

## Newspaper Clips

August 9, 2011

Hindustan ND 09/08/2011 P-9

# प्रोफेसरों की घर वापसी करा रही है आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

प्रोफेसरों की कमी से जूझ रहे भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) ने देश-विदेश में प्रोफेसरों की तलाश का व्यापक अभियान शुरू किया है। इसके तहत आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों की तलाश की जा रही है। साथ ही विदेशों में बसे भारतीय मूल के प्रोफेसरों और आप्रवासी भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों को ढूंढकर उन्हें स्वदेश बुलाकर प्रोफेसर की नौकरी पेश की जा रही है। हाल में शुरू हुए इस अभियान से विदेशों में बसे भारतीय मूल के 22 प्रोफेसरों की घर वापसी हुई है। ये प्रोफेसर अमेरिका, कनाडा, ब्रिटेन, जर्मनी आदि देशों से लौटे हैं।

कुछ अरसा पूर्व मंत्रालय ने प्रोफेसरों की कमी से जूझ रहे आईआईटी को विदेशी प्रोफेसर नियुक्त करने की मंजूरी दी थी। पहले चरण में भारतीय मूल (पीआईओ) और आप्रवासी भारतीय प्रोफेसरों को नियुक्ति दी जा रही है। जबकि गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा सुरक्षा कारणों के चलते अभी विदेशी प्रोफेसरों की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया शुरू नहीं हो पाई है। भारतीय मूल के प्रोफेसरों को पांच साल के ठेके पर रखा गया है।

आईआईटी काउंसिल के अनुसार, अभी प्रोफेसरों के 1693 पद खाली पड़े

## दूर तक खोज

- अब तक 22 आप्रवासी भारतीय और भारतीय मूल के प्रोफेसरों को स्वदेश लाने में सफल
- पुराने छात्रों, विदेशों में भारतीय मूल के प्रोफेसरों और आप्रवासी भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों पर नजर
- मोटा पैकेज, रिसर्च ग्रांट और कांफ्रेंस पैकेज के साथ हो रही है नियुक्ति
- देश की 15 आईआईटी में प्रोफेसरों के एक तिहाई 1693 पद खाली पड़े हैं

हैं जो कुल स्वीकृत संख्या का करीब एक तिहाई है। दरसअल, इंजीनियरिंग में पीएचडी कम होने के कारण देश में प्रोफेसर नहीं मिल रहे हैं। आईआईटी काउंसिल ने प्रोफेसरों की नियुक्ति में तेजी लाने के लिए कई और उपाय भी किए हैं। नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया अब बारहों महीने चलती रहेगी। वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग से उम्मीदवार का इंटरव्यू लिया जाएगा। मकसद यह है कि इंटरव्यू में नहीं पहुंच पाने के कारण नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया न रुके। इसके साथ ही विदेशों से आने वाले प्रोफेसरों को ज्यादा वेतन दिया जा रहा है।

Hindu ND 9/08/2011 p-7

# 5,000 engineering seats go abegging

Ananya Dutta

**KOLKATA:** More than 5,000 seats – nearly a sixth of the seats available in engineering colleges across West Bengal – have not found any takers after the counselling of the State Joint Entrance Examination concluded here this past Friday and authorities are looking at alternative ways in which the seats might be filled up.

Of the nearly 1.2 lakh candidates who appeared for the examination, 90,000 were short-listed for the nearly 32,000 seats.

The All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has relaxed the qualifying criterion of 50 per cent marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics to 45 per cent in the three subjects for general candidates. Despite the large number of candidates and relaxation of qualifying criteria, more than 5,000 seats have gone abegging. Last year, about 6,000 seats remained vacant.

West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination Registrar Dibyendu Kar said the remaining seats would be thrown open to applicants of

the Board's JELET, the examination for lateral entry to engineering colleges.

"The JELET examination is conducted for those who hold diplomas in engineering disciplines for admission to second year of engineering colleges.

Some applicants who may not have qualified for second year will be given the option of admission in first year," he said.

He stated that private engineering colleges have the option to fill up their vacant seats. These colleges will have to advertise vacant seats and

the applications they receive will be assessed to draw up a merit list, Mr. Kar said.

This year the State Government has allowed colleges directly to admit students with minimum qualification prescribed by AICTE even if the student has not taken the Joint Entrance exam.

