

Newspaper Clips
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Hindu ND 03.01.2015 P-11

IIT association backs director

National Bureau

NEW DELHI: After the Faculty Forum and the Indian Institute of Technology Employees' Union, the IIT-Delhi Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Employees' Association has backed the institute's Director, R.K. Shevgaonkar, who submitted his resignation sparking a controversy.

A statement released by the association said: "All staff members are sure that you are doing your best to maintain the autonomy of the institute."

Business Line ND 03/01/2015 P-11

IIT-M Director: we must encourage students to look at entrepreneurship as a career option

'Attracting risk capital makes the difference between entrepreneurship by necessity & choice'

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, January 2

There is a clear trend among a large section of students to become entrepreneurs than take up lucrative job offers, according to Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras.

"We need to encourage this trend to see that more students become entrepreneurs and serve the nation," he told newsmen while announcing Shaastra, the annual technical festival hosted by the institute.

Risk factor

In the campus recruitment in the institute this year, nearly 15 per cent or around 100 students have joined start-up companies

as compared with negligible number last year. This may be risky, but students are keen to take up challenging jobs. Some join start-ups to gain experience and later turn entrepreneurs, he said. "I don't know the reason as to why this trend is happening. However, it is good for the country," he said.

This year's Shaastra it is all about entrepreneurship. The Entrepreneurship Confluence dealt on issues related to entrepreneurship, corporate structure and start-up culture in India. "We are building entrepreneurship thought at the institute. We want students to look at entrepreneurship as a career option," he said.

Placement Team



First choice Around 15 per cent students at IIT Madras joined start-up companies this year

Speaking at a panel discussion at Entrepreneurship Confluence, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Vice-Chairman and co-founder, Infosys, said, entrepreneurship is about starting an initiative that is useful to the society and skill devel-

opment, and involves people from outside like investors. Entrepreneurs need to put limited money into the business and the rest should come from investors who will invest risk capital into the business. Attracting risk cap-

ital makes the difference between entrepreneurship by necessity, which is seen a lot in India, compared to entrepreneurship by choice or design where the society invests in a business to create new product or service, said Gopalakrishnan, an alumnus of the Institute.

Best time

According to Anand Rajaraman, Founder, Jungle Corp and an alumnus of IIT Madras and Stanford, now is the best time ever in India to work for start ups or become entrepreneurs. In the past, most of the \$1-billion companies used to emerge from Silicon Valley. However, last year, it has been outside the Silicon Valley with companies like Flipkart and Snapdeal - both founded by IIT alumni - coming from India, he said.

Mail Today ND 03/01/2015 P-3

Move to be introduced from current semester

By **Piyush Srivastava**
In Lucknow

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) in Varanasi has put Kashi's culture on its curricula map. Students at IIT of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will now have to learn culture of the holy city as part of the 'Project Varanasi'. It shall include mythologies and realities—the epic Ramayana, river Ganga and Buddhist land of Sarnath. The project has been introduced in the current semester.

"The students of IIT are expected to learn the culture, civilisation and literature of Kashi so that they can evolve new technologies for the development of the city.

Noble intention

It is with this intention that this project has been introduced. They will have to study this for the first three years of their stint with IIT in order to "boost Varanasi's growth", IIT-BHU director, professor Rajeev Sangal, told the press. This decision has been taken essentially because Varanasi is the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is keen to develop the holy city.

Project Varanasi has been divided in five small projects—river Ganga; Varanasi city; handicraft; Ramayana literature; and Sarnath where Lord Buddha had first preached 'Dhamma'.

IIT management has appointed coordinators for each of these sub-projects. The head of the department of the Computer Science Department will look after Project Ramayana and Project Literature. HoD of Metallurgy Department will coordinate for



'Project Varanasi' is divided into five small projects and will include mythologies and realities.

Kashi culture in IIT syllabus

It should be probed why Tripathi was appointed VC of BHU when he was an RSS cadre and holding a post-of-benefit in an NGO. We demand a probe soon.

— Satyavrat Chaturvedi, senior Congress leader

Project Sarnath. Head of Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Humanities will coordinate Project Varanasi

city. The Civil and Chemical Engineering HoD will look after Project Ganga.

