Newspaper Clips
December 31, 2013

Deccan Herald ND 31/12/2013   P-3

CHANGING TIMES

CONFERENCE IIT Delhi alumni brainstorm over the future growth of the college.

Kejriwal win stirs IIT-Delhi alumni

The euphoria over the rise of Arvind Kejriwal is far from over, and his triumph in country's capital is being discussed in every nook and cranny of the Capital. But few would imagine the IIT administrators taking a leaf out of his political success for a vision to reform.

On Sunday, when hundreds of alumni of IIT-Delhi came together to brainstorm over the future growth of the premier college, a noted alumnus Vijay Thadani, CEO of NIIT and a panelist, while talking about the need for autonomy, said, "My motivation got strengthened after what we saw at Ramlila Maidan (swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister) on Saturday. Getting to decide your own future is very important for everyone — whether it is society, an individual or the institute."

Urging the alumni present at the function he said, "Let's go and meet Kejriwal tomorrow morning and invite him to seek IIT-Delhi's help in solving any city-related problem."

Besides autonomy, there was an array of issues which were deliberated upon, including the lack of faculty, the not-so-perfect infrastructure, low university ranking at global level and low international representation on the campus.

The Director, Professor R K Shevgaonkar announced a slew of reforms evoking an air of optimism in the seminar hall. "We have been in talks with the Haryana Government to set up our branch

> **"Let's go and meet Kejriwal tomorrow morning and invite him to seek IIT-Delhi's help in solving any city-related problem."**
> **VIJAY THADANI**

campuses there. Last week, our deal materialised according to which we will get two campuses — one in Sonepat and the second one in Jhajjar. At the Sonepat campus, we will run programmes for faculty development and executive MBA programme. At Jhajjar, our campus which will be located close to the AIIMS campus, we will partner the medical institute in the area of biological science, pharmacology and chemical engineering," he added.

The Director was quite vocal about his exasperation with Government rules and red tape which stop the college from grow aggressively like the private universities. To illustrate his helplessness, he gave an example to the illustrious gathering comprising senior IPS officers, scientists, professors and corporate leaders: "In case, I want to invite a top-notch scientist from abroad and want to offer him the international salary, the rules will prohibit me from doing so. I wish we had an endowment fund which could take care of such expenses," he said.

However, some people were not too excited to hear about the reforms. An IIT-Delhi alumna Vrinda Thareja, a PhD student in material science at Stanford University, said, "The college should first make the laboratories at its campus functional before going to any other place like Haryana."

Fortis Healthcare president Daljit Singh appealed to the college administration to include the alumni in the board so that they too become stakeholders and feel accountable for the growth of the college.
DHNS

Business Line ND 31/12/2013 P-15

IIT-Kharagpur building Rs 350-cr research park

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, Dec. 30

Offering students the chance to become entrepreneurs through application of technology, IIT Kharagpur has started construction of a first-of-its-kind Rs 350 crore research and innovation park at Rajarhat.

The institute's officials today said they have got clearances from the Union Ministry of HRD to built the 10 acre park, which would act as an extension of IIT-Kharagpur.

"Students and researchers from all over the country and the rest of the world would be able to work together with the industry on research, development and application under a single roof in the facility, which would be ready in the next 2-3 years," Dr Joy Sen, in-charge of the project, told PTI.

He said inside the park, incubation units will be developed for young entrepreneurs who wish to develop start-up companies, typically using knowledge and technology developed in collaboration with IIT-Kharagpur. The Park will have facilities to house collaborative research laboratories of partner organisations, incubation units and other academic and research facilities, amenities and utility units.

These will be connected with the main campus at Kharagpur to enable e-facilities for conduction of academic and research activities, officials said.

Software technology based on deep engineering science will be an important focus of the Park covering areas like Engineering Design and Manufacturing, Electronic Design Automation, Bio-Medical Informatics and Healthcare Technology, Multimedia and Image Processing, Communication and Networking, Energy Management, Water Ocean Urban and Regional Informatics, etc.

Other areas of focus will include Nanotechnology and Microfluidics.

Study time: Students of IIT-Kharagpur inside a classroom at the premier institute in this file photo.

