

Newspaper Clips

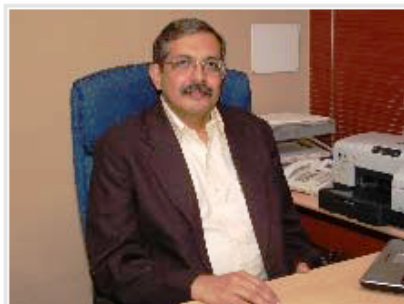
January 11, 2014

Business Standard

Khakhar gets second term as IIT-Bombay director

Devang Khakhar was first appointed as the IIT-B director in January 2009

BS Reporter | Mumbai January 11, 2014 Last Updated at 00:24 IST



Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) Director Devang Khakhar has been given an extension after his term came to an end. He was first appointed as the director of the institute in January 2009.

A committee comprising J J Irani, former managing director, Tata Steel; Rodham Narasimhan, former director of Indian Space Commission; M M Sharma, eminent chemical engineer; and Anil Kakodkar, nuclear scientist, gave its approval for the extension. Anil Kakodkar is also the chairman of the IIT-B Board of Governors.

“The committee found his performance as director outstanding and recommended his reappointment to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the President's approval,” said Indu Saxena, registrar, IIT-B.

Khakhar's first-term performance was assessed on several parameters such as building the institution as a global brand and research hub, introduction of new academic programmes, faculty retention and development, academic, administrative and financial reforms, and revenue generation, among others.

The institute said during Khakhar's tenure, IIT-B emerged as the preferred destination for JEE toppers (67 of top 100 rankers in JEE 2013 have joined IIT-B), the faculty strength increased from 446 to 575 and several new initiatives were taken by the institute such as setting up of new centres, including the National Centre for Aerospace Innovations and Research, Centre for Climate Change Research, and the Centre for Urban Science and Engineering.

The student strength grew from 5,800 to 8,800 and there was significant enhancement in infrastructure. Several projects were undertaken to make the campus more green and energy-efficient, including the 1 Mw rooftop solar PV system, solar thermal water heaters and biogas from food waste plant for the hostels were installed.

A BTech graduate from IIT-Delhi and Ph D from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Khakhar joined the department of chemical engineering at IIT-B in 1987 and has been serving the institute under various capacities since then.

Khakhar's research interests span several areas of chemical engineering. He has published over 100 papers. Khakhar is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the prime minister, the Scientific Advisory Council to the Cabinet, the Science and Engineering Research Board, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the Central Advisory Board for Education.

HT Mumbai

IIT director gets a second term

HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Devang Khakhar, director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, has been selected by the Ministry of Human Resource Department, Government of India, to serve as the head of the institute for a second term.

Khakhar's first-term performance was assessed on several parameters such as building the institution as a global brand and research hub and introduction of new academic programmes.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 11, 2014; Section: Times Nation; Page: 20;

Computer test for JEE a no show

Just 1.71L Register For Test, Figure Lowest Since Inception

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: A total of 13.56 lakh students from across the country have registered for the second edition of Joint Entrance Exam (Main) to be held in April this year. Of the total figure, only 1.71 lakh have registered for the computer-based test, down from last year's 1.74 lakh, indicating widespread reluctance among the students' community. The computer-based test introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has seen the lowest registration in the last four years since its inception.

The scores in JEE (Main) along with class XII marks



PEN & PAPER STILL RULE

will determine students' admission to centrally funded technological institutions such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other engineering colleges in the country. The top 1.5 lakh students will be eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced) for admissions to

the Indian Institutes of Technology.

In 2011, the central board decided to introduce a computer-based test along with the paper-pen test. The numbers of computer-based test takers, though has gone up from 4,900 from the first year to 1.96 lakh in the second, from last two years the numbers have remained constant at 1.7 lakh. After the cancellations of duplicate forms and erroneous forms, the numbers will go down further. The registration window closed on January 6, an extended deadline. The data is provided by the board's spokesperson, Rama Sharma.