Director of Technical Education Sajal Dasgupta, while announcing the State Government's decision, had said that it was taken to fill seats in the private engineering colleges that are not finding it economically viable to operate.

Times of India ND 9/08/2011 p-9

# Math wiz likely to head NCERT

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** After remaining headless for more than a year, the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is all set to get a director. Mathematician R Ramanujam of the prestigious Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, is the frontrunner for the post.

A search-cum-selection committee headed by Abid Hussain, former Indian ambassador to the US, has short-listed four names out of

which Ramanujam's is right on the top.

HRD ministry sources said Ramanujam's name is likely to be sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for final approval. The only hitch could be Ramanujam's possible reluctance to relocate to Delhi.

He is involved in frontline research in mathematics in Chennai and is still weighing his options about taking up an administrative job. However, the search committee had interacted with him in-

formally before finalizing his name.

Ramanujam had played a crucial role in the formulation of the National Curriculum Framework of 2005 and in the writing of NCERT textbooks. He wrote the approach paper to NCF-2005 and is known for his interest beyond mathematics.

Anita Rampal of the Department of Education, Delhi University, and Parvin Sinclair, pro vice-chancellor, IGNOU, have also been short-listed for the post.

# MCI issues notice for PG medical entrance test

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**he Common Entrance Test (CET) for PG medical admission ensuring transparency will become a reality. The Medical Council of India (MCI) has issued a notification for holding National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical post-graduate courses in Government and private colleges from early next year for admissions in the academic session 2012-2013.

Sources in the council said that the syllabus for the test is that of the MBBS as described in the MCI Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997. The postgraduate medical courses have around 18,000 seats for which examination will be conducted in January/February 2012.

"The multiple choice questions would be based on the MBBS syllabus as well as the knowledge that needs to be acquired during internship, which is also described in the said regulations," the sources maintained.

The distribution of questions, model questions and method of tie-breaking for ranking would be placed on the website in due course, they said.

When contacted, MCI Secretary Sangeeta Sharma said the council is all ready to hold the post graduate medical examinations from next year as was submitted in the Supreme



- The postgraduate medical courses have around 18,000 seats for which examination will be conducted in January/February 2012
- Questions would be based on the MBBS syllabus as well as the knowledge that needs to be acquired during internship

Court. "There is not much problem for holding the PG courses as we don't have to prepare the syllabus. Moreover, unlike in MBBS courses there is no issue of holding any consultation," she added.

Sources in the Health Ministry said that the MCI may approach AIIMS to hold the examination.

The students seeking to appear for MBBS examination through the CET will have to wait further as the MCI is seeking feedback on a common core syllabus for the NEET for undergraduates with the last date being August 11, following which the syllabus for physics, chemistry and biology will be finalised.

As per the MCI proposal, the NEET will lead to an all-India merit list as well as state-wise merit list of the eligible candidates. Admissions must be done only on the basis of the merit list.

The Union Health Ministry and the MCI were at loggerheads over the introduction of CET with the former opposing the move. However, armed with the Supreme Court order, the MCI had the last word as it opined that holding a single entrance test is ideal and that it would substantially reduce the stress level of the students, who, under the current system, have to sit for seven tests for getting admission in medical colleges.

## DEALS INDIA

Powered by Mint, Dow Jones Newswires and The Wall Street Journal

## FUNDING GAP

# Investors eyeing education hit regulatory roadblocks

BY DEEPTI CHAUDHARY  
deepti.c@livemint.com

BANGALORE

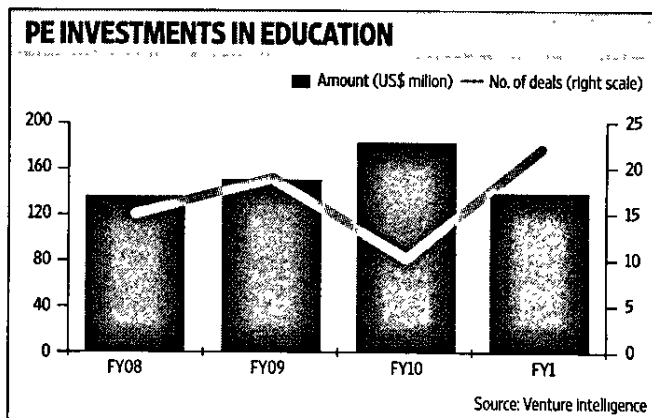
While the latest report by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India indicates that ₹4,200 crore will be invested by venture capital and private equity (PE) firms in the education sector over the next three years, investors are not quite sure if this could happen in the current regulatory environment.

