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IITs to hold entrance tests abroad

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 21

FOREIGN PUPILS

For the first time, the prestigious IITs are likely to hold their entrance tests in Singapore, UAE, Ethiopia and Saarc nations from 2017 to select foreign students for undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

Sources stated that in the first phase the government has shortlisted eight countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (all Saarc member nations), Ethiopia in Africa, Singapore and Dubai (UAE), for holding

entrance tests for foreign nationals from next year onwards. The decision was taken at a recent meeting between officials of Union human resource development and external affairs ministries, sources added.

"The entrance tests to the IITs abroad have been held till now only to admit Indian nationals. This is for the first time that it has been planned to admit foreign students through tests held abroad. It is aimed that the plan would be operationalised from

the JEE / GATE exams to be conducted in 2017," sources said.

Students will be selected through a common entrance exam which would be administered by the IIT with the help of Indian missions in these countries.

However, sources said that the seats offered to foreign nationals would be supernumerary or additional in nature and would not reduce those available to Indian nationals at the 18 IITs. The fee applicable in the case of foreign students will also be more as the subsidised fee which Indians pay would not be

applicable to them.

It is understood that in an effort to facilitate entry of foreign students, the MEA will consider giving them a research visa for the duration of the programme rather than one year at a time. The outreach programme for the exercise would begin from August this year and will be conducted in all these eight countries. IIT Mumbai has been asked to prepare the necessary information material for this outreach. It would include details of the tests, the courses and FAQs. A web portal may be created for

this purpose, sources said. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations will be the nodal agency on behalf of the MEA for these tests. Earlier, IIT-M director had prepared a report on a comprehensive system to attract international students to the IITs. After the report was prepared, Mr Khakhar was asked to prepare a detailed plan for conducting JEE and GATE exams abroad. It is learnt that the government is keen on more foreign students studying at IITs as it could boost their international academic rankings.

विदेशी छात्रों के लिए परीक्षा आयोजित करेगा आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी संस्थान ज्यादा से ज्यादा अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिभा आकर्षित करने की कोशिश में अपने स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमों में विदेशी छात्रों का चुनाव करने के लिए अगले साल से सिंगापुर, यूएई, इथोपिया और दक्षेस देशों में प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने की पहली बार योजना बना रहा है।

हाल में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के बीच हुई बैठक में अफगानिस्तान, बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, पाकिस्तान और श्रीलंका

(सभी दक्षेस के सदस्य राष्ट्र) के अलावा इथोपिया, सिंगापुर और दुबई सहित आठ देशों में अगले साल से विदेशी नागरिकों के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि आईआईटी संस्थान विदेशों में अब तक जो प्रवेश परीक्षाएं आयोजित करते हैं, वे सिर्फ भारतीय नागरिकों के लिए ही होती हैं। यह पहली बार है, जब विदेश में परीक्षा आयोजित कर विदेशी छात्रों को लेने की योजना

है। लक्ष्य यह है कि 2017 में जेईई-जीएटीई परीक्षाएं आयोजित करके योजना को अमली जामा पहनाया जाए। छात्रों का चुनाव सामान्य प्रवेश परीक्षा के माध्यम से किया जाएगा, जिनका प्रबंधन आईआईटी द्वारा उन देशों में मौजूद भारतीय मिशनों के सहयोग से किया जाएगा। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि विदेशी छात्रों

■ आईआईटी अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिभा को अपने साथ लाने के लिए विदेशों में सिंगापुर, यूएई, इथोपिया आदि देशों में पहली बार प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने की योजना बना रहा है

को सामान्य से अतिरिक्त सीटें दी जाएंगी और 18 आईआईटी में भारतीय छात्रों को मिलने वाली सीटों को घटाया नहीं जाएगा। विदेशी छात्रों पर ज्यादा शुल्क लागू किया जाएगा, क्योंकि भारतीय

जिस शुल्क का भुगतान करते हैं वो सब्सिडी वाला होता है जो उन पर लागू नहीं होगा। इन विदेशी छात्रों को सुविधा देने के लिए, विदेश मंत्रालय कार्यक्रम के दौरान उन्हें शोध वीजा देने पर विचार करेगा न कि एक ही समय पर एक साल का वीजा देगा।

यह समझा जाता है कि सरकार आईआईटी में ज्यादा विदेशी छात्रों को पढ़ाने के लिए उत्सुक है ताकि अपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक रैंकिंग को बढ़ाया जा सके।

16 हजार शिक्षकों को दिया जाएगा प्रशिक्षण

आईआईटी में संवरेगा देश के शिक्षकों का तकनीकी ज्ञान

विक्सन सिक्कोड़िया >> कानपुर

कॉलेजों को मदद

आईआईटी कानपुर में देशभर के शिक्षकों का तकनीकी ज्ञान तराशा जाएगा। केंद्र सरकार ने आईआईटी में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड इंफार्मेशन एंड कम्युनिकेशन्स टेक्नोलॉजी (आईसीटी) एकेडमी स्थापित किए जाने का निर्णय लिया है। इस एकेडमी में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, कंप्यूटर साइंस व इंफार्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी विषय से जुड़े शिक्षकों को इंडस्ट्री की जरूरत के अनुसार पढ़ाने के लिए तैयार किया जाएगा।

इस प्रोजेक्ट का चीफ कोऑर्डिनेटर आईआईटी के प्रोफेसर डॉ. बीवी फणी को बनाया गया है। इस एकेडमी के एडवाइजरी बोर्ड के सदस्य प्रदेश के आईटी और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विभाग के प्रमुख सचिव व उच्च शिक्षा निदेशक होंगे। एकेडमी में शिक्षकों की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाएंगे। आईटी के पाठ्यक्रम के लिए उपयोगी तकनीकी प्रयोगशालाएं व लाइब्रेरी स्थापित करने का काम भी इस एकेडमी में किया जाएगा।