CBSE initially had plans

to move completely to a computer-based test in the subsequent years. However, the plan is not endorsed by students, who prefer the traditional paper-pen test. To encourage students to opt for the computer exam, the board in 2012 had centres for only computer-based exam in the cities. In the 2013 exam, only 2,000 students appeared for the exams from centres in Mumbai, while 42,000 preferred to appear from Pune.

A CBSE school principal said students prefer to go by the traditional method as they fear the computer-based test might leave scope for glitches and they would not risk their careers.

Business Standard

IIM Bill goes in the cold storage

Sources say the Bill is not likely to be passed anytime soon and its fate rests with the next govt

Kalpna Pathak & Manu Balachandran | Mumbai/New Delhi January 10, 2014 Last Updated at 10:26 IST



The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will have to wait a tad longer for an overarching body, the IIM Council.

Months ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the proposed Indian Institutes of Management Bill has gone into the cold storage.

MHRD sources said the IIM Bill is not likely to be passed anytime soon and its fate rests with the next government.

"The IIM's have not come to consensus between themselves. The IIM's want greater autonomy and they do not want to compromise on it. We are still working on it, but the bill is not likely to be passed anytime soon and we expect the next government to make any decision", a senior official in the HRD ministry told Business standard.

The IIM Bill would bring in place an IIM council to oversee the functioning of IIMs, albeit without any threat to their autonomy.

As of now the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have a council - the governing body responsible for all the IITs.

Supporting the idea of the Bill, IIMs said they are functioning like islands and a council could help them network, connect and compete together globally.

The bill will also give the 13 premier B-schools the power to grant degrees. But the IIMs said, other than IIM-A, all other IIMs are in consensus on the IIM Bill. IIM-A has maintained that it does not want any such power.

"We have fully supported the bill but we have not heard anything from the MHRD on the bill so far," said the Chairman of an Indian Institute of Management who did not wish to be quoted.

IIMs said the idea behind an IIM council was to turn the institutes into statutory bodies to offer masters' degrees and doctorates, instead of diplomas and fellowships. Currently, the IIMs cannot award degrees, as they have been set up as societies, under the Societies Registration Act. Degrees can only be awarded by universities and institutes such as IITs, set up by Parliament or legislatures, and those declared deemed-to-be-universities under the UGC Act.

The IITs have an IIT Council, which is the governing body responsible for all of the IITs. The minister-in-charge of technical education is the council's chairman. Other members include three Members of Parliament, the chairmen and the directors of all the IITs, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, the director-general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the chairman and the director of IISc, the joint secretary in the HRD ministry, and three appointees each of the Union government and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Three years ago, the Union ministry of human resource development had granted greater autonomy to IIMs.

These institutes, however, remain under the Right to Information Act, and have to get their accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The changes were based on the recommendations of three committees (on governance, faculty and funding), constituted by then HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

The IIMs have said they want the council to have low representation of bureaucrats and greater representation of industry and IIM officials.

"I think having a council is a progressive move. A certain degree of coordination is required in what the IIMs are doing. And, as IIMs provide managers, I think periodically, some outside inputs are required for IIMs to ensure they are up-to-date with the environment changes in India, so that education in IIMs is consistent with what is required for our national goals," R C Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Udyog and chairman, board of governors, IIM-Ranchi had earlier told Business Standard.

The idea of an overarching council was first proposed by Bhargava, who led the IIM review committee in 2009.

Deemed to doomed varsities

They need more time and guidance to recover

IT is an ongoing story in India. High-rise buildings come up, defying all rules. After people move in, the government wakes up to the legal requirement to demolish them. How 44 deemed universities became doomed, affecting over two lakh students, is a tale of a similar systemic confusion that leads to failure. Under Section 3 of the UGC Act 1953, respected institutions like the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi, were granted deemed university status with full autonomy. Till 1999, there were only 37 deemed universities, but in the next ten years their number jumped to 127. Merit became a casualty and this did not happen without a green signal from the UGC.

