

Newspaper Clips

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HRD Ministry seeks CVC advice on IIT action against professor

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NEW DELHI

IIT
MCA

The tussle between the Union HRD Ministry and IIT-Kharagpur over whistleblower Prof Rajeev Kumar has taken a new turn.

The Ministry has sought the Central Vigilance Commission's (CVC) advice after IIT-Kharagpur refused to place the procedural matter of allegations against Kumar before the Visitor (President of India) for a review.

It finally responded, after four months, saying an inquiry had already been conducted against the whistleblower and the report submitted to the IIT-Kharagpur director.

This is the first instance when the HRD Ministry has intervened in suspension of a staff, since IITs are governed by their Council. In October last year, the Ministry focused on two specific issues — Kumar's suspension review and placing the inquiry report before the reviewing authority (that is, the IIT Visitor).

Rules say suspension is not valid if not extended within 90 days. However, based on the inquiry report, IIT-Kharagpur will now go ahead



IIT-Kharagpur has refused to place procedural matter of allegations against Rajeev Kumar before the Visitor (President of India) for a review

with action against Kumar, a professor in the computer science and engineering department.

The HRD Ministry had asked IIT-Kharagpur to review Kumar's suspension and inform the Visitor as per Central Civil Services (CCA) Rules. Rules further specify that proceedings should be stayed till a decision is taken by the President.

However, in complete defiance, IIT told the Ministry that

the inquiry report had been submitted to the director of IIT-Kharagpur, thus prompting initiation of action against Kumar.

IIT-Kharagpur had suspended Kumar on May 13, 2011, on charges of misrepresenting and defaming the institute. Other charges against him were mass copying, misrepresenting facts of irregular laptop purchase, defaming institute officials, pressurising and preventing them from discharging their duties, threatening the dean and accessing media for his personal gain and to malign the institution.

The director had appointed retired judge Ronojit Mitra in April 2011, as chairman of a one-man "Standing" Inquiry Committee for all disciplinary cases against faculty and officers of the institute. Out of the five sittings, four were held on days when Kumar was appearing in person in Calcutta High Court in a matter related to the IIT whistleblower case.

The joint (consultative) meeting of IIT-Kharagpur on January 28, 2013, stated, "The director said the inquiry report in respect of Prof Rajeev Kumar has been received and the necessary action will be initiated."

HT Mumbai

76% more papers by varsities after access to online journals

INCREASING RESEARCH The 50 universities produced 18,907 more publications in 2005-2009

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MUMBAI: Indian universities, including the University of Mumbai, finally seem to be making headway after lagging in the number of research publications in national and international journals, new data has revealed.

Data sourced from the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), Thomson Press at Philadelphia, an international research platform, has found that there has been more than 75% increase in the number of research publications from 50 Indian universities between 2005 and 2009 as compared to the previous five years (2000 to 2004). These 50 Indian universities were among the first phase to gain electronic access to high quality national and international academic journals as part of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library

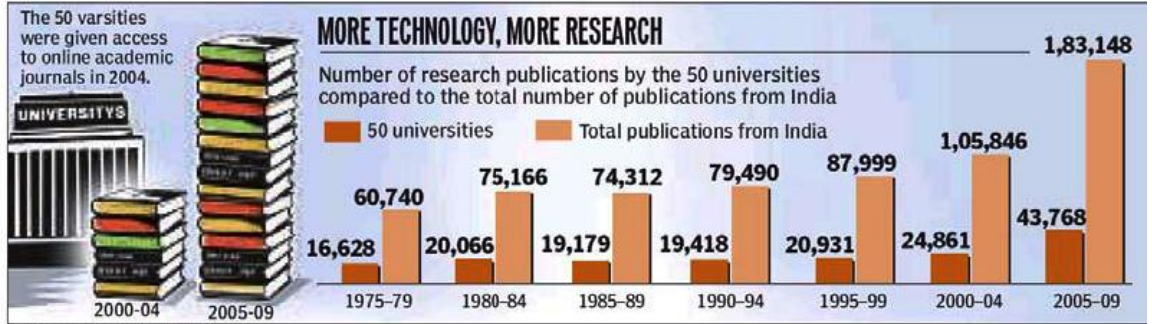


ILLUSTRATION: SHRIKRISHNA PATKAR

Consortium since 2004.

The number of research publications by the 50 universities between 2005 and 2009 rose to 43,768 as against 24, 861 from 2000-2004.

A three-member team from the Information and Library Network Centre at Ahmedabad and the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics,

Pune, used found that research output is significantly higher in science as against social science and arts and humanities.

"There is a 76.05% increase in cumulative number of articles in the last block of five years in comparison to the previous block, amounting to a cumulative increase in research productivity of 163.22% over a

period of 35 years from 1975 to 2009," the team's research paper stated.

