Newspaper Clips
January 15, 2016

Hindustan ND 15/01/2016　　P-5

आईआईटी निदेशक के 70 आवेदन मिले

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी, दिल्ली के निदेशक पद के लिए वरिष्ठ शिक्षाविदों के करीब 70 आवेदन आए हैं। एचआरडी मंत्रालय उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में कई प्रमुख पद भरने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है।

HRD min receives 70 applications for IITD Director post

http://wap.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-min-receives-70-applications-for-iitd-director-post-116011401163_1.html

Press Trust of India | New Delhi Jan 14, 2016 08:32 PM IST

Nearly 70 applications from senior academicians have been received for the position of Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, as the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry is working to fill several key positions in the higher education sector.

It is learnt that the ministry would, in a meeting later this month, vet the applications and shortlist eligible candidates following which a Search-cum-Selection Committee would make its recommendations, sources said.

The ministry had invited applications for the position of IIT Director last year.

The Director of an IIT, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background, including significant experience in research guidance at the PhD level.

Officials said that the ministry has also set the ball rolling for appointment of chairpersons to some of the Boards of Governors of IITs.

Meanwhile, the ministry has also sought applications from candidates for the positions of Director in seven National

Institutes of Technology.

Officials said that the terms of incumbents in many of these NITs were about to end, so the ministry has sought applications to fill these positions.

The NITs for which applications have been sought for NITs at Jaipur, Rourkela, Warangal, Allahabad, Kurukshetra, Tiruchirappalli and Durgapur.

The appointment for an NIT Director is for a term of five years or till the attainment of the age of 70 years.

National Dunia ND 15/01/2016   P-11

लड़कियों को शोध में अधिक अवसर मिलें : स्मृति

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने लड़कियों, दलितों एवं गरीब छात्रों को विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में अधिक से अधिक शोध कार्यों से जोड़ने की अपील की है।

ईरानी ने तिरुवनंतपुरम के बिटुर में भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान के स्थायी परिसर का उद्घाटन करते हुए यह अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि देश के वैज्ञानिक शोध संस्थानों को इस बात की कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि वे महिलाओं, दलितों तथा आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्ग के छात्रों को आगे बढ़ने के अधिक से अधिक अवसर प्रदान करें।

तिरुवनंतपुरम के बिटुर में भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान के स्थायी परिसर का उद्घाटन करती मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी।

उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान विश्वव्यापी अकादमिक नेटवर्क (ज्ञान) के तहत पांच विदेशी शिक्षकों को नियुक्त करेगा ताकि छात्रों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की जानकारी मिले एवं शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता सुधरे।

उद्घाटन समारोह में केरल के मुख्यमंत्री उम्मन चांडी, सांसद ए संपत तथा मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में उच्च शिक्षा सचिव विनय शील ओबराय तथा राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान के न्यासी मंडल के अध्यक्ष डा. टेसी थॉमस मौजूद थे। संस्थान के परिसर में पहले चरण में तीन भवन बने हैं तथा 500 छात्रों का एक हॉस्टल भी बनेगा।

New Chapter to Start at IITs with Likely Entry of Foreigners

HRD min accepts proposal to allow foreign aspirants to sit for entrance examinations, hold tests abroad

Anubhuti.Vishnoi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are poised to open their gates wider to foreign students this year. The human resource development ministry has accepted a proposal to allow overseas aspirants to undertake entrance examinations for admission to the premier engineering institutes and even hold these standardised tests abroad.

Proposal aims at adding about 10,000 seats in 18 IITs and foreign students will've to pay the full fee

Candidates aspiring for admission to IIT are required to undertake the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) at the bachelor's level and the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) at the master's and PhD levels.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who is also chairperson of the IIT Council, has cleared the proposal and her ministry has issued a memorandum to all IITs.

