

Newspaper Clips

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**Hindustan
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30% FALL IN NUMBER OF INDIAN STUDENTS IN OZ VARSITIES

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The number of Indians studying in Australian universities has fallen 30% after a spate of violent attacks against them as well as the cost of education going up in view of the appreciation of Australian dollar.

While Australia is keen on getting more students in the vocational education, which is a major source of foreign exchange earning for them, New Delhi is not so keen.

The influx of the students to such vocational centres, which many found as a route for immigration, had become a source of contention.

However, India is satisfied with the steps Australia has taken to ensure the safety of Indian students in that country, MEA spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said on Tuesday.

The comments came ahead of foreign minister SM Krishna's three-day visit starting on Wednesday to that country.

Compared to 67,974 students going for studies in Australia, the number has come down to 42,447 this year. Arun Goel, joint secretary, MEA says the incidents of violence apart, the cost of education going up in Australia can be attributed to this dip in students.

The Australian dollar more or less equals the US dollar in its value now.

Indian students contribute between \$3 billion (13,650 crore) and \$4 billion to Australia's foreign education industry, which is worth an estimated \$15.4 billion, and one of the country's top foreign exchange earners.

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p-1

NEW IITs NOT UP TO THE MARK, LACK BASICS: SIBAL

HT Correspondent

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HYDERABAD: The eight new IITs that were planned to be set up in 2008 do not have adequate infrastructure and are not up to the mark, making it difficult for these institutes to retain their faculty, union human resources development minister Kapil Sibal said here on Tuesday.

“These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and are unable to attract new faculty. Due to this reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculty members. We need a commitment from state governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it,” Sibal said on the sidelines of the Geospatial World Forum on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

The minister said the states were not allotting land for permanent campuses. The ministry launched the new institutes three years ago and each of them should have at least 90 teachers. But most of the new IITs do not have the required number of teaching staff.

Wanted: New-age gurus

MT FILE PHOTO

Skill builder: Hiromi Furutami holding a Japanese language class at IIT Powai, Mumbai



Universities need educators who are up to the challenges of the 21st century, writes Rahat Bano

Radhika Govinda was a French language teacher at Alliance Francaise during her college days when she was bitten by the teaching bug. After her bachelor's in political science from Lady Shri Ram College in 2002, she bagged a French government scholarship for a master's at the renowned Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, popular as Sciences Po. She went on to win a number of scholarships and awards and earned a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2009.

Now an assistant professor at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), Govinda says it's a coincidence that she belongs to a family of academicians — including her husband, her parents, and their parents.

"Being a university teacher

is a tremendous experience: while it offers the opportunity to mould opinions, to shape young lives, in a sense, one is also constantly learning and growing," says Govinda, a South Asia specialist, whose research interest overlaps political science, gender and development.

The budding university academic spends hours preparing for classes at AUD, which itself is a young kid on the city's high-education block, attempting to be a change agent in teaching. This involves going through texts and audio-visual material, trying to make her lessons interactive as well as "theoretically astute".

"In the past year, I have had the opportunity to not only teach on but also design courses in both graduate and undergraduate programmes that are vastly interdiscipli-

nary," says Govinda, 30. "I have presented research papers at conferences. I recently coordinated a three-week social science research methods festival that the university organised for research scholars and early-career faculty from all over India. To get this experience so early in one's career is extremely rewarding."

However, there are few such people around to grab the opportunity in India. According to Ashok Bakhshi, director, Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Delhi, about 40% of teaching positions are vacant in Central institutions in the country. Incidentally, that's not the only consequence of rising enrolment in colleges.

Shyam Menon, professor of education and vice chancellor, AUD, explains, "Many students will be first generation post-matriculates, and will need more compassionate and yet intellectually stimulating guidance which the teachers should be in a position to provide."

With the spotlight on research, aspirants should also be prepared to push the boundaries of knowledge.

The 21st-century university is a changed landscape. Different disciplines are evolving; from being aloof bubbles to multi-symbiotic partners.

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NOT EVERYBODY CAN HANDLE TEACHING

A big responsibility rests on an educator's shoulders

Do tell us about the demand and supply scenario...

I gather that after the OBC seat expansion, about 40% of teaching positions are lying vacant in Central universities in the country, including the IITs where many seats are unfilled.

When we get candidates for interviews, we see that they fulfil the basic requirements but they are not very competent. For deserving candidates, there's no dearth of opportunities. If

you are excellent, there's no looking back.

What should aspiring university/college teachers be prepared for? Subject expertise is very very important. Teaching is not everybody's job. It is not about just reading a book or two and reproducing it in class. Your teaching should reflect how much you have thought about the topic at hand. This is missing today.

You have to begin from scratch. You begin with

thinking why this topic is important. What would have been missed if it was not taught? A good teacher prepares for questions that can arise in a student's mind. You should have the ability to come down to the level of the weakest student and take all students along, even if it requires you to give one or two extra lectures.

Effective communication is important. You should be able to express an idea systematically and logically.

A student can make any mistake but he will not make a mistake in identifying a good teacher

Ashok Bakhshi, director, Institute of Lifelong Learning, Delhi University and member, Standing Committee on National Mission on Education through ICT



Students have to leave the class and eventually face the world. Are you preparing them to face the world?

Outside, people will not ask you about postulates of some scientific theory. They want to know your critical thinking skills, ability to inter-link topics... You should encourage out-of-the-box thinking on the subject

rather than rote-learning.

Another challenge is the growth of knowledge in other disciplines. The amount of knowledge is doubling very very fast. And new knowledge has to be passed on to the next generation. It has to be integrated into the syllabi.

Integration of technology, too, is a challenge. Teachers

need to develop multi-media-enriched content because they cannot explain everything on the black-board.

Do you see any change in the level of prestige attached to the job? I think it's the same. I think it's the individual who commands respect. If you are able to satisfy your students, they will know he is sincere and hardworking. A student can make any mistake but he will not make a mistake in identifying a good teacher. No other profession gives you as much responsibility. And it's a big responsibility.

Interviewed by Rahat Bano

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Faculty members unhappy with AIIMS gag order

Say It Will Affect Dissemination Of Information To Public

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has banned its faculty from making public comments, without taking prior permission, and from making joint representations on issues pertaining to the institute. An order to this effect was issued recently. Sources said some doctors have even been issued notices for making public comments without taking prior permission.

Many institute doctors have expressed displeasure over this move. Doctors claim this will affect the dissemination of necessary public information on health issues and have demanded immediate repealing of the same. Some faculty members allege that the move is aimed at thwarting attempts of a section of the faculty to oppose administrative changes which include the imposition of user charges at the premier institute.

"In the last one month, since the issue of user charges came up, the administration has issued two circulars warning the faculty members. The first order pertained to submission of joint representations by members of faculty, officers and other employees. They cited CCS rules, 1964, and said that faculty members should desist from making joint representations," said a doctor

The other circular ordering ban on "unauthorized communication", a copy of which is available with Times City, was issued on January 3.

It states: "It is notified for information that no faculty member may speak to media on scientific data or new infor-



DOCS UP IN ARMS

mation before the same is made available to the dean (academic) and dean (research) or director for permission to be released to the press, if such knowledge has any public interest." It says that a "press release" may then be considered through the spokesperson of the institute. The AIIMS administration has also formed a press release committee

consisting of nine senior doctors.

