dropped out of IITs and IIMs in the last two years, data from the institutes show.

Academic attrition is the highest at IIT-Delhi with 699 students dropping out between 2014 and 2016. It is followed by IIT-Kharagpur (544) and IIT-Bombay (143). "Most of those who leave the course are those pursuing PhDs," said IIT-Bombay director Devang Khakhar. PhD dropout numbers are not so much about performance as the punishing tenure of the course.

The number of dropouts at IIMs seems to have risen over the years. While 37 students dropped out between 2003 and 2005, the number rose to 69 between 2006 and 2008. It touched 104 between 2014 and 2016. "Poor academic performance is one of the reasons," said an IIM-Calcutta faculty member. He said that

QUITTING PREMIER INSTITUTES



Not all students who join premier institutes complete their course

IIT	2014-15	2015-16	IIM	2014-15	2015-16
Delhi	443	256	Ahmedabad	6	3
Kharagpur	346	198	Bangalore	2	4
Bombay	109	34	Calcutta	3	2
Kanpur	78	47	Lucknow	5	3
Madras	53	35	Indore	7	9
BHU-Varanasi	2	0	Kashipur	10	0
Other IITs	95	86	Others	22	28
Total	1126	656	TOTAL	55	49

once a candidate is in, she or he is on the same platform as everyone else. The six-year-old IIM-Raipur saw the highest dropouts (20) in the last two years.

To help students, IIM-A came up with a buddy programme, under which every new entrant is mentored by a second year student. It also conducted three-week orientation and coaching for weak students. Several IIMs have replicated the programme. IIM Indore also has faculty mentors for academically weaker students.

A faculty member said

each IIT has a guidance and counselling unit, headed by a faculty member to "identify students facing emotional difficulties and guide them".

A faculty member said it wasn't just students from the reserved categories who found it difficult to cope. Former IIM-A director Bakul Dholakia had told earlier: "When students attend the tea party that the director hosts on Day One, it's easy to identify the reserved category students. When they attend the graduation farewell dinner, we proudly say all the differences are erased."

Now, students from 9 countries can appear directly for JEE (advanced)

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New Delhi: The Joint Admission Board (JAB) of IITs decided on Sunday that students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Singapore, the UAE and Ethiopia will be allowed to directly appear for the JEE (advanced) test, skipping the JEE (main) that Indian students have to take.

"The idea has been approved in-principle. Each IIT will also ratify it and the IIT council will approve it next week," an official said. This was being done to showcase India's soft power.

In any case, he said, foreign students would not eat into the seats meant for Indians. The principal reason, however, is to make it to the list



An official said this was being done to get IITs into the list of top international educational institutions

of top international educational institutions. "In all international rankings one of the key parameters is international students and IITs lose out in a big way despite scoring well on other parameters," another official said.

"Foreign nationals will be given seats under super-

numerary category," he said, adding IIT-Bombay was entrusted with the job of implementing the programme. Exam centres will be set up in these countries.

While Pakistan has been left out due to home ministry's objection, the choice of Ethiopia as the only co-

untry from Africa has evinced a lot of curiosity. Justifying the choice, Gautam Biswas, director of IIT-Guwahati, said, "For the last many years, we have got a large number of Ethiopian students in post-graduate courses. IITs are popular there."

IIT-Guwahati had eight MTech students from Ethiopia. The UAE, an official said, was selected as people of

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various nationalities reside in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The cost of admission will be recovered from the foreign student and the government will not bear any expense on account of foreign students. They will be given the same facilities as Indian students.

Amar Ujala ND 22/08/2016 p-14



करियर न्यूज

आईआईटी का ऐप कोर्स

मोबाइल ऐप डेवलपिंग में करियर का मुकाम दृढ़ रहे हैं, तो अब आप आईआईटी जैसे प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान से यह कोर्स कर सकते हैं। आईआईटी मद्रास आगामी 5 सितंबर से ऑनलाइन कोर्स लॉन्च करने जा रहा है। आईआईटीएम 'इंटीडक्शन टू मॉडर्न एप्लीकेशन डेवलपमेंट' (आईएमएडी) के तहत यह कोर्स चलाएगा। इसमें रुचि रखने वाले छात्र इसके लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर यूट्यूब के जरिए पढ़ाई कर पाएंगे। यह कोर्स चार सप्ताह का होगा, जिसमें हर लैक्चर का वीडियो 20 मिनट का होगा। छात्र किसी भी समय कहीं भी इसकी पढ़ाई कर सकते हैं। आईआईटी मद्रास इसका ई-सर्टिफिकेट भी जारी करेगा, जिसके लिए छात्रों को खास परीक्षा पास करनी होगी। यह ई-सर्टिफिकेट आईआईटी मद्रास और एनपीटीईएल से मान्यता प्राप्त होगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए आप www.imad.tech वेबसाइट देख सकते हैं।

