

Newspaper Clips

December 2, 2013

HRD revives coordinating forum for IIMs

Anubhuti Vishnoi Posted online: Mon Dec 02 2013, 05:30 hrs

New Delhi : Despite stiff opposition from the Indian Institutes of Management, particularly IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta, the controversial 'coordinating forum' has been revived and retained by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry in its latest draft of the proposed IIM Bill.

The forum was opposed by IIMs as they felt such an overarching body would undermine their autonomy. But their arguments have been firmly rejected by the HRD Ministry in the draft Bill.

The council, to be chaired by the HRD Minister, will coordinate activities of all 13 IIMs, deliberate on matters of common interest, review achievement of policy objectives and prepare reports on each institute.

IIM Ahmedabad, which has been the most vociferous in its opposition, feels such a body would impose uniformity over an otherwise diverse set of IIMs.

An overarching council was first proposed by an IIM review committee, led by R C Bhargava, in 2009.

The draft Bill, which offers degree-granting powers to IIMs, also plans to introduce the concept of a Visitor in the institutes. The President of India is already the Visitor/ex-officio Visitor of all Central Universities, NITs and IITs.

The Visitor has the power to appoint IIM Directors and nominate members to the executive committee, board of management, court and selection committees of institutions. The Visitor may also exercise powers in matters of amendments, additions and repeal of status; suspension and disallowance of Ordinances, etc.

The issue of the dissolving societies in each IIM has also been dealt with, keeping in mind the views of all IIMs. IIM Ahmedabad and Bangalore had insisted on the need to retain societies as their members contribute significantly to the institutes.

The HRD ministry, in the new Bill, said the societies can continue as advisory bodies.

New Act that will give powers to AICTE on its way, says Raju

Express news service Posted online: Mon Dec 02 2013, 02:27 hrs

Pune: A new Act, which will give powers to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), will soon come into effect, said Union Minister for Human Resources Development Pallam Raju, who was in the city to attend the 10th convocation ceremony of Symbiosis International University on Sunday.

"We are working to restore the powers of AICTE. We had earlier thought of bringing an ordinance to this effect but then decided to bring about a new Act which will define the powers of AICTE. Until the new act is formulated, UGC and AICTE will function in a coordinated manner so that students do not suffer," said Raju.

A Supreme Court judgment by the bench of Judge B S Chauhan and Judge V Gopala Gowda had reduced the AICTE to an advisory body instead of the regulatory body as it used to be for all technical courses. The judgment had said that private entities no longer need to take permission from AICTE to open MBA and MCA colleges as these are not technical courses. Although AICTE had sent a review petition, it was rejected by the apex court.

Talking about Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Raju said that a meeting of higher education ministers of all the states was held in Bangalore last week where discussions were held to decide on the implementation of RUSA in state universities. "If RUSA is implemented, it will not mean that funding to UGC will reduce. RUSA's funding will be additional to what we give to UGC," added Raju.

On the occasion, historian Ramachandra Guha and social reformist Shobhana Ranade were conferred with the Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) award.

Raju said in an attempt to make higher education accessible to everybody, its quality should not be compromised.

He said 51 new higher educational institutes were added in the 11th Five Year Plan and in the 12th plan focus is to work on quality and capacity building. He expressed his concerns over the non-contribution of Indian university in the global ranking and advised students to become entrepreneurs to create new jobs. As many as 4,577 students were awarded under graduate, post graduate, diploma and PhD degrees at the convocation.

‘Focus is on improving the quality of higher education’

Special Correspondent



Human Resource Development Minister M.M. Pallam Raju inaugurating the new campus of the Central University of Karnataka in Gulbarga district on Saturday. Photo: Arun Kulkarni

The Hindu

M.M. Pallam Raju, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, has said that the Ministry was focussing on improving and standardising the quality of higher education in the 11th Plan period.

He was here on Saturday to inaugurate the new campus of the Central University of Karnataka on the outskirts of Kadaganchi village in Aland taluk in Gulbarga district.

