

Newspaper Clips

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Govt drafts law to enforce ₹120-crore GPS project

Rumu Banerjee TNN

New Delhi: A year after the Delhi government launched its much-publicized Rs 120-crore geo-spatial project to map the land and utility service records of the city using GPS technology, it seems to have realized that its officials prefer sticking to the old ways. The government is now planning to enact a law to ensure that its officials use the technology in everyday applications.

Said Rakesh Mehta, chief secretary of the Delhi government, "The draft bill is expected to be put before the cabinet soon and thereafter, before the assembly in April. It will then be sent to the Centre for ratification." The reason, Mehta admits, is that getting departments on board has been an uphill task. "We have asked all 33 departments to submit three applications listing where the technology will be used...but since the technology is new, comfort level is low in the departments," said Mehta. The law is expected to provide the departments with the fillip to find that comfort level, especially as those found unwilling to use the technology will be penalized under the draft bill.

Incidentally, the project has been undertaken on a budget of Rs 120 crore, and is one of the

biggest technology-based projects that the Delhi government has undertaken in some time. More than Rs 40 crore have already been spent, say government officials, with more expected as the project goes into its next phase. The government has recently also set up a specific corporation, the geo-spatial Delhi corporation, for the implementation of the applications for which an MD has been hired from ISRO, added sources. In the first phase of the project, mapping of the utility lines

NEW TECH GIVES JITTERS TO BABU

and land records, only rural, has been done. The next phase will employ 63 cameras across the city for a visual update of the real-time data. While DJB has already started using the GIS map, the fire department is also being updated on the system.

With the geo-spatial project, the government expects to map utilities like water, sewer, telephone and power lines and make the information available on a portal, enabling the departments concerned to undertake preventive maintenance works as well as locate faults in the underground utilities with precision. More importantly, the digital mapping on a scale of 1:2000 of the physical structures over

ground — like residential and commercial buildings, community centres, educational structures, etc. — will help government agencies to have a clear vision for urban planning as well as in easy monitoring of ownership of properties, tenancy and land use, apart from providing greater preparedness for disaster management.

Said Savitir Prasad, secretary (I-T), "The project will ensure that records of all work done by a department are available. Overlapping of works, like the laying of roads, will be stopped with this system." Officials say that the project is a comprehensive and up-to-date Land Information System (LIS). The information is available to over 30 departments of the government, including the civic agencies like MCD, NDMC and DDA.

The camera monitoring is expected to have multiple benefits such as efficient traffic management and prevention of anti-social activities. Digital shots of buildings, along with a unique identity code of the structure, were taken and validated physically. Over 2,000 personnel from the implementing agency, Survey of India, were deployed to undertake the exercise. For underground mapping, a ground probing radar was used to map all cable, sewerage and phone lines.

Times of India ND
18/01/2011 P-19

Superbug not invincible, a jab is on the way

Washington: Scientists claim they are one step closer to developing a vaccine that can prevent life-threatening MRSA infection which causes nearly 500,000 hospitalisations and 19,000 deaths a year in the US alone.

MRSA, or methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, is a particular strain of staph known as a "superbug" because of its antibiotic resistance. One generally get infected with the bacteria following bone or joint surgeries. Past researches for a MRSA vaccine have failed so far because of inability to identify an agent that can break through the deadly bacteria's unique armour.

But for the first time a team of orthopaedists at the University of Rochester Medical Centre has claimed to have unzipped the bacteria by discovering an antibody that reaches beyond the microbe's surface and can stop it from growing, at least in mice and in cell cultures. PTI

PANEL DECIDES

Students to have say in IIT exam revamp

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Engineering aspirants across India may soon for the first time have a direct say in deciding a common new examination system for admissions to the Indian Institutes of Technology and all other engineering colleges.

A government panel, set up to finalise a roadmap to replace the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and multiple other engineering entrance tests with a single admission test, has decided

to seek views of citizens before penciling its blueprint. "We will take a little time to finalise the blueprint and will take feedback from all stakeholders," science and technology ministry secretary T Ramasami, chairman of the panel, said.

The panel, constituted by HRD minister Kapil Sibal last year, will set up a website and invite suggestions and comments from students, teachers, alumni and other stakeholders, he said.