साल में चार हजार को प्रशिक्षण

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड आईसीटी एकेडमी का प्रोजेक्ट चार वर्ष का है। प्रत्येक वर्ष चार हजार शिक्षकों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। इस तरह 16 हजार छात्र इस एकेडमी से प्रशिक्षित होकर निकलेंगे। जून माह से प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम शुरू होने की संभावना है।

कानपुर व नोएडा में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करने के बाद शिक्षक अपने कॉलेज में भी उसका अध्ययन जारी रख सकेंगे। इसके लिए आईआईटी उनके कॉलेजों के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को विकसित करने में मदद करेगा, जिससे वह छात्रों को प्रायोगिक ज्ञान दे सकेंगे जो उन्होंने प्रशिक्षण के दौरान प्राप्त किया है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड आईसीटी एकेडमी स्थापित करने का उद्देश्य कॉलेज की पढ़ाई व इंडस्ट्री की जरूरत के बीच की दूरी को खत्म करना है। शिक्षकों को दिए जाने वाले इस प्रशिक्षण के बाद इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र उस शिक्षा से रूबरू हो सकेंगे जो इंडस्ट्री की जरूरत को पूरा करेगी।

नोएडा में ऑफलाइन कक्षाएं

प्रोजेक्ट के चीफ प्रो. फणी ने बताया कि कोर्स को इस तरह से डिजाइन किया जा रहा है जिससे दूरदराज के शिक्षकों को आईआईटी कानपुर न आना पड़े। इस एकेडमी में उत्तर प्रदेश के अलावा दिल्ली, हरियाणा, पंजाब व चंडीगढ़ के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षकों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। उत्तर प्रदेश को छोड़कर अन्य राज्यों के शिक्षकों को कानपुर नहीं आना पड़ेगा। आईआईटी के नोएडा केंद्र में भी ऑफलाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

February 21

Hindustan Times ND 21.02.2016 P-7

IIT-D writes letter of 'support' to JNU

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Teachers at Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) have written a letter of support to the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students to expressed solidarity with them.

The teachers, mostly from

the department of humanities and from different science and core engineering courses, have sent the solidarity letter. The new vice-chancellor of JNU, M Jagadesh Kumar, was formerly a member of the faculty at IIT-D.

"We condemn the increasingly narrow definition of nationalism that are being

imposed on the citizens of India and used as instruments for the closing of the Indian mind. We choose to embrace a nationalism which celebrates our plurality as a country, and which is not threatened by dissent and disagreement. We stand with all those who share this vision," said the letter from IIT-D.

Indian Express ND 21.02.2016 P-5

Narrow definitions of nationalism being used to close minds: IIT-D faculty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

A GROUP of 50 faculty members from IIT Delhi have come out in support of JNU students and condemned the "increasingly narrow definitions of nationalism... (that are being) used as instruments for the closing of the Indian mind".

Saying they are "seriously concerned" about the events at JNU, the faculty members from across departments in a letter released on Friday said, "We choose to embrace a nationalism which celebrates our plurality as a country, and which is not threatened by dissent and disagreement".

"A university space is an invitation to think, discuss, argue, debate – sometimes heatedly, but always with respect. This respect must extend to ideas one disagrees with... But it seems that the spaces for such open discussion, of which JNU has always been one, are gradually being closed across the country," they wrote.

Among the professors who issued the statement are: Krishna Achuta Rao (Centre for Atmospheric Sciences), Sumeet Agarwal (Electrical); Vibha Arora (Humanities and Social Sciences); Amitabha Bagchi (Computer Science); Somnath Baidya Roy (Centre for Atmospheric Sciences); Premachandran

Balachandran (Mechanical); Subhashis Banerjee (Computer Science); Varsha Banerjee (Physics); Biswajit Bhattacharjee (Civil); Bijoy Boruah (Humanities and Social Sciences); Arudra Burra (Humanities and Social Sciences); Charusita Chakravarty (Chemistry); Pritha Chandra (Humanities and Social Sciences) besides others.

Hindustan Times ND 21.02.2016 P-7

'JNU row a clampdown on freedom of speech'

Shradha Chettri

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NEW DELHI: "Aaj toh DU bhi bolegi JNU JNU" (Today Delhi University will also shout JNU)," shouted students and teachers of Delhi University on Saturday

They demanded removal of sedition charges against the students, release of JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar, students and teachers questioned the alleged

clampdown on freedom of speech and right to dissent.

Led by different Left leaning organisations, the public meeting at arts faculty witnessed the presence of other DU students who questioned the treatment meted out to students of JNU and the way Umar Khalid, the student who reportedly organised the February 9 event, was being targeted.

"Earlier sedition was supposed to be a restriction on freedom of

speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a). But then it was pointed out by the members how it was first included in the Constitution to prosecute Tilak and later used against other freedom fighters. So finally it was dropped from Article 19 and only survived in Section 124A IPC. Therefore, when 124A IPC is read, it should be in the light of specific," said Chhaya Tyagi, second year student of the Campus Law Centre.

I demand the release of Kanhaiya, but I want to know for the same incident Kanhaiya is an anti-national, but Khalid is vilified as terrorist," said Rafiul, another DU student.

Teachers too extended support. "What has happened at JNU is not an off-the-cuff incident, but to divert the nation's attention from Rohith Vemula's suicide," said Rudrashish Chakraborty, faculty at Kirori Mal College.

