

## Newspaper Clips

January 4, 2014

HT Chandigarh

### **PREZ TO ADDRESS NIT, IIT GRADS IN VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**JALANDHAR:** The President of India will deliver a New Year message to the students and faculty of all national institutes of technology (NITs), Indian institutes of technology (IITs) and central universities through video conferencing on January 7, S K Das, director, Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, said here on Thursday. "The conferencing will start at noon and the President will address the students and faculty for 15 minutes. The programme begins with national anthem at after which a welcome address by Prof SS Murthy, vice-chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, will be delivered followed by President's address," he added. **HTC**

## Common counselling for all engg institutions from 2014

Nature of the entrance test across the country to remain same

**NEW DELHI:** The Human Resource Development ministry has put out a proposal to hold a common counselling for students successful in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for engineering colleges, including the IITs.

Efforts are made to bring on board all technical institutions, especially the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and

the IITs to hold a common counselling session for students successful in JEE from this year, top HRD ministry sources said.

The move is to stop students switching institutes offering better courses after taking admission.

Nearly 600 seats fell vacant in IITs and NITs last year, which, sources feel, is due to

the practice of students holding two admissions and abandoning one of them.

The ministry wants a single all-India merit list of candidates who had taken both JEE-main and JEE-advance and conduct a common counselling this time.

"This will not let students secure seats in two different colleges at a time. As there will be no confusion over vacancy of seats then, all the seats will be filled by the eligible candidates," official sources said.

The ministry's attempt to introduce the system from 2013 was stopped by IIT Delhi's serious objections to the proposal.

**IIT-Kharagpur in charge**

"Hopefully, we will have it from this year. The IIT-Kharagpur is in charge of holding the test this time," official sources said.

Despite common counselling, the nature of the entrance test across the country will remain the same.

"No change in the test format. The entrance test will be conducted in two parts, JEE-Main and JEE-Advance, in same format as was held last year," sources added.

The JEE-Advance is conducted for admissions to IITs and Indian School of Mines while JEE-Main is held for admission to other technical institutes including NITs and engineering colleges which accepts the nationwide test scores for admitting students.

While the JEE Main is scheduled on May 25, JEE-Advance will take place on April 6 in pen and paper mode. JEE-main will be conducted in online mode on April 9, 11, 12 and 19.

Candidates aiming for admission in engineering colleges in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha will too have to take JEE-Main as the three state governments have agreed to use the scores of the nationwide test from this year.

**DH News Service**

The Telegraph, Calcutta

## IIT test for common counselling

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

**New Delhi, Jan. 3:** The government has asked the Indian Institutes of Technology and the National Institutes of Technology to hold common counselling from this year to minimise seats going vacant at these engineering colleges.

But the 16 IITs, a notch above the 30 NITs in the pecking order, had defeated such a plan last year and are expected to oppose the latest Union human resource development ministry directive, too.

Over 600 seats had remained unoccupied in these tech schools last year, apparently because of separate counselling which allows a candidate to receive offers from an IIT and an NIT at the same time.

Such a candidate often hangs on to the coveted IIT seat while waiting to see whether he gets the subject of his choice in one of the NITs, which declare their merit lists a little later.

He thus blocks both seats and quits one only at the last moment, giving the institute hardly any time to fill it before the session begins.

Under the proposed common counselling, a student will receive an offer from only one institute, either an IIT or an NIT, at a time, higher education secretary Ashok Thakur told reporters today. If he rejects that offer, he may be given the option to join another institute.

"Common counselling will reduce the vacancy of seats," Thakur said.

The 46 engineering schools were supposed to hold common counselling last year, too, and the software had been prepared. But the IITs backed out at the last moment and went ahead with their own counselling in June.

H.C. Gupta, former chairman for the IIT-JEE Advanced exam, said common counselling may not be feasible as the NITs hold their counselling a month after the IITs do.

"The IITs complete their counselling process by June 15 but the NITs wait till June 30 to get the board results, after which they can hold counselling," Gupta said.