When contacted, AIIMS director R C Deka said that the orders have been issued as per the government rules. "We have imposed restrictions on doctors speaking to the media to ensure that only those researches and new information are made public which have been published in some reputed journal. The institute's name should not be misused to speak on issues not directly related to any faculty," said Deka. He refused to comment on the notification of the other order warning against joint representations.

"Last month, AIIMS had issued a circular to all department heads asking for the list of all procedures in respect of which user charges are intended to be fixed and market rate for such procedures in the comparable private facilities and the details of manpower involved, including specialists, surgeons, doctors, nurses and all other supporting paramedical staff. Many doctors protested against this after which the administration decided to levy user charges only in private wards and not on the patients in general wards. There is an ongoing tussle between the administration and the faculty over foreign tours, recruitment and promotion among other issues. The new orders aim to thwart protesting voices," said another doctor.

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Soon, stents that dissolve in two years' time

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: After cardiologists clear a blocked artery of the heart, they usually insert a metal tube called stent to prevent recurrence. They may soon replace the metallic device with a mesh, which would be absorbed by the body in two years after restoring the blood flow.

Interventional cardiologists at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai presented before reporters on Tuesday, two patients on whom the drug-coated absorbable stent has been tried a fortnight ago. The patients, two men aged 68 and 70, are medically fit, the doctors said. The treatment is part of the last leg of a clinical trial being conducted at more than 100 centres across the world. Once pronounced a success, the stent would be available in the market.

The stent used in the trial has been made of materials used to make absorbable sutures and implants. The anti-cancer drug coat on the stent prevents the artery from clotting up. Within two years, the stent degrades into water and carbon dioxide. By then the artery gains the strength to function independently as any other artery. Patients who get these absorbable stents are likely to be taken off blood thinning medicines which other patients with metal stents will have to take life long.

"This is another revolution in cardiology. If the trial succeeds, this stent is likely to replace all the existing ones," said Dr Sai Satish, consultant interventional cardiologist at Apollo Hospitals, who is part of the trial. During the earlier trials, the device was found to be effective in treating heart diseases. It was absorbed into the walls of the patients' arteries, with no clots reported after three years.

It is estimated that at least

The anti-cancer drug coat on the stent prevents the artery from clotting up. Within 2 years, the stent degrades into water and carbon dioxide

six million people in India have cardiovascular diseases. Blocks in the blood vessels reduce supply to heart muscles increasing risks of heart attacks. To avoid surgery, since early 1980s, cardiologists insert a collapsed balloon mounted on a thin wire balloon catheter, into the blocked artery. The balloon is inflated to crush the blocks. It is then withdrawn.

From the early 1990s doctors started inserting metal stents inside the artery to prevent further blocks. They reduced the recurrence by 20%, but sometimes cells grew over the stents and blocked arteries again. Then came drug-eluting stents in the early 2000s which prevented regrowth.

"Drug-eluting stents have been proven safe, but the presence of a metal in the body makes doctors anxious. It is good to have a device that can be absorbed after it does its job," said Dr Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, director and head of interventional cardiology.

The product has been approved for marketing in Europe, but it is yet to be made commercial. The manufacturers said it would be available in Europe next year and in India in 2013. As a part of the clinical trial over 100 institutes from all the over the world including six centres from India will implant the stent free of cost. Of these two hospitals Apollo Hospitals and Madras Medical Mission are from Chennai.

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e-paper

Heart failure risk tied to kidneys

Key Renal DNA Sequence Variant Plays Significant Role: Experts

Washington: For the first time, an international team of scientists has discovered a key kidney DNA sequence variant which plays a significant role in increasing the risk of heart failure.

The DNA variant, a change in a single letter of the DNA sequence which is common in people, impairs channels that control kidney function, the researchers found. "It's not a heart gene," said Gerald Dorn, from the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis,

A change in a single letter of the DNA sequence which is common in people, impairs channels that control kidney function, experts from Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis found

who is the lead author of the study.

"It's a kidney gene. This protein is not even expressed in the heart. Nobody has previously considered that kidney-specific gene defects might predispose you to heart failure."

Heart failure is diagnosed

when the heart can no longer provide sufficient blood to the body. It can have a number of causes, including high blood pressure, cancer therapy, viral infections of the heart or heart attack.

But the unexpected findings, published in the journal *The Pro-*

ceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, highlighted the advantage of performing genome-wide studies to find DNA sequence variants associated with disease.

"I was surprised by the finding," says Thomas Cappola, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, who was also a lead investigator on the study.

"This is a good example of how taking unbiased approaches to study human disease can lead you to unexpected targets." **PTI**

Times of India 19/01/2011 P-13

IIM-B likely to make work experience must for entry

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: An internal committee of the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore is all set up to revamp the flagship two-year post-graduate programme.

The panel has proposed many changes like increasing weightage for leadership potential, ethical and social sensitivity, making 22-month work experience mandatory for admission, reducing emphasis on extremely high percentile in Common Admission Test and making summer placements optional for students.

The IIM-B is planning to change the way students are selected, what they will be taught and how they should be evaluated. Asking the IIM-B to cut down on the emphasis on CAT scores during admission, the committee headed by Prof C Manohar Reddy has recommended increasing the weightage for

MORE CHANGES

- ▶ Instead of current grading scheme, introduce ordinal discrete grading scheme and without concept of Grade Point Average (GPA) and cumulative GPA
- ▶ Do away with 75% compulsory attendance
- ▶ Online mechanism for course and faculty feedback
- ▶ Innovation week for intensive courses, special workshops and projects

leadership potential, ethical and social sensitivity. It has also proposed making work experience of at least 22 months mandatory.

The panel wants at least 10% of the batch to comprise international students within the next decade to increase diversity. The Class of 2011 and 2012 have 23% and 28% students respectively with-

Panel to improve IIM-B governance?

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of the IIM-B board of governors, has set up a five-member committee to address the internal and external governance issues. ITC chairman emeritus K L Chugh will head the committee which will have Biocon head Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, KIIT University vice-chancellor A S Kofaskar and MindTree vice-chairman Subroto Bagchi, among others, as members. TNN

out work experience.

The committee has recommended making summer internship optional. "Stop the practice of pre-placement talks and interviews for the summer internship. Instead the selection of summer internship should be done on the basis of resumes," states the report, accessed exclusively by TOI.

Times of India 19/01/2011 P-13

Hiring of IIT directors to be made more transparent

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology Council meeting on Friday would make the system of appointment of directors more transparent. The council would also consider a proposal from the Mauritius government to set up an International Institute of Technology.

For the first time, the council will give clearance to set up an Open Access Institutional Repository that will feature research papers by IIT students and faculty on a common platform. IIT sources said, directors are now appointed only through a search process in which many people are invited to apply for the

job. Also, senior academicians recommend names to search committee. "The current system is not transparent," a source said. The new system will entail search-cum-selection. Jobs for IIT directors will be advertised.

FOR A FAIR CHANCE

"It will expand the sphere of selection. Even senior academicians from abroad can apply. There are many people of Indian origin who want to come back, but are unaware of job prospects," the source said. The new system would be implemented in case of IIT, Delhi, since its director would be completing his tenure in October.

Setting up of International Institute of Technology in Mauritius is in line with a similar proposal from Singapore. Sources in the HRD ministry said, "IITs can only provide technical support. It should be at no cost to the Indian exchequer." India is also going to insist that the institute cannot be called IIT, even if it stands for International Institute of Technology.