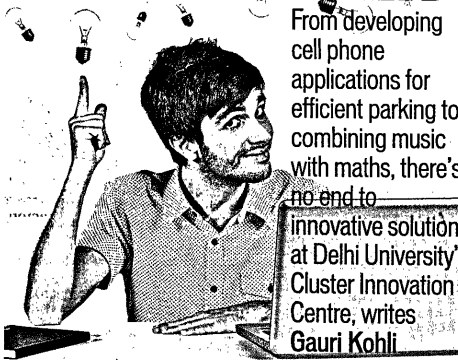
"Today, research culture in the universities is better with the facility of providing electronic access to literature. Students and faculty can now consult literature on the subject from institutes across the world," said Jagdish Arora, director,

Information and Library Network Centre, Ahmedabad and co-author of the paper. The paper 'Impact of access to e-resources through the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium on research output of member universities' is published the latest issue of Current Science by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

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RUN ON BRAINPOWER



From developing cell phone applications for efficient parking to combining music with maths, there's no end to

innovative solutions at Delhi University's Cluster Innovation Centre, writes Gauri Kohli

Imagine using an Android application on your cell phone that gives you the shortest or the greenest route from north to south Delhi? Or using another application that can solve parking woes in your city? These out-of-the-box and innovative ideas may soon turn into real solutions, thanks to the students at Delhi University's Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC).

Solving parking woes through technology
Elaborating on the mobile application, Madhulika Mukherjee, a student of the B.Tech programme in innovation with mathematics and IT, says: "The app is a tool that will help make parking and retrieval of cars from valet parking much easier. The valet can simply ask the car owner for how much time he plans to park the car there, enter the time on his app, and tap the slot on the screen where the car has been parked. As time passes, the colour of the particular slot on his parking lot map darkens. Having done this for each car that enters the lot, the valet can, by just a glance on his screen, estimate which cars are due to be out in some time and which cars

still have a lot of time to go. This not only facilitates and increases the efficiency of parking new cars as they come, but also eliminates errors due to human memory when allotting new slots to cars." This application is part of the IT model for parking space management: optimal and efficient parking-retrieval of vehicles project.

As part of the project on traffic space management, electronics and communication technology will be used for synchronous real time tracking of a large number of vehicles within the parking area. Mathematical algorithms will be developed to use the gathered tracking information for optimum use of the available parking space and for computing the most efficient entry-parking-exit scheme for each vehicle.

Further, the servers of all parking blocks in the city can then be integrated with a

central server for higher-level parking management. The system can also be used for national-level security and intelligence applications.

Innovating through research
"At CIC, research and innovation form an integral part of the curriculum even though an undergraduate programme is considered too junior to include an element of 'research', says Sahil Mathur, a student of the B.Tech programme in innovation with mathematics and IT. CIC was initiated by the university with the aim to foster innovative learning among students.

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Talk to us
Is your college doing anything innovative? Share your responses on facebook.com/htedu

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RUN ON BRAINPOWER

"It aims to encourage youngsters like us to think out of the box and come up with innovations that would help create an ecosystem of independent and novel thinking," says Anurag Kumar, a second-year student of B.Tech programme in innovation with mathematics and IT.

Before joining this course, Kumar was enrolled in statistics (hons) at Ramjas College. "The course structure of this programme fascinated me because of its uniqueness. The concept of 'engineering kitchen' or the technology lab and the freedom to design our own course structure were unheard of," he adds.

Kumar likes the fact that he gets to experiment with technology. "Be it the 24x7 water supply project or road management through the traffic simulation project, we have already engaged ourselves in some very innovative and large scale projects that would have direct impact on society," he says.

In another project, a mathematical model will be developed for real time simulation of traffic flow on some of the selected Delhi roads. In this one-year project, three road segments will be studied: BRT

Corridor, a segment on outer Ring Road, including Rao Tularam Marg, and a segment on Ring Road near the north campus of Delhi University.

Music with maths
Says Dushar Mishra, a student of the same programme who left St Stephen's College to study at CIC, "I always wanted to go out of the conventional blackboard learning set-up and actually experience, experiment and learn. This is what CIC has given me. I have the freedom to pursue interdisciplinary project involving distant topics like music and mathematics together with IT and do something real. We have no constraints when it comes to our projects, be it financial or anything else. I can even do a project on water quality monitoring for which I work in laboratories of IIT Delhi."

Giving details of his music project, Mishra says, "The project aims to find a correlation between different personality types and musical genres using different statistical tools. This involves surveying a sample space of 100 students and categorising them into different personalities using already available psychological methods, then letting them listen to a sample of five musical genres and grade them from one to five. Next we analyse the result and find a correlation between them.



Lastly, we try to find best composition for a song."

Ideas get a fillip
There are three projects funded by the university that has sanctioned ₹10 lakh for each. In addition, students involved with these projects get a stipend of ₹1000 per month. DU has also tied up with institutions such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation to set up a centre of excellence under CIC. CIC is tying up with PhD Chambers of Commerce and FICCI to place students with small and medium enterprises.

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