Economic Times ND 31/12/2013   P-7

■ IIT-Kharagpur to Set Up ₹350-Cr Research Park

KOLKATA Offering students the chance to become entrepreneurs through application of technology, IIT-Kharagpur has started construction of a first-of-its-kind ₹350-crore research and innovation park at Rajarhat. The institute's officials ON Monday said they have got clearances from the of HRD ministry to built the 10 acre park, which would act as an extension of IIT-Kharagpur. "Students and researchers from all over the country and the rest of the world would be able to work together with the industry on research, development and application under a single roof in the facility, which would be ready in the next 2-3 years," Dr Joy Sen, in-charge of the project, told PTI. He said inside the park, incubation units will be developed for young entrepreneurs who wish to develop start-up companies, typically using knowledge and technology developed in collaboration with IIT-Kharagpur. The Park will have facilities to house collaborative research laboratories of partner organisations, incubation units and other academic and research facilities, amenities and utility units.

Hindustan Times ND 31/12/2013   P-18

Satish C. Agnihori gets IIT Roorkee Distinguished Alumnus Award

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, in November 2013, has conferred the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2013, upon Satish C. Agnihori, CMD, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and Chairman, High Speed Rail Corporation of India Ltd.

Times of India 31/12/2013   P-12

UGC: New tech edu norms not for diploma courses

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The HRD ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGC) on Monday said the new regulations being drafted for technical education institutions will affect only affiliated colleges and those offering graduate degrees. "Draft regulations will leave out institutions offering all diploma courses," a senior official said.

The clarification comes in the wake of reports that a large number of management institutions were planning to move the Supreme Court against the proposed UGC regulations. They argue that the new regulations will delay the admission process that is already in motion.

The UGC had come into the picture after the SC said earlier this year that private institutions do not require the All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) approval for offering an MBA course since it does not fall under the definition of technical education.

The SC had also said the AICTE's role vis-a-vis universities was "only advisory, recommendatory and one of providing guidance and has no authority empowering it to issue or enforce any sanctions by itself". The apex court had said that the regulatory function lay with the UGC or the affiliating university.

"Management institutions have not understood the SC judgment. It does not impact diploma courses offered by non-affiliated

HRD ministry and the UGC on Monday said new regulations being drafted for technical education institutions will affect only affiliated colleges and those offering graduate degrees

institutions. The regulations have not been finalized. It will take some time," HRD ministry sources said.

The ministry's efforts to amend the AICTE Act to circumvent the SC order have not borne fruit and are unlikely to do so in the remaining months of UPA-II. Meanwhile, the UGC has moved to implement the SC judgment.

It wrote to universities with affiliating colleges, barring them from approving any new courses. The commission had said it would also not approve any new course.

A senior UGC official said, "Regulations have to be in place before the 2014-15 admission session begins. The AICTE had finished the process for 2013-14 by the time SC order came." But AICTE officials are hopeful that its regulatory powers will be restored through an amendment or ordinance.

Economic Times ND 31/12/2013   P-1

FIRST PHASE OF RECRUITMENTS AT IITs

Class of 2014 Graduates to Good Company

Queue Getting Longer

Top recruiters at IITs in first phase of placements

Samsung
Increased hiring by 71% from last year; picked up students for software engineering and design

RIL
Hired students across 8 IITs as graduate engineer trainees (GETs)

271 No. of Hires

97

177

118

135

Oracle
Made foreign offers for the first time; hired mostly for product development

EXL Service
More than doubled hiring compared to last year to meet expected growth in the co's analytics biz

Flipkart
Offers chance to build products or join supply chain teams & create a market from scratch

---

Samsung tops with 271 offers, Oracle, RIL & Flipkart not far behind in placements

**SREERADHA D BASU &
DEVINA SENGUPTA**
KOLKATA | MUMBAI

Where is the country's top engineering talent heading to in a year of subdued hiring? Samsung, Reliance Industries (RIL), Oracle and Flipkart topped the hiring charts for the Class of 2014, according to data from the top IITs at the end of the first phase of this placement season.

With 271 offers, almost a 100 more than the second-largest recruiter, Samsung is the clear winner so far. This number includes 69 pre-placement offers (PPOs) and 28 postings in Korea. The South Korean conglomerate has ramped up hiring numbers by as much as 71% from 158 last year, emerging as the biggest recruiter at the IITs so far. It had made 23 international offers last year.

