

Newspaper Clips

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पीएचडी करने के लिए एमटेक में लाने होंगे निश्चित क्रेडिट नंबर

शोध को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आईआईटी का नया फॉर्मूला

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, दिल्ली ने पीएचडी और शोध के लिए नए फॉर्मूले बनाए हैं। इनका मकसद आईआईटी में पीएचडी और शोध को बढ़ावा देना है ताकि बेहतर विद्यार्थी पीएचडी और शोध की तरफ अधिक से अधिक आकर्षित हो सकें।

पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट रिसर्च के डीन के.गुप्ता का कहना है कि आईआईटी के छात्र भी पीएचडी और शोध की तरफ अधिक से अधिक आकर्षित हों इसके लिए एमटेक स्तर पर छात्रों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कुछ नए कदम उठाए गए हैं ताकि छात्र अधिक से अधिक इस क्षेत्र में आएँ। छात्रों को एमटेक में एक निश्चित क्रेडिट प्वाइंट लाने होंगे इस स्थिति में वह

आईआईटी में एमटेक के बाद पीएचडी में नामांकन करा सकेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि कई बार देखने में आता है कि किसी संस्थान की तरफ से एमटेक के लिए कुछ लोग दो वर्ष की छुट्टी पर आते हैं वह पीएचडी करना तो चाहते हैं लेकिन उनका संस्थान उन्हें पीएचडी के लिए छुट्टी प्रदान नहीं करता ऐसे में छात्र पीएचडी नहीं करते। ऐसे में छात्रों को एम.टेक कोर्स के दौरान कुछ अतिरिक्त पेपर करने होंगे जो बाद में उनकी पीएचडी को आसान बना देंगे।

इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस में जाने के लिए फंड देगा आईआईटी: शोध को बढ़ावा देने के लिए छात्रों को आर्थिक सहायता भी आईआईटी, दिल्ली ने प्रदान करनी शुरू की है। इसके तहत इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस में

जाने के लिए आईआईटी सहायता देगा। इसके तहत छात्रों को बीस हजार रुपये की न्यूनतम सहायता दी जाएगी और शेष पैसे का इंतजाम छात्रों को करना होगा लेकिन किसी कारणवश शेष पैसे का इंतजाम नहीं कर पाता तो आईआईटी उन्हें 80,000 रुपये की सहायता और देगी। लेकिन ये अस्सी हजार रुपये प्राप्त करने के लिए उन्हें कम से कम दो जगह आवेदन करना जरूरी है। इसके साथ ही आईआईटी ने पीएचडी लेवल पर एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम शुरू किए हैं। इसके तहत छह महीने वहां के लोग यहां आकर सीखेंगे और यहां के लोग वहां जाकर सीखेंगे।



पांच साल में बीटेक-एमटेक

उच्च शिक्षा में छात्रों की दिलचस्पी बढ़ाने के लिहाज से आईआईटी दिल्ली ने पांच साल में बीटेक-एमटेक कराता है। आईआईटी दिल्ली ने स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम में बदलाव के तहत पिछले वर्ष ही इसे लागू कर दिया था। आईआईटी निदेशक सुरेंद्र प्रसाद का कहना है कि उच्च शिक्षा के प्रति छात्रों में रुचि पैदा करने के लिए क्रेडिट ट्रांसफर सिस्टम (सीटीएस) का प्रावधान किया गया है। सिस्टम में बीटेक करने के बाद छात्र को एमटेक पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल टॉपिकों की अतिरिक्त पढ़ाई करने का विकल्प

दिया गया है। इसके तहत बाद में इन टॉपिकों की परीक्षा भी ली जाएगी और प्रदर्शन के आधार पर अधिकतम 18 क्रेडिट प्वाइंट भी प्रदान किए जाएंगे। इन क्रेडिट प्वाइंट को अगले पाठ्यक्रम में जोड़ा जाएगा और इन पाठ्यक्रमों को दोबारा पढ़ने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। इससे छात्रों का एक वर्ष बच जाएगा। यह प्रावधान पूरी तरह से वैकल्पिक रखा गया है और छात्रों के चयन पर यह पूरी तरह निर्भर करेगा। ज्ञात हो कि मद्रास आईआईटी भी पांच साल का बीटेक-एमटेक कोर्स कराता है।

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PARLIAMENT SESSION

Education Bills face lawmakers' test

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The ongoing session of Parliament is critical to the education sector, with around 15 Bills, including one that will allow foreign universities to operate in India and another that will curb the menace of fake degrees, waiting to be cleared.