The IIT Council would decide how the IIT system would cooperate in setting up the proposed institute. Of the various committees set up by the ministry, the one headed by T Ramaswami, secretary of department of science & technology, has given its report on the curriculum review.

Times of India
19/01/2011 P-21

Antibiotics, blood pressure drugs can be a risky mix

New York: Older adults on blood pressure drugs known as calcium channel blockers could suffer dangerous drops in blood pressure if they are given certain antibiotics, according to a study.

Researchers found that patients on calcium channel blockers who were given the antibiotics erythromycin or clarithromycin were at increased risk of being hospitalized for dangerously low blood pressure.

A third antibiotic in the same class — azithromycin — was not linked to the risk. And the researchers say it should be chosen over the other two antibiotics for people on calcium channel blockers. For their part, calcium channel blockers are among the most commonly used long-term medications. The problem with erythromycin and clarithromycin is that they inhibit an enzyme vital to metabolizing calcium channel blockers, explained Juurlink, of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto.

As a result, blood levels of the calcium channel blocker spike, leading to sometimes severe drops in blood pressure. Azithromycin, in contrast, does not block that same enzyme.

Researchers have known about these drug actions, but until now there had been no large study looking at the risk of severe low blood pressure among patients on calcium channel blockers and macrolides. REUTERS

Times of India 19/01/2011 p-21

Birds of a feather? Your genes help you select friends

London: Vices attract while virtues repel people, according to a new study, which has found that genetic make-up plays a part in who one chooses as friends.

Researchers have found that people partly choose their friends by their genes especially those that have a big impact on their behaviour — sometimes it can be a case of “opposites attract” while sometimes “birds of a feather flock together”. To research the conclusion, a team, led by James Fowler at University of California, used data from two large health studies to search for genetic links to friendship.

The researchers identified genetic markers, or genotypes, in six specific genes and looked at how often they occurred among friends. They found two clear examples where “birds of a feather flock together” and “opposites attract”. The first involved a variant of the gene DRD2 which has been associated with alcoholism. People who carried the DRD2 genotype tended to befriend others with the same marker. Those who lacked the marker were also more likely to be friends with one another.

A less obvious opposite association was seen between people with a version of the gene CYP2A6 linked to having an “open” personality. In this case, people with the genetic marker gravitated towards individuals who did not have it.

The findings, published in the 'Proceedings of the Na-



OF HUMAN BONDAGE

tional Academy of Sciences' journal, remained significant after taking account of people's tendency to form “local” friendships within the same geographical area.

“An important implication of these results is that genetic structure in human populations may result not only from the formation of reproductive unions, but also from the formation of friendship unions within a population,” said the researchers in a statement on Tuesday.

Human evolution may to some extent have been shaped by interactions between genes and friendship choices. “The human evolutionary environment is not limited to the physical and biological environment, but also includes the social environment, which may itself be an evolutionary force,” they said. ■

Business Standard ND

19/01/2011

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A FEATHER IN HIS HAT

tougher situations at Tata Communications. When the Tata group took over government-owned Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSNL), it seemed like a safe option with an international long-distance calls monopoly.

But a few months into the acquisition, the government ended the company's monopoly, prompting a share price crash. Any other group with lesser men would have crumbled. But Srinath changed the business line and entered submarine cables. The company now boasts one of the largest such networks.

No wonder his working style is equated with that of cricketer Rahul Dravid — tougher the pitch, the better his bat. However, Srinath's favourite sport is Formula 1 racing, and if time permits he travels all the way to F1 venues to watch it live.

Srinath, a management graduate from Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, joined the group as a probationer in 1986. He is also credited with handling joint-venture projects with Honeywell and IBM. He was responsible for setting up new projects in process automation and control, information technology and telecommunications.

It might just help that N Srinath has an exhaustive collection of hats. At work, too, this 48-year-old mechanical engineer from IIT-Madras will be wearing two different hats: That of MD & CEO of Tata Teleservices and as non-executive director of Tata Communications.

In his 28-year stint with the Tata group, Srinath has worked with Tata Teleservices as general manager and COO in Hyderabad. He is back again to take over the telecom business at a time when margins in the industry are shrinking and the company is engaged in a war of words with the ministry and other telecom operators.

But Srinath has tackled

KATYA B NAIDU

Business Line ND 19/01/2011 p-21

A mosquito scam breeding in India?

Indo-Asian News Service

Bangalore, Jan. 18

The Health Ministry's refusal to allow the use of a highly potent mosquito control agent developed by one of its own institutes and granting permission to an imported product, has kicked up a controversy. At stake is not only the Rs 1,000-crore market, but also the eradication of diseases such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya.

At the centre of the controversy is a biological agent developed by the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Puducherry that kills the larvae of all species of mosquitoes.

It was certified to be the best by the Pasteur Institute in Paris and by none other than Dr Mir Mulla, the renowned entomologist at the University of California in the US.

LICENCES

Four years ago, VCRC licensed its technology for producing this agent in large scale through the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to eight Indian entrepreneurs, which are mainly small-time business houses. Each company spent around Rs 20 lakh for the licence, field trials and finally

for getting the marketing licence from the Central Insecticide Board (CIB) under the Health Ministry.

But these companies allege that their attempts to sell the product to the Central and State governments and municipalities have failed because of the refusal by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) headed by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to give its approval for one reason or another.

Mr R.K. Srivastava, the DGHS, was neither available on phone, nor did he reply to e-mails.

The denial of permission to utilise the home-grown product has led to a single company in New Delhi monopolising the entire market for this product worth at least Rs 1,000 crore annually, it is alleged.

The company - Biotech International Ltd - is the only company approved by the TAC to market its larvicidal agent, based on a Russian technology, for mosquito control programmes throughout India.

A SCAM?

"I am afraid this is going to be another scam," said Dr Palakkad

Krishnaiyer Rajagopalan, who was VCRC Director till 1995 when his scientists developed the technology.

"I am deeply upset that a bio-friendly mosquito control agent developed by the Ministry's own scientists has been dumped in favour of a foreign product," he said.

Dr Rajagopalan said that in the 1980s, VCRC scientists isolated an indigenous strain of a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (or BTI) from the soil of a village near Puducherry. "The organism was highly lethal to a variety of mosquitoes that transmit filariasis, malaria, dengue and other diseases."

During the next two decades, he said, scientists worked on all aspects such as bio-efficacy, safety to non-target insects such as honey bees and silk worms, as also on birds and mammals.

The VCRC subsequently developed cost-effective production and formulation technologies so that the product could be affordable to poor countries, Dr Rajagopalan said.

"The agent was tested in several distant geographical areas with different geoclimatic conditions for its efficacy and shelf life and was

found to be fit for an efficient mosquito control operation in all those areas."

Further, he said, the efficacy of this agent was tested independently by National Institute of Malaria Research in New Delhi, the Centre for Research in Medical Entomology at Madurai and the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine in Kolkata.

"This product has met all the requirements necessary for obtaining the clearance by CIB and some of the companies have already gotten permanent CIB clearance," Dr Rajagopalan said. "In spite of this, the product is not approved by the TAC for reasons best known to the Health Ministry. It appears that all this is happening in order to protect the interests of one firm."

The entrepreneurs who have been struggling to get the approval for their product are restive and feel cheated.