Mr. Raju said centres of higher education should focus more on qualitative research and development. They should also strive for setting up linkages with industrial houses in the proximity and synchronise their research with the needs of the industries.

The Minister said the Central University of Karnataka should establish a tie-up with the Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad for inter-disciplinary activities including student and faculty exchange programmes. Mr. Raju said other areas of focus would be skill development and vocational education. U.R. Anantamurthy, Chancellor of the university; N. Dharam Singh, MP; R.V. Deshpande, Higher Education Minister; Basavaraj Patil Sedam, MP; and B.R. Patil, MLA; S.S. Murthy, Vice-Chancellor of the university; and M.N. Sudheendra Rao, pro-chancellor, were present.

Keywords: [M.M. Pallam Raju](#), [Kadaganchi village](#), [Central University of Karnataka](#)

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Indore: Probe into complaint against IIM director

Sunday, Dec 1, 2013, 13:58 IST | Place: Indore | Agency: DNA

[Shruti Marwaha](#)

The Minister of State (MOS) has instructed the technical department to take appropriate action based on its findings.

The Minister of State (MOS) of the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry had ordered its department of technical education to investigate the complaints lodged against Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-I) director N Ravichandran in October.

Highly placed sources said that a communication to this effect was sent on Friday to the complainant, who had accused Ravichandran of carrying out financial and recruitment irregularities through construction projects.

Besides investigating the matter, the MoS had even instructed the technical department to take suitable action based on its findings.

In the letter dated October 8, 2013 (a copy of which is in the possession of **dna**), addressed to the assistant secretary (technical department), Abhinav Kumar- Personal Secretary (PS) to MoS, Shashi Tharoor had written, "The Hon'ble MoS (HRD) desires that the matter be examined and necessary action be taken."

The complainant in its letter dated September 9 this year had requested the MoS to look into the matter.

In response to a follow-up query of the complainant, the MoS office in its letter dated November 29, 2013 (a copy of which is in the possession of **dna**) stated that the matter was forwarded to the technical department of the ministry.

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IIT-K student succumbs to heart attack

Kanpur: A 23-year-old MTech student of IIT-Kanpur has allegedly died of a heart attack, police said here on Sunday. Mohit, who was from Tarapur in Maharashtra, got the admission this year itself.

On Saturday evening, after playing cricket for around 2-hours, Mohit went to his room for rest, but after some time, when his friends came to his room, they found him lying unconscious on the floor. A K Gosh of the IIT told reporters here. Mohit was rushed to a health centre in the campus where he breathed his last, Ghosh said. The exact reason of his death would be known only after the post-mortem, Ghosh added. ¶

'Quality is cornerstone of higher education'

TNN | Dec 2, 2013, 10:33 AM IST



MANGALORE: Drawing attention to benchmarks in higher education, B L Bhagyalakshmi, director of collegiate education, on Sunday said quality alone is its cornerstone.

Inaugurating a two-day national seminar on 'Changing Paradigms of Higher Education-12th Plan Initiatives', organised as part of the 27th statutory conference of the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organization (AIFUCTO), here, she said the focus should be on gender equity, rural development, as well as increasing the number of colleges in rural areas and scholarships.

On the seminar's agenda is addressing the shortage of teachers, their conditions and benefits as well as infrastructural problems.

Bhagyalakshmi said the state government has introduced several skill-based education programmes, like Vikasana, Sahyog and Angla, since 2008. She added that although the 12th Plan brought about many educational reforms, implementation has suffered on various counts.

Mrinmoy Bhattacharya, former general secretary, AIFUCTO, said the teachers' rights movement may have skimmed over issues of higher education.

He pointed out that India is far behind several nations in higher education with its gross enrolment ratio of 35%. "Unless we take higher education to all sections..., the issue will remain. The research should be viewed in terms of groups and not individuals. Through this conference, AIFUCTO has to rise to this challenge."