The move comes after a

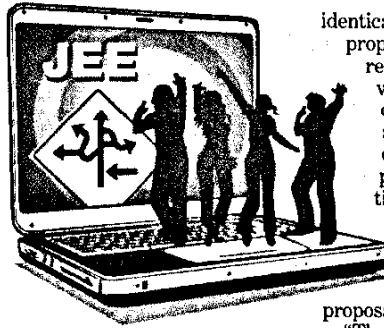


Illustration: ABHIMANYU

panel set up under IIT Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya with an almost

identical mandate in 2009 proposed a blueprint for reforming the IIT-JEE without inviting public comments or meeting students and teachers. The Acharya panel's recommendations were unacceptable to both IIT faculty. Several alumni also protested the Acharya panel's proposal.

"The Ramasami panel's decision is wise. There is no need to rush through with reforms that will impact millions. It is better if all stake-

holders are consulted,' a government source said.

Ramasami said he had already met over 200 students and had inducted, as the suggestion of the HRD minister, a nearly fresh IIT graduate. "The idea is to understand the perspective of IIT students and graduates as well," he said.

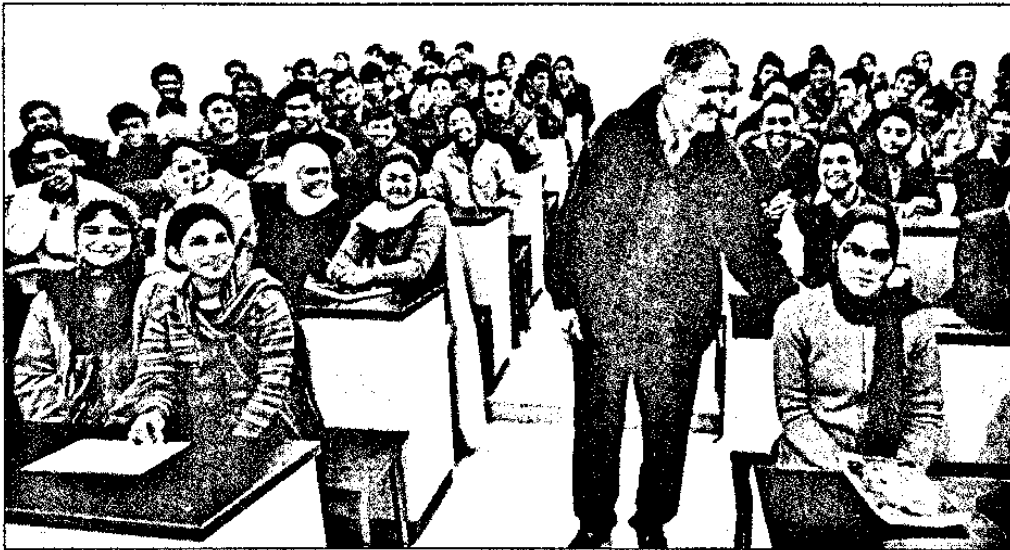
He said he also planned to visit IITs and other campuses and discuss the proposals with faculty in face-to-face meetings. Ramasami is to detail his plans at a meeting of the IIT Council on January 21.

Hindustan Times, ND 18-Jan-11 p-8

Sibal tells NCERT & SCERT to work together

NEW DELHI: State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) should collaborate with the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) regularly through a formal mechanism to improve state education quality, HRD minister Kapil Sibal has said. The SCERTs and the NCERT should meet every six months, Sibal said at a meeting with central and state school education regulatory institutions.

NEW ROLE



• Jamia Millia Islamia's vice-chancellor Najeeb Jung during his lecture in the engineering department of the university.

RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

V-C takes a class amid laughter, education

Joyeeta Ghosh

■ joyeeta.ghosh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: On Monday, a group of engineering and architecture students of Jamia Millia Islamia attended a class on spirituality and Indian philosophy.

Last week the topic was Indian democracy and how fair the Indian judiciary system is vis-a-vis the common man. Apart from their usual classes where they deal with facts and figures, they eagerly await these special classes held once a week.

Besides the interesting and thought-provoking topics, the classes gain special significance since vice-chancellor Najeeb Jung himself conducts these classes.

In a unique initiative, the vice-chancellor has been holding lectures as part of what he calls a 'knowledge lecture series' since the past two months. The subjects vary from history, philosophy, science, political science

In our country the education system is only geared towards giving degrees. In the process acquisition of knowledge has taken a beating.

NAJEEB JUNG
V-C, Jamia Millia Islamia

and current affairs and are aimed at final year students.

"I choose the topic spontaneously; it is not pre-meditated. In our country the education system is only geared towards giving degrees. In the process acquisition of knowledge has taken a beating. Somehow students remain insulated from what is happening around them. These students will soon pass out of the university and I believe they should be sensitive and aware about things other than what they are

taught as part of their syllabus," said Jung.