"We have taken up the issue at the highest level and are fighting," said Mr Ravi Kumar, Manager of R.K. Biotech Product Private Ltd in Chennai, one of the licensees of the VCRC technology. "We have invested a lot of money and are not going to give it up."

Indian Express ND 19/01/2011

P15

Save the planet, eat a bug, says Dutch scientist



Students prepare mealworm quiches at Rijn IJssel school for chefs in Wageningen. REUTERS

REUTERS
WAGENINGEN, JANUARY 18
ALL you need to do to save the rainforest, improve your diet, better your health, cut global carbon emissions and slash your food budget is eat bugs.

Mealworm quiche, grasshopper springrolls and cuisine made from other creepy crawlies is the answer to the global food crisis, shrinking land and water resources and climate-changing carbon emissions, Dutch scientist Arnold van Huis says.

The professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands said insects

have more protein than cattle per bite, cost less to raise, consume less water and don't have much of a carbon footprint. He even has plans for a cookbook to make bug food a more appetising prospect for mature palates. "Children don't have a problem with eating insects, but adults with developed eating habits do, and only tasting and experience can make them change their minds," Van Huis said. "The problem is psychological."

Van Huis has organised lectures, food tastings, and cookery classes with a master chef who demonstrates how to prepare a range of recipes using bugs, worms and grasshoppers, all

bred — or raised — at a Dutch insect farm for consumption. To attract more insect-eaters, Van Huis and his team of scientists at Wageningen have worked with a local cooking school to produce a cookbook and suitable recipes.

Chef Henk van Gurp, who created recipes for mealworm quiche and chocolate pralines with buffalo worms, sees no reason to disguise the ingredients, and sprinkles mealworms on top of the quiche filling and onto the chocolate buffalo worms as protein. "I try to make my food in a way that people can see what they eat," he told Reuters. "Once international leading chefs begin preparing this food, others

will follow."

Grasshoppers are considered a tasty snack in Asian countries including Thailand and Vietnam, but are not a feature on the Dutch menu. Van Huis said Europeans should consider insects an alternative source of protein because they can contain up to 90 per cent protein, compared with 40-70 per cent for beef. "Meat consumption is expected to double from 2000 to 2050. We are already using 70 per cent of our agricultural land for livestock and we cannot afford to spare more," he said. Plus raising cattle is responsible for 18 per cent of greenhouse gases emissions.

Tribune ND 19/01/2011

P-10

IITians dominate CAT

More engineers must go in for research

TOP rankings in CAT (Common Admission Test) 2010 for entry into elite Indian Institutes of Management have been bagged by IIT graduates. Not long ago, brand IIT was touted as "the Biggest Indian brand after Taj Mahal". Lately, on an average 55 per cent of students who are offered a seat in different IIMs are from IITs, and the rest from other engineering colleges. This leaves one wondering if IIT is not good enough on a CV to get a good placement.

For 2009-11 batch of two year PGP (post graduate programme), of the total 377 seats, 347 were taken up by engineers at IIM, Bangalore. On an average, government spends Rs 2 lakh per annum on the training of an individual IITian, which is supposed to translate into knowledge creation rather than knowledge consumption alone.

India Inc produced 23 billionaires who featured in the Forbes list of the richest in the year of recession (it had two Indians among the top 10 in the world), whereas it continues to contribute less than 2 per cent of world publication in science and technology. In terms of inspiration offered, the chasm is evident. With just a fraction of annual budget allocation for research, it is obvious that not much inspires a technocrat for advanced research. Statistics show that over 50 per cent of the Intellectual Properties in the U.S. have Indian names behind them, of which 70 per cent are IITians. The reason why the same IITians rush to add one more degree rather than pursue innovative ideas in new technologies, lies in the fact that availability of venture capital is abysmally low in India and is tied in red-tapism. If our elite planners are taking a cue from the Silicon Valley, which has been a cradle for top innovation based companies like Yahoo, Google, Bose Electronics etc, where physical and intellectual proximity to MIT (Massachusetts institute of technology) and HBS (Harvard Business School) facilitated a stream of supply of entrepreneurship and innovation, they must also recognize the fact that these organizations are headed by the young (aged between 35-45). We must remember, if India Inc, 50 per cent of which comes from IIMs, wants to move into next level of economy, it must see to it that IITs remain breeding grounds for new innovations in technology and seniority in these institutions should be defined by innovation rather than age.

PENCILS DOWN

Online tests gain traction in India

At least 100,000 students will give computer-based exams to seek a berth in leading engineering colleges in the coming academic session. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the IIMs through CAT

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The first time that the Common Admission Test (CAT) went online, almost everything that could go wrong did. Those seeking admission to India's top management schools had computers crashing on them, leaving them unable to complete the test and forcing the organisers to offer examinees another go at answering the paper.

But that inauspicious beginning in 2009 marked a watershed of sorts. From being a pencil-and-paper affair, testing in India is giving way to the computerized, online variety. By the time CAT 2010 rolled around, the experience was virtually glitch-free, proving it was an idea whose time had come as the gateway to the Indian tertiary education sector.

At least 100,000 students will give computer-based exams to seek a berth in leading engineering colleges in the coming academic session. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 who apply for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) through CAT.

Others with online tests include Mumbai's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies and a common one for law schools. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to take the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) online for about 100,000 aspirants, or a tenth of the total, with the rest giving their test offline. The exam, key to securing a berth in leading architecture and engineering schools such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), will eventually be fully computerized.

Geetam University of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat Technology University also have online admission tests. The Management Aptitude Test (MAT) conducted by the All Indian Management Association for entry into nearly 500 private business schools is available in both traditional and online versions.

Online tests offer a window during which they can be written—for instance, 20 days for CAT 2010 and three months for NMAT, the Narsee Monjee exam. This makes them less daunting for examinees.

"The computer adaptive exams are reducing stress and becoming a matter of convenience for applicants. Paper-pencil tests are generally one-day affairs. They don't have the flexibility of you choosing the day, whereas online exams give you that advantage," said Mohit Kataria, a young engineer in Pune, who wants to study management at one of the leading B-schools.

"The online exams are generally spread over (several) weeks and give you the freedom of choosing a convenient date during that window," said Kataria, who has appeared for both CAT formats. "This helps in showing your true potential on your best day. Instead of aspirants reaching out to exams, it's like exams are reaching out to aspirants."



Multiple choice: A file photo of candidates waiting outside a CAT exam centre in Mumbai. More and more engineering and management aspirants in India are writing online tests, which they feel are hassle-free and less stressful.

He also cites the convenience of the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) as the exam can be given more than once in a year.

Computerization has also made the application process easier, said Sambit Mahapatra, a second-year student at International Management Institute (IMI), a private business school based in Greater Noida, near New Delhi.

"You can just download the form, fill it up and upload it rather than moving around from one place to another and standing in long queues," he said. "I have read in newspapers that the IIMs are planning to allow students (to appear for CAT) more than once a year. If that happens it would be a great advantage," said the student who got admission based on his CAT score in 2009.

The traditional testing method is on its way out, said Anand Sudershan, chief executive officer of Manipal Education Group, which selects students for the university it runs through computer-based exams.

G. Raghurama, director at BITS Pilani, agrees. "Eventually, the paper-pencil test will be redundant as the computer-based test is more transparent, hassle-free and scalable," he said.