Ravi Srivastava, professor, [Jawaharlal Nehru University](#), Delhi, and Sudhanshu Bhushan, professor, department of higher and professional education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, Delhi, also spoke.

Fr Swebert D'Silva, principal of St Aloysius College, presided. Dr A M Narahari, chairman of the conference committee, and Norbert Lobo, president, Association of Mangalore University College Teachers, were present.

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'UNIVERSITIES CANNOT WORK IN ISOLATION'

MARY SUE COLEMAN, president, University of Michigan, tells Malini Sen why the university is building partnerships in India



Stanley T Wearden

What is the University of Michigan known for? Study across the curriculum. We offer enormous breadth and depth, combined with excellence in every field. Even the undergraduates in their first year can get involved in research through the undergraduate research opportunity programme (UROP).

What is the university's plan for India?

The University of Michigan wants to learn as much as it wants to teach, and that is why it is building partnerships in India. We do not believe in establishing an offshore campus and we have not done it in any other country. We have partnerships in countries such as Ghana, South Africa, China and Brazil. Offshore campus is not a good model for us.

Our plans for India include collaborations with Indian institutes which are mutually beneficial. The relationship cannot be one-sided. Also, each partnership is different; for example, what works for Ghana may not work for In-

dia. During this trip, University of Michigan signed MoUs with Ashoka University, NCAER, AIIMS and Delhi University.

In Mumbai, we attended the India Business Conference, which is celebrating its fifth year. The conference is held every year by University of Michigan Alumni and Ross School of Business.

What is the role of a university in the 21st century?

Open courseware cannot replace face-to-face teaching. Technology can sup-



plement education but cannot be a replacement. Universities are places of learning, where discussions and research take place for the betterment of society.

Michigan was founded in the 1800s, how does it remain relevant?

Universities cannot work in isolation. They work by being a part of the community and by being involved in real-world problems and working towards a solution together with society, whether it is sustainability or doing research for a new battery for a better hybrid car.

You are one of the six university presidents selected to work with President Obama on the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, a national effort bringing together industry, universities and the federal government in the US. Can you elaborate on this partnership? I was appointed by the President to bring together universities, industry and government to accelerate growth opportunities with federal grants. Universities then competed with industries to win those grants. The partnership went very well and I have been invited to be part of the second round as well.

The university has partnered with Google, can you share the details?

University of Michigan was one of the first universities to partner with Google, Inc. in an ambitious project to digitise the bound print volumes of the university's library collection. The project will provide scholars and the general public with an ability to search for and locate books from the university's vast collection. This initiative has the potential to revolutionise the way the world's knowledge is transmitted and to democratise access to information.

AT A GLANCE: MOUS SIGNED

- Ashoka University MoU will allow opportunities for faculty development and exchange as well as student exchange and visiting of fellows and research scholars from Ashoka to University of Michigan (U-M) and vice-versa

- The NCAER collaboration involves co-operation in survey-based research, covering methodology, technology, and new

research initiatives. Other initiatives may include establishing a survey research laboratory at NCAER to test and advance new approaches for social science research and for training professionals in state-of-the-art, survey-based research methods

- Delhi University partnership would enable students from DU to study with reputed scientists at U-M and engage

in short-term projects. It will also allow students from U-M to participate in innovation projects and other academic research at DU

- University of Michigan Health System has a broad MoU with AIIMS and they would collaborate on research involving trauma care as well as gastroenterology, liver, pediatric surgery, acute care surgery, organ transplantation, etc

The GATE advantage

Vikas Slariya



Be Thorough: Reference helps. Photo: K.K. Mustafah

The Hindu

Apart from reflecting the relative performance level of a candidate, GATE scores serve as a value-add.

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is an all-India examination being conducted and administered by the Indian Institute of Science and seven Indian Institutes of Technology. It is conducted by the National Coordination Board GATE, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

In the present competitive scenario, where there is mushrooming of universities and engineering colleges, the only yardstick to measure and test the caliber of engineering students is the GATE. There is a misconception among students that GATE exam is meant for ME./M.Tech which finally leads to a teaching career only.