In an effort to ensure their smooth passage, human resource development minister Kapil Sibal, who has in recent months emerged as the government's preferred crisis manager, has been doing his bit to convince members of Parliament, across parties, of the merits of the Bills. Two officials in his ministry said the minister has, in recent weeks, met members of the parlia-

mentary standing committee, which discusses Bills and suggests changes before they are put to vote in Parliament.

"The government understands that education reform is a key issue as it touches everybody's lives. It is also known that one of the high points of the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government is the

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Key education Bills await Parliament nod

▶ FROM PAGE 1

Right to Education (RTE) Act," one of the two senior ministry officials said. For the record, RTE, which guarantees education for all children between the ages of six and 14, came into effect on 1 April 2010.

The official, who didn't want to be named, added that because many of the Bills were interrelated, they wouldn't have the desired impact unless passed in concert. "For example, the Educational Tribunal Bill and the unfair practices Bill are related legislation," he said, explaining that the two will together make the functioning of educational institutions more transparent by curbing unfair practices such as donations or capitation fees

The Educational Tribunal Bill and the unfair practices Bill are related and need clearance in tandem

students pay in return for admission.

The second official, who too did not want to be named, said the standing committee has submitted its report on the foreign university and unfair practices Bills to Parliament. He added that while the committee has made a few suggestions, it is largely in agreement with the direction of the laws.

Narayanan Ramaswamy, ex-

ecutive director (education practice) at audit and consulting firm KPMG, said that the number of Bills indicates the seriousness with which India is taking education.

"It's a good thing that education is getting its due. Some of the Bills are real game-changers for the education sector. If foreign universities enter India, then the landscape of the sector will change the way the entry of foreign auto companies changed the automobile sector in the country." He added that some of the Bills could need changes. If foreign universities are not allowed to repatriate a portion of their earnings—the current Bill doesn't allow this—then they may not be interested in entering the country, he said.

Ramaswamy struck a note of caution about the implementation of the Bills once they are approved. "Here (on implementation) I'm a little sceptical," he said.

N.K. Singh, a member of the

Key education Bills in queue

- **Universities for Innovation Bill:** To set up special universities with a focus on innovation and research
- **National Academic Depository Bill:** To create an electronic repository of education certificates to curb forgery
- **National Council for Higher Education and Research Bill:** To create an overarching body replacing regulators like the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education
- **Foreign Educational Institutions Bill:** To be reintroduced after the standing committee report
- **Prohibition of unfair practices Bill:** To be reintroduced after the standing committee report
- **Education Tribunal Bill:** Passed by Lok Sabha, to be taken up by Rajya Sabha

Rajya Sabha and part of the standing committee, said the number of Bills that can be passed depends on the urgency shown by the ministry. "The committee has given its report on two Bills and let's see how quickly they move on this," he said. "There are many education Bills on different stages, but this session has many important issues to debate and decide," added Singh, who represents the Janata Dal

(United) and also sits on the board of **HT Media Ltd**, the publisher of *Mint*.

Singh was optimistic about the chances of the Education Tribunal Bill being passed. The Bill seeks to set up tribunals at the Centre and in states to adjudicate on disputes involving students, teachers, university authorities and statutory regulators. The order of the tribunal shall be treated as a decree of a civil court.

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Four more FIRs in AIIMS entrance scam

RACKET Case against six accused, including the kingpin of gang

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The CBI on Wednesday registered four FIRs in connection with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) entrance test fraud in 2010-11. The exams were for post-graduate (PG) as well as under-graduate (UG) courses.

In June, the CBI arrested six suspects, including the alleged kingpin, of an inter-state network that specialised in manipulating the examination process of these courses.

The arrested kingpin, Dr

Mahipal Singh, had done his PG in Radiology from AIIMS a year ago and is believed to have been running the racket for the past two years, according to sources in the CBI.

The FIRs were registered against gang members, including the six arrested, for manipulating the answer sheets or OMRs (Optical Mark recognition sheets). Students mark their answers on OMR sheets by darkening circles marked on a pre-printed sheet. Afterwards, a scanning machine grades the sheet automatically. Some candidates had agreed to pay the

gang members several lakhs of rupees for manipulating the same.

“At the time of scanning of the candidates’ OMR sheets, the ovals against the unanswered questions were darkened with the help of two accused, who were employees of Pearl Technologies, the private firm that provided logistics for the examination process,” revealed a source in the CBI.

According to the CBI, as a result of the manipulation of four exams, around 25 candidates figured in the merit list and secured admission in PG

courses in different medical colleges, including AIIMS.