The students, too, seem very excited about the classes.

"Vice chancellors generally address students during university functions but to teach in the classrooms is a one of a kind initiative. What is amazing about the classes are that they are more like informal discussions, which gives us a fresh perspective on issues," said Ariba Batool, a final year B.Tech student.

Students from economics, political science, history and English belonging to MA final year form one group while the undergraduate students from final year of engineering and architecture form the other.

Among other measures taken by Jung to reach out to his students personally is an email account, accessed only by him.

The students can also meet the V-C without any appointment everyday between 3pm and 4pm.

Economic Times, ND 18-Jan-11 p-3

Lancet for joint action in education & health

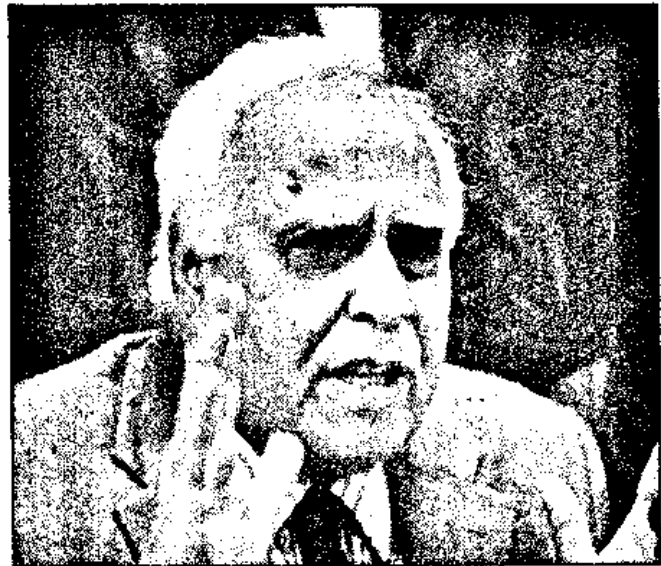
Urmi A Goswami

NEW DELHI

THE human resource development ministry's hopes of bringing medical education under the ambit of the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research received a boost from an independent global report by The Lancet Commission. The ministry has been locked in a turf battle with the health and law ministries over the ambit of the proposed regulator.

Sources said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been appreciative of the suggested framework of the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER). However, despite the merits of the framework proposed by the ministry-appointed taskforce, the Prime Minister is understood to have suggested further consultation with stakeholders like the law and health ministries. The HRD ministry appointed NCHER taskforce is expected to hold consultations with the other ministries.

In this context, the Lancet Commission's report "Education of Health Professionals For the 21st Century" serves to strengthen the argument made by the NCHER taskforce. The report clearly calls for aligning national efforts through joint planning in the education and health sectors. It has suggested engaging all stakeholders in the reform process and developing global collaborative networks for mutual strengthening. It has suggested establishment of joint planning mechanisms in every country to engage key stakeholders, especially the ministries of education and health, professional associations, and the academic community, to overcome fragmentation by assessment of national conditions, setting priorities, shaping policies, track-



ing change and harmonising the supply and demand for health professionals to meet the health needs of the population.

The ministries of human resource development, health and law are caught in a turf war, with each having drafted bills to regulate respective professional education. The taskforce set up by the HRD ministry has drafted a bill for establishing the NCHER, which would replace all existing regulatory bodies in various disciplines like medical, engineering, legal and other professions. Agriculture, which is a state subject, has not been brought under the proposed overarching regulator.

The health ministry has refused to give up medical education. It has taken refuge in the announcement made in the President's Address to argue that medical education can't be brought under the NCHER.

TeamLease, Gujarat ink MoU for varsity

Our Bureau
BANGALORE

STAFFING firm TeamLease Services on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to set up a vocational education university in the state. Around 22 community colleges would be rolled out by 2014, under this project.

To be built in phases, the university will offer two-year associate degree programmes in alliance with possible employers. The programmes are targeted at those who want more than a diploma course, but cannot afford a traditional college degree. With a total investment of Rs 30 crore, most of the learning will be via satellite. Colleges in the more remote areas will have between five and 19 class rooms, minimising cost on infrastructure. The first phase will see the setting up of 10 colleges over the following 18 months.

The community college model has been borrowed from the US, where not many can afford traditional degrees, TeamLease chairman Manish Sabharwal said on Monday. The institute's tie-ups with companies will offer apprenticeships and jobs to vocationally-trained students once they graduate. TeamLease has 1,400 clients, including Reliance, Oracle, Bharti, SAP among others, and they could all be potential employers. Sabharwal says Karnataka and Maharashtra are next on the anvil for a similar project.

