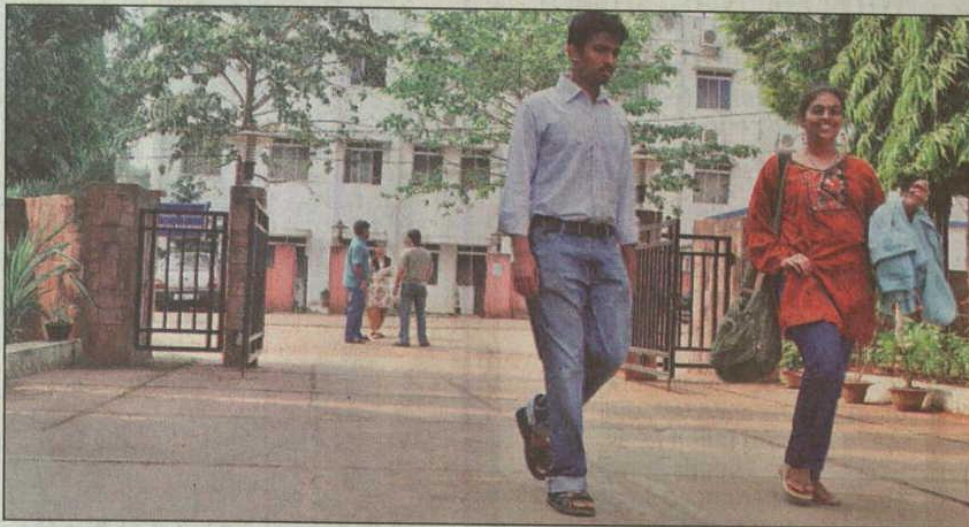


Newspaper Clips August 30, 2014

HT. COM ND 30.08.2014 P-06

Five new IITs to start classes next session



■ The new IITs would come up in five states namely Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The old IITs would initially mentor the new ones.

FILE PHOTO

Press Trsut of India

Five new Indian Institute of Technology which the Centre proposed in this year's Union Budget are likely to start functioning from the next academic session, officials in the Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry said.

While the HRD Ministry has sent letters to each of the five states to identify two sites for setting up these prestigious institutes, work is on to start them from temporary campuses by next year, they said.

The five new IITs would come up in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Five new Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) have also been announced and ₹500 crore have been earmarked for the purpose.

"We have already written to the state to identify two sites before the site selection committee of the Ministry visits the states and submits the reports. "However, we plan to start the new IITs from temporary-

THE NEW IITs WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE BUDGET TO FULFIL ONE OF ITS PROMISES OF PROVIDING AN IIT IN EACH STATE IN THE COUNTRY

campuses from the next academic session as has been the case with the earlier IITs," officials said.

The new IITs were announced by the Narendra Modi Government in the Budget to fulfil one of its promises of providing an IIT in each state in the country. So far 16 IITs are functioning across the country. As per estimates, each of the IITs would entail an investment of roughly ₹1,800 crore.

Officials said as per the plan, the older IITs would initially mentor the new ones. The Institute of Technology (IIT) Act will suitably be amended for including the new IITs under the law. The 16 existing IITs now offer 10,000 B.Tech seats.

IISc. sets up committee to lift slackening global university ranking

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/college-and-university/iisc-sets-up-committee-to-lift-slackening-global-university-ranking/article6362920.ece>

The steady drop in Indian Institute of Science's (IISc.) global university ranking over the last decade has spurred the institute to set up a committee to come up with strategies to raise its position.

The IISc., the only Indian university that has consistently held a place in the influential Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), has slipped by over 100 points between 2003 and 2014.

Six parameters

The ARWU uses six indicators to rank world universities, including the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, number of highly cited researchers and the number of articles published in journals of nature and science.

The committee, which includes senior professors from several departments, was set up a few weeks ago to analyse the areas where IISc. is falling short and to create strategies to pull it up, IISc. director Anurag Kumar told *The Hindu*.

The biggest nosedive on the ARWU was between 2013 and 2014, when IISc.'s rank fell by around 80 points (from 320 to 400 points).

The institution has faltered in one particular category: the number of highly cited researchers it has on its rolls. In 2013, IISc. had four of its professors on the list of "Highly Cited Researchers" used by the ARWU (a list selected by Thomson Reuters). This year it has zero.