From last year, the IITs have been selecting students purely on the basis of their JEE-Advanced scores while the

NITs have been doing so on the basis of the candidates' JEE Main results and Class XII board marks.

“Our classes start by July 15. The IITs will be late to start their classes if common counselling is done,” Gupta said.

However, an NIT director alleged that the IITs consider themselves a bigger brand and feel that common counselling with the NITs would affect their brand image.

“The NITs too start their classes by July 25, just a few days after the IITs. This delay is not a big issue. This is a form of protectionism by the IITs,” the director said.

About 600 seats remained vacant in the NITs last year and a few in the IITs. In 2012, over 300 seats were wasted in the IITs and a similar number in the NITs.

TOI

## Need higher stipends, IISc researcher to PM

BANGALORE: What has the PM's talk on [inflation](#) got to do with stipend for young researchers in the 104-year-old [Indian Institute of Science](#) in Bangalore?

On Friday, soon after Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) spoke on inflation, one of the most disappointed people was a research scholar from IISc who penned a letter to the PM immediately.

"The worry about inflation is legitimate but we should also recognize that incomes for most people have increased faster than inflation," wrote Pankaj Jain (26), a researcher in molecular biophysics, to the PM.

"I am sorry, but as a PhD student, our stipends have been stagnant for the past four years, while the rates of everything have been almost doubled.... In fact this is also driving many bright students away from research in India to find greener pastures either somewhere abroad or in the industries. Right from school education to higher education, India is way behind in terms of its reach and quality. The progress of science and technology is no better. How do you expect the country to excel without educated individuals and growth in science and technology?" asked Jain.

The crux:

The last stipend hike for graduate students was implemented in 2010 and for the past over three years the stipend for graduate students remains the same. A junior research fellow draws Rs 16,000 per month and a senior research fellow Rs 18,000. Inflation has been consistently high. Prices of all commodities have risen by 50-100%. In this scenario it is high time for a next stipend hike, Jain wrote.

Four months ago, an online petition created a buzz on social networks. The two-liner, written in change.org by Sreevalsa Kolathayar, assistant professor, Indian School of Mines, said: "Research students need your care, increase the scholarship amount of research scholars."

# आईआईटी में पहले भी हुई हैं 10 आत्महत्याएं संदिग्ध मौत की जांच पर संदेह

एजेंसी

कानपुर । आईआईटी कानपुर में वर्ष 2005 से यह दसवां मामला था जिसमें संस्थान के किसी मेधावी छात्र की संदिग्ध परिस्थितियों में मौत हुई है इससे पहले 2005 से अब तक नौ छात्र आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। संस्थान के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि हमने जांच कमेटी गठित कर दी है और वह शुक्रवार से काम करना शुरू भी कर देगी ,लेकिन जब उनसे पूछा गया कि आखिर छात्र की मौत कैसे हुई तो उनका जवाब था कि जांच हो रही है। आईआईटी संस्थान में पढ़ने वाले करीब 6300 छात्र छात्राओं पर नजर नहीं रख सकता। आंध्र प्रदेश के प्रकाशम जिले का रहने वाला गोपास्पू साई कुमार ( उम्र करीब 20 वर्ष ) ने आईआईटी में



2012,13 में प्रवेश लिया था वह बीटेक सेकेंड इयर मैटेरियल साईंस और मैटलर्जिकल इंजीनियरिंग का छात्र था तथा कैम्पस के हाल संख्या 3 में रहता था उसका शव एक जनवरी को संस्थान

के पास रेलवे लाइन के पास मिला था। आईआईटी के डीन स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर प्रो ए के घोष ने बताया कि शुक्रवार सुबह गोपरपू का शव उसके परिजन यहां से ले गए और आंध्र प्रदेश में उसका