Education sector specialist and partner at Ernst & Young Amitabh Jhingan said: "The success depends on the acceptance these courses have in the industry and in other colleges." It remains to be seen if companies will pay more for vocationally-trained people than freshers.

The project will also target those who want to be trained in specific skill sets to secure a seat in a degree college. The Gujarat state government has agreed to take up the discussion of letting TeamLease University grant degree certificates in their Assembly. Sabharwal said this should happen in the next 3-6 months time. A university can only give degrees once the state government sanctions it after discussing in the state assembly. TeamLease in the meantime will go ahead with the infrastructural works.

Once we get the nod for degrees this would mean that one can complete one's vocational training course with us, and go back to completing their college degree, instead of having to start a new course again," Sabharwal said.

Hasmukh Adhia, principal secretary for Education with the government of Gujarat said, in a statement, that "youth unemployability is a bigger problem than youth unemployment" in the state. Initially, the vocational training university would focus on courses like accounting, IT-infrastructure management, mechanical engineering and electronics (called mechatronics), before branching out into other things later.

TeamLease will also convert its 225 vocational training courses into community college module, though the timeline for this has not been decided yet. Qualifications for enrolling in any of the community colleges includes a Class X or XII certificate, and the fees will be anywhere between Rs 15,000 and Rs 45,000 annually.

SKILL FOCUS

TeamLease to set up vocational education university in Gujarat

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA & PRIYANKA PULLA

NEW DELHI/BANGALORE:

Staffing company **TeamLease Services Pvt. Ltd** announced on Monday it is setting up a vocational education university in Gujarat to help plug an increasing skill gap in India's labour force.

This comes after the Union government recently announced its intention to set up a national vocational education framework to cater to millions of students who cannot, or do not, take up higher education.

TeamLease has entered into an agreement with the Gujarat government to set up TeamLease University (TLU), comprising 22 community colleges across the state. Though there are several skill training institutes in the country, this will be the first university for vocational education.

"We have a very small vocational training sector in India. Only 5% of students go for vocational training while the number is nearly 80-90% in developed countries," said Pawan Agarwal, a civil servant and author of the book, *Indian Higher Education: Envisioning the Future*. "While a direct comparison doesn't make sense because agriculture is a dominant occupation in India, the difference is still very significant."

While developed countries give a lot of focus to vocational education, a lack of sufficient skilled labour is a major worry in India, the second-fastest growing major economy.

According to data available with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country has around 7,500 technical institutes for higher education and only 2,500 polytechnic institutes. "A large number of students in countries like the US and Singapore go for vo-

Training field

Plans for new varsities in India

- ◆ **Azim Premji Foundation**
Planned location: Karnataka
- ◆ **JK Organisation**
Rajasthan
- ◆ **HCL founder Shiv Nadar**
Dadri, Uttar Pradesh
- ◆ **SRF Group**
National Capital Region
- ◆ **Spice Global group**
Uttar Pradesh
- ◆ **Reliance Foundation:** tie-up with London School of Economics

vocational education. Perhaps, India needs to do that as skill is very important while landing a job," said Mona Mourshed, partner (education), at consulting firm **McKinsey and Co**.

"Youth unemployment is a bigger problem than youth unemployment," said Gujarat principal secretary (education) Has-mukh Adhia, who signed the agreement on behalf of the state government.

Manish Sabharwal, chairman, TeamLease Services, said his company is adopting the university system because global experience shows that community colleges improve accessibility, increase inclusiveness, lower costs and create vertical mobility.

"Community colleges in the US typically provide skill-based training and are integrated into the formal higher learning system. This has been successfully emulated elsewhere in the world in what is called 'short cycle higher education', that has a shorter duration, mobility into higher education, and is held in good regard, socially. In contrast, vocational training in India is being catered to by the unorganized training sector," said Agarwal.

TLU will offer what it calls an "associate degree", rather than a

diploma, which will confer credits recognized by degree programmes.

"After a student passes a diploma programme, he typically has to start afresh if he wants to pursue a degree. A student passing out of TLU's accounting technician course, on the other hand, will be able to join a BCom programme in the third year," said Sabharwal, although this will apply only in Gujarat for now.

"When we look at expansion on the national level, going forward we will approach the UGC so we can plug into their credit transfer system," he said. UGC, or University Grants Commission, is India's regulator for higher education.