The GATE advantage

In this context, the following points are worth noting about this examination :

Many public sector undertakings such as BHEL, Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (there are PSUs totalling 217 in number) are using the GATE score for selecting candidates for their organisations. Students who qualify in GATE are entitled to a stipend of Rs 8,000 per month during their M.Tech course. Better remuneration is being offered for students of M.Tech/M.E as compared to those pursuing B.Tech /B.E. A good GATE rank assures a good job. After joining M.Tech. at IITs and IISc, one can look at a salary package ranging from Rs 7 lakh to 30 lakh per annum, depending upon specialisation and performance.

Clearing GATE is also an eligibility clause for the award of Junior Research Fellowship in CSIR Laboratories. M.Tech. degree is mandatory for those wishing to apply for research positions in R&D centres. The GATE score is valid for two years and those who qualify this test are eligible for doing Master's degree at NUS, (National University of Singapore), Singapore. A GATE score definitely gives one an edge when it comes to joining reputed companies as well as off-campus recruitments. For those who couldn't pursue their BTech in IIT, it provides another opportunity to study in the prestigious IITs. Above all, it certainly gives you a huge technical edge over others in all your interviews and career planning.

Raising numbers

In the recent years the trend is very significant. From 1.66 lakh aspirants in 2008, the number of aspirants touched 5.5 lakh in 2011 and is expected to touch eight lakh in 2013. It is one of the toughest examinations in our country where

competition is very high and requires focused study in a planned manner.

It aims at rigorous testing of the students' capability in engineering concepts along with managerial skills. Engineering subjects cover 70 per cent weightage while General aptitude and Engineering Mathematics cover 15 per cent respectively.

The three-hour GATE paper has a total of 65 questions, out of which 30 questions are of one mark and 35 questions are of two marks. The two-mark questions further include two pairs of common data questions and two pairs of linked answer questions.

To secure a high percentile one should remember that a candidate is being judged relatively and not absolutely. The overall rank achieved depends upon the preparation level of your competitors.

Scoring tips

The following tips would certainly help you in scoring well in the exam:

Go through previous years' question papers along with solutions, and analyse the subject pattern and focus on those subjects which have maximum weightage.

Books can further be divided into two categories: Books that deal with the fundamentals and focus on conceptual clarity. Here textbooks by reputed publishers are a must. Books that provide a great deal of difficult and time-consuming questions and are used essentially as practice material.

Do not rely on just one book for a topic; instead consult a couple of books for the same topic. Prepare notes after completing each chapter.

Practise the maximum number of questions possible on a given topic. This certainly strengthens your preparation.

Keep in mind that those topics which are not in GATE syllabus could be certainly left out.

Make a list of topics in which you think you are 'weak' and focus on them. Have all essential formulae on your fingertips. Try to see if there are shortcut methods for a particular problem.

Joining a coaching institute is beneficial as you would be exposed to a regular systematic study. Also, joining a peer group would make one more competitive. Online coaching classes/test series are beneficial too.

Theory preparation should be completed one month before the exam and then practise many number of times.

Keep oneself updated about any changes or developments in the GATE examination for the coming year.

How to tackle the paper

Start the paper with one-mark question (25 in number). Since these are easy to attempt, they will help in building confidence. Proceed then to two-marks questions from Common Data and Linked Answer Questions.

Attempt this part with caution. These add up to eight more questions in addition to the 25 attempted above. Then go to General Aptitude section of 10 questions. All these will add upto 43 questions attempted. All these should be done in a timeframe of 100-110 minutes.

Now we are left with 22 questions in the technical portion and we can allot 50 minutes to this comfortably. At the end, you must have 15-20 minutes for a quick revision of the answer sheet to ensure all is in order.

