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Business honchos to chair IIT decision-making committees

BIGGER ROLE Industrialists Kumar Mangalam Birla, Rajiv I Modi give consent; others' awaited

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NEW DELHI: A number of leading industrialists are likely to be appointed chairpersons of the boards of governors (BoG) of prestigious IITs across the country.

According to sources, the move is aimed at strengthening partnership between the industry and the academia. Industrialists such as Kumar Mangalam Birla, the chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, has been nominated as the the chairman of IIT Delhi, Rajiv I Modi who is the chairman and managing director of Cadila Pharmaceuticals, has been nominated for IIT Guwahati while Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, CMD, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, has been nominated for IIT Bhubaneswar and Mallika Srinivasan, chairperson and CEO of Tractors and Farm Equipment limited has been nominated as the chairperson of IIT Jodhpur by the HRD ministry.

According to sources, the HRD ministry has sought the permission of President Pranab Mukherjee to make the appoint-

FOR INDUSTRY-INSTITUTE INTERACTION



Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, has been nominated as the chairperson of IIT Delhi



Rajiv I Modi, chairman and managing director of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ahmedabad, has been nominated for IIT Guwahati



Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, chairman and managing director of Cadila Healthcare, nominated as the chairman of IIT Bhubaneswar; consent awaited



Mallika Srinivasan, chairperson and CEO of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, Chennai, nominated for IIT Jodhpur; consent awaited

IN THE PAST, ENGINEERING INSTITUTES ESPECIALLY IITs HAVE DEVISED WAYS TO FACILITATE GREATER DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INSTITUTES AND ACADEMIA

ments as he is the visitor of the institutes. All these nominations have been made by the ministry. According to sources, Birla and Modi have given their

consent while that of others are awaited. Their files will be forwarded to the President only after the consents are obtained.

It is only after receiving the nod of the President that the appointment will be made. This is not the first time that industrialists have been nominated as the chairman of BoG. In the past RC Bhargava chairman of Maruti Suzuki was appointed as chairman of the BoG of IIT Kanpur while BVR Mohan

Reddy was appointed chairman of the BoG of IIT Hyderabad.

If the new nominations are cleared by the President, BoG of most IITs will be headed by industrialists. The move is aimed at strengthening ties between the industry and the engineering institutes.

In the past too, engineering institutes especially IITs have devised a number of mechanisms to facilitate greater dialogue between the institutes and the academia.

Prez office wades into V-C appointments in DU, JNU

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NEW DELHI: The NDA government appeared headed for another round of bitter confrontation with the academia, this time over the appointment of vice-chancellors in two of the country's most prestigious institutions — Delhi University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

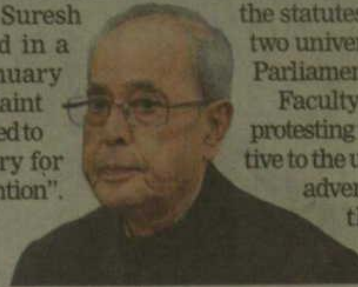
The development comes in the wake of the resignation of nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar from the board of governors of IIT Bombay and the subsequent decision of Raghunath K Shevgaonkar to quit as the director of IIT Delhi.

Through representations routed through leaders of Opposition par-

ties, faculty members of the two universities have sought President Pranab Mukherjee's intervention into "serious violation of statutory norms" and "interference" by the human resources development ministry in the selection process.

Responding to one such representation sent by Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi, the President's officer on special duty (OSD) Suresh Yadav informed in a letter dated January 11 that the complaint has been forwarded to the HRD ministry for "appropriate attention".

■ Pranab Mukherjee



"The NDA government has been systematically working at destroying academic institutions with aims of imposing a communal agenda," Tyagi alleged. Crying foul over the insertion of a fresh pre-qualification clause requiring applicants to have "at least 10 years experience as professor", the teaching staff of the two universities are asserting that this was "in contravention of the statutes laid down for the two universities by an act of Parliament".

Faculty members are also protesting the ministry's directive to the universities to place advertisements defining the format of the selection process.

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Prez office wades into DU, JNU V-C appointments

Identical advertisements for the two posts were published in a Delhi newspaper on August 5 and August 15.