Some institutes already offer associate degrees in India. Among them are Delhi's Indira Gandhi National Open University and a network of community colleges in Chennai run under the Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education.

Each of TLU's 22 colleges will look at enrolling 300-700 students.

Human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal recently announced plans for a vocational education framework for millions of students who either drop out of schools or don't pursue higher education for socio-economic reasons. While 220 million students pursue school education, fewer than 15 million take up higher education. The ministry has set up committees comprising experts from the information technology, telecom and automobile sectors to devise model curricula for vocational education in the relevant fields.

India pegged its unemployment rate at 9.4% in 2010, an increase of 1.2 percentage points over 2004-05, when the previous comprehensive survey was done.

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IIM-K brings in gender balance to the classroom

The institute has increased intake of female students from this year

SREERUPA MITRA

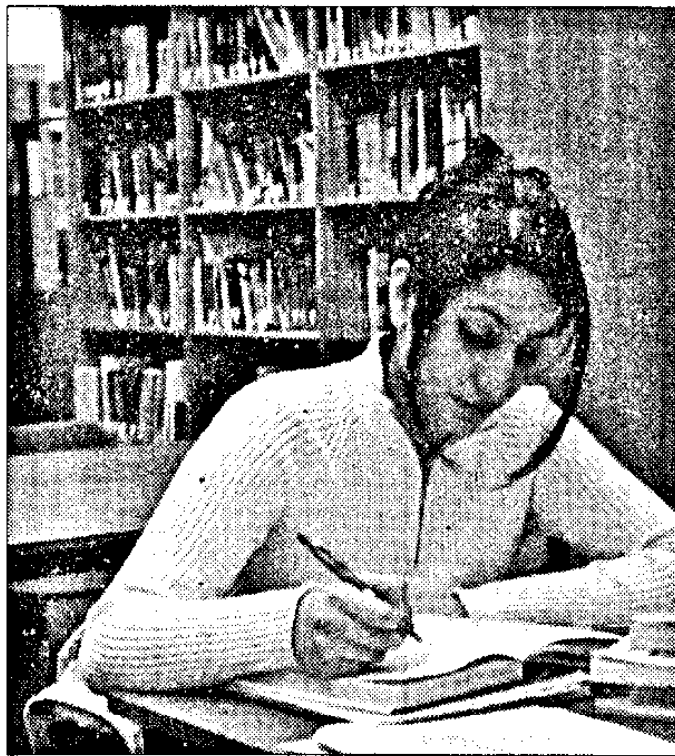
Bangalore

WOMEN empowerment seems to be the mantra of the day — not just on the job front, but also when it comes to education. Keeping this in mind, IIM-Kozhikode has made it mandatory since last year that 30 per cent of its batch will constitute female candidates, thereby bringing in diversity and balance in the classroom.

Kozhikode is the only management institute among all the IIMs to start this trend. "While at the IIMs every batch comprises of 8-10 per cent women candidates, at IIM-K, we have increased the intake of female students," said Debashish Chatterjee, director of IIM-K.

Diversity in classrooms is of utmost importance, he pointed out. Further, companies are also trying to balance out the ratio so the demand for talented women employees are rising, Chatterjee added.

"About 25 per cent of the 204,267 candidates taking the common admission test (CAT) are women and out of this only 10 per cent qualify for the IIMs," he said. This it is very important to keep focus on having the right balance in



MOVING AHEAD: The institute will continue this trend from now on and hopes that the other IIMs follow suit soon

every classroom and bring about diversity.

Chatterjee said that the institute will continue this trend from now on and hopes that the other IIMs follow suit soon.

Separately, he added that IIM-K will introduce newer programmes only when their infrastructural constraints are sorted out. According to Chatterjee, infrastructure has been a major issue for the institute and keeping that in mind

IIM-K has acquired a 15 acre land in Kozhikode for infrastructural growth and developments. The property will cost Rs 20 crore and is funded through the grants allocated by the government of India.

Further, the institute is also prospecting a site in Kochi to set up a satellite campus. "We are in talks with a public sector undertaking (PSU) in Kochi to take one of its buildings on rent. If it goes through, we

"25% of the candidates taking CAT are women and out of this only 10 per cent qualify for the IIMs"

Debashish Chatterjee
Director, IIM-K

will look at new offerings and short-term programmes on the campus," he said.

The premier management college is also contemplating starting a one-year PGP executive programme. Also, lot of emphasis is being given on programmes related to entrepreneurship, ecology and liberal art in management courses.