However, a senior member of

IIT-Varanasi said the entire thing will burden the students. "The students are already overburdened. Many of them, who are good students, fail to clear all the papers in a semester and the load keeps on increasing in each semester. Moreover, such a project is not going to help the city in real sense, because they are never taught to focus on one religious and mythological issue and place.

A section of teachers are not happy with this decision and they may make their resentment official in the coming weeks," he said.

QUESTION HOUR

■ Opposition parties have raised questions over the appointment of professor Girish Chandra Tripathi as vice-chancellor of BHU.

■ They have alleged that Giridhar Malviya, who was chairman of the selection committee, has obliged Tripathi due to questionable reasons.

■ They have also alleged that Malviya is president of the Sewa Samiti, an Allahabad-based NGO controlled by Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS) and Tripathi is its secretary.

■ Tripathi was a professor of economics at the Allahabad University before he was appointed VC of the BHU last month.

IITs to focus more on faculty & research in 2015

MUMBAI: The premier Indian Institutes of Technology have a long list of dos for 2015. Here's a quick look at the task list chalked out by their directors, deans, alumni heads and education analysts.

IIT Madras: R&D Focus

The focus will be on "growth in PhD students, which will double from 200 to 400 per year in the next four years," says director Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

The institute plans to increase its presence in top journals, and related growth in funded research, including industry-funded R&D. It will revamp most of the course curriculum, moving towards more choice for students, particularly in inter-disciplinary areas. It also plans to roll out bilateral exchange programmes for students with top universities from across the world, including more joint PhD programmes, adds the director.

IIT Bombay: More start-ups

"There has to be more push given to incubation of ideas. We need to look beyond simple start-ups that many students delve in and go for ideas that are sustainable and can be scaled up," adds Ravi Sinha, alumni head for IIT Bombay. A push towards hiring more international faculty should also be on the agenda, he says.

IIT Hyderabad: Virtual Classrooms

Amongst the newer lot, IIT Hyderabad wants to look beyond the chalk-and-blackboard style of teaching and use more of the newly implemented 'Flip' method.

A flipped classroom is a teaching methodology where videos take place of a real-time classroom. IIT Hyderabad started using this methodology in a few classes during the January-April 2014 academic session.

"A lot of focus on research and development in the context of smart cities, off-grid solar and digital fabrication is part of the plan," says UB Desai, director. The college also plans to roll out more Massive Open Online Courses and reach a larger set of students in the coming year.

IIT-BHU: Live projects

A glimpse of the industry and its problems right from the first few months is the latest in IIT-BHU.

From 2014, the college has decided that its students from the third semester onwards will work for the term on industry-based projects, which till last year was done by students in their eighth semester.

This is part of an initiative called 'Practice-Theory-Practice' that has been implemented this year and will be the focus for next year, says GVS Sastry, dean academics.

IIT Kanpur: Increasing Faculty

Increasing the faculty base often tops the agenda for India's best engineering colleges. "There is a 40% deficit in teachers at IITs today and it does not make sense to start newer ones, if the existing ones do not have sufficient teaching staff," says Rohin Kapoor, senior manager, education practice at Deloitte.

The IITs should also provide entrepreneurship as a core subject rather than teach it as an elective. "More corporate tie-ups and developing the 'right people' with adequate tech and soft skills, so that this pool can fund international demand for talent, should be the focus in 2015," adds Kapoor.

IIT Kanpur will focus on increasing its faculty base in 2015. "We will also ramp up the number of PhD students, which in turn will lead to more research work and thereby result in a larger number of technology-based innovations," says Manindra Agrawal, dean of faculty.

While Modi dreams of smart cities, IISc pitches for smart villages

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150103/nation-current-affairs/article/while-modi-dreams-smart-cities-iisc-pitches-smart-villages>

Bengaluru: If Prime Minister Narendra Modi dreams of creating smart cities in the country, researchers of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have outsmarted him and gone a step ahead. They are trying to create a 'Smart Grama' or smart village to bridge the rural-urban divide.

