

Newspaper Clips

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No common counselling for admissions to IITs, NITs

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will not have a common counselling round this year. In a meeting held last week, the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) has decided to have the process similar to that of last year, putting to rest the confusion over a common counselling round for admissions to the centrally-funded technical institutions.

The meeting held on February 5 was attended by representatives from the IITs, NITs, CBSE which conducts JEE (main) and MHRD. A senior official said, "It has been decided that this year none of the processes will be disturbed. NITs will have their own counselling, while IITs will conduct theirs. The common round might be implemented from next year after a feasibility study." Ashok Thakur, secretary, department of higher education, MHRD, had earlier said that ministry officials were keen on having a common counselling round as it will save a lot of time. MHRD was advocating a common round as it will resolve the issue of seats going vacant in the premier institutes and also other state engineering colleges.

An official claimed that there are cases of students, who get seats in IITs but not in popular courses, and they also get a seat in NIT in a coveted course. "These indecisive students hold on to both the seats for a long time and in the end give up on one, leaving the other vacant. Such students hold on to seats in other engineering colleges as well. According to MHRD, a common counselling round will help in resolving the issue," said the official.

However, the IITs were opposed to the idea and believed that it was too late to start on the common counselling round process at this point in time.

India-specific THE indicators soon

Will Help Global Education Stakeholders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Times Higher Education ranking agency of the UK, which grades institutions globally, has agreed to draw up an India-specific indicator that would help global education stakeholders and international students judge Indian educational institutions.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha on Monday, minister of state for HRD Shashi Tharoor said international rankings were perceived to be of significance in enhancing global mobility of students and teachers and in attracting funding. Owing to this perceived significance, a committee constituted by the standing council of IITs held meetings with the Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking Agency and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Ranking Agency on the matter of ranking IITs. The Times Ranking Agency also held a workshop in May 2013 where universities and technical institutions, including IITs and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), were invited.

The HRD ministry has been stressing that parameters to judge institutions in the US and UK cannot be applied on India since the nature of higher educational institutions were different. For instance, IITs are judged independently and Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University have to compete with US and British universities.

“Whereas American universities teach everything from humanities and engineering to medical science, Indian universities have not been able to be-

Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking Agency's officials held meetings with an Indian panel to discuss the ranking of IITs. The HRD ministry has stressed that parameters to judge US and UK institutions can't be applied on India since the nature of higher educational institutions were different

come one-stop centres of learning. Therefore, we lose out in the ranking,” a ministry official said.

Tharoor told Rajya Sabha that the government was continuously striving to improve the quality of higher education in the country by legislative initiatives as well as through schemes and programmes. The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which aims to make accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions in order to ensure an independent quality assurance mechanism, was introduced in Parliament on May 3, 2010.

Tharoor also said that to facilitate dedicated universities as hubs for research, the Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012 was introduced in Lok Sabha on May 21, 2012. The HRD ministry has asked all IITs, NITs and central universities to appoint a nodal person to coordinate with Times Higher Education.

Engineer's bill boon to profession, says ACCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore

ENGINEER'S bill, which is pending before parliament, would be a boon to the sector after it becomes an act, a senior official of Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India) said on Monday.

The bodies, representing all segments of engineers, were fighting for the bill, as it would give recognition to the profession, as given by other professions like Doctors, Auditors and Lawyers, to practice, particularly in consultancy services, ACCE chairman Coimbatore chapter K Subash said.

Without any recognition, nearly 40 lakh engineers in India were left in the lurch, as they could not practice the profession and many foreign engineers were found opening shop in the



Good news

- Without recognition, 40 lakh engineers were left in the lurch, as they could not practice the profession
- The bill was now before parliament and is expected to be passed only by a new government
- The requirement for habitual building is expected to go up to 40 billion Sq metres by 2020

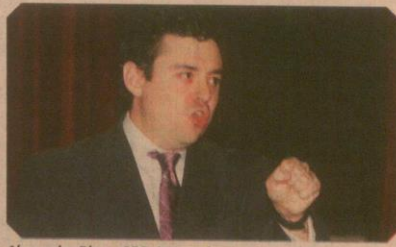
country, he said.

Once it becomes act, there would be one Council for engineers, as on the line of Medical Council of India, Subash said, adding, that the bill was now before parliament and is expected to be passed only by a new government.

On construction industry, Subash said that it was

growing at the rate of 20 per cent year-on-year across the country, since the demand for habitual buildings was gaining momentum, of late.

The requirement for habitual building, which was eight billion square metres for the last 150 years, till 2005, is expected to go up to 40 billion square metres by 2020, Subash said.



Alexander Blass, CEO, Innovation Institute of America, delivering the inaugural talk.

That was the motto of this year's Entrepreneurship Summit, organised by IIT Bombay's E-Cell.