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Micro-satellite made by IIT to be launched this year

K.A. DODHIYA

MUMBAI

Jan. 16: Pratham — a satellite made indigenously by over 300 students of the Indian Institute of Technology, Powai — will finally be commissioned in 2011, and is likely to be launched along with other satellites by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

The satellite will measure the total electronic content in the atmosphere that causes thunder and lightning. The students working on the project said that they are in the final stage of testing and

hope to get the satellite ready for launch within a month.

"We have been testing the dynamics of the body, which is made of tempered steel to withstand high temperatures while going in orbit.

Other tests pertaining to communication and power supply and so on have also been fully conducted," said the student, while explaining the dynamics of Pratham at the recently-concluded Techfest 2011.

Isro scientists have commended the 30-member team, which is currently involved in building the micro-satellite, for the

The students working on the project said that they are in the final stage of testing and hope to get the satellite ready for launch within a month.

progress it has made. The scientists along with the IIT faculty have been monitoring the work done by the students.

A member of the team said that the mentoring by the Isro scientists along with their faculty Prof. K Sudhakar has been one of the

greatest incentives for them to try and complete the satellite on schedule.

"During a recent visit, one of the Isro officials said that even if for some reason the satellite fails to make it into space, we should consider it a major achievement, as nowhere in the country have students embarked upon such an ambitious project," said another member of the team.

With testing of all onboard systems almost complete, the students are confident of having the satellite ready for launch whenever the Isro will be sending up their own satellites. "Our satellite is a

260 mm cube, which will piggy back on the larger Isro satellites and will break off and go into orbit individually. The institute will control it till it completes the tasks. After this its power supply will be cut off, and it will keep orbiting in space," said one of the project members.

Meanwhile, project director, small satellite projects, Isro, D.V.A. Raghavmurthy confirmed that the Isro has agreed to launch Pratham. Dr Raghavmurthy said, "The launch date for Pratham will be finalised after checking on all aspects of the satellite and its peripherals."

IITs may hike fees after financial reforms

NITIN MAHAJAN

NEW DELHI

Jan. 17: Students at the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology may soon have to face a substantial fee hike if the recommendations of a panel constituted to suggest financial reforms are accepted by the IIT council at a meeting scheduled on January 21.

IIT Bombay chairman Anil Kakodkar, head of the panel set up by Union

human resource development minister Kapil Sibal, is likely to make a presentation on the issue. At the IIT Council meeting, the highest decision making body of the institutes, the panel is expected to present a new detailed financial model to allow the IITs to generate their own income and depend less on the government.

Sources said that the new financial model, which proposes to hike tuition fee for

spotlight

independent resource generation, has been put forth to allow the IITs get greater autonomy. However, it is understood that any proposal to hike tuition fee is expected to face stiff resistance at the meeting.

The committee is also expected to recommend creation of specialised chairs at IITs in an effort to generate more funding for

the institutes from independent sources.

Meanwhile, a committee headed by secretary, science and technology, Dr T. Ramasami is also expected to make a presentation on examination reforms in the IITs. The report of the committee comes after the government suffered a major setback to reform the IIT entrance examination system when seven IITs opposed the proposed system of single examination

for entrance to technical institutes at the council's last meeting held on September 10 last year.

The seven IITs had made it known that they were happy with the present format of IIT-JEE, virtually rejecting the proposed two-tier entrance exam structure suggested by a panel headed by IIT-Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya.

This had necessitated the formation of the panel headed by Dr T. Ramasami.

HEALTH PROTEIN CALLED IRF5 ACTS AS A SWITCH THAT CONTROLS WHETHER CERTAIN WHITE BLOOD CELLS PROMOTE INFLAMMATION

Scientists find protein that triggers arthritis



REUTERS

LONDON, JANUARY 17

SCIENTISTS have found a protein that acts as a "master switch" to determine whether certain white blood cells will boost or dampen inflammation, a finding that may help the search for new drugs for rheumatoid arthritis.

Many patients with rheumatoid arthritis are treated with a class of drugs known as tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors made by various drug firms. But around 30 per cent of patients don't respond to anti-TNF drugs, so experts say there is an urgent need to develop

more widely effective treatment options.

In this study, scientists from Imperial College in London found that a protein called IRF5 acts as a molecular switch that controls whether certain white blood cells, known as macrophages, will promote or inhibit inflammation.

In a report of their findings in the journal Nature Immunology on Sunday, they said the results suggest that blocking the production of IRF5 in macrophages might be an effective way of treating a wide range of autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, lupus and multiple sclerosis.