Gates Open

IIT admissions for foreign students currently based on GRE & TOEFL scores at PG level, and DASA (Direct Admission for Students Abroad) and to some extent, JEE Main
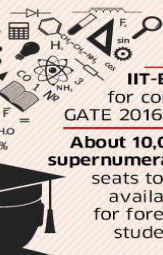
New system involves same exams – JEE & GATE – for Indian and foreign students

No subsidy for foreign students but scholarship options possible

IIT-Bombay coordinator for conducting JEE 2016 & GATE 2016 in foreign countries

About 10,000 supernumerary seats to be available for foreign students

No discrimination between Indian and foreign students in terms of facilities

Currently, all international students pay a tuition fee of $2000 per semester; SAARC students pay $1000 per semester

Eye on Global Rankings

The memorandum asks each institute to place the proposal before its senate or board of governors for approval.

The proposal aims at adding about 10,000 seats in 18 IITs across the country as part of the drive to attract foreign students, mainly from South Asia, Africa and West Asia, especially at postgraduate and doctorate levels.

Foreign students will, however, be required to pay the full fee of Rs 4-5 lakh a year instead of the subsidised Rs 90,000 a year that Indian students pay, so that there is no additional burden on the government.

The move to attract foreign students chimes with the government's efforts to improve the standing of Indian institutions on global rankings. While IITs have a global reputation for quality, they lose points on the internationalisation criteria which factors in the number of foreign students and faculty at each institute.

The memorandum, dated January 14, says that the report by the IIT-Bombay director Professor Devang V Khakhar on 'comprehensive system to attract international students to the IITs' has been approved for implementation.

"Director, IIT-Bombay is requested to prepare a plan of action for conducting JEE and GATE in selected countries as proposed in the report immediately. Ministry of external affairs and ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) have been separately addressed for allocation of fellowship for the selected foreign students," says the memorandum, a copy of which has been seen by ET.

Foreign students are currently allowed to study at IITs through Cultural Exchange Fellowship programme or an institutional memorandum of understanding on the basis of their scores in Graduate Record Examination or GRE. For undergraduate courses, they are usually required to appear for JEE Main but some eligibility criteria prove a deterrent. In order to ensure that the student quality is not affected adversely, the IITs have insisted that every aspiring foreign student must clear the entrance examinations which are considered among the toughest standardised tests across the world.

The memorandum also issues clear directions to ensure that no deserving Indian student is deprived admission. "There shall be no reduction in the seats available for students in India while providing admissions to foreign students," it says.

IIT-Bombay, which has been identified as the national coordinator for the drive to attract foreign students, will devise a detailed action plan, identify focus countries and initiate exploratory visits very soon, according to the memorandum. The institute will then identify as well as intimate the countries as well as the institutes for conducting GATE and JEE 2016 in these countries with the help of the Indian embassies there. A special admission portal will also be put in place to assist foreign students. At the meeting of the IIT Council held in October 2015 at Mumbai, it was decided that "a system for admitting foreign students would be put in place, with preference being given to students from SAARC and African countries". Earlier, in September, the Council of IITs in its 41st meeting had agreed that up to a fifth of the sanctioned strength of postgraduate students in IITs may be international students who will be provided admission on a supernumerary basis.

Business Line ND 15/01/2016   P-12

IIT-B initiative: impress 12 angels in 10 minutes and get ₹15 lakh

DEEPA NAIR

Mumbai, January 14

IIT-Bombay has raised the stakes for startups to raise funding at the on-the-spot funding initiative '10 minute million' this year.

Around 500 startups which have registered with the Entrepreneurship Cell will get about 10 minutes each to pitch to a panel of angel investors for raising ₹15 lakh. Last year, 180 startups had registered to raise ₹10 lakh at the initiative.

"Raising money is still difficult for most startups. What we have found is that most startups need a push and this initiative will help in revolutionise fund-raising."