"We focused on campus hiring for multiple reasons — strengthening our core competency in embedded computing and building new skills/capabilities in UX design, enterprise software and data analysis," said a Samsung spokesperson in a written response to **ET**. Out of 243 candidates selected for India, 211 are from software engineering and 19 from UX design. RIL, another regular recruiter, made 177 offers, lower than last year's 202. Students have been taken on in the roles of graduate engineer trainees (GETs).

Samsung has ramped up hiring numbers by as much as 71% from 158 last year

"Other than some 45 PPOs, RIL has hired 132 students from 8 IITs – Delhi, Bombay, Roorkee, Kharagpur, Guwahati, Madras, Kanpur and IIT-BHU. In addition to this, Reliance Jio hired 5 GETs, one from IIT-Hyderabad and 4 from IIT-Indore," said a Reliance Industries spokesperson in a written response.

Second Phase in January

These numbers reflect hiring at the end of the first phase of the placement season in which roughly 50-60% of the batches have been placed across IITs. The second phase will start in the first week of January and will cover the remaining students. Tech major Oracle was another big recruiter, taking on close to 135 students across almost all IITs. While its overall campus hiring numbers remained fairly consistent over the last three years, it made a few US-based offers for the first time this year.

"Oracle has a number of different business groups internally and we hire students across a variety of positions. Many students will join Oracle, working in product development roles across our hardware, software or industry-specific based groups," said a company spokesperson.

E-commerce major Flipkart, as reported earlier by ET, has been a big draw at the IITs during the first phase of placements. The company increased hiring from around 100 last year to 118. "Campus hiring is strategic for us. It helps us identify and bring new talent," Sachin Bansal, co-founder, Flipkart, told ET.

"Past experience has shown us that talent from tier-I colleges like the IITs and IIMs and the way they meet the challenges posed by a high-growth environment like ours has been remarkable – and a great fit for an organisation like Flipkart that stresses on ownership and innovation," added Bansal.

Several other companies emerged as strong recruiters, according to hiring data from six of the older IITs at Bombay, Kharagpur, Madras, Roorkee, Kanpur and Guwahati. Business process outsourcing company EXL Service, for instance, made 97 offers across 7 IITs this year compared to just 46 across 5 IITs last placements. The increase in the number of campus hires in the roles of consultants and analysts is to power the company's analytics business, which has been growing at more than 30% for the last few years.

Make online education click

▶ *Massive Open On-line Courses can help spread quality education in India at little cost to students.*

Gayle Christensen
Brandon Alcorn

India is facing major challenges in higher education. In 2007, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh noted that in almost half of India's districts, higher education enrolments were "abysmally low" and that two-thirds of Indian universities and 90 per cent of Indian colleges were rated as below average on quality parameters.

Unsurprisingly, in the face of the state failure to meet educational demands, higher education is becoming increasingly privatised with Indian elites and portions of the middle class

---

INDIA IN TRANSITION

This article is by special arrangement with the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania.

---

leaving public institutions for private ones, both within India and abroad. This flight from public institutions further weakens the capacity of the state to meet the educational needs of the population, perpetuating the problem. Unfortunately, the private institutions tend to be confined to narrow professional tracks and are often plagued by weak internal governance and state regulation.

ACCESS, QUALITY ISSUES

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) may be one potential solution, not to overcome India's higher education challenges entirely, but to help alleviate some of the country's access and quality issues in higher education. MOOCs have attracted international media attention over

Mobile apps can play a role in learning where internet penetration is weak.

the last two years. Leading universities from around the world have partnered with MOOC providers, such as Coursera and EdX, to deliver high-quality online courses for free to millions of students around the world.

Proponents of MOOCs talk about a potential revolution in education access that will make the highest quality education available to everyone regardless of social, economic, or national background. However, others caution that MOOCs will undermine local higher education institutions and exacerbate educational inequality by allowing the privileged elite access to personalised education in physical universities while the vast majority is confined to virtual education, which might lower cost but also lower quality.

INDIAN STUDENTS

In order to understand the potential implications of MOOCs for higher education in India and to consider how MOOCs may lead to effective and equitable outcomes, we need to better understand MOOC participants. To address this problem, the University of Pennsylvania conducted a survey of all students who had ever enrolled in one of their MOOCs offered in partnership with

Coursera, the world's largest MOOC provider. The survey was conducted in July 2013 and, at the time, Penn (University of Pennsylvania) had offered 32 courses to over 800,000 students.