Amar Ujala ND 21.02.2016 P-5

आईआईटी शिक्षक जेएनयू के साथ

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। जेएनयू मामले पर राजधानी में पिछले कुछ दिनों से चल रहे विवाद पर आईआईटी दिल्ली के शिक्षकों के एक समूह ने गहरी चिंता जताई है। उनका मानना है कि विश्वविद्यालय वो स्थान है, जहां कायदे से तर्क-वितर्क और अपने विचार प्रकट किए जा सकते हैं। कई बार यह तल्लख भी हो जाते हैं। जेएनयू का विवाद इसी खुले तर्क और वितर्क का ही नतीजा है। यह विवाद पूरे देश भर में खत्म होना चाहिए। शिक्षकों ने राष्ट्रियता की उस संकरी परिभाषा की भी भर्त्सना की है, जो देश के लोगों को थोपने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इसके अलावा इसे एक औजार की तरह लोगों को भ्रमित करने के लिए प्रयोग किया जा रहा है। उनका मानना है कि हमें उस राष्ट्रियता को अपनाना चाहिए, जो देश के अधिकांश लोग ग्रहण करते हैं और वह मतभेद और विरोध से घबराते नहीं हैं।

Hindustan Times ND 21.02.2016 P-13

IIT fee hike unlikely as govt may reject panel's proposal

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NEW DELHI: IIT students might be spared a hike in fees that a committee set up by the HRD ministry had recommended. According to sources, the HRD ministry is unlikely to accept a fee hike proposal submitted by a committee of IITs to look into the financing pattern of the engineering institutes.

It is learnt that the committee had recommended a hike in the average annual fees from the present ₹90,000 to around ₹3 lakh. The committee had submitted its report to the ministry and sources say that HRD minister Smriti Irani is not in favour of taking an unpopular decision like fee hike at this juncture. However, the ministry is keen to provide greater finan-



■ **Smriti Irani**

cial autonomy to the institutes by introducing a slew of measures. "The report has been submitted to the minister for a final view on the decision," said an official. In October last year, the ministry had formed a sub-committee of IIT council that were asked to give suggestions to make IITs more self-sustainable and provide them with greater financial autonomy.

It is learnt that the ministry that has been rocked by students' movement beginning with Hyderabad then JNU, is not in favour of taking an unpopular decision. The committee in its report had highlighted the fact that the increase in the students' fee will be able to cover the salaries and maintenance cost. The issue of increasing the fee had first come up during the meeting of the IIT Council in October last.

The IIT fee structure was revised from ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 in 2008 and it was again revised to ₹90,000 in 2013. The argument behind the fee hike being that the salary of staff, housekeeping, water and electricity should be borne by the students. Whereas the government will only pay for labs, equipment, library.

Pioneer ND 21.02.2016 P-7

Frozen ocean caused Pluto's moon to stretch like 'Hulk': NASA 7

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pluto's largest moon Charon once had a subsurface ocean which has frozen long ago and expanded, pushing and stretching the natural satellite's surface like 'Hulk' while causing massive fractures, a new NASA image has shown.

The new image from NASA's New Horizons spacecraft suggest that Charon's tectonic landscape shows that, somehow, the moon expanded in its past, and — like the fictional superhero Bruce Banner tearing his shirt as he becomes the Incredible Hulk — Charon's surface fractured as it stretched, researchers said.

The side of Pluto's largest



moon viewed by NASA's passing New Horizons in July 2015 is characterised by a system of "pull apart" tectonic faults, which are expressed as ridges, scarps and valleys — the latter sometimes reaching more than 6.5 kilometres deep.

The outer layer of Charon is primarily water ice. This layer

was kept warm when Charon was young by heat provided by the decay of radioactive elements, as well as Charon's own internal heat formation.

Scientists said Charon could have been warm enough to cause the water ice to melt deep down, creating a subsurface ocean.

February 20

Deccan Herald ND 20/02/2016 P-10

IITians support JNU students

NEW DELHI: Humanity and social sciences scholars of many of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) have joined the Jawaharlal Nehru University Student Union's protest, denouncing of filing of a sedition case against varsity students and arrest of Left-backed student leader Kanhaiya Kumar in this connection.

They also condemned the "repeated acts of violence unleashed by some lawyers" and others at the Patiala House Courts against the university faculty, students and the media, as well as the "police inaction" as they remained merely a

mute spectator of the two incidence of violence on the court premises.

A group of students and research scholars from IIT-Bombay and other higher educational institutions in the financial capital will be visiting the JNU on February 23 to meet the varsity's Left-back student's union leaders and express their solidarity to their protest, Amit Kumar Mishra, an IIT-Bombay scholar who is one of the signatories in the joint statement, told Deccan Herald.

"We see attack on the JNU as one of a series of attacks on

academic autonomy and the liberal ethos of learning. We stand in solidarity with JNUSU, JNUTA (teacher association), students and all democratic bodies and individuals who are defending the liberal ethos of universities and appreciate the critical role they play in maintaining constitutional democracy," the IIT scholars said in a joint statement.

The statement was signed by about 100 research scholars from of IIT-Roorkee, Delhi, Bombay, Kharagpur, Madras and Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad.

DH News Service

Times Of India ND 20/02/2016
P-01

State should not dictate meaning of nationalism: IIT-B

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A section of IITs, comprising faculty members and research scholars of departments of humanities and social sciences, on Friday came out in support of JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and condemned police action in the university.

“We criticise the general atmosphere of fear and intimidation that is being created to target the entire university,” the statement said.

Forty-two members of IIT-Bombay faculty issued another statement. “The state should not dictate the meaning of nationalism,” they said, condemning an “overreach by the government in various educational institutions”.

Support from IITs is significant. So far, JNU, a Left bas-

“ We criticise the general atmosphere of fear... being created to target the entire university (JNU)...The attempt to ban the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle at IIT-M, questionable appointments... and the recent attack on Ambedkar Students’ Association (at Hyd univ) must be seen as... a very disturbing trend

—Statement by IITs

tion, has been getting support from Left and centrist political parties and organisations and students of other universities. The humanities departments in IITs, relatively new, are yet to get branded into any ideological category and are generally liberal in outlook.

►‘Criticise atmosphere’, P 5

Criticise atmosphere of intimidation: IITs

►Continued from P1

Badri Narayan of JNU’s Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion praised the move by IITs. “I think it is a good sign. Even those considered non-political are supporting JNU. IITs are also suffering. They also may have similar fears. IITs also have social science and humanities departments where debates and discussions take place. Anytime, they can do anything to an institution,” he said.