Ankita Shreeram tells you more

Dream, discover, disrupt

It has been a long journey for India from being known as a risk-averse nation to a nation of entrepreneurs. And helping nascent innovators in this journey is the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) of IIT Bombay, which organises the Entrepreneurship Summit (E-Summit) every year. E-Summit 2014 brought some of the most eminent innovators from around the world under one roof to coach, educate and inspire participants through workshops, seminars and panel discussions. The event also provided a platform to budding entrepreneurs with contests like 'Eureka!', Asia's largest business plan competition.

The summit also witnessed the inauguration of the 'Desai Sethi Centre for Entrepreneurship', which aims to foster entrepreneurship and technology innovation through new programmes for education and research, multi-disciplinary courses, research laboratories and partnerships. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Devang V Khakhar, director, IIT Bombay said, "This year, the E-Summit has received patronage from the UN as well. The 'Eureka!' competition has received 5000 entries from India and abroad, of which the top 25 will pitch to angel investors. Winners stand to win prizes in excess of 4.5 million rupees, along with a trip to the E-Bootcamp organised by Stanford University."

Alexander Blass, CEO of Innovative Institution of America kept the audience engaged with an invigorating and interactive session on innovation and entrepreneurship. He listed axioms of innovation:

>> **Be empathetic and sensitive to what your customers want;**

>> **Know that regret is far worse than**

failure;

>> **If people don't tell you your idea is crazy, it may not be all that innovative;**

>> **Each of you is unique - with unique experiences that shape your innovations;**

>> **You will achieve your highest potential as leaders and innovators;**

>> **Always make it about the beneficiaries of your technology.**

When he asked the audience, "How many of you think there's an innovator inside you?", an overwhelming majority of hands shot up. Blass brought souvenirs from his hometown, Baltimore, which he distributed to lucky members of the audience. He also encouraged participants to talk to the persons sitting next to them, irrespective of whether they were strangers or known faces. A couple of volunteers were then called on stage to introduce each other and their entrepreneurial dreams or ventures.

Bharat Desai, chairman and co-founder, Syntel, narrated his entrepreneurial journey, which took him from Kenya to India and then abroad. "Entrepreneurs think differently. They are not scared to challenge conventional wisdom. An entrepreneur is adept at tackling uncertainty. Throughout the life cycle of your company, you have to monitor your customer and stay ahead of their expectations. Your job is to swim against the tide. Entrepreneurship is a very lonely journey and like the game of poker, it's an all-in bet," he said. Desai also spoke about the 'founder's trap' - where a company becomes too dependent on the entrepreneur and he/she cannot extricate himself/herself without having it all fall apart. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a Q&A session.

An IIT-Manipal 'Twitter war' over Satya Nadella



File photo

With Indian-American [Satya Nadella](#) making it to the top job at Microsoft, many at his alma-mater Manipal Institute of Technology celebrated on Twitter, saying this goes against the perception that only students from India's premier institutions - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - make it to the top. ([Read: Satya Nadella's collegial style sparks Microsoft hope](#))

"Nadella becomes Microsoft CEO. MIT wins over IIT-KGP #MoralVictory #OkaySorry #Manipal (sic)," tweeted Tanmay Srivastava, a student from Manipal Institute of Technology.

"Interesting that new Microsoft #CEO is from Manipal & not IIT. No taxpayer funded education for #SatyaNadella . More MITs needed?, (sic)" tweeted a person named Sanjay.

"Satya Nadella's elevation will do wonders to the Manipal brand. For once, a business hyper-achiever is not an IIT alum (sic)," tweeted Vivek Sengupta. ([Read: Satya Nadella's elevation an inspiration, say Indian business leaders](#))

Born and raised in Hyderabad, Mr Nadella, 46, studied at Hyderabad Public School and earned his engineering degree from the Manipal Institute of Technology. ([Read: You owe us a visit, says Manipal University to famous alum Satya Nadella](#))

"Satya's case should be an eye-opener to parents who are obsessed with brands like IIT, IIM because he is neither of the two and am sure his parents did not obsess over it. They allowed him space to blossom in whatever route he took," said Colonel RS Khatri, principal, Hyderabad public school.

Students of IIT, however, downplayed the reactions.

"It is a kind of Twitter war that's going on between the MITians and the IITians. Frankly speaking, this is overrated. We have seen that there have been eminent personalities emerging from both MIT and IITs and even in some cases the state universities," said Himanshu Pandey, a student of IIT Kanpur.

"I don't think that to be successful, you just have to be an IITian. Like, IIT can give you sufficient condition to be successful but it is not the necessary condition," said another IIT Kanpur student Abhimanyu Arora.

Be it IIT, MIT or any other institute of excellence, achievers like Mr Nadella - who is now only the third leader in the 300-billion dollar software company's 38-year history - make India proud.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/an-iit-manipal-twitter-war-over-satya-nadella-481496>