

Newspaper Clips
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FYUP part of new education policy deliberation, says Irani

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The controversial four-year undergraduate programme of Delhi University which was rolled back by the Narendra Modi government last year, would be part of deliberations during framing of a new national education policy.

“With regards to the four year course in any capacity...will it be allowed, that is also a part of the new education policy deliberation,” HRD Minister Smriti Irani said during an interaction with the students at the Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) here.

She said this to a poser by a student, underlining that the decision to scrap the programme was taken as such programme had no legal sanctity.

DU had on June 27 last year scrapped the course and reverted to the previous three-year structure under pressure from UGC. The decision had put a cap on prolonged agitation by a section of the teachers and students demanding rollback of the FYUP course.

Irani encouraged the students to post their feedback



about their wish from the new education policy on www.mygov.in. “We genuinely believe in change. Give us your views as the existing education policy is 22 years old now,” she said.

Government had on January 26 officially launched deliberations on the new policy inviting suggestions from stakeholders across the board on 32 selected items.

As part of the deliberation, the minister plans to visit some institutes in the coming days and interact with students. To a suggestion from a student of SRCC on Thursday who fumed that technical institutes and programmes are being given preferences over liberal arts, she said suggestions should be posted in the website for consideration.

She also sought feed-

back from students on the nomenclature of courses and about diploma programme that could be changed into degree courses.

Listing out the initiatives taken by her ministry to improve quality of education, she said capacity building of teachers was one the prime focus of her government. She said this when her attention was drawn by a student to the quality of teaching in classes.

When an Economics student from Madhya Pradesh shared his plight of being unable to keep pace with the rest in his class due to his Hindi medium background and alleged lack of support from teachers, Irani assured him that he would have no such problem and that teachers would definitely help him out.

IIT-M Alumni Picked for Comp Research and Development

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/education/student/IIT-M-Alumni-Picked-for-Comp-Research-and-Development/2015/02/13/article2666702.ece>

CHENNAI:Five IIT-Madras alumni are among 47 people recognised by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) this year for their advances in computing research and development that are driving innovation and sustaining economic development around the world. ACM is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society.

The alumni are Parthasarathy Ranganathan and Ramakrishnan Srikant from Google, Srinivas Devadas from the Michigan Institute of Technology, Aravind Srinivasan from the University of Maryland and S Sudarshan from IIT-Bombay.

Professor Nagarajan, dean, International and Alumni Relations at IIT-M, said, "IIT-M prepares its students well for graduate studies and that is reflected by their standing and accomplishments in academia."

IIT Goa to Commence Its First Academic Session at Goa Engineering College

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/iit-go-to-commence-its-first-academic-session-at-go-engineering-college-1423736140-1>

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Goa will be starting its first academic session, temporarily, at Goa Engineering College as per the decision laid down by the HRD Minister.

The HRD Ministry has turned down the idea of taking off the first session at the Government College, Pernem citing that it's unsuitable. State Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar has made the announcement after meeting the Union HRD Minister.

Further it is also expected that the HRD Ministry will also agree to the allotment of a minimum of 15 lakh square meter of land for setting up of campus. In response to this, the State Government has decided to contribute the space acquired for sports city to the IIT Goa Campus.

Previous year Goa along with few other States had been chosen for setting up IITs. This year, 100 students will get enrolled to kick start the first academic session at IIT Goa through JEE 2015.

Important Points

- IIT Goa to start its first session at Goa Engineering College
- 100 students to get enrolled this year through JEE 2015
- HRD Ministry is also expected to agree to allot 15 lakh square meters of land, for setting up of campus

Most new IITs, IIMs to get going this year

[Vaibhav Ganjapure](#), TNN | Feb 13, 2015, 03.52 AM IST

NAGPUR: When finance minister Arun Jaitley announced setting up of five new IITs and six new IIMs in his budget on July 10 last year, it appeared unlikely they would become operational by 2015-16 academic session. It seemed even more difficult since the existing eight IITs and IIMs started by the UPA government between 2008 and 2011 are still grappling with problems like faculty shortage and absence of infrastructure. All of them are still operating from the makeshift campuses in absence of proper funds allocation.

Surprisingly though, most of those announced by Jaitley are likely to begin their operations from July, if officials from the union ministry of Human Resources development (MHRD) are to be believed. MHRD additional secretary Amarjit Sinha told TOI they had completed inspection of eight projects and planned to functionalize all of them from July.

Jaitley had allocated Rs500 crore for IITs at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jammu and Kashmir, apart from IIMs at Odisha, Punjab, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra. The sixth IIM was to come up in AP after Telangana's formation.