The statement also condemned the repeated acts of violence unleashed by some lawyers and others in Patiala House court against faculty, students and mediapersons, as well as police inaction.

Signatories from across IITs – even new ones like Dhanbad as well as established ones in Madras, Bombay, Kharagpur and Roorkee – supported JNU Teacher’s Association and appealed for media and public trials to cease and for civil society to instead focus on debating issues in an amicable and reasonable manner, without slandering JNU or questioning the academic integrity or patriotic fervour of JNU and its supporters.

“We criticise the general atmosphere of fear and intimidation

that is being created to target the entire university. Given the fast polarizing political atmosphere in the country, we appeal to media organisations to display greater responsibility and conduct television debates in such a manner that no prejudicial public opinion is created,” the statement said.

IIT teachers said the attack on JNU was one of a series of attacks on academic autonomy and the liberal ethos of learning. “The attempt to ban the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle at IIT-Madras, questionable appointments at various institutions of higher education, and the recent attack on Ambedkar Students’ Association at the University of Hyderabad leading to the death of research scholar Rohith Vemula, must be seen as a part of a very disturbing trend,” they said.

The signatories said in order to function meaningfully, academic spaces should be vibrant and democratic, conducive for free enquiry and debate. “It is only through free exchange of thought, where ideas are allowed to propagate, and there remains a possibility of revision of previously-held opinions, that we develop as a nation and contribute to its further growth,” they said.

Chethan Sivakumar



Girish Karnad, K Marula Siddappa and others staged a protest against Kanhaiya Kumar’s arrest in front of Town Hall, Bengaluru, on Friday

Times Of India ND 20/02/2016 P-12

Good research is possible with less funds, says Smriti

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani on Friday said good research was possible even with less funding, responding to allegations that funds for research in basic science had been slashed heavily by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Addressing students at a function organised by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Irani said “two myths need to be broken”. “First, that no Indian institute has achieved a high position in world rankings, and that a huge amount of money is required for good research,” she said. “Bigger money does not mean better science. Millions of dollars are being spent on a fusion experiment in Orange county (US) but



HRD minister Smriti Irani also said an Indian system is being developed to counter the ‘bias’ of global rankings against research in languages other than English

the same experiment is being carried out in Bengaluru with just Rs 2 lakh. Youngsters should concentrate on better science with less money,” the minister added. Bharat Ratna CNR Rao was one of the many scientists who had criticised the government for cutting funds for fundamental research.

On the global ranking of

Indian institutes, Irani said, “The myth that Indian institutes do not measure up needs to be broken. The world rankings only take into account research in English and not in Indian languages.”

She said an Indian ranking system was being evolved to counter the bias, and that 3,500 higher education institutes had already become participants in the framework. Irani also held up IISER-Oune alumnus Kaushtubh Deshpande as an example for students. “Kaushtubh had started remedial teaching for underprivileged children in the nearby areas, and now one of them is a student of IISER-Pune. Those who come from disadvantaged categories are often left behind. I appeal to students to take along one child who can live the life you are living now,” said Irani.

Nai Duniya ND 20.02.2016 P-07

आम गंगाराम बने आईआईटी के खास मेहमान

मैकेनिक की दुकान में काम करते-करते ख्याल आया

गंगाराम बताते हैं-सन् 2000 तक मैं गोरखपुर में मैकेनिक की दुकान में काम करता था। यहीं से खुद उपकरण तैयार करने का ख्याल आया। 2010 में तीन पहिए की साइकिल बनाई। 2011 में मिनी ट्रैक्टर बनाया। 2013 में वाटर पंप बनाया। सबकुछ जुगाड़ के सामान से तैयार किया। 10 हजार से ज्यादा लागत एक भी उपकरण की नहीं है। विज्ञान परिषद् इलाहाबाद ने पहली बार इसे प्रोत्साहित किया। फिर आईआईटी वालों ने मेरे छोटे से आविष्कार को स्वीकारा। अब मैं बोलनी करने वाली मशीन तैयार करने में जुटा हूँ।

बटन दबाते ही ट्रॉली नीचे रख देती है सामान

तीन पहियों की ट्रॉली के पीछे के दोनों पहिए बड़े आकार के हैं। इनमें बेरिंग हैं। इसे चलाने में ज्यादा श्रम नहीं लगता और तीन क्विंटल तक भार उठा सकती है। पहियों के सहारे हाइड्रोलिक ट्रॉली लगाई है जो बटन दबाते ही सामान नीचे रख देती है।

जुताई के लिए बनाया ट्रैक्टर

जुताई के लिए बनाए एक मिनी ट्रैक्टर में लोहे के तीन पहिए हैं। पीछे के पहिए के बीच में एक प्लेट है। यहां हल व गियर लगे हैं। जो किसान ट्रैक्टर नहीं खरीद सकते, वे इससे जुताई कर सकते हैं।

साइकिल चलाते ही हो जाती है सिंचाई



गंगाराम ने एक वॉटर पंप का आविष्कार भी किया है। यह साइकिल से बनाया है। सिस्टम ऐसा है कि साइकिल चलाने पर पानी सर्कुलेट होता है। 1 घंटे में 800 वर्गमीटर तक के एरिए में सिंचाई की जा सकती है।

Business Standard ND 20/02/2016

P-16

Consulting, finance firms dominate placements at IIM-C

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 19 February

Companies in the finance and consulting sectors dominated final placements at Indian Institute of Management — Calcutta (IIM-C). These included Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citibank, BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank, JPMC, Avendus Capital, ICICI Securities, Kotak IBD, Edelweiss, etc.

IIM-C achieved 100 per cent final placements for the Class of 2014-16 in 2.5 days. For a batch of 439 students, 500 offers — including 21 international — were made during the entire process.

While some banks brought investment banking roles exclusively to IIM-C, consulting firms continued their dominance in the campus with 20 per cent of the total offers.

