

Newspaper Clips July 26-27, 2015

July 26

Times of India ND 26/07/2015 P-10

Three-fold jump in IIT prep course enrolments this year

Hemali.Chhopia@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: This year, the IIT preparatory course has close to three times the number of students it had last time — 63 — as also the year before that when there were 48 students.

This year, 185 candidates will take this course, which is like a feeder class, and trains quota students for a year to equip them to qualify for the IITs. To qualify for the preparatory programme, students need to score a mere 31 marks of 504 (6.1%) and 1.54 marks of 88 (1.75%) in each subject. This is lower than the subject-wise qualifying marks for the prep course last year, which was three.

IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-BHU will have the largest count of prep course students with 36 and 32, respectively. Indian School of Mines and IIT-Roorkee come next with 26 and 21 candidates "It is heartening to see we have not had to draw up a preparatory list for scheduled caste students. But most students who will have to undergo the one-year bridge course are from the physically challenged category and those from the scheduled tribe," said a JEE (advanced) chairman.

The chairman added that this year when the IITs drew up the rank list, they realized that there weren't



After IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-BHU (above) will have the largest count of prep course students

enough ST candidates who had made the cut. "The shortfall forced the IITs to re-engineer the qualifying score and bring it down by 30%," he added.

For quota students who fall short of the mark, the IITs reduce cutoffs and conduct special coaching for a year. The arrangement started in the mid-90s after the IITs wrote to the government for permission to run a year-long preparatory course to help quota students lagging behind in the JEE race.

Each year, IITs provide concessions to reserved category students. They lower entry levels, going to 50% below the last general category student's marks to do justice to the quota.

But to reach the colleges' full capacity, scores are relaxed once again and students are selected to be coached in maths, physics and chemistry for a year before they can join the IITs after clearing an internal test.

As against the previous five years, there may not be enough students this year to fill the seats meant for reserved category students. In 2012, for the first time the elite technology schools did not hold any preparatory course for ST candidates. For the sixth consecutive year in 2015, no SC candidate had to spend a year doing the bridge course. More students qualified than the number of seats available.

Please Sir, Some More

With the PM inaugurating IIT-Patna's spanking new campus yesterday and IIM-Nagpur opening its doors today, the question isn't about whether we need more of the premier institutes but how to help them get critical mass



IIT Delhi (top right) and IIM-Ahmedabad, India's top tech and business school, both founded in 1961, are now mentoring IIT-Ropar (bottom left) and IIM-Nagpur (bottom right), respectively



:: Ishani Duttagupta

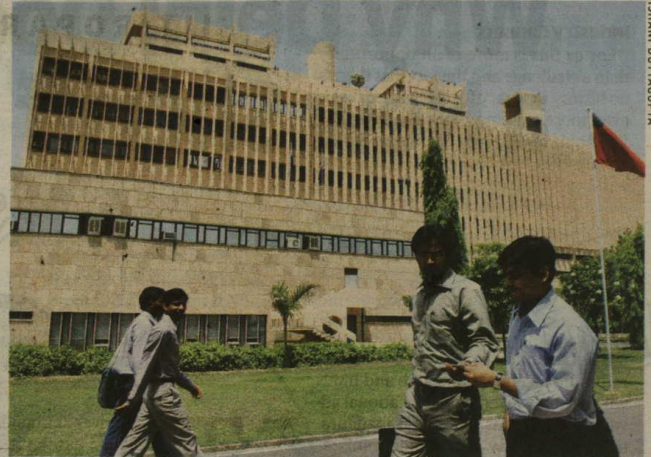
It is a commonplace for a section of high-flying alumni of the top Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs – Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Chennai) or the premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs – Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta) to look down their noses at the newer kids on the block. For this club of old boys, the IITs of Guwahati, Ropar, Mandi and Palakkad and the IIMs in Rohtak, Ranchi, Kashipur and Shillong could well be in Timbuktu for all they know.

Thank Athena, Confucius and Saraswati that not all the graduates from the reputed institutes think that way. For every alum-

nus or alumna who swears by the elitism of the 'top tier' of technology and management education, there's mercifully his or her counterpart who believes more such institutions are needed to expose more Indians to world-class education and research. The challenge, of course, is to expand without compromising quality.

Focus on Inclusive Curriculum

"The Indian government has to remain focussed on the quality of education while increasing capacity, so as not to dilute the IIT and IIM brands," says Shailesh J Mehta, alumnus of IIT Bombay, a Silicon Valley ven-



GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY

IITs at Ropar, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Jodhpur functioning out of transit camps

IIT-Patna shifted to its permanent campus on July 25 and was inaugurated by prime minister Narendra Modi

Two brand new IITs at Palakkad and Tirupati will start admissions for the first academic batch 2015-16 with 120 students each from transit campuses

Both are mentored by IIT-Madras and will offer limited options in BTech with 30 seats in each stream from August 2015

Till directors are appointed by the MHRD, IIT-Madras director **Bhaskar Ramamurthi will be the mentor director of Palakkad and Tirupati**

IIMs functioning out of transit campuses include **Udaipur, Shillong, Rohtak, Ranchi, Raipur, Kashipur and Trichy**