Indian students comprise the second largest group taking MOOCs offered by Coursera (about 10 per cent), after students from the US. A geospatial analysis of these users, based on their IP addresses, indicates the vast majority of these users are concentrated in India's urban areas, with 61 per cent located in one of the five largest cities in India and an additional 16 per cent in the next five largest cities. Mumbai and Bangalore have the largest concentrations of users, each accounting for 18 per cent of Coursera students in India.

Results from the survey, which included responses from about 2,000 students, suggest that Indians taking MOOCs are generally young, male, and well-educated, with about two-thirds under the age of 30, and more than three-fourths male and with a college degree. While some of those with college degrees are students pursuing post-graduate studies, the majority are employed full time (the remainder are either self-

employed or working part-time). This user base is unsurprising and similar to early adopters of cell phone, new media, and other technologies.

MOBILE POTENTIAL

The survey indicates that business, economics, and social science courses are the most popular followed by science and math, humanities, and public health. The fact that Indians are the second highest users of MOOCs indicates the country's vast unmet demand for quality higher education. However, for MOOCs to provide a viable and equitable path toward addressing India's higher education challenges, several things need to happen.

First, the technological infrastructure, including computers, mobile devices, and high-speed internet needs to be further developed to provide access for greater segments of the Indian population to online education. As long as technological barriers remain pervasive, only the privileged few will have access to these education options, further exacerbating the inequality of educational opportunity in India.

MOOC providers need to leverage the mobile phone revolution in India, with its low financial costs, widespread coverage and ownership. In December 2013, Coursera released a mobile app that allows users to browse and enrol in courses, watch lectures, and complete quizzes, all from a mobile device.

While some functionality, like posting on forums and completing non-quiz assignments, is not yet available through the mobile app, this is a major step forward for MOOC access in places like India where broadband coverage is still very limited. MOOC providers may face greater challenges in going mobile than the banking industry did because their video content, quizzes, and assignments require the use of a smartphone, whereas some mobile banking can be carried out using SMS services. However, smart phone and tablet access in India is expanding along with 3G and 4G internet access, and

as prices drop, this is likely to accelerate.

Second, most MOOCs are very demanding courses, offered by some of the best universities in the world, for which most prospective students are not prepared. In addition to offering traditional university-level content, MOOC providers should offer more pre-university level courses that can supplement primary and secondary education.

Furthermore, there is a large demand in India for technical certifications that prepare students for professional placement in high-skill fields. MOOCs geared toward these constituencies may be able to help ease the burden on the institutions that already offer these certifications.

INVEST IN INDIA

Lastly, to understand and meet these educational demands, MOOC providers need to invest in India. Indians are the second largest MOOC student population despite the fact that Coursera, the largest provider of MOOCs, has not partnered with any Indian institutions to offer courses and does not offer any Indian-language courses. EdX, another major MOOC provider, has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, but there is much room to grow. Indian institutions should be active participants in designing and providing Indian-language content to Indian students from all backgrounds.

The expansion of MOOC access to larger numbers of Indian students will not solve the fundamental inadequacies of Indian higher education. However, MOOCs can provide high-quality course content to huge numbers of students at little cost to the students themselves.

If the technological, educational, and cultural hurdles restricting access to these courses can be overcome, tens of millions of Indians will benefit.

Christensen is Executive Director for Global Initiatives and Alcorn is Project Manager for Global Initiatives, in the Office of the Provost at the University of Pennsylvania.

Quality missing in techical education: Pallam Raju

PTI | Dec 30, 2013, 06.26 PM IST

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Union HRD minister Pallam Raju on Monday said the quality of technical education in the country should be improved and graduates should be given skill training to equip them meet requirements of industry.

Though the number of engineering graduates passing out annually in the country was high, majority of them were not "industry-ready" to meet the demands expected by their employers, Raju said, after inaugurating the new regional office of All India Council For Technical Education here.

"The technical education sector in the country is in the growth path. Though ours is one of the largest technical education sectors in the world and the number of engineering graduates passing out annually are very high, the quality factor is missing," he said.