While attempting the paper, leave questions which you are not sure of. The most deciding factor is negative marking. Avoid making any guesses and try to eliminate choices by analysis and calculations.

The writer is author of Mechanical Engineering for GATE and trains aspirants for this subject

Keywords: [Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering](#), [GATE exam](#), [GATE exam tips](#)

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IITs see Rs 1.3-cr salary offer on Day-1 of placement

EXL Services recruit 34 students from IIT, Kanpur

The [placement](#) season has started off with good news for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) this year, with one IIT recording Rs 1.3 crore salary, while another, IIT, Kanpur, created history by placing 34 students with one company.

"The response from companies has been much better than what we expected. Even salaries offered are better than last year's. This year, the highest salary stands at Rs 1.3 crore per annum from a US-based software major, an increase of 25 per cent," said the placement chairperson from an IIT on condition of anonymity. The IIT refused to divulge more details, saying the company has requested so.

Final placements on IIT campuses began on December 1. First phase of final placements will be held between December 1 and 20 and the second phase will begin on January 6 till April-end, 2014.

"This year, placements have been better than last year in terms of number of participating firms as well as compensation packages. As against 150 firms, this year we anticipate 200 firms coming to the campus. Day one of the placement itself has been spectacular with [EXL Services](#) making of the largest hiring by a single firm of 34 offers including US profiles. This is a first in IIT, Kanpur's, history," said Vimal Kumar, chairperson (training and placements) at IIT, Kanpur.

Held in two slots, the first day of the placement season at IIT, Kanpur, saw over 20 firms participating from varied sectors such as core engineering, computer science, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), consulting and analytics, among others. Among the top firms visiting on Day-One included [GE](#), [Google](#), [Credit Suisse](#), [ITC](#), Mitsubishi Goldman Sachs, Oracle, Schlumberger, Intel and IBM.

IIT, Kanpur, will roughly see 200 firms participating in the placements process for a batch size of over 1,000 students.

Other firms likely to participate at IIT, Kanpur, placements include Oracle, Mitsubishi, Diamond Consulting, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs, among others.

Day-Two of the placement process is expected to see major recruiters such as American Express, Amazon and Citi Group, among others, from sectors including core engineering, consulting, IT, e-commerce and business analytics.

At IIT, Bombay, 1,600 students will sit for placements this year and the institute expects 250-270 companies to participate. "Some US companies have doubled the salaries this year against what was offered last year," said a placement official.

According to IIT-Bombay, Microsoft, Oracle, LinkedIn, Facebook, Goldman Sachs, Shell and Samsung have confirmed participation in the campus drive so far.

"While some US companies have taken care of their placement requirements through pre-placement offers, there are other companies like Google, Microsoft and Yahoo which have confirmed participation," said Sudhir Barai, head of training and placement at IIT-Kharagpur.

For IIT-Kharagpur, feedback from recruiters has been very good. "The number of companies participating at IIT-Kharagpur has increased from 180 last year to 220 this year. The feedback from recruiters have been very good and salaries will be higher than last year," said Barai. The batch size at IIT-Kharagpur this year is over 2,000 students.

The IITs also said some companies have dropped out after confirming. "This happens every year as companies take stock of their hiring situation by December. However, salaries offered have been higher," said Kumar.

Other IITs did not respond to an email questionnaire. The placement process on the campuses was on Sunday till late the evening.

Google, Apple offer crore-plus salaries to IIT students

ET Bureau | Dec 2, 2013, 10:36 AM IST



Salary packages exceeding a crore have made an appearance at an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) after a gap of three years.

MUMBAI/KOLKATA: Salary packages exceeding a crore have made an appearance at an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) after a gap of three years.

On the first day of final placements at IIT-Madras, two computer science students received offers of \$210,000 (Rs 1.31 crore) each for international roles. While the institute declined to confirm the name of the company, sources associated with the placement process said Oracle, the American information technology company, has made the crore-plus compensation offers, which include a joining bonus.