A survey of eight villages under the Ragi Hosahalli Gram Panchayat, about 20 kms from the city, is currently underway to collect data on their basic amenities like water, health and sanitation, communication and transport facilities, scientific advice for farmers and work population as the researchers firmly believe that the only way to curb mass migration from rural areas to cities is to make the villages self-sustaining.

The study has already caught the attention of Union minister, Ananth Kumar, who has reportedly agreed to take the project forward if the pilot is successful.

Dr T.V. Ramachandra, head of IISc's Energy and Wetland Research Group, says creating smart villages may be easier than building smart cities.

"We are looking at the lack of facilities in these villagers and trying to establish a connection between them and migration to urban areas, which is not only creating problems for the urban centres but also an imbalance in villages where large tracts of land are left uncultivated due to lack of water and the right expertise.

"Once we are finished with the survey we will try to rope in a few crop experts and arrange a meeting with the villagers," he explained.

Interestingly, although the village selected for the pilot project is located close to Bengaluru, its lack of facilities is driving the youth to the city for work in its malls and markets.

"Some kind of migration is always necessary, but not for the reasons that are prompting the youth here to hurry to Bengaluru," added the concerned researchers.

Pune Man Leads AICTE Chief Race

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/Pune-Man-Leads-AICTE-Chief-Race/2015/01/03/article2601278.ece

COIMBATORE: The Director of the College of Engineering in Pune, Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, seems to be the front-runner for the post of Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

The incumbent Chairman SS Mantha's tenure, who is holding the post since January 5, 2012, comes to an end with this week.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) recently invited application from renowned persons in the field of technical education for the post of AICTE Chairman for a term of three years.

“The new Chairman of the AICTE can also be from Maharashtra. As of now, Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, Director of the College of Engineering in Pune is the front- runner for this post,” sources said.

A Mechanical engineer, Sahasrabudhe has 23 years of teaching experience, in addition to 5 years of research and a year of industry experience. He is also a member of the committee headed by Satyanarayan Mohanty, Secretary of Higher Education, formed by MHRD to determine land requirement for central higher educational institutions.

NIT-W Introduces Engineering Projects in Community Service

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra_pradesh/NIT-W-Introduces-Engineering-Projects-in-Community-Service/2015/01/02/article2600288.ece

WARANGAL: National Institute of Technology- Warangal (NIT-W), one of the premier technical institutions in the country, has introduced “Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS)” into the B.Tech Curriculum recently.

NIT-W director, Prof T Srinivasa Rao said, "As part of this, the student teams from III B.Tech will identify a problem faced by community around, which requires technological solution, and work towards designing the solution to solve the community problem. These student teams will be interdisciplinary in nature. EPICS initiative at NIT Warangal is being mentored by Prof William Oakes of Purdue University,"

Prof William Oakes has visited NIT-W on Thursday (Jan 1). Purdue University has 23 universities from different parts of the world into 'EPICS University Consortium'. NIT Warangal is the first Institute in the country to be recognised into this Consortium.

Prof William Oakes has presented a plaque to Director of NIT Warangal T Srinivasa Rao in a function organised with Deans, Heads and Faculty Mentors of EPICS project on January 1.

22,000 students register for IIT-Madras Shaastra

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150103/nation-education/article/22000-students-register-iit-madras-shaastra>

Chennai: With the aim of encouraging entrepreneurship among youth in the country, IIT-Madras has chosen entrepreneurship as the theme for this year's Shaastra, IITM's four-day, annual technical festival, which starts Saturday. IIT-M director, Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, said on Friday over 15 per cent of students who registered for placements at the institute this year had joined start-ups and a few students had opted out of placement to try their hand at entrepreneurship.

“There is transformation in the country; students are looking at out-of-the-box ideas and taking up either entrepreneurship or joining a start-up. Realising this, we selected entrepreneurship as this year's theme,” he said. Pointing out that the IIT-M's student body, which organises the event, has added more entrepreneurship-related workshops in the event, Siddharth Dialani, secretary (co-curricular affairs), IIT-Madras, said the event consists of workshops like Android App, which would help a person develop his own application and become an entrepreneur.

“We already have 100 start-ups registered for Shaastra to showcase their company and also motivate students to become successful entrepreneurs. We have increased the number of workshops this year to help engineering college students take away a lot of things,” he said. Even before the event has kickstarted, the organisers have 22,000 students registered from various parts of the country whereas it was 7,000 last year.