The increased penetration of computers and Internet access will speed up the acceptance of online testing, said Smarjit Dey, president, strategic initiatives, NIIT, which provided ground support for CAT 2009, conducted by Prometric Inc.—a US-headquartered firm that conducts

tests.

While computer penetration in India is less than 10%, a study published by Intel Corp. and IMRB International in August 2010 said PC penetration in urban India has doubled in the last three years from 19% to 38%. According to official statistics, there are nearly 80 million Internet users.

Before the IIMs took CAT online, two leading institutes tried their hand at computer-based entrance exams—XLRI Jamshedpur and BITS Pilani—in 2002.

BITS first made the switch for some of their masters courses and a few years later, all admissions became computer-based. "As a technology institute we wanted to do something different and went for computer-based entrance from 2005," said Raghurama. "There were 57,000 applicants and we conducted the exam in partnership with Eduquity Career Technologies Pvt. Ltd, an Indian test-assessment company headquartered in Bangalore. There were some apprehensions but we managed it well across 14 cities."

Last year, more than 130,000 applied for BITS campuses in Rajasthan, Goa and Andhra Pradesh.

"In 2011, we expect to get more applicants, hence we're taking it to 27 cities, six more than last year... over a 30-day window," Raghurama added.

XLRI, a leading management institute, decided to take its entrance exam online across 20 cities to begin with, but the experience was not trouble-free.

"We suspended it midway as we faced some problems in a few centres," said M. Shukla, the professor in charge of external relations at XLRI. "Since then we are back to our pen-paper test."

The process involved sending CDs to each centre in order to synchronize the machines there with the central server.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack in the US, "some of our CDs containing exam materials were stuck in airports due to security issues and we decided to scrap it", Shukla said. "The pen-paper test is going well with us but if you ask me whether we will shift to the new format, the answer will be yes."

"Computer-based testing is the need of the hour and we will switch back to it, he said. "Due to the convenience and the scalable model, it will outperform the traditional method."

There were some genuine infrastructure issues at the start but "we have overcome this", said R. Dharendra, chief executive officer of Eduquity Careers.

The online method has to contend with three key challenges in India—paper leakage, impersonation and logistics, according to Sanjiv Kataria, an education consultant in Delhi. Once these are overcome, teaching staff can focus on their primary duties. "Instead of professors taking leave from teaching for administrative work, now they can hand over these tasks

and non-teaching hassles to someone else," Kataria said.

Two of the world's biggest testing companies, Pearson Plc. and Prometric, are active in India with dedicated local branches. Pearson conducts NMAT and CLAT, the common law entrance exam.

Local firms include NIIT's online test division, Merit Track, Everonne, Eduquity and AptTest, a unit of Aptech Ltd.

Dey of NIIT estimates the business to be worth not less than ₹600 crore and expected to double in the next three years.

Madan Padaki, co-founder and chief executive officer of Merit Track, said the company started operations in 2000 to capture the information technology (IT) boom in India.

"A report in 2000 said that the IT industry will employ one million people by 2010 and we thought there will be need for professional test conductors for at least 10 million applicants," he said. Having established themselves in the IT recruitment process market, it entered the higher education space in 2007.

"Currently, 35% of our tests are online tests and we believe in three years it will be around 70%," said Padaki. Merit Track, which has tested one crore people both in the online and offline formats, was also a partner of Prometric in CAT 2010. The company also conducts Gujarat Technological University's common entrance test.

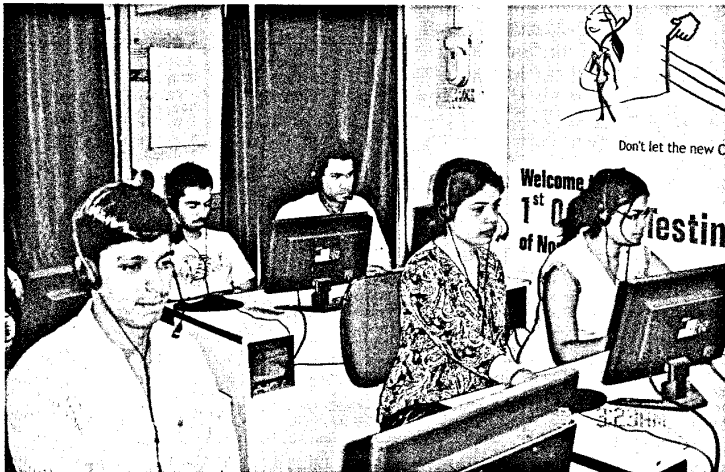
Aptech Ltd is carrying out half a million online tests every year for a number of distance education universities, said Nisad Karpe, chief executive officer.

"The higher education sector has understood that to scale up an exam without causing hassles either to students or to the faculties, they need to switch over to computer-based exams," he said.

The IIMs, meanwhile, are thinking about setting up a company to conduct the online CAT as reported by Mint on 26 November. "We have formed a committee on this direction. This will take CAT to the international standard," said Devi Singh, director IIM-Lucknow, who supervised CAT 2010 for the IIMs.

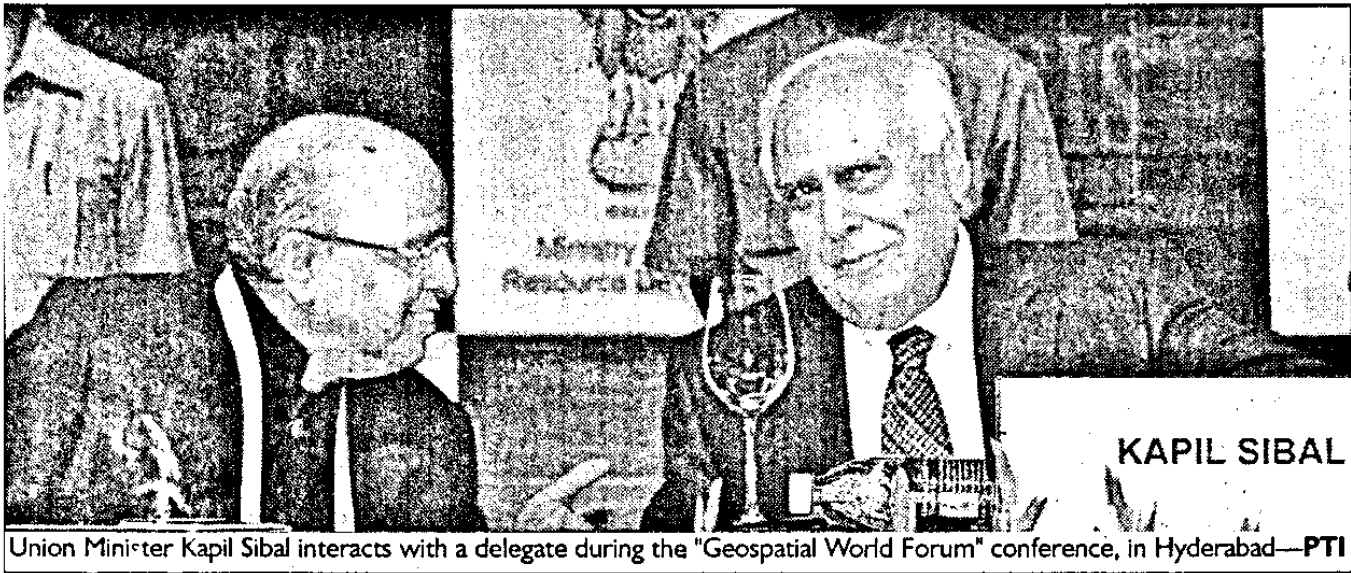
There are, however, infrastructure issues that need to be resolved. "To make online exams pervasive, we need to have high-speed Internet connections and larger computer penetration in smaller cities. Power backup is another area that needs to be taken care of," said R. Dharendra of Eduquity Career Technologies.