"Except for the IIT in J&K, land has been identified for all other institutes. We have so far visited eight of them and found their permanent as well as makeshift sites satisfactory. Even their reports have already been submitted to the MHRD while the remaining three campuses would be inspected soon. The government plans to start at least eight of these projects at temporary campuses from forthcoming session," Sinha, who was in Nagpur for inspecting the temporary and permanent facilities for Maharashtra's first IIM, said.

He informed that MHRD team had visited sites for proposed IITs at Tirupati (AP), Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Goa, along with IIMs at Vizag, Bihar and Orissa, besides Nagpur. "We will soon be inspecting IIM facilities at Punjab and Bodh Gaya in Himachal Pradesh," he said.

Sinha's stand was in complete contrast with union minister for state for HRD Ramshankar Katheria, who had told TOI the government would first focus on IIMs and IITs started by the Congress-led government that were still grappling with the problems like land, buildings and faculty shortage.

If everything goes to plan, India will have 21 IITs and 19 IIMs from next session. Currently, about 9,600 seats are available in 16 IITs for which there is a stiff competition among five lakh students while IIMs have roughly 3,500 seats and over two lakh vie for it every year, sources from Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) informed.

IIT-BHU graduates develop tech for safer, faster tyres

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/IIT-BHU-graduates-develop-tech-for-safer-faster-tyres/articleshow/46216071.cms>

VARANASI: Three chemical engineering graduates of the Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) have come up with a new eco-friendly innovation of extracting green silica from rice husk ash. With this, the carbon used in tyres can be replaced with silica which helps in reducing the rolling resistance and improve fuel economy.

Elaborating about their innovation Nikhar Jain said, "The rice husk ash contains heavy amount of silica which can be used

for various purpose. To ensure effective rice husk utilization through efficient silica extraction, we developed a process to extract advance grade of green silica."

Citing advantages, he said, "First and foremost, the cost will be cheaper as no import will be required. Secondly, silica helps in reducing the rolling resistance so if it is used instead of carbon black then the fuel economy too will improve." It also results in 5% reduction in fuel consumption of vehicles and reduction in emission of green house gases, he added.

This technology for silica extraction has been successfully employed at pilot stage by Nikhar Jain, Tanmay Pandya and Abhishek Poddar, who are associated with 'Bridgedots Techservices Private Limited', established in 2011 by IIT-BHU alumni. It is a technology solution provider for Chemical & Allied Industries, across the globe, including India, Europe, Middle East, USA and Australia.

The students tested silica extracted from rice husk ash at Malaviya Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (MCIIE) and are in contact with several multinational companies (MNCs). "Presently, we have received approval from two MNCs and are in talk with a few federal companies for funds," Nikhar Jain, one of the innovators.

It is currently incubated at the Technology Business Incubator, MCIIE of IIT-BHU, which provides direct access to leading authorities and experts in India and state-of-the-art research infrastructure of the campus. It also has a well-equipped research lab in Noida.

According to Jain, millions of tons of rice were harvested in India and disposal of rice husk ash was an environmental challenge. "If the rice husk wastes are used for landfills as well as in silica extraction, then waste disposal issues will be solved," he said.

MCIIE coordinator and professor in department of chemical engineering PK Mishra said, "These young minds have come up with the first-of-its-kind idea by converting a waste product into a value added product. The rice husk served various purposes but disposal of ash was a challenge. Now, this husk ash would not only reduce energy but also help in minimal pollution." He further said, "To extract silica from sand, you have to heat the sand up to 1,400 degrees Celsius while the temperature required for extracting silica from ash is only 100 degrees Celsius," and added that plans were afoot to set up the plant at Punjab.

MCIIE technology manager Prashant Sinha said, "The best part of this innovation is its eco-friendly nature and advantages are not just limited to increasing fuel efficiency of tyres and reduction in pollution. But, even the left over ash can be of great use."

Time to broaden academic avenues

To shape management aspirants according to changing scenarios, Indian B-schools are developing a fresh orientation offering new areas of specialisations

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Acquiring a futuristic approach, Indian B-schools are trying their best to set new trends into management education. Embracing the challenges thrown up by global competition and fluid economy, management education institutes in the country are not only raising the bar offering state-of-the-art facilities but also they are being innovative in their outlook. While India is considered a global talent pool, experts feel that our B-schools have an essential task of delivering responsible managers who are taskmasters.

To shape management aspirants according to changing scenarios, Indian B-schools are developing a fresh orientation offering new areas of specialisations. Applying the theory perfectly practice counts a lot, asserts Prof. (Col) A Balasubramanian, president, Sri Balaji Society and executive director - BIMM and



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tion. Digesting the concepts and understanding alternate applications in different business environment and in different context is the real challenge. For that, searching, hunting and learning from various sources in this internet era are sine quo non. Multi-skilling is the need of the hour."