The highest offer for a domestic role (within India) at IIT-Madras increased to Rs 48.68 lakh, compared with Rs 28.82 lakh last year. Recruiters have been more generous this year at IIT Kharagpur and IIT-Guwahati as well for jobs outside the country.

Indian startups also in list of employers

At IIT-Kharagpur, according to people involved in the placement process, the highest salary till Sunday evening had touched \$150,000 (Rs 93 lakh) for an international role, compared with \$125,000 last year.

At IIT-Guwahati, the highest package is \$120,000 (Rs 74.8 lakh), compared with \$119,000 last year. At IIT-Bombay, Korea's [Samsung Electronics](#), which offered \$135,000 (Rs 84 lakh) last year, will make offers in the same ballpark, said a placement team member at the institute.

Microsoft and [Google](#) are likely to unveil compensation packages of around \$110,000 (Rs 68 lakh) to shortlisted candidates at IIT-Bombay. Google had offered \$120,000 (Rs 74.8 lakh) at IIT Guwahati. (In this report, a dollar figure is mentioned for all offers for jobs outside India while for domestic roles only the [rupee](#) figure is mentioned.)

Across IITs, the top offers have come in from the likes of Schlumberger, Mitsubishi, [Apple](#) and Oracle, and Indian startups such as Zomato.

At IIT-Delhi, Zomato has come up with a pay packet of Rs 26 lakh while the highest domestic package is Rs 33 lakh from Schlumberger, which provides services to the oil industry, for the position of field engineer in Mumbai. Last year, the same company paid around .30 lakh, according to sources. The company recruits students for positions in Mumbai and the Gulf, and will in all likelihood select 6-10 students this year from IIT-Delhi, said the sources.

The package for the international profile could go up to Rs 58 lakh. US-based software company Epic Systems is likely to offer \$104,000 (Rs 64.8 lakh) which is the highest international pay package for the position of software engineer at IIT-Delhi. Last year, it offered \$90,000 and recruited around 16 people.

The company is expected to recruit similar numbers this year as well. Global private equity player Blackstone is recruiting students from IITs with pay packets of around .35 lakh, an increase of Rs 10 lakh over last year.

Firms such as investment management company WorldQuant are expected to hire for a similar sum as well. At IIT-Guwahati, the highest domestic salary offered by a firm is Rs 30 lakh, compared with Rs 28 lakh last year, said Natesan Srinivasan, faculty-in-charge (training & placements) at the institute.

The institute refused to divulge the names of the companies. At IIT-Kharagpur, the highest domestic pay is expected to be around Rs 32 lakh, similar to last year. The institute has at least 2,000 students to place compared with 1,750 last year and 74 PPOs already in the bag, said SK Barai, professor-in-charge (training & placement).

IIT-Bombay had 30-odd companies on its campus on Sunday. This placement season, 280 recruiters will come to the institute compared with 240 last year. Overall, the increase in salaries has been marginal.

"There is a marginal increase of 3-5 % in salaries and that too because of the rupee's depreciation," said Vimal Kumar, placement head at IITKanpur, who refused to disclose offers by individual companies.

However, all the popular recruiters, along with some new names, are coming to IIT-Kanpur where they have 1,200 students to choose from. These include Mitsubishi, Google, Apple, Microsoft India, Deutsche Bank, ITC, Walmart, Credit Suisse, [Oracle](#) and Yahoo. Final placements at IITs start from December 1 and are completed in two phases.

A majority of the recruiters come in the first few weeks of December while the subsequent phase starts in January. In the past year, industry players have preferred to hire students via pre-placement offers rather than wait for the final placement season. For instance, Facebook is not hiring from IITs during the final placements on campus but has made pre-placement offers to some students.

IIT-Madras will have Samsung Electronics, Epic, Oracle India, The Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey & Co, Microsoft and HUL among the recruiters. About 1,300 students have signed up for placements and 265 companies have registered so far. "We were nervous in the beginning with at