Therefore, the decision of the Supreme Court to ask the UGC to assess the standard of education in 44 derecognised institutions is rather amusing. In 2009 when HRD Minister Kapil Sibal decided to root out the rotten apples from the cart of higher education, a review committee of the UGC gave a clean chit to these 44 deemed universities, which were derecognised by the Tandon Committee, appointed just a month later by Kapil Sibal. The two contradictory reports triggered a comedy of errors.

The UGC claimed to have physically inspected 70 deemed universities, while the accusation of the derecognised universities is they were given 10 minutes to make a presentation by the Tandon committee. Both assessment methodologies are questionable. The suggestion of the Additional Solicitor General that the UGC should give advice on the basis of the available documents will bind the issue in riddles. The fact is government universities do not have innovative courses and some of them have poor academic standards. The 22-member Yash Pal Committee criticised the regulatory mechanism for the deemed universities and recommended that the deficient deemed varsities should be given sufficient time and professional guidance to upgrade themselves. The court should consider the suggestion.

Business Standard

HRD ministry brokers peace in AICTE-UGC row

UGC to regulate degree awarding B-Schools, AICTE to look at PGDM courses

Manu Balachandran and Kalpana Pathak | New Delhi/Mumbai January 11, 2014 Last Updated at 00:40 IST



The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has found a middle ground in the dispute between University Grants Commission (UGC) and All-Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

According to MHRD sources, UGC is set to regulate Business-schools that offer a master's degree in management and are affiliated to universities, while AICTE will regulate independent B-schools which offer a post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM).

The Supreme Court judgment did not question AICTE's control over autonomous B-schools. The UGC was asked in to regulate all B-schools in the country and when it did not work, we decided to ensure that independent B-schools were regulated by AICTE," said a senior MHRD official, on the condition of anonymity.

MHRD, the official added, was also looking at various means to restore the power of AICTE since the SC ruling in April 2013 and had planned measures, including an ordinance.

The decision taken by UGC and MHRD is expected to bring relief to independent B-schools, including SP Jain Institute, T A Pai Institute of Management, BIMTECH and XLRI, among others.

Under management education in India, there are two segments — master's and diploma. The master's degree is awarded by universities or institutes affiliated to universities, while a diploma is awarded by AICTE-recognised autonomous and independent institutes.

These institutes were planning to approach the SC shortly on this matter, as the imbroglio threatened to derail their plans for the next academic session. PGDM institutions need AICTE's permission to run programmes and expand.

Last month, to address the absence of AICTE as a regulator, UGC had proposed independent B-Schools, which follow their own curriculum and set their own course fees, would also be required to obey the guidelines and seek affiliation to universities that function under UGC and adopt their syllabus. Following protests by the institutes, UGC decided not to extend the regulations to independent B-schools, which have been worried about losing their autonomy. Additionally, with 1.5 lakh students awaiting their common admission test results, expected on January 14, the government has been looking to find a solution.

AICTE Chairman Shankar S Mantha said he was not aware of any such decision. He said he had maintained that AICTE's powers be restored. "AICTE is not fighting for PGDM institutions alone. We are here for technical education. As an Act of Parliament, AICTE's powers must be restored," Mantha said.

The SC ruling, which left the AICTE as an advisor was the result of a dispute between Bharathidasan University in Tamil Nadu, and AICTE over the need for approval of technical courses in colleges that come under the state university, therefore under UGC.

HT Chandigarh

Chandrayaan-II launch by 2016-17

NEW DELHI: India is preparing to launch Chandrayaan -II by 2016-17, Indian Space Research Organisation(Isro) chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan has said. "We are targeting for end of 2016 or beginning of 2017.This time it will be a totally indigenous launch. Chandrayaan-II will be equipped with Indian lander and rover and will be launched by GSLV," he said. Chandrayaan -I, India's first unmanned lunar probe was launched by Isro in 2008 and operated by 2009

'Prof Rao Should Get Nobel'

Author: Express News Service

- Published Date: Jan 11, 2014 4:31 AM
- Last Updated: Jan 11, 2014 4:31 AM

The Alumni Association of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) felicitated Prof CNR Rao and his wife at a function at the Institute on Friday.