"Last year, we were able to attract startups with valuations of ₹1 to 2 crore as according to our investment rules, startups will give away 4 per cent of the equity stake for raising funds through the event. This year, we have raised the amount to ₹15 lakh to attract more with higher valuations," said Shreya Gupta, Marketing Manager from the Entrepreneurship Cell at IIT-Bombay.

The Entrepreneurship Summit 2016 will be held on 30-31 January. The '10 minute million initiative' will see 10 shortlisted startups, selected after online filtering and they will get a chance to pitch for 10 minutes in front of a panel of 12 angel investors, which will be followed by an on-the-spot decision on financial backing.

Gupta added that last year even though the entrepreneurship cell promised funding of ₹10 lakh, a startup Fayaa was offered ₹63 lakh from investors on the panel.

Incidentally, Mridang Lodha, founder of customised fashion website Faaya, said the startup did not finally raise funds from the initiative as the rules allowed startups to raise ₹10 lakh despite being offered ₹63 lakh.

Avinash Kumar Anshu, founder of dealwithus, a website that helps users get cashback deals, which raised ₹10 lakh last year said, the IIT-B initiative helped them connect with investors and mentors for raising seed funding. The startup now is in talks to raise angel funding.

Economic Times 15/01/2016   P-1

Startup mission looks beyond IITs, IIMs

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI: The Start Up India mission to be unveiled on Saturday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi includes an ambitious plan to create a network of startup centres, technology business incubators and research parks, to take the startup culture beyond the top-tier education institutions such as IITs and IIMs.

EXCLUSIVE

The Human Resource Development Ministry and the Department of Science and Technology have agreed to partner in an initiative to set up

IN TOP GEAR

- With **4,200 startups**, India ranks **3rd** globally

- Of **$18 bilion** pumped into Indian startups between 2010-15, **$9billion** came in 2015 alone

- **9** Indian startups have been valued at more than a billion dollars

- Increase in number of incubators: 80 in 2014, **110 in 2015**; **50%** outside Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai

over 75 such startup support hubs in the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and NIPERs or National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research.

"From about 70 incubators set up by the government between 2001 and 2014, we have now crossed 100 incubators. About 90 of these are in educational institutions, with virtually all the old IITs and IIMs covered," said Harkesh Mittal, adviser and head of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board.

"The number of IIT/IIM graduates looking to start their own ventures has gone from two per cent a few years ago to nearly 10 per cent now, but we need to take this movement to our other educational institutions as well," Mr. Mittal told *The Hindu*.

As per the plan, the HRD Ministry and the Science and Technology Ministry would share the costs for setting up startup centres in these institutions, which would need around 5,000 square feet space and cost around Rs. 50 lakh a year.

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Startup mission envisages incubators, parks

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI: The Start Up India mission to be unveiled on Saturday envisages technology business incubators and research parks. The Science and Technology Ministry would bear 100 per cent cost to set up business incubators in institutes like NITs. Each incubator would work with 20 budding ventures, and be spread over 10,000 sq.ft. The cost of each incubator is expected to be in the range of Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 10 crore.

Separately, research parks like the one at IIT Madras would be set up in a handful of institutes at a cost of Rs. 70 crore to Rs. 100 crore each. They would be fully funded by the HRD Ministry. A technology business incubator would be built into these parks that have at least 1,00,000 sq. ft. of space for operations.

"Wherever there are youth, they will be linked through 'live connectivity'," Prime Minister Modi had said on December 27.

Deccan Herald ND 15/01/2016 P-8

Pvt sector workers eligible for technical institute faculty

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: An industry professional with requisite qualification and at least 10 years work experience in private sector can also be recruited as faculty in technical institutes, provided the candidate's company has a successful continuous standing of at least 10 years.

However, preference should be given to candidates with working experience with public sector undertakings (PSUs), said the All India Council for Technical Education's notification issued as clarification on various "issues and anomalies" with regard to service conditions of teachers at technical institutes.

"Working experience in public sector undertaking is preferred. However, private sector can also be considered provided the Industry has a successful continuous standing of at least 10 years," it said.