Major firms in the consulting sector included Boston Consulting Group, Bain & Co,

McKinsey, AT Kearney, and Accenture Management Consulting. In the consulting domain, Bain & Co emerged the largest recruiter. Others that hired from IIM-C included Alvarez and Marsal, Opera Solutions, Ernst & Young and Deloitte Consulting.

Among recruiters for sales & marketing roles were Hindustan Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Reckitt Benckiser, Johnson & Johnson, STAR India, Asian Paints, ITC, Phillips etc. International offers were made by AdCuratio, a first-time recruiter at IIM-C.

This year also saw a marked rise in the number of leadership and general management roles, with Tata Administrative Services, Aditya Birla Group, C K Birla Group, Samsung India, Reliance Industries, and Wipro hiring in large numbers.

The Aditya Birla Group with 17 offers for IIM-C students was the highest recruiter in this category.

February 19

Economic Times 19/02/2016 P-16

IIT-Kharagpur Students Ride Innovation, Develop i-Bike, a Driver-Less Bicycle

Inspired by the differently-abled batchmates, the bike can also be used with an Android app

Prachi.Verma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Even as Google is testing its self-driving cars on roads, some engineering students from IIT Kharagpur have come up with a 'Make in India' innovation – a driver-less bicycle.

Inspired by the differently-abled batchmates in the campus, these students thought of developing an autonomous bicycle, 'i-bike'. In the recently held KPIT Sparkle 2016, an annual national design and development innovation contest for engineering and science students across India, these students exhibited the i-bike and took home the first prize.

The theme of the competition was 'Smart Solutions for Energy and Transportation', where the i-bike idea won from among 1,700 other innovative ideas.

The autonomous steering, braking, drive and balancing mechanisms differentiate this bicycle from other bicycles that need a rider.

"This can make the life of a



IIT Kharagpur students with their i-bike

physically challenged person way better in terms of his/her commute from one place to other," said Ayush Pandey, a fourth-year undergraduate student in the department of electrical engineering at IIT Kharagpur.

If a person is an arm amputee, the autonomous steering would

help him/her with the wheel chair or a tricycle or i-bike itself. If a person has lost his/her leg(s), then the autonomous drive would provide the required energy to move ahead while the person only steers the bicycle.

"All these things are provided by the same i-bike due to its dual mode of locomotion in steering

and driving. The user can choose as per his/her requirements," said Pandey.

This is how the bicycle works: The steering hub is modified using innovative gear mechanism that allows for both autonomous and manual mode with switching between the two provided by a latch mechanism. The balancing mechanism uses trainer wheel based torsional spring mechanism which is inventively developed in a way that it is retractable (allowing for easy switching between manual and autonomous modes).

The translation is provided by a hub motor in the rear wheel where autonomous gear based braking mechanism has also been installed.

The IIT students are in the process of applying for patent. "The application procedure would hopefully be complete in a few months," he said.

The bicycle can also be used with a dedicated Android application developed by IIT Kharagpur students.

Hindustan Times ND 19/02/2016 P-15

Now, engineers find a new recruiter in private sector banks

Beena Parmar

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MUMBAI: Engineers are in great demand in banks if the current trend in recruitment in large private lenders is anything to go by. ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra, Yes Bank have all stepped up hiring of trained engineers from premier institutes such as the IITs in the last two years, to handle digital banking operations, a growing area of business for lenders. Earlier, private banks hardly recruited engineers for operations.

With private banks and most state-run banks offering a major-

ity of their services via internet and mobile banking these days, fresh engineering graduates from computer science and electronics streams are being hired.

"We recently hired 20 young engineers from IIT Delhi, Bombay, Madras and BITS Pilani to work in digital banking and business analytics. This is likely to grow," TK Srirang, HR head, ICICI Bank, told HT.

The country's largest private lender has been hiring from premier engineering institutes since last year. This year, it recruited 270 students from such institutes. Managing director Chanda Kochhar recently said the bank is

targeting total transactions worth ₹30,000 crore through mobile banking by March end. Digital banking helps cut operational costs.

The country's fourth-largest private lender, Kotak Mahindra Bank, has hired over 330 students from all campuses so far. The bank has also been strengthening its digital banking team, which has over 150 people already.

"There is more hiring for digital banking roles for the past 2-3 years. We are hiring more aggressively this year after our integration with ING Vysya bank... Our focus is to look for special, out-of-box thinking to meet digital market challenges. So, we are

going to institutes such as IITs and even to the National Institute of Interior Designing and National Industrial Training Institute," said Makarand Khataevkar, group HR head for Kotak Bank.

HDFC Bank, India's second-largest private bank, too, has been hiring from IITs for its digital team. The bank did not respond to HT's requests for comments.

While the extent of hiring is not on the scale as that of e-commerce firms, it has been slowly increasing over the past two years, according to placement coordinators.

On an average, private banks hire 100 to 300 students from campuses, including B-schools,

across all departments, annually. Shubham Prajapati, co-ordinator of the placement cell at IIT Delhi said: "A number of top private banks have been hiring for technology related profiles for the past 2-3 years. Overall, 60-70 students were recruited this year by 15 banks that came for placements."

"Generally banks recruited for analytical skills, but of late they are also recruiting for digital analytics and technology roles," said Atul Shukla, placement manager, IIT Bombay. "Largely, computer science and electrical field candidates had opted for such roles. Of the 15-top private banks that visited our campus this year, about 56

banks hired 30 students for these job profiles. Around 80-100 students would be placed in banks."

Newer lenders such as Yes Bank are also building their digital banking teams. Yes Bank, which currently has a digital banking team of 30, is looking to expand.