"So far, it had been the search committee's prerogative to conceive and follow a particular mode of selection. By setting out a defined format and inserting pre-conditions violative of the statute of the two universities, the ministry is attempting to tinker with procedures, possibly in pursuance of ulterior motives," one DU professor alleged.

HT sent out a questionnaire to the HRD ministry on the issue, but no response was received till late Friday night.

In a separate memorandum to the office of the President, leaders of women's organisations and "concerned citizens" have also strongly objected to a particular candidate whose

name has featured in the list of names forwarded by the search panel for the top job in Delhi University. The particular candidate has been accused in a case of sexual harassment.

"A candidate with such a black mark should not have been considered at all for the top job," JNU professor Nivedita Menon said.

JEE exam to be scrapped; Get ready for NAT 2017

<http://www.catchnews.com/social-sector/jee-exam-to-be-scrapped-get-ready-for-nat-2017-1452836641.html>

Change is the name of the game when it comes to IITs and the JEE exam! Just three years after the biggest engineering entrance test of the country underwent some massive metamorphosis, reports of new overhauls are emerging.

According to these reports, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is mulling over introduction of a single testing system/authority for admissions to leading technical institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and Government Funded Technical Institutes (GFTIs).

This new testing system /authority will be known as National Authority for Testing (NAT). The concept of NAT has been approved by the various committees and will soon be tabled in front of the Cabinet. Once approved, the system will be implemented in October 2016, for admissions to the academic session of 2017.

The recommendations for NAT come from an expert panel - the Committee of Eminent Persons (CEP), constituted by the IIT council. Headed by Ashok Mishra, the committee has suggested that JEE Main and JEE Advanced be combined into a single engineering entrance exam. This exam will be held four times a year and test the candidate's knowledge of physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Apart from the single engineering entrance test, the CEP also suggested another mandatory standardised aptitude test. This aptitude test will be conducted on the lines of US-based SAT exam. Once introduced, the test will minimise weight on school board marks and candidates need to only pass their board exams.

There's no clarity on the exam patterns for the both the tests, yet. However, the idea behind the exams is to make admission to top technical institutes aspirant friendly and identifying candidates with an innovative bent of mind and a natural aptitude towards science and technology.

Currently, JEE is held in two stages - JEE Mains and JEE Advanced. JEE Mains is conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and is meant for admission to the 32 NITs. Candidates clearing JEE Mains, are then shortlisted for JEE Advanced.

JEE Advanced is conducted by the IITs for admission to the 18 IITs.

JEE Main 2016 offline exam will be held on 3 April while the online exam will be conducted on 9 and 10 April. JEE Advanced 2016 will be held on 22 May.

Here are five important points that one should know about NAT:

1. The National Authority for Testing (NAT) will be established as a conducting body-cum-testing-system after approval from the Union cabinet. It will be registered as an independent society under the MHRD.
2. In the first stage, NAT will conduct a standardised general aptitude test (like SAT exam), whose scores will be used to shortlist candidates for engineering programmes. The test will analyse the aspirant's analytical aptitude instead of knowledge of subjects.
3. Next, NAT will introduce a single entrance test for admission to IITs & NITS. This online test will be held four times a year.

4. NAT's exam services are expected to be implemented in October 2016, for admissions to the academic session of 2017.

5. The testing system will reduce the dependence of engineering aspirants on coaching institutes, delink school board marks to engineering admissions and identify candidates with scientific bent of mind.

These IIT Delhi Students Are On A Mission To Tackle The City's 'Monster Garbage Problem'

<http://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2016/01/cleanliness-drive-in-munirka-slums/> :

Sometimes, all it takes to spark that idea and bring about a revolution is just a moment; a life-altering incident which ignites that desire to bring about a change and drives our actions to implement our decisions. Our journey started the day Abhishek, my friend in IIT, came to me with this thing that had been nibbling away at the back of his mind. On several visits to the Munirka slums, where he went as a volunteer in the Munirka teaching project, he encountered several children who fell ill on an unusually regular basis. Some digging into the matter (literally) led him to the root of the problem which was the vastly mismanaged waste management system employed in the Munirka slums.