IIM-Nagpur opens its doors formally with an inauguration ceremony today (July 26), at its temporary campus at VNIT Nagpur, under the mentorship of **IIM-Ahmedabad**

60 students will start the PGP in management for an MBA degree with IIM-A faculty members taking classes, to start with

IIM-Visakhapatnam to start classes in August for first PGP batch in August with 60 students at a transit campus and faculty from IIM-Bangalore



IIM-Calcutta will mentor the planned IIM-Gaya, Bihar

ture capitalist and founder of the eponymous school of management at IIT Bombay. The focus of the new institutions, he reckons, should be on attracting the best of faculty and setting up state-of-the-art labs, even as they steer clear of political jostling amongst chief ministers to have a new IIT or IIM located in their state. "While location does make a difference in attracting world-class faculty, the new institutions should focus on developing as centres of excellence in particular fields rather than try to be good at everything," adds Mehta.

Another prominent IIT alum, Vinod Gupta, who set up a business school at his alma mater IIT-Kharagpur in 1993, believes that not just the new IITs and IIMs, even the existing ones should double their intake of students. "India's premier tech and business schools should also focus on a more inclusive education and incorporate more courses and curriculum in subjects such as history, economics and English," says Gupta.

The latest IIM – the 14th – in Nagpur opens its doors formally with an inauguration ceremony on July 26, from its temporary campus at VNIT Nagpur, under the mentorship of IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A). Sixty students will be starting the post-graduate programme (PGP) in management with IIM-A faculty members taking classes, to start with. Some 1,857 examinees of the 2014 common admission test (CAT) had shown an interest in IIM Nagpur (IIM-N).

IIM-UDAIPUR

Freedom to Fly

The advantage for newer IIMs like the one in Udaipur is that they aren't weighed down by baggage from the past

Janat Shah, director of IIM-Udaipur, believes in multi-tasking. When he is not taking classes, he is spending time with architects and the project manager at the construction site of IIM-U's new campus, coming up on a sprawling 253 acres nestled in the Aravalli hills in Balicha. While Shah is focused on knowledge creation and research coming out of IIM-U and personally involved in recruitment of faculty members, he is also engaged with the current post-graduate batch of 150 students, often joining them for lunch at the institute's temporary campus in the local Mohanlal Sukhadia University campus.

"Judging the new IIMs through the matrix of placement of students and their salary packages is not relevant for our young institute. Instead, we're focused on gaining recognition for our academic excellence and quality of publications and hope within a timeframe of 20 years to be among the best in the world on those benchmarks," says Shah, an IIT-Bombay and IIM-Ahmedabad alumnus, who took over as IIM-U director in 2011.

A glance through the list of IIM-U faculty members confirms Shah's point — of the 29, 12 are PhDs from universities in the US, Canada, Israel and Europe. And the director is making sure that none of them are burdened with administrative responsibilities at IIM-U that will keep them away from their academ-



Students of the PGP class of 2016 at IIM-Udaipur's temporary campus in MLS University, Rajasthan

ABOUT IIM-UDAIPUR

One of six new IIMs announced by the government in 2009

PGP programme started with 58 students in temporary campus at Mohanlal Sukhadia University in 2011

The graduating class of 2015 had 110 students

Campus spread over 253 acres coming up at Balicha area of Udaipur

Will be ready by summer of 2016

Prominent recruiters of 2015: Accenture, GE, Genpact, Bajaj Auto, Cognizant, ICICI Bank, Vedanta, Wipro

Average salary package:

₹ 10.28 lakh pa



IIM-U is coming up on a sprawling 253 acres area nestled in the Aravalli hills

ic pursuits. Some of the other initiatives that Shah feels will set IIM-U apart from other IIMs include a rural immersion programme for students who work closely with local NGOs in the region and spend time in villages; and a centre for entrepreneurship and innovation that supports various startup initiatives in Udaipur and the surrounding regions.

"There are creative ways of getting support from the alumni of the older institutions and the mentor institution, which in our case is IIM-Indore. For this exercise, we have formed an advisory group within IIM-U," Shah said.

Rakesh Chaturvedi, a PhD from Pennsylvania University, who recently joined the faculty at IIM-U, finds the atmosphere conducive to research activities.

"The director of the institute takes a personal interest to ensure that we don't have too much of pressure to take classes and can focus on research," he says. However, Subhamoy Ganguly, another faculty member and a PhD from the University of Colorado, feels that a small town like Udaipur does pose problems for families of

staff members including employment of spouses and education of children. "While I'm happy about my work at IIM-U, my two children initially had problems adjusting to school here when we moved from the US in 2013," says Ganguly.

Shah has himself grappled with the issue of his family accepting his move to Udaipur. "When I moved here four years back from IIM-B my daughter had just joined college there and my wife had to relocate with me. Luckily for her, she started working with the NGOs here and has recently joined as CEO of one that is involved with women artisans' livelihoods," he says.