They also suggest that boosting IRF5 levels might help treat people whose immune systems are weak, compromised or damaged. "Our results show that IRF5 is the master switch in a key set of immune cells, which determines the profile of genes that get turned on in those cells," Irina Udalova, senior researcher on the study, said in a statement. "This is really exciting because it means that if we can design molecules that interfere with IRF5 function, it could give us new anti-inflammatory treatments."

The researchers said IRF5 seems to work by switching on genes that stimulate inflammatory responses and

dampening genes that inhibit them. It can do this either by interacting with DNA directly, or by interacting with other proteins that themselves control which genes are switched on, they explained in their study.

Udalova's team is now studying how IRF5 works at a molecular level and which other proteins it interacts with so that they can design ways to block its effects.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease affecting around 1 per cent of the world's population and arises when the immune system mistakenly attacks joints all over the body. As well as joints, it may also affect the skin, heart, lungs, kidneys and blood vessels.

Indian Express ND 18/01/2011 P2

New proposals aim to curb govt control over IITs

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

EMPOWERING and expanding the role and character of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Boards and limiting government control at IITs to mere dispatch of grants, a definitive hike in student fee, an academic shift from a course-based system to a credit-based one, and an alternative to the Joint Entrance Examination — these are the key recommendations that will be mulled upon at the meeting of the IIT Council this week. The proposed academic progression changes, if accepted, will mark a new way of studying and imparting education at the IITs, which follow a course-based format.

The recommendation has been made in the light of the recent spate of suicides committed by IIT students. While there were four cases of suicide at IIT Kharagpur, such unfortunate incidents also took place at IIT Bombay and IIT Kanpur. Each IIT

has tried to address the issue. While IIT Bombay has brought in rehabilitation programmes, IIT Kanpur has shifted from a six-point to seven-point grading formula to allow more room for weaker students.

A student has to clear some prescribed number of courses per semester to move on to the next semester. A committee instituted by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry is learnt to have opined that this course-centric approach is adding to academic stress since a student is considered 'failed' in the semester if he does not clear all the prescribed number of courses. This course-based progression system should instead be replaced by a credit-based review system to enable a student's progress from one semester to another on the basis of credits earned, keeping the pass/fail pressures under control.

While changes in academic progression may find acceptance, those mooted for financial autonomy of IITs may face rough weather. A

committee, headed by nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar, has recommended major changes to extend greater financial autonomy to IITs, rejig existing governing structures to make IIT Boards completely autonomous, and foster an environment in the institutes that makes them comparable to research universities. From hiring faculty and non-faculty, topping up faculty salaries, creating new posts, and looking at ways to raise non-government funds — all should be the prerogative of IIT boards, the committee has recommended. The committee calls for less dependence on government funding. This, however, would mean that the fees will need to be hiked. While the committee has suggested a number of models, one that assumes zero government funding in terms of block grant scheme that gives IITs some Rs 2.1-2.5 lakh per student, will mean a hike of similar amount. The hike could be steeper for M Tech and PhD students.

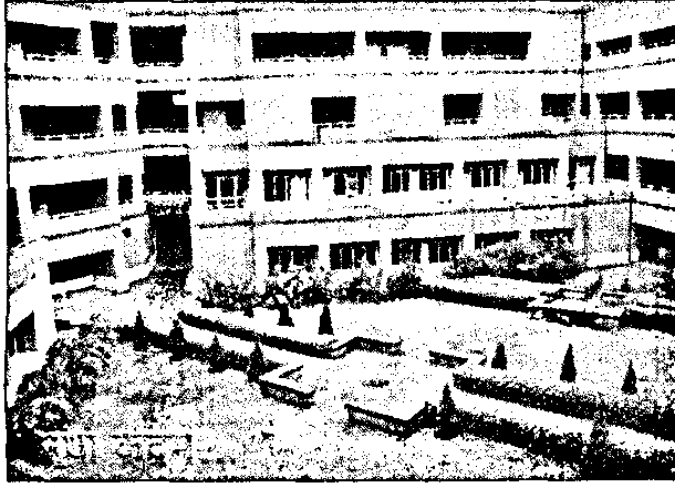
यूनिवर्सिटी में तब्दील होगा एनएसआईटी!