If ever you get a chance to visit the Munirka slums, you will be welcomed by the over-powering stench of partially decomposed waste and the rolling hills that the heaps of garbage have formed on the sides of the roads and in half-dug ditches. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has managed to botch up the process of waste collection, segregation and disposal as is evident from the ever overflowing garbage bins. But to say that the people are at a lesser fault would be an injustice to the MCD. Illiteracy and unawareness amongst the residents of the Munirka slums about the importance of waste management and a clean environment has prevented them from taking any action against the negligence of the MCD and the heaping up of waste right outside their doors. This has led up to the blooming up of several problems in the slums, ranging from obnoxious smells to spread of infections and diseases.

These images were blazed into Abhishek's mind and he took it upon himself to find a solution to this problem – an effective and sustainable solution to improve the current waste management system being employed by the MCD. He discussed his idea with me, extensively and in no time, we were a 5-membered team, driven by a vision and united by a goal – to transform the filthy lanes of Munirka slums and other such areas, into the clean roads that they were once! All of us are zealous, all of us determined and all of us ready- to act selflessly towards this cause. Nirmalya is the name of our endeavour: Nirmalya, derived from the Sanskrit word “*nirmal*” meaning pure, reflecting our efforts to restore the purity and sanctity of our environment through proper waste management.

Our numerous field trips to various slums around Delhi including Munirka Slums has revealed some disturbing facts about the current situation of the waste problem being encountered in the slums and the numbers associated with it. In the light of these statistics, we decided to conduct this cleanliness drive in the Sarasvati Basti. Doing this will accomplish two goals. Firstly, by involving the people themselves in this cleanliness drive, we aim to drive home the importance of cleaner surroundings and invite them to participate in the cleaning of their homes and their locality. Secondly, Once we are done with the cleanliness drive and rid the area of all the waste lying around, we have planned the installation of new garbage bins with separate compartments for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Through prior talks with the MCD, we have come to an agreement under which the MCD has agreed to collect the garbage from these bins in an organised manner, without any delay or negligence.

This cleanliness drive is a small, first step in the larger scheme of things that are encompassed within our plan Nirmalya. Waste Management is no small problem and neither is our perseverance and determination. All it will take is to guide the people along the right track and the rest is up to them! Meanwhile, we will continue to do our bit to tackle this monster of improper garbage collection.

कोर्ट ने किया आईआईटी प्रबंधन का जवाब तलब

<http://www.amarujala.com/news/city/roorkee/roorkee-hindi-news/the-court-questioned-the-iit-management-hindi-news/>

रुड़की। आईआईटी रुड़की में कर्मचारी यूनियन चुनाव का विवाद हाईकोर्ट पहुंचने के बाद अब छह सप्ताह में जवाब तलब किया गया है। साथ ही जांच के लिए आईआईटी प्रबंधन को उच्च स्तरीय कमेटी गठन के निर्देश दिए हैं।

आईआईटी में लगभग 20 दिन पहले कर्मचारी यूनियन का चुनाव कराया गया था, जिसमें विनोद कुमार सैनी अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित हुए थे। मामले में विवाद उस समय सामने आया जब यह बात उजागर हुई कि आईआईटी के सहारनपुर कैंपस में मतदान कर्मियों की संख्या से भी ज्यादा मत डाले गए हैं। इसे लेकर आईआईटी कर्मचारी और यूनियन के पूर्व अध्यक्ष उमेश कुमार चौहान ने आईआईटी प्रबंधन से शिकायत कर जांच की मांग की थी, लेकिन सुनवाई नहीं होने पर उन्होंने हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दायर की थी। जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि आमतौर पर क्षेत्र में सौ प्रतिशत मतदान पर सवाल खड़े होते हैं, लेकिन आईआईटी के सहारनपुर कैंपस में 36 कर्मी होने के बावजूद वहां 42 वोट डाले गए हैं, जो कि संभव नहीं है। उमेश चौहान के अनुसार कोर्ट में याचिका पर सुनवाई के बाद आईआईटी प्रबंधन को उच्चस्तरीय कमेटी बनाकर जांच के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। साथ ही छह सप्ताह के भीतर जवाब तलब किया है।