US में खुलेगा पहला इंडियन वर्चुअल रियलिटी बिजनेस स्कूल

[वरुणी खोसला | नई दिल्ली]

SP जैन स्कूल ऑफ ग्लोबल मैनेजमेंट सिलिकॉन वैली में एक कैम्पस खोलकर अमेरिका में पहला भारतीय बिजनेस स्कूल खड़ा करेगा। यह बिजनेस स्कूल टॉप रैंकिंग वाले स्टैनफोर्ड ग्रेजुएट स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस और बर्कले हास स्कूल से प्रतिस्पर्धा करेगा। यह बिजनेस स्कूल बे एरिया में होगा। यह दो साल के भीतर तैयार हो जाएगा और एसपी जैन का पांचवां ग्लोबल स्कूल होगा। एसपी जैन के अंडरग्रेजुएट और पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएट प्रोग्राम्स में पहली बार वर्चुअल रियलिटी क्लासरूम्स होंगे।

स्कूल के प्रेसिडेंट नीतीश जैन ने इकनॉमिक टाइम्स को बताया कि वर्चुअल रियलिटी के साथ कोर्स शुरू करना एक प्रमुख हिस्सा है, जिसे कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर की बदलती जरूरतों के हिसाब से तैयार किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि स्टूडेंट्स केवल यह नहीं देखेंगे कि प्रॉडक्ट्स को कैसे

बिजनेस स्कूल दो साल के भीतर तैयार हो जाएगा और SP जैन का यह पांचवां ग्लोबल स्कूल होगा

बेचा जाए, बल्कि वर्चुअल रियलिटी का इस्तेमाल करते हुए प्रॉडक्ट्स बेच भी पाएंगे। उन्होंने बताया, 'वर्चुअल रियलिटी एजुकेशन को एक नए लेवल पर ले जाएगी। वर्चुअल रियलिटी किसी भी स्थिति की नकल उतार सकती है और छात्र गहरी तल्लीनता से चीजें सीखेंगे। दूसरे शब्दों

में कहा जाए तो हम असल जीवन के अनुभवों को तैयार कर सकते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए हम अपने स्टूडेंट्स को अलग-अलग लोगों की एक टीम की अगुवाई करना सिखाते हैं। स्टूडेंट्स क्लासरूम में ये सारी चीजें कर सकेंगे।'

एसपी जैन ने 2004 में दुबई में अपना पहला कैम्पस खोला था। इसके बाद सिंगापुर, सिडनी और मुंबई में स्कूल खोले। स्कूल को ऑस्ट्रेलिया की टेरिटरी एजुकेशन क्वालिटी एंड स्टैंडर्ड्स एजेंसी से मान्यता और दुबई सरकार की नॉलेज एंड ह्यूमन डिवेलपमेंट अथॉरिटी से लाइसेंस मिला है। इसने अमेरिका में कैम्पस के लिए रेगुलेटरी परमिशन मांगी है। जैन ने इकनॉमिक टाइम्स को बताया कि यह पूरी प्रक्रिया कुछ महीने पहले ही शुरू हुई है और स्कूल अगले 12-24 महीने में तैयार हो जाएगा। हालांकि, जैन ने इस पर किए जाने वाले इनवेस्टमेंट का खुलासा नहीं किया। उन्होंने कहा कि कैम्पस बनाने में रेगुलेटरी नियमों के साथ एक ब्रांड स्थापित करने की चुनौतियों से निपटना पड़ता है। कंसल्टेंट्स का कहना है कि किसी इंटरनेशनल लोकेशन में इंस्टीट्यूट चलाने की लागत सालाना 20 लाख डॉलर के ऊपर हो सकती है।

IIT Jammu kick-starts

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/iit-jammu-kick-starts/>

The dream of Jammu having an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is coming true. This is a notable event for the promising students of Jammu region who will not have to go to far off cities in the country in search of admission in a technical institute to obtain degree in different branches of engineering and technology. The creaming of the cake is that the institute in making will be of the highest standard parallel to all other IITs in the country.

The fact is that the IIT Jammu has had chequered history. Many hiccups had to be overcome before arriving at the last leg of the journey. Based on the deliberations of FAC, the transfer of land was approved by the Governor on January 27, 2016 and the same was communicated to the Forest Department by the General Administration Department.

The last hurdle has been overcome and a formal letter has been issued by the Forest Department transferring 159 hectares of forest land to the Department of Higher Education for the purpose of establishing the IIT. The site finally approved is in Nagrota. Nitty-gritty of transfer of forest land was amicably settled. The Forest Department finally agreed to cut about 50 trees and remove about a thousand poles. However, the receiving agency has agreed to bear the cost of compensatory afforestation.

The good news is that there is no need for the Department of Higher Education to obtain clearance certificate from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change because the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K has communicated to the Government that as per the Notification dated June 9, 2015 of Union Environment Ministry, educational institutions have been exempted from obtaining prior environmental clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification. It may be reminded that in the case of Patnitop Ropeway project it took the Department of Tourism nearly four years to obtain the clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment. However, exemption from obtaining clearance certificate does not mean that normal rules and conditions that are applicable for maintaining ecological balance and avoiding environmental pollution will not be adhered to. These have nothing to do with the clearance and have to be observed at any cost. Yet there is something more encouraging in this case. Generally centrally sponsored projects face slow release of funds leading to slowing down the process of completion. But in the case of Jammu IIT, partial release of funds has already begun and even the service departments like PDD and PHE have been given part payment. Therefore in the matter of funding, it is hoped there will be no delay. The transit campus aspect has also been taken into account and hopefully the first batch of students will begin their regular studies from the month of August 2016.

Perhaps IIT Jammu is the first example of timely and perfect planning of a big project in the State. All aspects of the project seem to have been meticulously considered and a sensible decision taken. If the planning takes place according to the desk book schedule, we should hope that in next two years, IIT Jammu will come up fully equipped and regulated to join the rest of the IITs in the country. We have great expectations from the youth community of State. It is a community of exceptionally intelligent and hard working youth who will find an opportunity of showing how much talent lies dormant with them and if given proper exposure, what achievements it can make.

The last word is an appeal to the prospective student community that will be seeking admission in the IIT in August. Jammu region has suffered long deprivation and backwardness. This is despite great sacrifices the people of the region have made in terms of ensuring sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland. They have a responsibility of bringing honour to the country. They must ensure that the institution of learning is not turned into the institution of subversion as we see around these days. Let the student community of Jammu region become the role model for the entire student community of the country.