अंतिम संस्कार किया जाएगा। वैसे आईआईटी ने एक चार सदस्यीय फेक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी का गठन आनन फानन में कर दिया जो शुक्रवार से काम करना शुरू भी कर रही है। लेकिन संस्थान के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार पिछले आठ साल में हुई इस दसवीं ( 10 ) संदिग्ध मौत अथवा आत्महत्या की तथ्यानवेषण समिति का नतीजा भी वैसा ही निकलने की उम्मीद है जैसा कि पिछले आठ सालों में हुई छात्र छात्राओं की नौ आत्महत्याओं के बाद गठित तथ्यानवेषण समितियों का निकला था। गौरतलब है कि वर्ष 2010 के दिसंबर माह में एक आस्टीआई के जवाब में आईआईटी प्रशासन ने बताया था कि पिछले पांच साल में आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की थी और इन सबका कारण निजी और

मानसिक तनाव ही था आईआईटी के डीन प्रो घोष ने आज पीटीआई से बातचीत में कहा कि अब संस्थान और पुलिस तो यह मान चुकी है कि गोपास्पू के साथ दुर्घटना हुई है क्योंकि पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट में उसके सिर में चोट आने की बात कही गई है, अगर वह किन्हीं कारणों से आत्महत्या करता तो वह रेलवे की पटरी पर लेटता और उसका शरीर कटा हुआ होता। सिर पर चोट आने का मतलब है कि वह रेल की पटरी पर जा रहा था और शायद किसी ट्रेन से टकरा गया होगा जिसकी वजह से यह दुर्घटना हुई। जब उनसे पूछा गया कि आईआईटी प्रशासन क्या छात्रों पर कोई नजर नहीं रखता तो उनका जवाब था कि आईआईटी में करीब 6300 छात्र छात्राएं पढ़ते हैं। सब पर नजर नहीं रखी जा सकती।

# Can't keep an eye on all students, says Dean IIT-Kanpur

**PBD BUREAU/PTI**

**KANPUR, JAN 3**

FOLLOWING the death of a student of IIT-Kanpur on January 1 under mysterious circumstances here, a Dean of the premier institute today said the administration "can't keep an eye" on every student.

"There are about 6,300 students at IIT-Kanpur. We can't keep an eye on all of them whether they are in their rooms or moving around on rail tracks," Students Welfare Dean Prof A K Ghosh said.

He said the student's body has been handed over to his parents, after a post-mortem.

The body of G Sai Kumar Reddy (20), a resident of Prakasham district in Andhra Pradesh, was found along the Kanpur-Farrukhabad railway line on January 1.

As per the post-mortem report, he was hit by a heavy object on head, due to which it is assumed that he might have been hit by a train accidentally, Ghosh said, adding he does not believe that Reddy had committed suicide.

Reddy's family believes the student was not under any mental agony or pressure and he has not left any suicide note either, he said.

The police report also says it could be an accidental death, he added.

Asked if it

was, indeed, an accident, then why a four-member probe panel has been formed, Ghosh said the committee will find out the truth about the incident.

This is the 10th incident at IIT-Kanpur since 2005 in which a student has died under mysterious circumstances, according to an official of the institute.

**"There are about 6,300 students at IIT-Kanpur. We can't keep an eye on all of them whether they are in their rooms or moving around on rail tracks,"**

**Students Welfare Dean Prof A K Ghosh said**

# चंद्रमा की तस्वीरें खींचेगा आईआईटी मद्रास का रोबोट

चंद्रयान-द्वितीय के साथ  
जाएगा रोबोट

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भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) के बहुचर्चित चंद्रयान-द्वितीय के साथ भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), मद्रास के छात्रों द्वारा निर्मित रोबोट जाएगा। रोबोट निर्माण की प्रक्रिया तीन वर्षों से जारी है। रोबोट को इस वर्ष के अंत तक अंतिम रूप दिए जाने की उम्मीद है। इसरो रोबोट का परीक्षण करने के बाद अंतिम अनुमति देगा। आईआईटी मद्रास के प्रोफेसर महेश