About choosing a right business school, he says,

capabilities and to get selected for campus placements."

At the same time, it should be noted that the situation is dramatically changing, Balasubramanian warns. "Gone are the days when the industry was located in cities only and therefore they hired that kind of people. Now that the corporates are spreading their bases to Tier-II cities, they are expected to look at local talents. These corporates are also slightly willing to lower the recruiting standards; offer employees additional training as such people can be hired at a comparatively lower price. The critical thing to be borne in mind is the company's hire 'talents' not the institute. Anyone from any institute can be a winner."

Today, MBA students are finding that it is advantageous to opt for multiple specialisations. "Some sought-after specialisations are analytics and finance; analytics and marketing. With the dominance of social media, big data is another favourite. Many students with work experience are inclined towards entrepreneurial ventures and consequently the courses with entrepreneurial orientation coupled with innovation are becoming very popular," adds Dr Nagadevara, dean, Woxsen School of Business.

Along with infrastructural facilities, students should look for faculty resources while enrolling in a B-school, Nagadevara says. "The quality of visiting faculty is also an endorsement by the faculty about the quality of the school. Today, the employers are looking for those who can manage global operations and hence the students need to look at the internationalisation of the curriculum in terms of the faculty, course content and exposure through options such as international immersion activities. Obviously, placement record of the school is very important with their overall track-record."



Top B-schools have excellent faculties, technically-equipped classrooms, good library and administratively competent task masters

— **Dr. (Col) A Balasubramanian**
President, Sri Balaji Society and executive director - BIMM and Dean - BITM, BIIB and BIMHRD

Dean - BITM, BIIB and BIMHRD. "Business analytics, E-commerce and cloud computing seem to be the new emerging areas of specialisations besides the telecom. But these specialisations are sector specific, meant to cater to new emerging needs and they have, in no way, replaced the evergreen specialisations such as sales and marketing management, human resources, finance, operations, systems and supply chain management catering the ever expanding business developments in our country. But, doing a specialisation and sitting satisfied is a risky proposi-

"A lot will depend on the individual. Factors like economic conditions, a student's IQ, EQ, G and performance in entrance exam make all the difference. Academic track records and locational preference will come into play when it comes to admission to well-ranked B-schools. But, they are very few. These B-schools have excellent faculties, technically-equipped classrooms, good library and administratively competent task masters to promote and ensure stimulating environment that enables the students to challenge their inherent strengths, enhance their

HT.Com ND 13.02.2015 P-8

25,000 UK student placements in India within five years

Press Trust of India

The British Council aims to bring 25,000 UK students to India over the next five years for various placements in the country under its new 'Generation UK' programme, a top official said.

The objective was to promote India as a destination to gain study and work experience, offer mutually beneficial placements that would give students the chance to develop employability skills, Suchita Gokarn, Head of Education Promotion, British Council, said.

Besides, this would support internationalisation of Indian companies and academic institutions, she said, adding that the first

batch of 2,000 students will arrive in India and work and teach in the country this year.

Suchita, who launched the Council's Education UK exhibition and announced the Great Britain Scholarships-India 2015, said it would entail 401 partial scholarship awards worth 1.51 million pounds on offer for courses like Engineering, Law and Business, Art and Design and Bioscience. Stating that the scholarships are tenable for September 2015 and January 2016 intake, she said 57 UK institutions across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were participating in the program.

Students from 16 nationalities are pursuing their studies in UK and there was absolutely no fear of any racism, Suchita assured

SINCE 2014 BRITISH COUNCIL ORGANISED 500 INTERNSHIPS AT COMPANIES LIKE TATA MOTORS, AIR INDIA AND GRANT THORNTON

India is increasingly seen as a highly competitive marketplace and has been pegged by both The Economist and Time Magazine as an ideal training ground to engage with the developing world. The stated aim of the BBC exchange program is to create a more dynamic and collaborative workforce.

IndoGenius, an India-based organisation specialising in the internationalisation of Indian higher education, will manage the

cultural immersion strand of the scheme, which will be responsible for bringing 11,000 of the 25,000 students to India.

IndoGenius has so far organised more than 500 internships in association with British Council at over 60 Indian organisations for UK students including Tata Motors, Air India and Grant Thornton. In 2014 it received 4,595 applications from 131 different UK universities and 52 colleges.

Currently about 200 students have arrived from the UK and have taken up teaching assistantships. The participants all come from vastly different regions, backgrounds, schools and specializations and it is British Council's mandate to facilitate a cultural exchange.