The Alumni Association of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) felicitated Prof CNR Rao and his wife at a function at the Institute on Friday.

Heaping praise on the Bharat Ratna recipient, Prof N Balakrishnan, associate director of the institute, said Prof Rao has the highest number of hits on Google among all Indian scientists.

Prof G Padmanabhan, former director of the institute, said: "Rao's ability to assess people is phenomenal and he can make difficult decisions very quickly. He must get a Nobel for the sake of the country. He sees things in black and white. Only he has the ability to call idiots as idiots or at least idiotic".

Prof Arcot Ramachandran, an old-time friend of Rao's, was the chair of the function. "We almost lost Rao after he was offered a tenured professorship at Berkeley in 1972-73. I persuaded him to come to IISc, we got him some grants and we were lucky to have him," he recollected.

Overwhelmed by the reception, Prof Rao said, "I owe a lot to science and my wife. I have spent 62 years of my life in science and 55 years of that as a faculty at IISc".

He said former students of IISc like Prof Arun Chakraborty have bridged boundaries between biology, maths and engineering. If this is done on a larger scale at the institute, the IISc will be among the top 20 institutions in the world, he said.

"I am bothered that IISc is no longer unique. It is important to pick the right problem in science. We must care about quality. Then, we can do better science than other countries," he added.

‘IISc. can make it to top rank’

Special Correspondent



Scientist C.N.R. Rao, who has been chosen for the Bharat Ratna, was felicitated by the IISc. Alumni Association in Bangalore on Friday.

“With a little effort, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) can make it to the list of top ranking science institutes in the world,” said C.N.R. Rao, National Research Professor Linus Pauling Research Professor and Honorary President Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.

He was speaking at an event organised by the IISc. Alumni Association on Friday to felicitate the veteran scientist, who was recently chosen for the Bharat Ratna.

‘No longer unique’

“IISc. is sadly no longer a unique institute with so many newer institutes emerging. But nothing prevents it from being among the 20 top ranked research institutes in the world. This is the only institute in India with the potential to be a great one,” he told his audience that included several alumni and former directors of the institute.

Prof. Rao recalled his days as a young faculty member at IISc., where he joined as a lecturer in 1959. “Fifty-five years ago IISc. did not have a spectrometer. The total budget for my department was Rs. 45,000 a year. But, our research was always noticed,” he said.

‘Find the right problems’

While China continues to score over India in terms of publications and the number of Ph.Ds it produces, “India would be foolish to compete over numbers,” he said. “What we need to do is to find the right science problems to solve.”

The former directors of the institute Aroot Ramachandran and G. Padmanabhan, who spoke at the event, noted that Prof. Rao doesn’t flinch from “speaking his mind” be it about politicians or the IT sector.

Printable version | Jan 11, 2014 12:40:51 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/iisc-can-make-it-to-top-rank/article5564833.ece>

© The Hindu

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 11, 2014; Section: Times Nation; Page: 17;

e-paper

Bags not packed yet, but selected Indians ready to go to Mars

Kim Arom | TNN

New Delhi: All their bags aren’t yet packed, but they are ready to go. The enormity of what a one-way trip to Mars would entail is still a couple of elimination stages away from certainty. But if the reality has completely sunk in; it certainly doesn’t show.

Palash Khan is looking forward to making it to the final list. A nuclear physicist from Kolkata, the 23-year-old had always wanted to be an astronaut. He had, in fact, even applied to the Nasa astronaut training program once only to discover that they don’t take non-US citizens. Far from the daunting prospect of never returning to Earth, the one-way mission to the Red planet is what holds allure for Khan. “This is what makes it achievable. With the current

technology that we have, we can’t go and come back as well,” says Khan, who works at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics. The institute’s scientists have collaborated on the Large Hadron Collider experiments in Geneva.