This owes in part to Thomson Reuters raising the bar for highly cited researchers, and cutting down its list from around 6,000 to 3,000 names. No IISc. professor finds mention in the new list.

The committee will, however, look not just at the ARWU, but also other ranking systems that evaluate institutions, Prof. Kumar said.

Various measures

A member of the committee and chairman of the Division of Interdisciplinary Research, G. Rangarajan, said it will be looking at various measures to increase the quality of research, including ways to attract better faculty.

IBM, IISc. chip in for smart water management in city

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/ibm-iisc-chip-in-for-smart-water-management-in-city/article6361072.ece>

It is no fallacy that nearly 40 per cent Cauvery water does not reach Bangalore's homes, being lost as it course through a maze of old leaky pipelines, or through unauthorised connections. Now Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has partnered with IBM and Indian Institute of Science to monitor how and where this precious drinking water is wasted. At 219 critical junctions in the water transmission lines, the Board has installed ultrasonic flow meters linked to an IBM-designed dashboard to capture the rate of flow.

The software converts the data into a geo-spatial visual map to help BWSSB engineers to better monitor water flow and distribution, and to even get an alert when water thresholds are not met in any area. In a paper published earlier this week in the international journal *Procedia Engineering*, representatives of the three organisations describe their initiative as “a roadmap to provide a state-of-the-art water management system to Bangalore.”

Co-author and official in BWSSB's IT initiatives division, P.N. Ravindra told *The Hindu* that the software helps the Board curb wastage and to ensure equal distribution. The Board will have greater “visibility and control” over the network and will be able to improve workforce management, he said.

The supply drawn from the four stages of the Cauvery water supply scheme is notoriously inadequate to meet the exponentially growing demand in Bangalore. But by incorporating a ‘smart’ network such as this, BWSSB could save both water and revenue, said Amit Merchant of IBM, a co-author.

According to the paper, this software helps the Board allocate water equally per connection, curb theft and wastage, and monitor the 55 ground-level reservoirs through which water is supplied to Bangalore. Eventually, “for Bangalore city our goal is to provide information to the workforce on their mobile phones, integrate more instrumentation [and] help BWSSB create benchmarks for valve timings and settings, triggering alarms when valve timings and settings are violated,” it adds.

Irani felicitates IIT team

Press Trust of India | New Delhi http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/irani-felicitates-iit-team-114082900796_1.html

August 29, 2014 Last Updated at 20:05 IST

HRD Minister Smriti Irani today congratulated an **IIT** team whose pilot project has been approved for a scheme seeking development of green cities and heritage along the river Ganga.

"Congrats team Sandhi, pilot projects approved in select cities for developmnt of Green Cities & heritage based urban renewal along river Ganga," she tweeted.

Sandhi, she said, helps to understand, preserve and revive heritage through modern science and technology, promotes Indian ways of thinking and problem solving.

"Proud of the achievements of team IIT Project Sandhi, a science & heritage initiative and sustaining and developing habitat initiative," she said.

Clutch of IITs to offer 'deferred placements' to students who choose entrepreneurship over a career

MUMBAI: Giving in to popular demand from graduating students smitten with entrepreneurship, a clutch of IITs across the country has decided to offer 'deferred placements' to students who would rather float a new business than sit for a job interview now.

As many as 13 students from the Class of 2015 at [IIT-Bombay](#) have applied for [deferred placements](#) this year to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. Of these, eight are planning for-profit ventures and five are going for social ventures. The institute is likely to choose 10 from among the 13. It had toyed with deferred placements last year when only one student applied, but the idea has found takers only this year.

IIT-Madras, also encouraged by student demand, is rolling out deferred placements for the first time this year. [IIT-Kanpur](#) has also been considering the same. [IIT Guwahati](#) General Secretary (placement cell) Manish Arora expects at least 7-8 students to opt for deferred placements this year compared with 2-4 last year.

Deferred placements, as the name suggests, enables students to defer placements by a year or two to start their own ventures. They can come back and seek campus placement if their ventures fail.

They are quite popular at top IIMs, but are gaining traction in IITs only this year. Such initiatives help spur the appetite for entrepreneurship and risk-taking among young graduates at the country's premier engineering institutes.

Students are excited about entrepreneurship even though the job market is picking up once again. This year, companies such as [Goldman Sachs](#), [Amazon](#) and [eBay](#) are offering salaries that are 20% to 40% higher than last year.