Investors say that though education has been a must-have in their list of sectors, primarily on the basis of the demand-supply gap, the country's regulatory restrictions make it difficult to make a profit.

The core education segment—K-XII (kindergarten to class XII) and higher education—is controlled by the government to prevent commercialization and profit making. Furthermore, the regulations require the plough-back of all surplus capital into the institutions, making it unattractive for returns-seeking investors.

Although fees in private schools are not regulated, the institute has to be run by a trust, which makes it difficult for investors to take returns on investments or utilize surplus funds to scale up operations.

"Only a fraction of the potential number will go into education, if the right ecosystem is not available," said Gopal Jain, managing director at Gaja Capital Partners, one of the most prominent education investors in India. "With regulatory constraints, lack of clarity on the RTE (right to education) Act, absence of rules on land, there is hardly any framework available to attract PE funding. However, given the current scale of foreign direct investments and PE in India and the needs of the sector, a multiple of this \$1 billion number could



flow in given the right ecosystem."

As much as \$600-700 million could be invested by 2014, said Sandeep Aneja, managing director, Kaizen Management Advisors Pvt. Ltd, an education-focused PE fund.

India has the third-largest education system globally, after China and the US, with one million schools and 18,000 higher education institutions, according to Venture Intelligence's latest report on education, released last month. With a population of around 540 million in the 0-24 age bracket, it is also the largest education market in the world.

The government currently spends around 4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) on education, which is to be increased 6% to ₹2.7 trillion in the 11th five-year Plan from ₹43,500 crore in the 10th Plan.

Given this significant gap between demand for quality and relevant education and supply, there is a huge potential for private investment. Accordingly, PE interest in this sector has also grown significantly.

The sector can broadly be classified into three segments—formal or core education, which includes schools, colleges and universities; non-formal education, comprising preparatory schools and coaching institutes for skill de-

velopment or vocational training; and content and technology enablers for the first two.

While K-XII and higher education are the biggest segments in education, the majority of investments have been in the relatively unregulated allied businesses. Test preparation, content development, pre-school chains, technologies for education and vocational deals are more attractive from the regulatory standpoint, said Vivek Gupta, partner, mergers and acquisitions practice, BMR Advisors.

"The unregulated ancillary businesses continue to be attractive," he said. "Unlike in other sectors, opportunities continue to be high in education despite quite a few companies getting invested in the same space. This is largely because the scope of growth and scaling up is immense. The sector has not seen a shake-out of leaders and followers."

That's because the sector is yet to be organized, he said.

Other upcoming attractive models include teacher training, special courses for students, information technology (IT) infrastructure management, content development, hostels, transportation services and other such services for formal education institutions.

Investment bankers say things may change a bit with

brick and mortar models becoming attractive for investors as these are asset-driven business. While banks have so far catered to their funding demands, rising interest rates may nudge them towards institutional investors.

"A large portion of the investment will go into the brick and mortar models, which are currently facing demand supply mismatch," said Mohit Khullar, vice-president, Equirus Capital Pvt. Ltd, an investment bank. "However, given the asset-heavy play, these investments will be financed by a mix of debt and equity."

Investors say the education space will be dominated by mid-ticket investments as there are only a few companies that can absorb large-ticket investments of over \$30 million to \$40 million.

"Small to mid-ticket size, \$10 million to \$20 million deals, will dominate the space," said Anant Kulkarni, managing partner at PE firm Milestone Religare Investment Advisors. "Beyond that, besides the brick and mortar model, there is not much of an appetite for capital consumption."

There are quite a few vocational training and test preparation companies looking for the next round of funding, he said.

The sector needs more patient capital as education is different from industries such as IT/ITeS (IT-enabled services), where an investor can make an exit in two-three years, experts said. Only a few investors are ready to wait for a longer period. There are returns in such investments for those who do, said BMR's Gupta.

"On the demand side, potential is limitless. If one is executing right, there are no challenges to scaling up. The market is huge," he said. "Investors need to have patience of at least five years. They can't get out of these investments in two to three years."

*Deals India, published jointly by Mint, Dow Jones Newswires and The Wall Street Journal, is a one-stop destination for investment professionals following deal flow, deals news, private-equity and venture-capital activity in India.*