"Parameters should be set to improve the quality of students and the faculty of the sector. Institutions in the rural, backward and underprivileged areas should be given more focus since they may not be able to cater to all stringent requirements demanded by AICTE," he said.

The AICTE was looking forward for more tie-ups with industry players to impart its graduates skill training to equip them to fulfill the demands of their employers, he said.

"As majority of our engineering graduates are not industry-ready, the employers are forced to give them special training to equip them to meet their demands. It is a shortcoming of our technical education system," he said.

AICTE recently had a tie-up with BSNL on this mode, he said.

Echoing his opinion, Union minister of state for HRD Shashi Tharoor said a collaboration of academia and industry should be promoted to improve quality of technical education.

He also said with the coming up of the new regional office of AICTE at Sreekaryam near here, the stakeholders of the state and Lakshadweep need not travel to its Bangalore office to fulfil their requirements.

Chief minister Oommen Chandy and AICTE chairman Dr S S Mantha also attended the function.

The Tlegraph

Sibal U-turn on foreign varsities

- Moots plan in HRD, objects to it in law

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

Kapil Sibal **New Delhi, Dec. 30:** A year is a long time in politics. For Kapil Sibal, it seems true about policy too.

A move to allow foreign institutions to set up campuses in India and give degrees, initiated by the HRD ministry when Sibal helmed it last year, is being questioned by the law ministry that he heads now.

The law ministry has raised several questions on a set of draft rules of the University Grants Commission (UGC) — under the HRD ministry — to allow foreign institutes to operate as not-for-profit entities.

The rules were framed as a bill to permit overseas universities has been hanging fire in Parliament since 2010 because of lack of consensus among parties. Sibal was HRD minister when the process of framing the UGC rules and allowing such entities began last year, sources said.

But the law ministry he heads now doesn't seem persuaded by the UGC (Establishment and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Educational Institutions) Rules.

With the Foreign Education Providers' Bill stuck in Parliament, overseas institutions are unable to set up campuses as there is no legal framework for them to operate.

Under the draft UGC rules, only foreign institutions that figure among the top 400 universities of the world will be allowed to set up campuses. This will be based on rankings published by Times Higher Education, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) or the Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

But the law ministry has asked whether a foreign university can set up base here and offer degrees in the absence of a specific law enacted by Parliament. The UGC Act does not have provisions to allow such varsities and their degrees, law ministry officials said.

Former UGC secretary R.K. Chauhan said the higher education regulator had initiated a similar move in the 1990s but the HRD ministry had rejected the proposal citing the UGC Act.

"The ministry had turned down the UGC proposal in 1990s when it had prepared similar regulations. I do not understand how they are doing the same thing now," Chauhan said.

However, sources in the HRD ministry — now headed by Sibal's Congress colleague M. Pallam Raju — defended the fresh move. They argued that under the draft rules, the degrees awarded by overseas institutes in India would be treated as foreign qualifications that shall be subject to equivalence accorded by Association of Indian Universities (AIU) for further study or government jobs.

"The degrees to be offered by the FEIs (foreign educational institutes) will be treated as foreign degrees, not Indian. The students will have to seek equivalence certificates from the AIU in the same way that those from foreign universities (who study abroad) do now," an HRD ministry official said.

The law ministry has raised another issue —penalties for rule violations by foreign institutions. The UGC draft rules peg them at Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

The penalty under the UGC Act for Indian institutions is only Rs 1,000. The law ministry has cited this and asked how fines could be raised to such high levels for overseas entities.

The HRD ministry official, however, said an amendment was planned in the UGC Act to remove the incongruity. UGC chairperson Ved Prakash declined comment on the objections.

The law ministry's reservations have come despite two other wings of the government — the department of industrial policy and promotion under the commerce ministry and the department of economic affairs in the finance ministry — supporting the overall plan.

IIT-Bhubaneswar to promote research

IANS

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: The Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar (IIT-B) has inked a research-oriented pact with the US based Dr. Dash Foundation (DDF), official statement said on Monday.

The memorandum of understanding between IIT-B and the Minneapolis-based DDF was signed at the weekend to carry out research and development in the field of probiotics and pharmaceutical products, DDF statement said.

According to the pact DDF will sponsor the setting up of "SK Dash center of excellence of bio-sciences and engineering and technology" at the IIT-Bhubaneswar, it said.