"The number of students interested in pursuing entrepreneurial activities post graduation has gone up tremendously," says Mohak Mehta, placement manager at IIT-Bombay. "By opting for deferred placement, a student is assured of a Plan B which acts as a safety net in case he fails to succeed in his venture."

Malegaon boy Abhijit Patil needed the deferred placement option to convince his parents to let him give entrepreneurship a shot. IITBombay's Patil and his two friends run a 3D printing and scanning business.

Patil and his partners have been conducting workshops and providing 3D printing services to IIT-B professors and students for the past few months, and have already broken even on their initial investment of about Rs 4 lakh.

"I come from a small town and both my parents are teachers, so entrepreneurship after engineering college isn't the most common route," he says. "Knowing that I had the option to come back for placements gave me — and my parents — the courage." At least 15-20 students at IIT-Madras are interested in startups, says Vishranth Suresh, academic affairs secretary.

"We have had 7-8 students whose ventures didn't take off as expected. They had approached us to sit for placements later. We didn't have a policy in place then, which is why we want one now," he says. At IIT-Bombay, Mahesh Rathore and Greeshma Unnikrishnan, both second-year MTech students, plan to produce novel biomedical devices. Dual-degree student Vaibhav Antil and six friends are working on a modern approach to the traditional Jukebox.

Times of India ND 30.08.2014 P-19

Google spreads wings, tests drones for delivering goods

San Francisco: Google has said it is testing using drones to deliver items bought online, putting its own spin on similar efforts by internet retail titan Amazon.com.

Two years of research into what Google referred to as "Project Wing" was capped this month with test flights delivering candy, water, medicine, dog treats and other items to two farmers in Queensland, Australia.

"Self-flying vehicles could open up entirely new approaches to moving goods," California-based Google said on Wednesday in a blog post disclosing the new project.

"Throughout history, major changes in how we move goods from place to place have led to new opportunities for economic growth and generally made con-



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sumers' lives easier."

Project Wing drones were described as having more in common with Google's self-driving car than remote-controlled aircraft used by hobbyists.

Delivery drones and autonomous vehicles are both being worked on in Google X lab

devoted to innovative new technologies.

Google expected it to be several years before a delivery drone system is ready.

Last month, Amazon sought permission for drone test flights in the United States, saying it is moving forward on plans for deliveries using unmanned aircraft. In a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration, Amazon said because of restrictions on drones in US airspace, it has been conducting test flights indoors and in other countries.

Amazon said an exemption to FAA rules would be "in the public interest" and "is a necessary step towards realizing the consumer benefits of Amazon Prime Air," which company founder Jeff Bezos has described as a plan for drone delivery to consumers. AFP

Hindu ND 30.08.2014 P-12

New panel to probe IGNOU functioning

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 'Visitorial Committee' has been set up by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry under the convenorship of former Indian Institute of Science Director Goverdhan Mehta to look into the functioning of Indira Gandhi National Open University from 2006.

The committee will look into the massive expansion that was undertaken during the Vice-Chancellorship of V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai and the subsequent closure of a large number of courses during the current regime of M. Aslam.

The three-member committee will examine all aspects of IGNOU's decision to enter into MoUs and MoAs with organisations for imparting programmes and courses "leading to dilution of standards of education through distance and open learning."

Financial irregularities in the grant of recognitions will be scrutinised, so also the conduct of both serving and former officials. The committee has also been asked to address the problem of those students who have completed their courses but are awaiting their degrees/diplomas.

Hindu ND 30.08.2014 P-14

Slow progress in renewable energy capacity addition

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Renewable energy sector in the country still appears to be riding in the slow growth trajectory as the new capacity addition during the current fiscal has been lower when compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

The sector has added 722 MW of new capacity during the first four months of this fiscal against 835 MW added during the same period in the previous fiscal.

The industry missed the capacity addition target for the second consecutive year in 2013-14. For the present fiscal, annual capacity target has been lowered to 3,770 MW from 4,325 MW set for the previous year.

Of the 722 MW, wind sector contributed about 561 MW (608 MW), while the rest was contributed by solar, ba-



gasse, co-generation and small hydro at 106 MW (153 MW), 32 MW (nil) and 22.5 MW (74.5 MW), respectively, according to Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

The cumulative grid-interactive renewable energy installed capacity stood at 32,424 MW on July 31, 2014.