A survey carried out in March 2010 by Merit Track in association with some consultants said at least 75% of vice-chancellors believe that online exams are the future in tertiary education. "At least 50% of the universities surveyed felt that they will shift to a computer-based selection process within 12-36 months," said the report, which surveyed 75 varsities and institutes in the country.



Web focus: IIMs are thinking about setting up a company to conduct CAT online.

New IITs hit by poor infrastructure: Sibal



KAPIL SIBAL

Union Minister Kapil Sibal interacts with a delegate during the "Geospatial World Forum" conference, in Hyderabad—PTI

PBD BUREAU/PTI

HYDERABAD, JAN 18

THE eight new IITs that were permitted to set up in 2008 do not have the necessary infrastructure and are not up to the mark making it difficult for the country's prestigious institutions to retain faculty, said Kapil Sibal, Minister for HRD, Science and Technology and Telecom here today.

The Minister blamed the state governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses for these institutions.

"These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and unable to attract new faculties. Due to the same reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculties. We need commitment from state governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it," Sibal said on the sidelines of Geospatial World

The Minister blamed the state governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses for these institutions

Forum which began here today.

The ministry started these new IITs (Indian Institute of Technologies) three years ago. Each institution should have at least 90 teachers from all disciplines. According to reports most of the institutions do not have the required number of teaching staff.

According to the Minister, these new IITs are yet to get permanent campuses. In some states like Andhra Pradesh, where land has been allotted, building and other infrastructure is not in place yet. Sibal said the ministry is holding talks with respective State Governments on the issue of land

allocation.

"It is not only the IITs which are suffering. Even the new Central universities announced by the Centre are finding it difficult to get land in states," Sibal told reporters. In 2008, the Union HRD ministry had announced setting up eight new IITs and seven Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) along with 30 Central and 'world class universities' in the country.

The new IITs have come up in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Replying to a question, Sibal said the telecom ministry will hold the first session of the round table on New Telecom Policy-2011 in a day or two. The Minister also informed that the National Geospatial Data Accountability bill which is currently at inter-ministerial discussion, will be tabled in the coming Budget session.

'By '20, world 2.4°C warmer, India to be hardest hit'

Washington, Jan. 19: The earth will be 2.4°C warmer by 2020 if the world continues with the business-as-usual approach to climate change and India would be one of the hardest hit countries witnessing upto 30 per cent reduction in crop yields, a new study has claimed.

The rising temperatures will adversely affect the world's food production and India would be the hardest

hit, according to the analysis by the Universal Ecological Fund (FEU-US), the US subsidiary of FEU founded in Argentina in 1990.

The report titled "The Food Gap — The Impacts of Climate Change on Food Production: A 2020 Perspective" predicted that crop yield in India, the second largest world producer of rice and wheat, would fall up to 30 per cent by the end of this decade. The report,

however, noted that the impacts of climate change would vary from region to region. While central and southern region would witness adverse impacts, the impacts could be beneficial for East and South-East Asia, the report predicted.

The two most populated countries in the world, India and China, would experience different impacts. While India could see a fall in its crop yield, China —

spotlight

the largest producer of rice and wheat in the world — is expected to increase its crop yields up to 20 per cent, said the report.

However, the overall impact of a warmer planet on global food production would be massive, said the report, adding that the most significant impacts would be on the top 20 producers of

each of the four crops: wheat, rice, maize and soybean, respectively.

It has predicted that global wheat production during that time would experience a 14 per cent deficit between production and demand; while there will be an 11 per cent deficit in rice production and nine per cent in maize production.

Soybean is the only crop showing an increase in global production, with an esti-

mated five per cent surplus, the report said. "The evidence that man-made greenhouse gases would cause the temperature of the planet to rise has been available for almost two decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (2007) has concluded that, unequivocally, the earth's warming is man-made," said FEU scientific adviser Dr Osvaldo Canziani. —PTI

Pioneer ND 19/01/2011

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'New IITs' poor infrastructure hits teaching'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The eight new IITs that were permitted to be set up in 2008 do not have the necessary infrastructure and are not up to the mark making it difficult for these institutes to retain their faculty, Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said on Tuesday.

"These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and unable to attract new faculties. Due to the same reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculties. We need commitment from State Governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it," Sibal said on the sidelines of Geospatial World Forum.

The Minister blamed the State Governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses for these institutions.

Mail Today ND,
19-Jan-11
p-2

Panel for autonomy of IITs & aid to students

By **Kavita Chowdhury**
In New Delhi

THE government could effect a major change in its funding pattern for the IITs.

Instead of funding the management and functioning of these institutions, it could instead fund the tuition fees of students.

This will allow the IITs greater autonomy in fixing the salaries of teachers, recruitment and in increasing student fees.

A government-appointed panel headed by nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar is expected to discuss these recommendations at the IIT council meeting this week.

A senior official of the human resource development ministry said: "The proposed model aims to provide autonomy while also paving the way for IITs to generate their own funds." The IITs could increase their fees from ₹50,000 to ₹2.5 lakh per student if the changes are implemented.

"As the government will be stepping out of its existing role, the gap in funding of the operational costs of the IITs will be filled by permitting the IITs to hike student fees," the official said.

Fee hike also to be proposed

The committee has proposed that the government should grant scholarships to undergraduate students — not only to those from economically weaker sections but also to a select 25 per cent of them. Students belonging to SC, ST and OBC would also be funded. Post-graduate students, too, are proposed to be helped with funding.

The committee, expected to make a presentation before HRD minister Kapil Sibal at the IIT directors' conference, is likely to put forward many proposals to decrease the dependence of IITs on government funds.

The other issues to be discussed at the meeting include reforms in the Joint Entrance Examination.

Since the report of the Acharya committee was not acceptable to IITs, a new committee, headed by science and technology secretary T. Ramasami is preparing a report. Two other reports are also expected to be submitted at the meeting.

Telegraph Kolkata 18.01.2011 P-4

IIT panel's fee-hike formula for autonomy

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, Jan. 17: The tuition fees in the 15 IITs could increase five-fold, from Rs 50,000 a year now to nearly Rs 2.5 lakh, if the expected recommendations of a committee are accepted.

The elite tech schools should raise the money to run undergraduate courses entirely through tuition fees and not depend on government grants, the committee headed by IIT Bombay chairman Anil Kakodkar is likely to suggest.

However, the committee is unlikely to recommend raising the postgraduate fees, a source told **The Telegraph**. The IITs want more students to join their postgraduate courses, hoping some of them

might later take up teaching jobs at the institutes whose faculties are short-staffed by over 30 per cent.

The Kakodkar committee, formed to suggest a road map for the IITs' autonomy and growth, will submit its report on Friday at a meeting of the IIT Council, the apex body that decides matters relating to the institutes.