Naiduniya ND 22.08.2016 P-4

खुशखबर

रविदि देगा ट्रेनिंग, 5 हजार से अधिक युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का बनाया टारगेट

आदिवासी युवा सीखेंगे सोलर पॉवर बनाने के गुर

रायपुर। ब्यूरो

आदिवासी इलाकों में अशिक्षित और बेरोजगार घूम रहे युवाओं के लिए खुशखबरी है। पंडित रविशंकर शुक्ल विश्वविद्यालय के रिन्युअल एनर्जी टेक्नॉलॉजी एंड मैनेजमेंट की ओर से राज्य के आदिवासी युवाओं को सोलर पॉवर बनाने, रिपेयरिंग करने और एलईडी बल्ब बनाने का गुर सिखाने की योजना बनाई है। विवि ने अगले महीने पहले चरण में 19 से 24 सितंबर तक प्रशिक्षण के लिए इच्छुक युवाओं से आवेदन मंगाया है। खासकर बस्त, सुकमा, दंतेवाड़ा, नारायणपुर और बीजापुर से युवाओं के साथ-साथ स्कूलों और कॉलेजों के शिक्षकों को भी प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य है। ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा संख्या में युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जा सके।

रविदि ने 5 हजार आदिवासियों को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए लक्ष्य बनाया गया है। विवि का कहना है कि आदिवासी इलाकों में घने जंगल के कारण अभी भी बिजली की सुविधा नहीं है। इससे अब आदिवासी युवा खुद अपने घरों में न सिर्फ उजाला कर सकेंगे, बल्कि सौर पॉवर बनाकर उसका मॉटेन भी

बगीर खर्च के करेंगे। साथ ही आदिवासी युवाओं के लिए स्वरोजगार के लिए भी द्वार खुलेगा।

आईआईटी मुंबई और दिल्ली से आएंगे एक्सपर्ट

भारत सरकार के डिपार्टमेंट एवं साईंस टेक्नॉलॉजी और यूसिफ (युनाइटेड स्टेट्स इंडिया एजुकेशन फाउंडेशन) की ओर से यह ट्राइबल स्टेट्स में प्रोग्राम चलाया जा रहा है। आदिवासी युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी दिल्ली और एलईडी बल्ब और सौर पॉवर इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े

अशिक्षित होंगे शामिल

डीएसटी अज्ञर यूसिफ के सहयोग से आईआईटी मुंबई और दिल्ली के एक्सपर्ट आदिवासी युवाओं को सौर पॉवर बनाने का गुर सिखाएंगे, इससे वे अपने घरों को तो रोशनी देने के लिए सक्षम होंगे, साथ ही उनके लिए रोजगार के लिए विकल्प भी बढेगा।

— डॉ. संजय तिवारी, प्रोजेक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर एवं प्रोफेसर, रविदि

एक्सपर्ट को जिम्मेदारी दी गई है। राज्य में क्रेडा भी प्रशिक्षण के लिए मदद करेगा।

दो साल से चल रहा रिन्युअल एनर्जी का कोर्स

रविदि में रिन्युअल एनर्जी टेक्नॉलॉजी एंड मैनेजमेंट के लिए पिछले साल से 50 सीटों के लिए कोर्स चलाया जा रहा है। यहां डिप्लोमा, एडवांस डिप्लोमा एवं डिग्री के लिए पढ़ाई करवाई जा रही है। इसमें छात्र को बारहवीं कक्षा 60 फीसदी अंक से मैथ्स यानी फिजिक्स, केमेस्ट्री एवं मैथ्स सबजेक्ट में पास छात्रों को दाखिला दिया जाता है। हालांकि विवि ने इस प्रशिक्षण के लिए कोई भी योग्यता नहीं मांगी है। अनपढ़ युवा भी इसमें शामिल हो सकते हैं।

August 21

Indian Express ND 21/08/2016 p-3

Chidambaram's lecture at IIT Delhi cancelled, event organisers at odds

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

A LECTURE by former finance minister P Chidambaram scheduled to be held on August 24 at IIT Delhi has been cancelled by one of the two organisers, leaving the other fuming and questioning the reasons cited.

Intimating the cancellation, IIT Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) claimed Chidambaram had an "urgent meeting" and had to go out of town. However, the Centre for Civil Society (CCS), whose board member Praveen Chakravarty was to moderate the event, dismissed this as "blatant lies".