डीटीयू की तर्ज पर बनेगी यह दिल्ली सरकार की यूनिवर्सिटी

भूपेंद्र ॥ नई दिल्ली

डीयू से जुड़े नेताजी सुभाष इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलजी (एनएसआईटी) को भी यूनिवर्सिटी में तब्दील करने की कवायद शुरू हो गई है। जिस तरह से दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग को दिल्ली टेक्नॉलजिकल यूनिवर्सिटी (डीटीयू) बनाया है, उसी तर्ज पर एनएसआईटी को भी यूनिवर्सिटी का दर्जा मिल सकेगा। इसके लिए ड्राफ्ट नोट भी तैयार कर लिया गया है और अभी एनएसआईटी के टीचर्स व स्टूडेंट्स से भी इस मसले पर बातचीत की जा रही है ताकि आगे चलकर कोई हंगामा खड़ा न हो पाए। सूत्रों के मुताबिक जल्द ही इंस्टिट्यूट के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर की मीटिंग में ड्राफ्ट नोट को मंजूरी के लिए लाया जाएगा और उसके बाद दिल्ली सरकार के पास भेजा जाएगा।

जुलाई 2009 में दिल्ली सरकार ने दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग को डीयू से अलग करके स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी (डीटीयू) में तब्दील कर दिया था। हालांकि डीयू ने डीटीयू के गठन पर आपत्ति जताई थी और पिछले साल डीटीयू के स्टूडेंट्स ने भी आंदोलन किया था। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए अब एनएसआईटी और दिल्ली सरकार



- ▶ नेताजी सुभाष इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलजी में ड्राफ्ट के लिए डिबेट जारी
- ▶ इंस्टिट्यूट के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर की मीटिंग में भेजा जाएगा ड्राफ्ट नोट
- ▶ फिलहाल डीयू से जुड़ा है इंस्टिट्यूट, अलग होकर बनेगा यूनिवर्सिटी
- ▶ डीटीयू की तरह हंगामा न हो, इसके लिए ली जा रही है सबकी सहमति
- ▶ यूनिवर्सिटी बनने के बाद डीयू से इंजीनियरिंग के कोर्स हो जाएंगे खत्म

यह चाहती हैं कि सभी पक्षों को विश्वास में लिया जाए और ड्राफ्ट नोट पर सहमति बनाई जाए। एनएसआईटी के यूनिवर्सिटी में तब्दील हो जाने के बाद डीयू से इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई खत्म हो जाएगी। इस समय एनएसआईटी में डीयू के कोर्स मान्य हैं और यहां पढ़ रहे स्टूडेंट्स को डीयू की डिग्री मिलती है

जबकि डीटीयू में अब स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी की डिग्री स्टूडेंट्स को मिलती है।

इंस्टिट्यूट के सूत्रों का कहना है कि ड्राफ्ट नोट को लेकर डिबेट चल रही है। खास बात यह है कि करीब 10 साल पहले भी इंस्टिट्यूट को डीमंड यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टेटस दिलाने के लिए ड्राफ्ट नोट तैयार हुआ था लेकिन अब

इसे दिल्ली सरकार की यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने की कोशिश शुरू हुई है। एनएसआईटी डीयू से जुड़ा हुआ है और दिल्ली सरकार का स्वतंत्र संस्थान है। इंस्टिट्यूट के सूत्र बताते हैं कि ड्राफ्ट नोट पर डीयू से भी बातचीत की जाएगी। यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टेटस किस सेशन में मिल सकता है, इस बारे में अभी सूत्र पुख्ता तौर पर कुछ नहीं कह रहे हैं लेकिन बताया जाता है कि इंस्टिट्यूट प्रबंधन व दिल्ली सरकार चाहती है कि एनएसआईटी को टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी बनाकर इसमें नए-नए कोर्स शुरू किए जा सकें।

मौजूदा दौर की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए कोर्स लाए जाएं। एनएसआईटी के बोर्ड में आईआईटी के सीनियर प्रोफेसर भी शामिल हैं। गौरतलब है कि दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग को यूनिवर्सिटी का दर्जा दिए जाने के बाद वहां पर काफी नए कोर्स लाए गए हैं। हालांकि जिस तरह से पिछले साल स्टूडेंट्स ने दिल्ली सरकार व डीटीयू प्रशासन के खिलाफ मोर्चा खोला था, उसे देखते हुए एनएसआईटी प्रबंधन व दिल्ली सरकार भी जल्दबाजी के मूड में नहीं है और चाहती है कि ड्राफ्ट नोट को सबकी मंजूरी मिल जाए और उस पर फिर आगे बढ़ा जाए।