Smriti Irani raps vice-chancellors for dozing off at her seminar

indiatoday.intoday.in/story/smriti-irani-raps-vice-chancellors-for-dozing-off-at-her-seminar/1/599920.html

Union Human Resources Development minister Smriti Irani today rapped a few vice chancellors who fell asleep during a closed-door meeting in Surajkund in Haryana and ordered a faculty member to leave the hall for attempting to click her picture.

Union Human Resources Development minister Smriti Irani today rapped a few vice chancellors who fell asleep during a closed-door meeting in Surajkund, Haryana.

An irate Smriti even ordered a faculty member to leave the hall for attempting to click her picture.

Smriti chaired a conference today of 46 central university vice chancellors' where several key decisions, including making it mandatory for central universities across the country to fly the national flag, among others were discussed.

During her 30-minute speech, that doubled as a harangue, Smriti said the vice-chancellors should emerge from their "comfortable cocoons" and "do what they are expected to do". The minister snapped at the academics for keeping "posts vacant on the pretext of finding eligible candidates to those positions.

Smriti then demanded to know what exactly the vice-chancellors did for a living and how many times they had involved themselves in revising university curricula.

"Don't become the V-C just to get a lal batti (red beacon) fitted on top of your car," she said. Vice chancellors of the three universities that are in the news - JNU, Jadavpur and Hyderabad - were present in the meeting.

The Human Resources Development Ministry, in a directive on Thursday, asked all central universities to hoist the tricolour on their campuses, news reports have said.

Need to improve teacher-student ratio in higher education: AICTE director

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/Need-to-improve-teacher-student-ratio-in-higher-education-AICTE-director/articleshow/51049394.cms>

Trichy: The Indian higher education system is at a crossroads, said S K Patnaik, director, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). He was addressing students at National Institute of Technology, Trichy on Thursday, after inaugurating Currents 2016, a national-level technical symposium of the department of electrical and electronic engineering.

The director in a session titled 'Technical Education: Concerns and New Directions' noted that higher education in the country is plagued with problems, such as inadequate number of faculty in institutions and less scope for research and innovation. He cited the the Kaw Committee Report that was submitted to the central government recently, to highlight the problems.

" The student-faculty ratio in almost all central government-run institutions is 1.24. The ratio is worse in other institutions. Countries like the US, Sweden and the UK fare much better with at least 13 students to a faculty member" he said, adding that China is inching ahead of India by maintaining a ratio of 1.17. The director said that China has been spending billions on research in education.

Patnaik quoted a report published by the Economic Times in collaboration with the NASSCOM a few years back that said that only 25% of engineers graduating out of top grad schools, including government-run institutions, are employable.

"Education is a word derived from Latin which means drawing out. However, in this country education is about forcing people with knowledge the way they want, leaving out the learning process," he said.

'Institute Chair' launched at IIT-Madras

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Institute-Chair-launched-at-IIT-Madras/articleshow/51050679.cms>

Chennai: Prof Sridhar Tayur, of Carnegie Mellon University, also an IIT Madras alumnus recently launched an 'Institute Chair' in the Department of Management Studies (DOMS) at IIT-Madras.

The Chair is endowed with an amount of 50 lakh, and is established in the name of 'RAGS Family Foundation.'

Prof Kamalanabhan, head of DOMS termed the launch as a significant step forward for the department.

Celebrations of ten years of IISER Pune launched Feb 20, 2016

<http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/news/celebrations-of-ten-years-of-iiser-pune-launched>

In 2016, IISER Pune will complete ten years of existence. A wide range of activities are planned throughout the year to mark this milestone.

On February 19th, the celebrations of a decade of IISER Pune were launched in the presence of Honourable Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani as Chief Guest of the function. Mrs. Irani inaugurated a poster exhibition highlighting the main activities and programmes of the institute.

Director Prof. KN Ganesh gave the opening remarks, recounting the journey from the beginning of IISER Pune and also introduced the Chief Guest. In her speech, Mrs. Irani encouraged students to help other less fortunate youngsters, while reaching greater heights in their own careers. She expressed the hope that they would remember their *alma mater* fondly when they went out into the world after passing out of IISER Pune.

The Honourable Minister also launched a common website of all six IISERs. The site will give consolidated information related to IISERs to all stakeholders like students, parents, potential faculty members and collaborators as well as the MHRD. She also released a video clip about IISER Pune that captures the landmark events of the past ten years of the institute.

IIT students design new bike for differently-abled

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/bengal/iit-students-design-new-bike-for-differently-abled/124895.html>

A team of undergraduates at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, have designed a driver-less bicycle that they say can assist the differently-abled and lower emissions.

The 13-member team of students from various departments of the institute collaborated to build the three-way hybrid (manual + electric + autonomous) vehicle by modifying an ordinary bicycle.

"i-Bike is a bicycle model which can drive itself autonomously and also be driven manually as and when required. The product can be used by people with varied disabilities who have trouble steering or pedalling or both.

"It will essentially provide freedom to the blind as well as the hand amputees for whom personal transportation is a big issue," said Ayush Pandey of IIT-Kgp's electrical engineering department.

Pandey and Subhamoy Mahajan from mechanical engineering are the fourth year students who initiated the project in October, 2014.

It also has a green side to it.

"Due to its three-way hybrid nature, it is ideal for bike-sharing systems - which could lead to huge profits and increase in bicycle usage throughout the world - leading to lower emissions and healthier society," said Pandey.

Other features include wi-fi connectivity and positioning.

"The bicycle remains in a wireless telephone network which provides wireless control and live tracking mechanisms. In autonomous mode, the bicycle has novel and affordable software architecture which enables it to follow specialised bicycle lanes and avoid obstacles in its way while maintaining its global and local positions."