When contacted, Chidambaram too rejected the EDC claim. He told *The Indian Express* Saturday he would be "very much in Delhi" on August 24 and did not have any urgent meeting planned for that day. "This lecture was arranged by a common friend. Date, time and subject were finalised. Today I got a message from him that the lec-



P CHIDAMBARAM

ture was cancelled. That's all that I know," he said in a text message. His lecture had been titled — 'The pathbreaking economic reforms of 1991: Why is it a big deal?'

According to CCS, their associate director Samta Arora was in touch with a student representative of the EDC since August 7 to organise the lecture. They were even informed on August 14 that there was an overwhelming response to the event. However, on August 16 the representative informed Arora the event stood cancelled.

Screenshots of WhatsApp and text messages of the reported conversation between the two show the timeline of events. "Mam there has been

some issue sorry but we cannot do the event and no one in IIT Delhi will be able to do it for reasons you can understand (sic)..." read an SMS to Arora on August 16 around 8 pm.

However, on August 15, Arora had got an image on WhatsApp from the same representative showing IIT Delhi Director V Ramgopal Rao reportedly 'liking' and 'sharing' a post about the event uploaded by the EDC IIT Delhi Facebook page. The message stated, "Mam ab to IIT ke director ne bhi post share kar di hai."

On August 16, the EDC wrote on its Facebook page: "EDC IIT Delhi regrets to inform you that the orientation session with Mr P Chidambaram has been cancelled... Mr Chidambaram has an urgent meeting that he cannot get out of and the same was communicated to us." The post was deleted after *The Indian Express* contacted EDC representatives.

Asked why the event was cancelled, EDC vice-president Abhijeet Malhotra said it happened because Chidambaram was busy and had to go out of

town. When questioned how the CCS, which was coordinating with Chidambaram, did not know about this, he cut the call. On being called again, Malhotra said, "The event has been cancelled because August 25 was going to be a holiday and we did not have many students who had registered for the lecture. Most of those who did were from outside IIT, and we did not want the lecture to take place with a thin crowd." Chakravarty rejected these claims, saying, "... It is strange that an event which was publicised by the director himself was cancelled suddenly. There seems to be something more than what meets the eye."

Rao denied sharing a poster of the event from his Facebook page and said he was not even aware of the programme. "I was not aware of this, and I've not shared any poster about it. Maybe the event was cancelled because he (Chidambaram) was busy elsewhere, but I'll have to find out. There's definitely no political reason behind the cancellation," said the IIT Delhi Director.

IIT, IIM TO GET EQUAL ACCREDITATION RIGHTS ON A PAR WITH NAAC

<http://www.punemirror.in/pune/civic/IIT-IIM-to-get-equal-accreditation-rights-on-a-par-with-NAAC/articleshow/53790101.cms>

HRD minister announces policy decision to check national assessment body's power

In a major step taken by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) across the country have now been granted accreditation authority, on a par with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Union minister of human resource development (MHRD) Prakash Javadekar made the announcement during a programme at the Indira Group of Institutes, held in Wakad on Saturday.

While this move is undoubtedly aimed at curbing NAAC's power, following several complaints of misuse and malpractice, this is also an absolute volte-face by the government, which has had its share of differences with these educational institutes.

Said Javadekar, "India has 700 universities, 38,000 educational institutions and 1.5 crore students opting for higher education. Yet, NAAC is the only accreditation authority we have. We have received several complaints of NAAC members misusing this power. Therefore, we have now taken a policy decision to rationalise the accreditation process and allow accreditation authority to government institutions like IIT and IIM."

He added, "NAAC is currently issuing accreditation to 1,000 institutions in a year, which means they could take 38 years for all of them. We would like to complete the target in the next 10 years. This decision will work as a support system and ensure transparency in the assessment and accreditation process. We have discussed the matter with the heads of the institutes."

Devang Khakhar, director of IIT Bombay, told *Mirror*, "We don't have any idea of how this will work yet. But, we certainly appreciate this decision taken by the MHRD. It is still in the initial stages — next week we have a meeting with the HRD minister on this issue. After that, the Centre will frame a final draft on the functioning of the institutions in this matter."

Dr Arun Nigvekar, founder of NAAC and former chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) told *Mirror*, "NAAC's main function is to give accreditation and assessment to educational institutions and universities after spot inspections. The norms and regulations are designed in keeping with the international norms of UNESCO. In 2010, when I was chairman of UGC, I had submitted a detailed report for allowing assessment and accreditation rights not only to government institutions like IIT and IIM, but also private agencies so that the target could be achieved. Now, with the number of students and institutions and universities increasing every year, NAAC has been unable to meet its target. This is a good decision by the HRD ministry and will certainly lend support to NAAC on a national level."

NAAC is currently issuing accreditation to 1,000 institutions in a year, which means they could take 38 years for all of them. We would like to complete the target in the next 10 years.