पंचगुलाल ने यह जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि छात्रों ने इसरो से इस रोबोट के निर्माण पर सलाह ली है, और उन्होंने इसकी डिजाइन तैयार की है। प्रोफेसर महेश ने बताया कि अभी इस बारे में अधिक जानकारी नहीं दी जा सकती क्योंकि यह परियोजना अभी जारी है। उन्होंने बताया कि रोबोट चंद्रमा की सतह पर उतरने के बाद तस्वीरें खींचेगा और उनको पृथ्वी पर भेजेगा ताकि यहां इसरो उनका अध्ययन कर सके।

चंद्रमा पर सौ मीटर तक घूमेगा

प्रोफेसर महेश के अनुसार

चंद्रयान-दो जब चंद्रमा की सतह पर उतरेगा तो इससे यह रोबोट निकलकर लगभग सौ मीटर की परिधि में घूमेगा। इस दौरान वह चंद्रमा की सतह की तस्वीरें विभिन्न कोणों से उतार कर पृथ्वी पर भेजेगा।

अक्टूबर 2008 में  
पहला यान

उल्लेखनीय है कि इसरो ने अक्टूबर 2008 में मानवरहित चंद्रयान-एक भेजा था। इसरो द्वारा इसके बाद अकेले चंद्रयान-दो रूस के सहयोग से भेजने का निर्णय किया। यह यान वर्ष 2016 में भेजे जाने की उम्मीद है।

HT Mumbai

## 35,000 visitors at IIT-B campus on Day 1 of Techfest

HT Correspondent

hmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The first day of Techfest, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay's annual technology festival, kicked off to a great start with an inspiring lecture by Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao.

A jam-packed auditorium on Friday hung on to Rao's every word as he spoke about the scientific progress of the nation. "Research and development must be encouraged to help the bright minds in the country find the right direction," he said.

Apart from Rao, lectures by eminent personalities followed

through the day. Kiran Bedi, social activist and the country's first-ever woman IPS officer, interacted with over 800 people in a lecture which focused on social development of India.

The ever changing dynamics of Indian politics and the success for the Aam Admi Party were also discussed.

BINA 48, an American robot, touted as the world's most socially interactive robot, stole the show on day one with hundreds of people lining up to catch glimpse of it at the robotics exhibit.

With a footfall of more than 35,000, the festival saw wall arts and paintings by Polish mural-



People lined up to catch a glimpse of BINA 48, an American robot often called the world's most socially interactive robot. VIDYA SUBRAMANIAM/HT

ist Mariusz Waras displayed across the open air theatre in the campus.

An F1 simulator, all the way

from Italy, was also up for a free test drive.

"This is the first time a simulator of this quality has been dis-

played in India. It is a real treat for all the formula one fans," said Harshal Gera, a car enthusiast from Bhopal, who had come down especially for the fest.

Another eye grabber at the festival was the free 4G wifi connection available for all, and provided by Reliance Jio.

A live demonstration of the 4G network and its capability for incredible speed was given by Mathew Oommen, director of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a New York based association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence.

Economic Times ND 04/01/2014 P-11

# Govt to Amend AICTE Act

## OUR BUREAU

NEW DELHI

The government has decided to amend the All Indian Council of Technical Education Act to restore the technical education regulator's power to approve engineering and management institutions.

In April last year, the Supreme Court had said that the All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) was not empowered to lay down and enforce standards for technical courses. Stripped of its powers, the AICTE was reduced to an advisory role.

While the government has decided to amend the AICTE Act to restore its powers, this is unlikely to go through during the tenure of the current Lok Sabha. Hence, an interim arrangement is being put in place.

**Last April, the SC said that AICTE was not empowered to enforce standards for technical courses**

Under this arrangement, the AICTE will set standards for technical institutes and higher education regulator University Grants Commission would provide the affiliation. The institutes will

have to be assessed by the National Board of Accreditation. Higher education secretary Ashok Thakur said that the amendments and the interim arrangements have received the law ministry's nod.

Thakur, who headed a committee to coordinate between AICTE and UGC on the issue, said the broader guidelines would be finalised at a UGC meet on January 10 and directives would be issued about providing affiliations by the universities. The decision to amend the AICTE Act comes 8 months after the Supreme Court struck down the council's regulatory powers, saying colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the purview of the definition of "technical institution" as defined in AICTE Act, 1987.