Presently, wind makes up 67 per cent of India's total green power installed capacity. Of the total capacity of 32.4 GW, wind sector contributed 21.7 GW, followed by small hydro power at 3.8 GW,

solar at 2.7 GW, bagasse co-generation power at 2.7 GW, biomass at 1.4 GW, and waste energy at 107 GW.

It may be noted that the Union Finance Ministry has not acted upon the recommendations by the Union Ministry of Commerce for levying anti-dumping duties on import of solar cells and modules.

As no official communication was issued by the Finance Ministry, the deadline of August 22 for deciding on duties had gone by.

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State of Power, Coal & MNRE, in the meanwhile, has assured solar manufacturers that whatever capacities are available for domestic cell and modules in the country, adequate market would be made available so that they can not only run to full capacity but also ramp up the production.

Students' fervour to plant saplings spells trouble for IIT-M

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/students-fervour-to-plant-saplings-spells-trouble-for-iitm/article6363327.ece>

The zeal of students at the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras (IIT-M) to plant saplings has inadvertently become a hurdle for the institute. Little did they know that their zest to conserve environment could land their alma-mater in serious legal trouble. Or, trees could spell doom for the blackbucks, one of the species the IIT-M houses.

During the 1980s, students began to plant saplings to commemorate an achievement, sometimes a retirement or graduation. But, the trees affected the safety of the blackbucks. Concerned over the alarming fall in their population, the institute sought help from Care Earth Trust. It found that blackbucks needed open grassland and suggested clearing an area for the animals. Now, their population has bounced back, according to the Trust's report.

For over six months now, the institute, which has around 8,000 students and faculty, has been trying to complete the construction of much-needed hostels. The institute, however, does not have enough accommodation or offices for the students and staff.

Problems have compounded as the institute is fighting a legal battle in the National Green Tribunal for allegedly cutting trees indiscriminately and for non-compliance with Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority norms.

One complaint against the institute is that it is housed inside an area declared as forest. But, by a gazette notification, the land apportioned for setting up of the institute was declared 'disreserved' with effect from October 25, 1961 under Section 24 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882.

A spokesperson of the IIT says the institute has constituted a campus environment committee. The institute is relying on satellite pictures and data to prove that it has preserved the environment. "We inherited this place. Since 1965, the 'native tree canopy' had fallen by two percentage points only," the official says.

The institute has roped in students' help too. "We hold workshops to design dustbins to protect the monkeys on the campus and use treated water to flush toilets. In the last 10 years, the number of trees is twice the number that has been cut," the official adds.

Meanwhile, last week, the Tribunal directed the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority to conduct an appraisal meeting in connection with granting of environmental clearance for the construction activity inside the campus. The authority is expected to submit its report by September 10.

UGC mellows down on IIT issue

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has finally mellowed down on its stand that Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) should align their courses in the three-year module after IIT directors made it clear that the institutes are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, which declares them as "Institutions of national importance", and lays down their powers, duties and framework for governance.

UGC chairman Ved Prakash called the circular as a routine one issued to all degree-conferring institutes and saying it has been misunderstood as an encroachment on the autonomy of institutions of higher learning, a daily has reported.

In the circular, the UGC had stated that prior approval of the government of India would be required to issue degrees as specified by the commission under Gazette notification dated July 5, 2014. However, this may not douse the fire.

IIT Kanpur Director Prof Indranil Manna indicated that he would seek clarifications in the IIT Council meeting on October one. Meanwhile, sources in the Human Resource Development Ministry said that the UGC chairman, who discussed the stand-off with the officials close to HRD Minister Smriti Irani, had been asked to find an amicable solution to the issue.

The UGC has earlier claimed that some of the IIT programmes are not in conformity with those recognised by it.

The direction from the UGC, the apex regulatory body governing higher education in the country, was sent to director of IIT Kharagpur, months after it asked Delhi University to scrap its four-year-undergraduate programme and sent instructions to some other institutes including Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore to align their courses.

It was also reported that the UGC notification did not come up for discussion during the directors meeting with the President on Friday, but Shevgaonkar emphasised that if at all the UGC has an issue; it must take it up with the IIT Council and not write to all institutes individually.