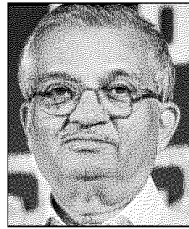
The committee believes that increasing the undergraduate fees would make the IITs more self-sufficient and pave the way for more autonomy. The institutes will no longer depend on government grants for their recurring expenses, and would be able to create faculty and non-faculty posts on their own without having to seek government clearance.

If the government grants that the IITs receive to run their undergraduate courses are divided among the 10,000-plus students, every student will have to pay around Rs 2.5 lakh a year.

In February 2010, IIT Kanpur had proposed raising the tuition fee, suggesting a gradual hike to Rs 4 lakh a year over a period of 10 years. The government had not accepted the report.

The Kakodkar committee is expected to cite the IIM fee structure while pitching its fee-hike formula for the IITs.

At present, the IIMs charge fees ranging from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6.5 lakh a year per student for their postgraduate programmes. This allows the IIMs to pay the faculty salaries



Anil Kakodkar

on their own; so they can create posts and fill them without having to approach the government.

The five-member Kakodkar committee is also likely to suggest an easy-loan scheme for the poorer students. The

human resource development ministry has plans to set up a National Education Finance Corporation to facilitate loans to students at low interest.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal had set up the Kakodkar committee in October 2009. Its other members are T.V. Mohandas Pai, director (human resource), Infosys; K. Mohan Das, vice-chancellor of the Kerala Health and Allied Sciences University; Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras; and Hari Bharti, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry.

IIT Guwahati director Gautam Barua, IIT Mandi director T. Gonsalves and IIT

Kanpur chairman Anandkrishnan were special invitees.

The committee had a series of meetings with IIT di-

rectors, faculty and industry representatives. Its members visited five universities in China last November to familiarise themselves with the best practices in science education and research.

According to sources, the members credit the Chinese system with boosting the number of undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes and also improving the quality of higher education in that country.

Overhauling their higher education programmes has been a challenge for India and China, both developing economies with large populations.

The committee visited Fudan University and Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hang-

Zhou, Tsing Hua University in Beijing and Tianjin University in Tianjin.

On Friday, the IIT Council is also expected to discuss the format of the IIT Joint Entrance Examination. A committee headed by science and technology secretary T. Ramasami is likely to hand in a report suggesting ways in which candidates' Class XII scores can be made to count while preparing the merit list. This is not done now.

Another committee, under IIT Kharaspur director Damodar Acharya, had suggested a two-tier format for the entrance exam — a screening test followed by the main test.

Sibal did not approve this format and set up the Ramasami committee to suggest a better system.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 19/01/2011

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आईआईटी की फीस में होगी पांच गुनी वृद्धि!

विनीता पांडे | नई दिल्ली

अगर आईआईटी संस्थानों की फीस पांच गुना बढ़ जाए तो क्या होगा? यकीनी तौर पर छात्रों के अभिभावकों को मुश्किल पेश आएगी। लेकिन इसकी तैयारी कर लेनी चाहिए। सरकार ने अगर अनिल काकोडकर समिति की सिफारिश मान ली तो फीस बढ़ाने का फैसला किया जा सकता है।

आईआईटी-मुंबई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के चेयरमैन काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने सरकार से सब्सिडी (आर्थिक मदद) की व्यवस्था को खत्म करने को कहा है। इसके बजाय फीस बढ़ाने से संस्थान की आय बढ़ाई जाएगी। ठीक वैसे ही जैसे आईआईएम में होता है। काकोडकर समिति का गठन मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने आईआईटी को आर्थिक रूप से

कम ब्याज पर कर्ज

समिति के मुताबिक, फीस वृद्धि मुख्य रूप से बीटेक के स्तर पर की जाए। जो छात्र बढ़ी हुई फीस देने में समर्थ नहीं होंगे, उन्हें कम ब्याज पर कर्ज और स्कॉलरशिप की सुविधा सरकार की ओर से उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी।

अभी 50 हजार से ढाई लाख फीस: देश के 15 आईआईटी में इस वक्त बीटेक पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए 50 हजार से ढाई लाख तक फीस ली जाती है। जबकि आईआईएम में इसी स्तर पर तीन से साढ़े छह लाख फीस वसूली जाती है। समिति एमटेक के स्तर पर फीस बढ़ाने के पक्ष में नहीं है।

आत्मनिर्भर बनाने संबंधी सुझाव देने के लिए किया था।

Nai Duniya ND 19/01/2011

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'सुविधाओं की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं नए आईआईटी'

हैदराबाद (प्रेट्र)। वर्ष 2008 में जो आठ नए आईआईटी की स्थापना करने की अनुमति दी गई थी उसे आवश्यक आधारभूत संरचना अभी तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकी है। इस वजह से देश के इस प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान को अपनी प्रतिष्ठा अनुरूप संकाय बनाने में कठिनाई उत्पन्न हो रही है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने राज्य सरकारों पर आरोप लगाया कि वह इन संस्थानों के स्थाई परिसरों की स्थापना किए जाने के लिए आवश्यक भूमि का भी आवंटन नहीं किया है। नए आईआईटी अस्थाई परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। इस वजह से नए संकायों को लाने में असमर्थ हो रहे हैं। हम लोगों को कम से कम 500 एकड़ भूमि की आवश्यकता है। मंत्रालय ने इन

■ कपिल सिब्बल ने
गिनाई समस्याएं

तीनों आईआईटी संस्थानों को तीन वर्ष पहले शुरू किया था। प्रत्येक संस्थानों को सभी संकायों में कम से कम 90 शिक्षक रहने चाहिए। मंत्री के अनुसार इन नए आईआईटी संस्थानों को स्थाई परिसरों की आवश्यकता है। सिब्बल ने कहा कि मंत्रालय भूमि आवंटन के संबंध में राज्य सरकारों से बात करेगी। वर्ष 2008 में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आठ नए आईआईटी और सात आईआईएम की स्थापना की घोषणा की थी। नए आईआईटी मद्र, ओडिसा, गुजरात, पंजाब, बिहार, राजस्थान, हिमाचल और आंध्र प्रदेश में स्थापित किए गए।

VEER ARJUN ND 19 JAN 2011 P7

आईआईटी परिषद की बैठक में पेश हो सकती है काकोदकर समिति की रिपोर्ट

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। आईआईटी परिषद की दिल्ली में बुक्रवार को बैठक होगी जिसमें आईआईटी के पाठ्यक्रम में फीस वृद्धि और संस्थान का स्वायत्ता प्रदान करने से संबंधित काकोदकर समिति की रिपोर्ट पेश हो सकती है। बैठक के दौरान संयुक्त इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा जेईई और अन्य परीक्षा को समाप्त कर देश में एकल इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा आयोजित करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार किये जाते की संभावना है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि 21 जनवरी को आईआईटी परिषद की बैठक होगी जिसमें काकोदकर समिति अपनी

रिपोर्ट पेश कर सकती है। बैठक के दौरान एकल इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा से जुड़े विषय सामने आ सकते हैं।

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आईआईटी को स्वायत्ता प्रदान करने और संस्थान के विकास का खाका तैयार करने के लिए सिफारिशें देने के लिये अनिल काकोदकर के नेतृत्व में पांच सदस्यीय समिति का गठन किया गया था। इस बात की संभावना है कि समिति कम से कम स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम की ट्यूशन फीस में वृद्धि की सिफारिश कर सकती है।