The first FIR pertained to the AIIMS PG entrance exam of January 2010. “Seven OMR sheets were interpolated,” said CBI spokesperson Dharini Mishra. The second FIR pertained to the AIIMS UG entrance examination of June 2010, in which six OMR sheets were interpolated. The third related to PG entrance of November 2010 in which OMR sheets of eight candidates were interpolated, and the fourth had to do with rigging of the AIIMS PG exam of January 2011.

Pvt parties seek less govt role in setting up IIITs

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Aug 3: The government's dream of setting up 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the public-private partnership (PPP) mode may take longer to fulfill with private parties not showing enough interest in collaborating with the ministry of human resource development (MHRD). The private players are seeking greater functional autonomy and are open to increase their share of funding, which currently stands at 15% against 50% central government funding and 35% state government funding.

"We are basically advocating greater freedom for private players and less government interference with greater private participation. This will not only increase the sense of ownership but also reduce financial and academic support from the government," said an official from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

During the first four years of setting up each IIIT, the Centre will provide ₹10 crore each year. Each IIIT will have to meet its entire operating expenditure on its own within five years of its commencement. The state government concerned will provide 50-100 acre of land free-of-cost.

"In addition to sharing 15% of the capital cost (7.5% in the case of north-eastern states), the participating companies were expected to contribute towards research labs and projects, internship, and faculty chairs from time to time. The minimum contribution from an industry partner should be ₹2 crore," according to the ministry.

Nasscom, the apex body for the IT industry, too had suggested private organisations should play an equal or slightly greater role in bringing investment for the new IIITs. At present, there are four IIITs in the country — in Gwalior, Jabalpur, Allahabad and Kancheepuram.

"Earlier, the governance structure was determined by the equity model but later, the financial contribution and governance structure were delinked," said Nasscom president Som Mittal.

According to CII, the project cost for 300 seats in case of 85% private contribution would be ₹75 crore excluding land cost while the current model has projected the capital cost at ₹128 crore. As for the financial contribution, CII has suggested equity of ₹30 crore and debt of ₹55 crore if the private sector's share is increased to 85% as against equity of ₹128 crore in case of 15% participation.

"We can think about increased financial contribution but that does not mean that government representation will end because these are institutes of national importance and there is accountability," said an MHRD official.

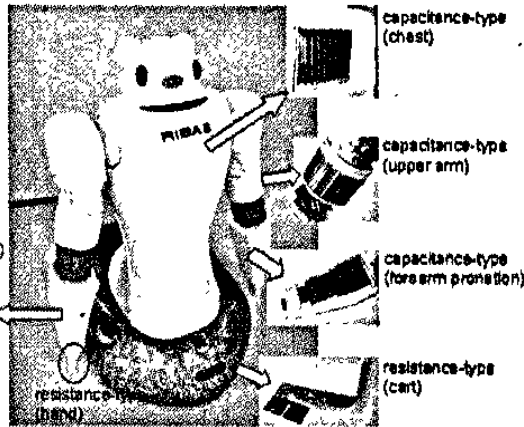
On the governance front, the ministry had suggested 25% of the total seats for the industry partners on the board of governors. "We only want land and the government's name in the new IIITs. Funding is not an issue with the private companies," the CII official added.

TECH DIGEST**RIBA II: New-age robot for old-age care**

A new robot using high-precision tactile sensors and flexible motor control technology has taken Japan one step closer to its goal of providing high-quality care for its growing elderly population. Developed by researchers at RIKEN and Tokai Rubber Industries (TRI), the new robot can lift a patient up to 80 kg in weight off floor-level bedding and into a wheelchair.

With an elderly population in need of nursing care projected to reach a staggering 5.69 million by 2015, Japan faces an urgent need for new approaches to assist care-giving personnel. One of the most strenuous tasks for such personnel, carried out an average of 40 times

every day, is that of lifting a patient from a futon at floor level into a wheelchair. Robots are well-suited for this task, yet none has yet been deployed in care-giving facilities.



Park in central Japan — unveiled a robot called RIBA (Robot for Interactive Body Assistance) designed to assist this task. The first robot capable of lifting a patient from a bed to a wheelchair and back, RIBA charted a new course in the development of care-giving robots. It, however, could not crouch down and lift a patient off a futon at floor level, which RTC's new robot RIBA-II is able to do with the aid of new joints in its base and lower back and newly-developed smart rubber sensors fitted onto its arms and chest, the sensors enable high-precision tactile guidance and to detect a person's weight from touch, guaranteeing patient safety.