Chairman of the DDF S.K. Dash, is considered to be the pioneer in the field of probiotics globally.

Probiotics are organisms such as bacteria or yeast that are believed to improve health.

http://www.ianslive.in/index.php?param=news/IIT_Bhubaneswar_to_promote_research-407563/SCIENCE%20&%20TECHNOLOGY/36

Femina Miss India prelims at IIT-Kharagpur

Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey,TNN | Dec 31, 2013, 02.47 AM IST

KOLKATA: IIT Kharagpur will hold the preliminary rounds of the country's biggest beauty pageant - Femina Miss India - on its campus in 2014.

The pre-regional round of the Femina Miss India beauty contest will be held on the IIT Kharagpur campus as part of the

institute's annual high wattage Spring Fest.

The organizers have slotted the two-hour beauty show on the final day of the three-day cultural and musical extravaganza that starts on January 30 has factored in the two-hour beauty show on the final day. The institute has already launched a website in association with Femina and registrations have started for the pre-regional round (east) that will see contestants from Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Eastern UP, Jharkhand and the seven North Eastern states.

The Femina beauty pageant had earlier helped helped celebrity models and actors like [Sushmita Sen](#), [Aishwarya Rai](#) Bachchan and [Priyanka Chopra](#) to shoot to famewill hold the mandatory pre-regional round auditions for the east zone at the Kharagpur campus and shortlist finalists for the regional rounds.

This is the first time that this mandatory round is being organized happening in association with an educational campus. "We wanted Spring Fest to catch the national eyeballs and hence decided on this tie-up. We are happy that it clicked," said Ujjwal Murarka, a student and a member of the core organizing team.

The Spring Fest website hosted by the institute says that any unmarried Indian girl between the age group of 18 and 25, who is at least 5 feet 6 inches tall, can register for the contest. Already, 150 applications have come.

Though the organizing team under instructions from Femina maintains confidentiality about who these applicants are, they said that several girls from the campus itself will take part. Every hostel at the institute sports posters announcing the pageant.

The contestants will have to participate in a black evening gown round where the judges will look not only for skin deep beauty but also things like confidence and presence of mind. The three finalists of the pre-regional rounds here will get direct entry to the regional rounds.

"Yes, it is a bold move on the part of the students. Times have changed and fests these days are becoming high profile. However, all's well that ends well," said director of IIT Kharagpur P P Chakraborty.

Though the panel of judges is yet to be finalised, The team of judges will be led by Shrishti Rana, Miss Asia Pacific 2013.

IITs offer new BTech branch, Political Engineering, after Kejriwal is second IITian to become CM

December 29, 2013 | Filed under: [Latest](#) | Posted by: [UnReal Mama](#)

The IIT senate has given the go ahead for a new four year engineering program to be offered those cracking JEE: Political Engineering. This is in keeping with the new zeitgeist: writing books and becoming famous like Chetan Bhagat is passe, so are technology startups or joining Ibanks, consulting firms or technology giants. Starting a political mass movement is the in thing and Arvind Kejriwal is many a budding IITian's role model.

This shift in attitudes has been catalyzed be Kejriwal's meteoric political rise to CMship. Goa CM Mamohar Parrikar is also an IIT alumnus while Jairam Ramesh, another IIT alumnus, boasts of enjoying proximity to the Nehru-Gandhis as a key strategist in the Congress.

Ravi Jain, a maths Olympiad gold medallist and putative JEE topper, says he will opt for Political Engineering from IIT Delhi. "Delhi has the best ecosystem for political startups with awesome avenues for learning on the job," Jain says. He hopes to intern with AAP for his third year project but plans to start his own political outfit after graduation with the lofty aim of capturing power in his home state, Rajasthan. "No fun working for AAP now, yaar," he reckons. "It's already too big and I prefer taking the entrepreneurial route than joining established parties." Another potential IIT student, Thomas Varghese from Kerala, is more circumspect and wants to get placed at a high level with either AAP or Congress.

IIT Delhi has roped in some stars for pivotal courses: Arvind Kejriwal has agreed to offer guest lectures and mentor students planning to start their own political ventures with inputs on marketing, brand building, fund raising etc. Nitish Kumar has also offered to take a course of Social Engineering 101 while Jairam Ramesh may conduct a fourth year elective "soft skills to deal with Rahul Gandhi".