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## Rs 90,000 crore RUSA plan to be implemented soon: M Pallam Raju

By PTI | 3 Jan, 2014, 11.18PM IST

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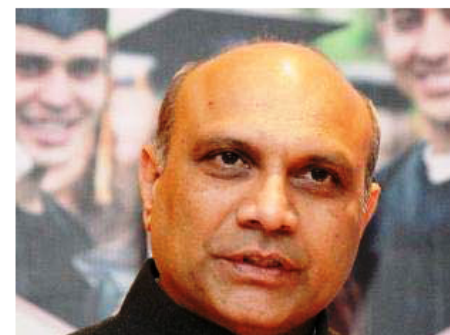
RAJAHMUNDRY: The Union Minister for Human Resources Development M M Pallam Raju today said Rs 90,000 crore [Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abiyan](#) (RUSA) plan will soon be implemented for development of education sector in the country.

Speaking to reporters after visiting a vocational college in Kakinada, he said, "During the 12th and 13th five year plans Rs 90,000 crore RUSA plan will be implemented in the country for the development of education and for its infrastructure facilities."

The Union Cabinet has approved the plan in its meeting held on October 3.

"This plan will also help in bringing education reforms, besides developing infrastructure facilities in the education sector," he said.

Raju later visited Dhummulapeta in Kakinada, where fire mishap took place yesterday. He assured that pucca houses will be constructed for all the families, who lost their homes in fire accident.



M Pallam Raju today said Rs 90,000 crore [Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abiyan](#) (RUSA) plan will soon be implemented for development of education sector in the country.

**ET SPECIAL:**  
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## Row over Jamia Hamdard PhD to UGC chief's wife

TNN | Jan 4, 2014, 05:21 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The [Supreme Court](#) on Friday sought response from Delhi-based Jamia Hamdard Deemed University to a petition alleging that it had awarded PhD degree to Ms Shimla to allegedly cur favour from her husband Prof Ved Prakash, who at present was the chairman of University Grants Commission.

A bench of Justices R M Lodha and S K Singh issued notices to the University, Ms Shimla and the UGC on the petition by NGO 'Society for Value and Ethics in Education', which alleged that the Delhi High Court had rejected its petition despite a clear-cut case of favouritism was made out.

The NGO said Ms Shimla was ineligible to be admitted to the Phd course in the University's Centre for Federal Studies, which required the candidate to have a Masters degree in political science, public administration, sociology, history or economics with at least 55% marks or a recognized MPhil degree.

"Ms Shimla possesses none of the above. She is an MA in English, which is not even a related, contiguous, listed or relevant subject and has secured barely 52.5% marks from Meerut University as against minimum 55% marks required. She does not possess an MPhil degree. She not being a teacher in [Jamia Hamdard University](#), enjoyed no special treatment or exemptions," the NGO alleged.

Terming her admission as fraud that deprived a deserving candidate, the NGO said she had wrongfully gained the degree and that the HC failed to notice this.



# Business Standard

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## Funding for state varsities need to be increased: UGC official

Press Trust of India | Coimbatore January 03, 2014 Last Updated at 20:20 IST

University Grants Commission today stressed on the need to increase the funding for state universities to bring an end to the mismatch between them and central varsities.

Funding for state universities needed to be increased as there was a mismatch between them and the central universities, UGC Vice-Chairman Dr H Devaraj said.

"While 641 state universities together get a sum of Rs 9,500 crore only, the 44 Central Universities were allocated Rs 10,000 crore," he said at a function in a college in nearby Pollachi.

"This needs to be corrected," a release from the NGM College quoting Devaraj said.

He also stressed on the need to have a greater focus on skill based training.

Indian Express ND 04/01/2014 P-17

## **Reliance Jio tests 4G network at IIT-M fest**

**MUMBAI:** Reliance Jio Info-comm Ltd hastested its 4G network at the Techfest event in IIT Mumbai campus by running trials of ideo calls and Jio television service, among others. Jio television has a feature that eliminates the need for recording content.