The experience of such candidates can be considered only after production of certificate issued by their employer. The area of operation of their industry of must be related to the relevant field of discipline.

The experience certificate of such candidate must include work profile, designation and duration of service, the council said.

The AICTE issued the notification recently to clarify the issues and anomalies identified in its 2010 regulations on qualifications, pay scales, service conditions, career advancement schemes and other matters related to service in technical institutes.

"We have issued the notification based on recommendation of a committee after two rounds of the meeting of the council. We had received several representations from institutes and faculties on various issues arising in the implementation of 2010 regulations," an AICTE official told *Deccan Herald*.

The council also puts a ban on technical institutes from filling faculty positions in humanity and sciences departments through direct recruitment of candidates with basic minimum qualifications in non-engineering subjects.

According to the council's notification, candidates with Master degree in relevant subject of humanities and sciences with first class seeking appointment to technical institutes as faculty will have to clear the National Eligibility Test (NET), conducted by the University Grants Commission, or similar tests conducted at the state level.

"The institutions should not consider these qualifications for direct recruitment for faculty position, at any level of post from the date of publication in AICTE Regulations, 2010," the council clarified

The Council also made it clear to the technical institutes on much "teaching load" should be give to faculties.

DH News Service

New IISER centres to be allowed to recruit five foreign faculties: Smriti Irani

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/new-iiser-centres-to-be-allowed-to-recruit-five-foreign-faculties-smriti-irani/articleshow/50580428.cms

NEW DELHI: Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani today said that new IISER centres would be allowed to recruit five foreign faculties.

Inaugurating the permanent campus (Phase I) of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Vithura near Thiruvananthapuram today, Irani said that the Department of Higher Education will allow the new IISER Centre to recruit five foreign faculties as part of improving research and international exposure to the students as part of the new Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN) of the Ministry. She added that the endeavor of science research institutions must be to give more opportunities to women, Dalits and those from economically backward sections to excel themselves.

The campus has three buildings namely, chemical science block, hostel and a central dining hall, in the first phase. The blocks for physics and biology and additional hostel facility for 500 students will be constructed within the next 15 months.

Among those present on the occasion were the Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, MP A. Sampath, , Secretary, Higher Education, HRD ministry Vinay Sheel Oberoi and Dr. Tessy Thomas, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IISER.

JEE Advanced 2016 chairman's take on new aptitude test plan

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/jee-advanced-2016-chairman-s-take-on-new-aptitude-test-plan/story-lvf5qV6SckvAy7jWJyNanK.html

1. What are the changes expected in the JEE in the next two years?

This year is a status quo (same as last year) except that the number of candidates appearing for JEE advanced will be two lakh instead of 1.5 lakh.

2. Please elaborate on the new aptitude test before JEE.

The new system is still under discussion, and it will be too early to say what kind of an exam an aptitude test will be. But then at this time it is sufficient to note that the objectives of the test seek to make the process more candidate friendly, less stressful, and more effective in identifying talent suited to pursue science and engineering.

The new aptitude testing system aims to focus on understanding of the subject, clarity, and innovative thinking. It is expected that those who qualify through this test would have a natural aptitude towards higher studies in science and engineering.

3. What are the objectives behind introducing these changes and how will they impact aspirants?

The objectives are as spelt out earlier - students should not neglect Board exams, and vacant seats in NITs and IITs should come down. The latter has a positive impact on the JEE aspirants. Only time will tell if paying attention to board exams has benefitted the aspirants or not. This is because the purpose of board exams and JEE are different.

A Board exam is a public exam that opens up several avenues to education at various levels depending on the capability of the candidate. That is why the scores of the two exams cannot / should not be combined into a single merit list.

Exams like JEE probe the potential in a candidate for higher learning. So while clearing a board exam is a must (without which one is denied most of the opportunities), clearing other exams (JEE being one of these) is desirable. It is from this standpoint that board exams should get the due attention from students. In particular, if one does not do well enough in the JEE, a good performance in board exams enables a candidate get into many excellent career opportunities.