गौरतलब है कि आईआईटी के स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों की ट्यूशन फीस अभी 50 हजार रुपये सालाना है।

संस्थान इसमें काफी समय से वृद्धि करना चाहती है। लेकिन स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम की फीस में वृद्धि किये जाने की संभावना नहीं है क्योंकि संस्थान इनमें से कुछ के शिक्षक के रूप में योगदान करने की उम्मीद कर रहा है। संस्थान को काफी संख्या में शिक्षकों की कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। फरवरी 2010 में आईआईटी कानपुर ने ट्यूशन फीस में वृद्धि का प्रस्ताव किया था और सुझाव दिया था कि ट्यूशन फीस में धीरे धीरे 10 वर्षों तक वृद्धि की जाए। इस प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार कर दिया गया था।

कुछ समय से आईआईटी में ट्यूशन फीस में वृद्धि के लिए भारतीय

प्रबंधन संस्थान आईआईएफए के फीस बढ़ाव का उदाहरण दिया जा रहा है जहां स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम के लिए ट्यूशन फीस तीन लाख से साढ़े छह लाख रुपये प्रति वर्ष है। बहरहाल, आईआईटी परिषद की बैठक में एकल इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा के बारे में भी चर्चा होने की संभावना है। इस मामले में दामोदर आचार्य समिति की सिफारिशों पर मतभेद के बाद विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी सचिव टी रामास्वामी के नेतृत्व में दूसरी समिति का गठन किया गया है जो तीन महीने में अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपेगी। सरकार ने जेईई समेत अन्य इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा को समाप्त कर इंजीनियरिंग के लिए एकल प्रवेश

परीक्षा आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव किया था। इससे तहत साल 2013 से एकल इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने का विचार व्यक्त किया गया था। इस मामले में एक प्रवेश परीक्षा के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर विचार करने और इसकी संभावना तलाशने के उद्देश्य से आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक दामोदर आचार्य के नेतृत्व में समिति का गठन किया गया था। समिति ने इस विषय पर पिछले वर्ष अपनी सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत कर दी थी। लेकिन इन सिफारिशों पर कुछ आईआईटी के अलावा राज्य शिक्षा बोर्ड की ओर से भी आपत्ति उठायी गई थी।

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मॉरीशस में खुलेगी आईआईटी की शाखा

इक्कीस जनवरी को हो रही काउंसिल की बैठक में प्रस्ताव पर होगा विचार

विशेष सवाददाता

नई दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) का पहला विदेशी कैंपस मारीशस में स्थापित हो सकता है। शुक्रवार को होने वाली आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक के एजेंडे में यह प्रस्ताव रखा जाएगा। चर्चा के बाद इस प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी जाएगी। इसके बाद

आईआईटी काउंसिल मारीशस के किसी संस्थान के साथ सहयोग करके वहां आईआईटी की स्थापना की प्रक्रिया शुरू करेगी। मारीशस में खुलने वाले आईआईटी का नाम इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी होगा।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार काउंसिल के एजेंडे में करीब 28 प्रस्तावों पर चर्चा होनी है। मारीशस कैंपस का मुद्दा अहम है। क्योंकि पिछले साल अगस्त में आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में विदेशों में कैंपस खोलने पर सहमति प्रकट हो चुकी है। इसके लिए मंत्रालय आईआईटी एक्ट में



कपिल सिंघल

आवश्यक संशोधन भी करने जा रहा है। विदेशों में कैंपस खोलने के लिए आईआईटी मुंबई भी तैयार बैठा है। वह

पहल

- मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री करेंगे बैठक की अध्यक्षता
- विदेश में कैंपस के लिए आईआईटी एक्ट में होगा जरूरी संशोधन
- मारीशस सरकार ने दिया है कैंपस खोलने का प्रस्ताव

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सिंगापुर में कैंपस खोलने की योजना बना रहा है। लेकिन लगता है कि पहला कैंपस मारीशस में खुलेगा। मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार यह बैठक में ही तय

होगा कि मारीशस कैंपस की स्थापना कोई एक आईआईटी करेगा या फिर आईआईटी काउंसिल के जरिए ही इसका संचालन होगा। मूलतः मारीशस में आईआईटी खोलने का प्रस्ताव वहां की सरकार की तरफ से आया था। मारीशस में उच्च शिक्षा में प्रवेश की दर 43 फीसदी है जिसे वह अगले दस साल में 70 फीसदी तक करना चाहता है। वहां अभी 50 हजार विदेशी छात्र पढ़ रहे हैं। लक्ष्य है कि इसे 2020 तक एक लाख किया जाए। इसलिए वह भारत के उच्च संस्थानों और विश्वविद्यालयों को अपने यहाँ आमंत्रित कर रहा है।

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आइआइटी की फीस पांच गुना तक बढ़ेगी !

नई दिल्ली, जागरण ब्यूरो : उच्च शिक्षा में सुधारों व विस्तार की कोशिशों के बीच भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आइआइटी) को और स्वायत्तता की राह खुल सकती है। लेकिन, इस बदलाव से छात्रों व अभिभावकों पर खर्च का बोझ भी बढ़ने के आसार हैं। आइआइटी काउंसिल में सहमति बनी तो भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों की मौजूदा फीस में पांच गुना तक इजाफा हो सकता है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक आइआइटी को और स्वायत्तता व बेहतर विकास के लिए परमाणु वैज्ञानिक व आइआइटी मुंबई के चेयरमैन डा. अनिल काकोदकर की अगुआई में गठित पैनल शुक्रवार को अपनी रिपोर्ट देने जा रहा है। बताते हैं कि उसी दिन होने वाली आइआइटी काउंसिल की बैठक में पैनल की सिफारिशों पर चर्चा भी हो सकती है। सूत्रों की मानें तो काकोदकर पैनल आइआइटी में स्नातक (ग्रेजुएट) स्तर पर फीस बढ़ाए जाने के पक्ष में हैं।

शिक्षा भी महंगी

- आइआइटी काउंसिल की शुक्रवार की बैठक में इस पर भी हो सकती है चर्चा

मौजूदा फीस 50 हजार रुपये के आसपास है, जो बढ़कर 2.10 से 2.50 लाख तक हो सकती है। तर्क यह है कि इससे सरकार पर भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों की निर्भरता कम होगी जबकि संस्थान के कामकाज में और आजादी का रास्ता खुलेगा। जाहिर है कि फीस बढ़ने से छात्रों व अभिभावकों पर खर्च का बोझ बढ़ेगा। सूत्रों का हालांकि कहना है कि सस्ती ब्याज दरों व सब्सिडी पर कर्ज की उपलब्धता के चलते पढ़ाई का आसान रास्ता खुला रहेगा। इतना ही नहीं, छात्रवृत्तियों की संख्या बढ़ाकर भी इसकी भरपाई होती रहेगी। बताते हैं कि उच्च शिक्षा में बड़ा जोर शोध को बढ़ावा देने पर है। इसके मद्देनजर पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट स्तर पर फीस की बढ़ोतरी नहीं की जा सकती है। आइआइटी काउंसिल की वर्ष 2009 में हुई बैठक में आइआइटी की स्वायत्तता व भविष्य में उनके और विकास व विस्तार का रोडमैप तैयार करने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने डा. काकोदकर की अध्यक्षता में एक पैनल का गठन किया था।