“We have a few participants even from countries like Germany, Dubai and Spain. This shows the reach of our event,” he said. The prize money has also been increased this year from Rs17 lakh last year to Rs25 lakh this year. Shaastra this year has a few big names for their lecture series like Gurtej Sandhu who holds the record for the fourth highest number of patents (1,102) in the world in the field of thin film and materials, besides Ela Bhatt, founder of Sewa and expert in microfinance for women's empowerment. Students also look forward to listening to Arogyaswami Paulraj, professor emeritus at Stanford University, and called the father of modern wi-fi.

Subramanian Swamy at MoodI: IIT-B students slam organisers for calling politician to festival

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/subramanian-swamy-moodi-iit-b-students-slam-organisers-calling-politician-festival-2025907.html>

After the controversial statements made by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy at IIT Bombay's annual college festival 'Mood Indigo', some students have strongly criticised the organisers of the festival for inviting the BJP leader to the festival.

A section of IIT Bombay students has criticised Mood Indigo organisers for calling Subramanian Swamy to the festival. PTI

The Progressive and Democratic Students Collective, a student group at IIT Bombay, condemned the organisers for inviting Swamy, as well as the fact that the Consulate of Israel was a sponsor for one of the events, according to this [Mumbai Mirror report](#).

In his address to the students, Swamy, known for his controversial statements, called former Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) a circus lion and Congress president [Sonia Gandhi](#) a 'vishkanya' (A poisonous woman) according to this [Firstpost report](#).

Swamy did not stop there. He also claimed that [Manmohan Singh](#) was incorrectly given credit for India's financial reforms in 1990s, because it was Swamy himself who was responsible for "25 percent" of the reforms.

Swamy also predicted that [Sonia Gandhi](#) would be arrested in two months in the National Herald case.

The report also said that Swamy had sued the former Deputy Director of IIT Bombay Professor Shevgaonkar for about Rs 75 lakh as his "salary dues". He also took a dig at Shevgaonkar, saying that Shevgaonkar had thought that the "best intellectual of India is [Rahul Gandhi](#)."

"Yes, politicians should be allowed to college events for free exchange of ideas," said Rahul Maganti, a student of IIT Bombay. "But, it should have at least two divergent views rather than a single member from a political party who is notorious for hate speech."

On the other hand, the organisers of Mood Indigo at IIT Bombay said that students who attended the event were free to disagree with Swamy. "The invite should not be seen as an endorsement of a specific political party or person's views," said Gunjan Gupta, a third-year student and spokesperson for the organising team

This is not the first time a politician has been invited to a college festival. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was also invited to Malhar, the college festival of St. Xavier's, Mumbai.

Controversial IIT-I Director Mathur's term over

<http://freepressjournal.in/controversial-iit-i-director-mathurs-term-over/>

Indore : Prof Pradeep Mathur's term as director of Indian Institute of Technology, Indore is over but he would continue in the office for some time.

His term expired on December 31 but THE Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has asked him to stay on the post till its next order.

The process for appointment of director is generally begins six month ahead of the completion of director's term but due to general elections in mid-year and change in guard at the Centre, the process got delayed at IIT Indore.

The MHRD hinted at completing the process soon. Established in 2009, the IIT Indore saw its first director in Mathur. He completed his five years of term but it was full of controversies.

He first came in a controversy when the institute deputy director Prof Khanna quit the post apparently due to Mathur.

Terming the selection of a 'scientist' for the post of director of engineering institute wrong, Khanna had said, "There can't be a bigger blunder than that. The result today is that at IIT Indore, the Director is converting Institute of Technology into an Institute of Science by neglecting engineering requirements."

To supplement his claims, he stated that "the institute has 35 engineering faculties out of 86 and yet, more than 65 per cent of budget has been spent on Sciences, Bio-sciences and Astrophysics rather than on engineering."

A few months after that, Mathur drew flak from local public representatives for not inviting them in convocation ceremony in which President Pranab Mukherjee was chief guest.

The IIT Indore Director was also pulled up by the MHRD for delaying construction of its own campus in Simrol.