In 2009, the RIKEN-TRI Collaboration Center for Human-Interactive Robot Research (RTC) — a joint project established in 2007 and located at the Nagoya Science

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Govt to decongest IIT-NH8 link road

THE DELHI government will soon give a go-ahead to a proposal submitted by the public works department to conduct a detailed study for developing an alternate route to connect south Delhi with NH-8 and Indra Gandhi International Airport to decongest the existing outer Ring Road.

The detailed study will be carried out by government consultant - Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES). The alternative grid, which forms a kind of smaller circle - will start from NH-8 at Mahlpalpur crossing. It will connect areas such as Andheria Mod, Aurobindo Marg,

AIIMS and Dhaula Kuan.

"The mandate of the study covers all aspects of this stretch and also suggests possibilities. Whatever steps and actions they suggest on the existing stretch, and the alternative grid will then be sent to Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) (UTTPEC) and following their approval, it will be implemented," a senior PWD official overseeing the project said.

Sources in the state government say that the alternative grid, which will also be studied, is likely to be developed as a "full scale" alterna-

tive stretch with "as few signals as possible".

"It has been discussed how the six to eight kilometre-long stretch from IIT to IGIA gets congested in peak hours and is under constant strain because of increasing vehicular load. The alternative needs to come up at the earliest," the official said.

RITES will at least take around eight-10 months to complete the study. It will also study the alternative grid to comprehend other construction points of new flyovers, underpasses or overbridges for a smoother and faster traffic flow.

Bhuvan Bhagga in New Delhi

THAT RISKY RUSH FOR A US DEGREE

A medley of factors has meant influx of Indian students to places they should never have gone

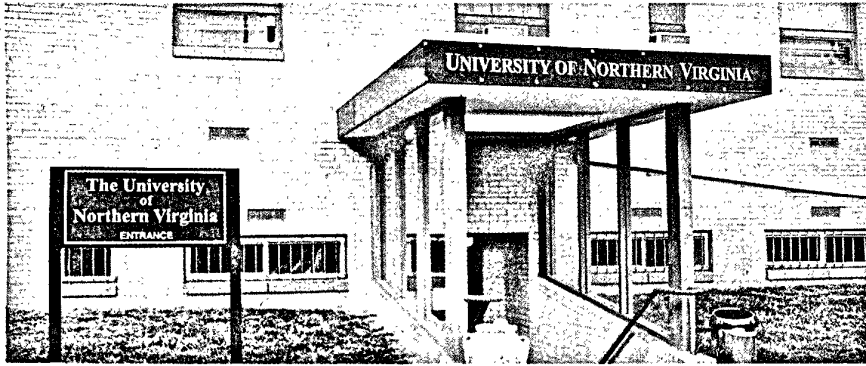
INDIRA KANNAN
Toronto

It is illegal for universities in the US to use agents to recruit students within the country. However, the law does not prevent the institutions from paying agents to recruit students from other countries. Nor is there any law in India barring agents from approaching students on behalf of foreign schools. This, along with the strong demand in India for an education abroad, may be putting a number of students at risk of being duped.

If the shutdown of the Tri-Valley University in California by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in January was a wake-up call, the raid on the University of Northern Virginia on July 28, was another warning signal for Indian students in the US. In both schools, an overwhelming number of students enrolled were from India, the majority from Andhra Pradesh. Both universities are alleged to have violated the law by enrolling more foreign students than they were allowed to. In the case of Tri-Valley, the institution was charging tuition fees but not holding sufficient classes on campus, and allowing students to take up employment in the US as soon as they enrolled, which is also against the law.

Some or several of the students may not be blameless victims. They had enrolled at these universities precisely as a way of getting into the US on student visas to work immediately – some at grocery stores or a McDonald's, in cities hundreds of miles away from campus – while ostensibly taking classes online. But for those who joined these schools in pursuit of their dream of a US education, it's a grim awakening.

The Telugu Association of North America, or Tana, which has been counselling the affected students, fears the Tri-Valley and UNVA cases are just the tip of the iceberg. "There are another 15,000-20,000



The raid on the University of Northern Virginia on July 28 was another warning signal for Indian students in the US. PHOTO: PTI

Indian students minimum" at similar universities of dubious repute, says Ashok Kolla, the Chair for NRI Student Services at Tana.

RECRUITER ISSUE

It's not known whether the students at these two schools were recruited by agents in India. Court documents in the Tri-Valley case alleged students themselves often acted as recruiters, being paid a portion of the tuition fee of new students they had brought in.