Pandey and his team mates claim "the product does not exist anywhere in the world and is an invention of the undergraduate students of IIT Kharagpur who have been working on this for the past one year. A patent

application for the same is also in progress."

"The cost of the prototype was less than Rs.30,000 and when scaled up due to manufacturing would cost even less. The electric bikes available today cost around Rs.35,000 to Rs.50,000," added Pandey.

At the KPIT Sparkle innovation challenge, the i-Bike project was awarded the gold prize for the best product in the competition. The team won a prize money of Rs.5 lakh.

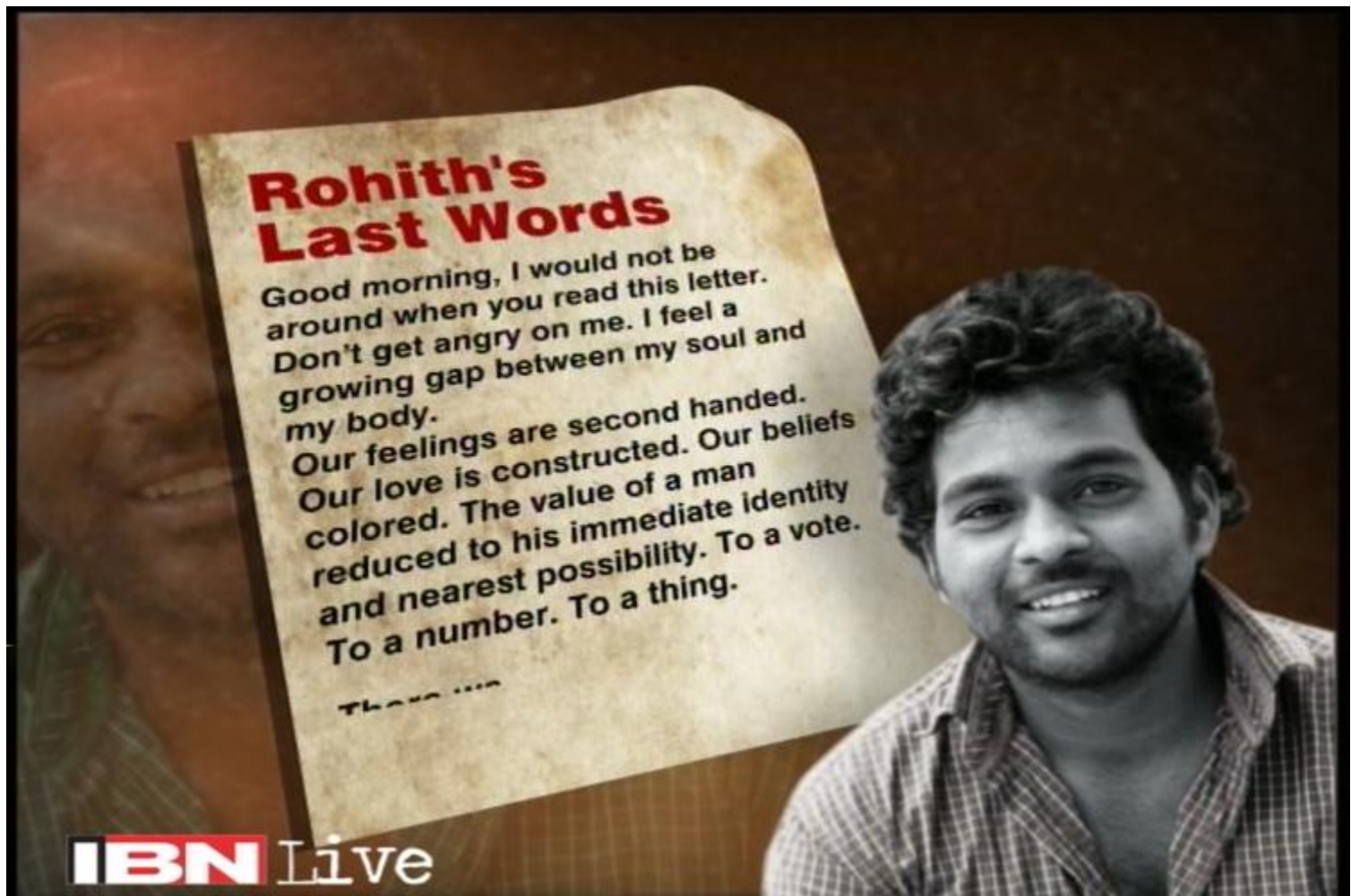
Read more at <http://www.thestatesman.com/news/bengal/iit-students-design-new-bike-for-differently-abled/124895.html#1MLtqJwW4xwkY0iE.99>

Rohith Vemula suicide: Smriti Irani to hold a meeting with Vice-Chancellors of all Central Universities

<http://www.ibnlive.com/news/india/rohith-vemula-suicide-smriti-irani-to-hold-a-meeting-with-vice-chancellors-of-all-central-universities-1204364.html>

New Delhi: In the wake of the death of a Dalit scholar in Hyderabad Central University in January, Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani will on Thursday hold a meeting with Vice-Chancellors of all Central Universities.

Smriti Irani, who will chair the meeting will discuss Rohith Vemula's death and the subsequent protests that followed.



Smriti Irani, who will chair the meeting will discuss Rohith Vemula's death and the subsequent protests that followed.

Rohith's suicide had turned into a political firestorm, which forced Irani to form a panel to examine the ground realities. He committed suicide by hanging himself in a hostel room, months after he and four other Dalit students were barred from the facility for allegedly attacking an ABVP leader.

The five were denied access to all facilities in their campus, except their classrooms and workshops related to their subject of study.

His stipend of Rs 25,000 had been stopped as well.

For the last few weeks student groups were demanding arrest of vice-chancellor Appa Rao as well as the ouster of union minister Bandaru Dattatreya and interim VC Dr Vipin Srivastava. They alleged that it was because of them Rohith took the extreme step. They have been accused of ostracizing Rohith and abetting the suicide.