The ground breaking ceremony for starting construction was held just a few months ago.

IIT Indore media in-charge Nirmala Menon said that the institute had received a letter from the MHRD which says that Mathur would continue till its next order. "There is no mention of time period in the letter," she said.

Times Of India ND 03/01/2015 P-17

HRD ministry 'goofs up', makes professor university's chancellor

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New Delhi: The HRD ministry has done it again. The ministry has appointed senior faculty member Jandhyala B G Tilak of the prestigious National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) as its chancellor. Without realizing the technical anomalies — making him boss of his boss, the vice-chancellor — this could have created, the ministry asked NUEPA registrar to issue the necessary order and it was done.

But NUEPA and Tilak themselves soon realized the problems it could have created. For one, the chancellor's post is honorary whereas Tilak is a full-time faculty. Taking over as chancellor would have meant he forfeits

The move had technical anomalies as it made Jandhyala BG Tilak the boss of his boss, the vice-chancellor. He also needed to give up his salary and perks for the honorary post

his salary and other perks as professor. Also, it would have been the first time that a serving faculty member would become the chancellor of the university he works for.

NUEPA sources said Tilak has approached the ministry and requested that he cannot take up the post because of obvious technical flaws. Tilak told **TOI**, "There are problems with the ap-

pointment. I have told the ministry. It will be reviewed."

Ministry sources confirmed there is a move to rescind the decision. "Mistake has been made and it will be soon rectified," one source said. In the process, NUEPA will remain without chancellor for a few more months. It took six months for the ministry to finalize the name of chancellor and that too has turned out to be flawed.

NUEPA sources said Tilak was asked by the ministry to submit his bio-data three months back which he did without realizing he was to be made the chancellor of the same university. Tilak has taught in Delhi University, Universities of Virginia and Hiroshima, and has also worked with the World Bank.

Curbs on web freedom to go up?

Countries Trying To Tighten Controls On Internet Companies

Vindu Goel & Andrew E Kramer

San Francisco: Government censorship of the internet is a cat-and-mouse game. And despite more aggressive tactics in recent months, the cats have been largely frustrated while the mice wriggle away. But this year, the challenges for Silicon Valley will mount, with Russia and Turkey in particular trying to tighten controls on foreign-based internet companies. Major American companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google are increasingly being put in the tricky position of figuring out which laws and orders to comply with around the world — and which to ignore or contest.

On Wednesday, Russia's president, Vladimir V Putin, signed the latest version of a personal data law that will require companies to store

data about Russian users on computers inside the country, where it will be easier for the government to get access to it. With few companies expected to comply with the law, which goes into effect September 1, a confrontation may well erupt.

The clumsiness of current censorship efforts was apparent in mid-December, when Russia's in-

WINGS CLIPPED?

ternet regulator demanded that Facebook remove a page that was promoting an anti-government rally. After Facebook blocked the page, dozens of copycat pages popped up and the word spread on other social networks like Twitter. The Turkish government faced similar embarrassment when it tried to stop the dissemination of leaked docu-

ments and audio recordings on Twitter in March. The administration of Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordered the shutdown of Twitter within Turkey after the company refused to block the posts, which implicated government officials in a corruption investigation. Not only did the government lose a court fight on the issue, but while Twitter was blocked, legions of Turkish users taught one another technical tricks to evade the ban.

Despite such victories for free-speech advocates, governments around the world are stepping up their efforts to control the internet, escalating the confrontation.

Pakistan, for example, bombarded Facebook with nearly 1,800 requests to take down content in the first half of 2014, according to the company's most recent trans-

parency report. Google's YouTube video has long been blocked there. And the government briefly succeeded in getting Twitter to block certain "blasphemous" or "unethical" tweets last year until the company re-examined Pakistani law and determined the requests didn't meet legal requirements.

It's not just autocratic regimes that are pressing for limits on free speech. In the EU, a court ruling last year established a "right to be forgotten," allowing residents to ask search engines like Google to remove links to negative material about them. Now privacy regulators want Google to also delete the links from search results on the non-European versions of its service because anyone in Europe can easily get access to the alternate sites. NYT NEWS SERVICE