Sixty-two Indians are among the 1,058 applicants shortlisted for the Mars One — a crowdfunding project from a Dutch non-profit will send 24-40 people on a one-way mission to Mars to build a permanent settlement on the planet. The actual flights with the manned crew are purported to start in 2024.

Right now, the shortlisted applicants are in the initial stages of Round 2. They are yet to undergo medical evaluations and personal interviews. Once the project, quite literally, takes off, plans are afoot to make the entire process a 24x7 reality show —



MISSION MARS: Palash Khan

Palash is looking forward to making it to the final list of the Mars mission. The nuclear physicist from Kolkata had always wanted to be an astronaut. He had even applied to the Nasa astronaut training programme once only to discover that they don’t take non-US citizens

something that is also expected to fund the long-term project.

The proposition is wild, the consequences extreme and the required commitment irrevocable. A one-way trip, feasible when Earth and Mars are in orbits and in sync, takes six months. There are risks

of radiation, the question of growing food and even sourcing oxygen.

All of 20, Amulya Nidhi Rastogi from Gurgaon, is also one of the “1058-ers” as they call themselves right now. He is getting busy organizing a “Million Martian Meeting” in Bangalore, a seminar

that will feature speakers from the Mars One project and talks on establishing a settlement on the Red planet.

This is not the first time that there has been talk of settling on Mars. Russian billionaire Elon Musk and English business mogul Richard Branson have also spoken of initiating similar projects in great detail, even setting deadlines. However, American astronaut Buzz Aldrin has expressed doubts about the feasibility of the Mars One mission.

Vinod Kotiya, an engineer working in the capital, says that a one-way mission is the only way to realize the project. “There are unanswered questions right now that can only be answered by deep space exploration. If we are to rely on current technology, living there is the best option,” says Kotiya, who

has an 18-month old daughter. “If I do make it, maybe I will have regrets about never being able to come back. But we all live with some or the other regret, don’t we?” asks Kotiya, who says he has worked close to the Gangotri in the Himalayas on a hydro-electric power project.

While Kotiya and Khan have been actively following the updates every step of the way, Namrata Ashok Gawai, a software engineer from Hyderabad, says she had forgotten all about her application after she sent it in July. “I thought I’d think about it later. But once I realized I had been shortlisted, I was excited. A project like this will help all of humanity. As for my family, they can track me 24x7 on the reality show that will be telecast,” says Gawai, who hails from Wardha. Reality should hit hard soon enough.

Leadership convention at IIT-K

TNN | Jan 11, 2014, 11:45 AM IST

KANPUR: The Vivekananda Youth [Leadership Convention](#) began at [IIT-Kanpur](#) on Friday. It is being organized to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The convention was inaugurated by Magsaysay awardee Rajendra Singh and Param Veer Chakra winner Bana Singh.

Rajendra Singh inspired the students to take care of the nature and give back to it, PVC winner Bana Singh narrated his heroic deed which got him the highest gallantry award.

Naib Subedar (later Subedar Major & Honorary Captain) Bana Singh told students that he was born in a Sikh family at Kadyal in Jammu and Kashmir. He got enrolled in the Indian Army on January 6, 1969 into the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry.

The Pakistani post was at a height of 6,500 metres, the highest peak in the Siachen Glacier. Naib Subedar Bana Singh led his men through an extremely difficult and hazardous route. He and his men crawled and closed in on the enemy. Lobbing hand grenades, charging with a bayonet and moving from trench to trench, he cleared the post.

After narrating his deeds, Bana Singh urged the students to join the Armed Forces. He said that whether a student does engineering or becomes a doctor, all such professionals were required by the armed forces. The shortage of officers in the Indian Army could be filled if students join the force.

Bana Singh expressed concern that if the young generation will not join the armed forces, then who will protect and guarding the borders from enemies.

Arunima Sinha (the first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest) and Bhakti Sharma (youngest in the world to swim across seven seas of the world, including four oceans) were also present.

Workshops on self-expression and enlightened citizenship and youth cafe will be held on Saturday and Sunday.