In my view, a Board exam is a gateway to a huge chunk of opportunities and career options/directions, which are thrown open to only those who clear the Board exam. However, due to social perceptions attached to the JEE (as an endorsement of one's merit), clearing JEE is seen as 'mandatory' by students and their parents alike as that impacts one's standing in the society, to say the least. Most of those who mentally close all other very viable options, generate undue pressure upon themselves. In reality, success in one's profession depends more on how hard one works rather than whether one has graduated from an IIT or not. Many successful professionals have this feature in common.

Hence it is important to look at the multifarious options that open up as a result of doing well in the board exams.

4. What is your take on common counselling for the IITs and NITs?

Actually IITs take students exclusively from the pool of students who qualify in the JEE Advanced. Besides, in common counselling one has to report to the RCs of IITs and NITs independently.

So instead of common counselling, a 'coordinated counselling' might help better. This way IIT admissions will get delinked from the NIT admissions wherein JEE Advanced score is not the criterion for admission. In a coordinated counselling those who do not get a seat in the IIT (based on choices filled in and the JEE Advanced rank of the candidate) for various reasons can participate in counselling of the NITs.

It is still not possible, using either of the two methods, to eliminate vacant seats completely since there are many acceptable opportunities outside the IIT-NIT system due to which a candidate may reject the offer in an IIT/NIT.

5. How do you see changes introduced in the last few years in engineering entrance exams like introduction of a two-stage exam when JEE main and JEE advanced were implemented?

Given the enormous number of students competing, a two stage exam is inevitable. Eliminating subjectivity is also important when exams are conducted on such a large scale.

6. Should there be a common exam for admission to all engineering programmes? Why or why not?

No. This is because every exam means another opportunity. If one does not do well in one, one still has a chance in the other. Hence one has many opportunities / openings. One is not gauged from one's performance in a single exam. A single exam cannot in any way comprehensively judge one's capabilities, one's aptitude. So a single entrance exam will only create a bottleneck. As long as there are entrance exams, coaching classes are there to stay. Stronger is the bottleneck (only one entrance exam), stronger will be the coaching industry and lower will be the effectiveness of such an exam.

Moreover, by having a common exam, the number of exams for engineering programmes is reduced by just one. Given the numerous entrance exams including those conducted by private institutions, reduction in number

of exams by one does not really take away much of exam stress. In fact, it might generate more stress as one exam can be seen to "make or break" one's career.

7. How much weightage should be given to Class 12 marks for admission to the IITs and other engineering programmes?

For reasons mentioned earlier, there should be NO weightage to Class 12 marks, only clearing Class 12 should be mandatory. The exams specifically designed for identifying merit for engineering programmes should decide admissions to IITs, NITs and other engineering institutions.

Fewer students register for JEE this year

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: With the state reintroducing the Common Entrance Test (CET) for engineering aspirants, fewer students will be appearing for the national Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). According to data provided by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), while in 2015, 2.5 lakh students in Maharashtra registered for the JEE (Mains), this year, the number of aspirants stands at 1.6 lakh.

Reintroduction of the state CET is the reason for low enrollment in JEE (Mains) this year, said trainers who prepare students for the entrance exam. "Last year, engineering aspirants didn't have any choice but to appear for JEE. Now, many students, who are comfortable studying at one of the colleges in the state, will appear only for the CET," said Chandan Dixit, vice-president, Rao IIT Academy.

CET is considered to easier than JEE. According to Pravin Tyagi, managing director, IITians' PACE, "Students have to study both the Class 11 and Class 12 curriculum to prepare for JEE. But in CET, the questions are based only on the Class 12 curriculum."

However, some trainers insisted that a drop in JEE (Mains) registrations, in no way suggests that engineering courses have lost their sheen. "In fact, the competition [for admission in engineering colleges] has intensified everywhere," said Mohit Sardana, director, FIITJEE Mumbai.