New York-based Harjiv Singh is the founder and CEO of an online resource, braingainmag.com, for students who want to study in the US and other countries. When it comes to Indian students heading to US universities, says Singh, the problem cuts both ways. "There is a severe lack of information, especially in the smaller towns, about US universities where students can get legitimate degrees. At the same time, a lot of universities in the US don't know how to tap genuine students in India and use consultants

or middlemen to do the job."

Facing budget cuts at home, several US universities are desperate to add full-fee paying students to their ranks. While prestigious universities like Harvard or Yale don't need agents, several smaller schools are not known well outside the US and hire consultants to get noticed.

Due diligence is essential, advises Singh, especially since going to the US to study is expensive. "Are you being asked to pay the consultant for enrolling in a school? That should be a warning sign, as US universities typically don't require payment for considering a student for admission."

Phillip Altbach, Director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College, is familiar with the problem, having taught in India. He wants recruiters to be removed from the process. Altbach says the practice of using recruiters

is becoming widespread in the US because many schools don't want to make the effort or invest enough resources to vet individual students and simply pass off the task to agents, who push as many students as possible because they are often paid per student enrolled.

However, there are strong advocates for the use of recruiters and Mitch Leventhal, vice chancellor for global affairs at the State University of New York (SUNY), is one of them. "The most direct way to recruit students is through agents," he says. Leventhal is also co-founder of the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC), set up three years earlier, to develop standards and a framework for certification in the recruiting industry. SUNY, says Leventhal, works only with AIRC-certified agents. Consultants in India also use their certification by AIRC as a selling point. For instance, Global

Reach declares on its website that it has been certified as "the first Agent to recruit students from India and Nepal for all our partner institutions in the US by the American International Recruitment Council".

ACCREDITATION

But this is a recent effort. Leventhal admits only 43 agents have gone through the AIRC's training and certification process. He points out there are more Indian agents in this group than from any other country.

Another minefield for Indian students is trying to identify genuinely accredited universities. The US State Department's Education USA website is a good resource for identifying accredited institutions. Singh of braingainmag.com advises students to also check placement records of their chosen schools. And, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or CHEA, functions as an accreditor of accreditors, helping students verify whether their university is accredited by a genuine accreditor.

Student traffic to UK, US may decline

KALPANA PATHAK & VINAY UMARJI
Mumbai/Ahmedabad

The UK government's review of its visa norms since April is making students explore other study destinations.

Accredited overseas education consultants call it the Australia and the US effect. "With the instances of students getting attacked in Australia in 2009, and now sham universities in the US, UK has become stringent with its visa norms. It wants more serious students to come to UK," said a Hyderabad-based overseas education consultant.

Australia recorded a decline of almost 63 per cent – from 18,514 in 2009-10 to just 6,875 in 2010-11 – in offshore international student visa applications from India in the last financial year. The UK, with an objective of reducing net migration and ensuring best talent, introduced changes to Tier II of the points-based system (for skilled migrants).

"Research showed that many migrants with Tier I post study work visas did not in fact find employment while others found low-skilled employment which was not commensurate with their qualifications. Tier I has been refocused as a route for entrepreneurs, investors and (from August 9) people with exceptional talent," said Sam Murray, regional communications manager, UK Border Agency, South Asia.

As a result, more and more students are looking at destinations like Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Ireland and Australia.

"Canada is benefitting the most from changes in UK visa norms. Traffic to Australia and Europe too is catching up. We expect UK visa numbers to decline as largely Indian students go to private colleges in

the UK. Majority of these colleges cater to students from low-income groups who prefer working than studying," said Navveen Chopra, promoter and chairman, The Chopras, an overseas education consultant based in New Delhi.

This April, UK did away with the Tier I Post Study Work (PSW) visa. The UK Border Agency confirmed that changes in the student visa rules will result in fewer visa applications.

"The UK government is committed to minimising abuse of the student immigration system, while ensuring support for the brightest and best students to continue to study at UK's highest quality education institutions," said Murray.

The post study work route allowed international graduates to remain in the UK for up to two years, whether or not they were able to find work. The new announcement says, the post-study work route will close from April 2012.

Closure of the PSW was triggered by an increase in abuse in the private education sector in the UK. "It was found that there was increasing abuse in the private further education sector (by some, but not all colleges), so the reforms were targeted at those institutions where change was considered to be most necessary," said Murray.

The first tranche of reforms in April this year included extending the more comprehensive public sector accreditation requirements to private education providers and ensuring that all sponsors meet highly trusted sponsor status.

"The new system is designed to ensure students come for a limited period, to study, not work," UK's Home Secretary Theresa May had said, while announcing the new regulation.