IIM-U prepares an audited placement report for its PGP class and the average salary for the class of 2015 was ₹10.28 lakh per annum. Some of the top recruiters included Accenture, GE, Genpact, Bajaj Auto, Cognizant Technology Solutions, ICICI Bank, Titan, Vedanta and Wipro. Some of the new companies that visited the campus included RBL Bank, ExxonMobil, Amul, Berger Paints, Cognizant Business Consulting, Cummins, Deloitte and KPMG.

"Besides placements, the institute also supports entrepreneurship among the graduating batch with a two-year placement holiday and a ₹20,000 monthly stipend for students who want to start their own businesses," says Deepanshu Malhotra, a student of the post-graduate batch of 2016.

"More than half of our batch will get international exposure when we graduate through internships overseas and student exchanges. Besides, students here are deeply involved in starting many of the new initiatives on campus including professional, academic, sports, cultural and hobby clubs, which often doesn't even happen at the older IIMs," says Janat Miranda from the class of 2016.

DVR Seshadri, adjunct faculty of marketing at IIM-U and IIM-B, believes that leaders such as Shah can transform the new IIMs. "While it's an error to compare the new institutes with the older ones, the first directors in many cases are getting the freedom to provide dynamic leadership and thus attracting talented young faculty members to their institutes," says Seshadri. He believes that the legacy of many decades can even weigh down the older IIMs, while freedom to innovate can make the new ones more agile.

BTech students.

Attempting to play catch-up with the top flight institutions won't be plain sailing, though. "The problem is not just one of students but also of faculty. There is a severe shortage of strong research-oriented faculty at the IIMs, even the leading ones. And it's even tougher for the newer IIMs on that front. Further, in some of the locations, professors will have difficulties in finding consulting assignments," says Amitava Chattopadhyay, professor of marketing at INSEAD, Singapore, and an IIM-A alumnus.

Raj Nair, founder of Avalon Consulting, an IIT-Bombay and IIM-A alumnus and an active member of the pan-IIM alumni network, agrees that there is an urgent need to create more seats for quality management

ET magazine VIEW

THE CASE FOR MORE IITS AND IIMS

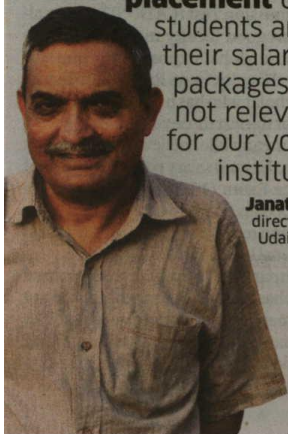
In the 60s, India had just 300 IIT seats. Today we have 9,800. A big increase? Not really. Half a century ago, there were barely 300,000 applicants for those 300 seats. Today that number has gone up to 13 lakh. It's the same story at the IIMs where the acceptance rate is less than 2% of all applicants. There can only be one solution against this dismal backdrop: have many more institutions that offer quality science, technology, engineering, maths and management education. The new IITs and IIMs should be judged for the quality of faculty that they have on board and the facilities that they offer to students both in terms of academics as well as lifestyle rather than the constrictive benchmark of packages that companies offer during their on-campus placements. Globally top colleges and universities have taken even centuries to get where they are and it's unfair to expect the new IITs and IIMs to build sustainable value in less than a decade.

and engineering education in India. But just the "mushrooming" of new IITs & IIMs may not be guarantee of achieving that. "For institutions to deliver education that fits into the IIT and IIM brand name they have to ensure quality, and the best way to ensure that is to elevate established institutions to IITs and IIMs and follow the Roorkee and Varanasi model, rather than set up new ones at obscure locations," he says. IIT-Roorkee has its roots in the Roorkee College, India's first engineering college that was established in 1847; and the three-year-old IIT Varanasi was formerly Banaras Engineering College, founded in 1919.

Catching Up

Industry and recruitment honchos while warming up to the idea of a larger pool of IIT/IIM students to recruit from, are inevitably prone to comparing graduates from the two sets of institutes. "The core quality drivers for older IITs/IIMs were top-notch faculty, infrastructure, a wide industry network, a culture for promoting innovation, and, most importantly, a base of bright and driven students," points out Nikhil Rajpal, partner, strategy practice & education sector leader at consultancy Ernst & Young, India. He adds that the brand name has helped newer IITs and IIMs get a head start, but they will have to cover some ground to replicate performance around some key drivers — specifically attracting top faculty, marquee industry names and top percentile of students. ■

"Judging the new IIMs through the matrix of placement of students and their salary packages is not relevant for our young institute"



Janat Shah, director, IIM-Udaipur

In 2015, top 20% ITI grads will earn more than bottom 20% engineers

Manish Sabharwal, chairman of Teamlease Services and member, NITI Aayog Committee on Entrepreneurship and Skills, has been quietly beavering away at making public policy more tuned to job creation. The recent launch of the National Skill Development Mission, and the singling out of Sabharwal's work by the PM, has thrown the spotlight on the man his good friend and former Aadhaar chairman, Nandan Nilekani, calls a "rock star" because of the way he doggedly pursued job creation reforms. Asha Rai spoke to Sabharwal on why skill training is so important, and the key role states can play in this

FOR THE RECORD

How did you get interested in public policy?

Firstly, a childhood with civil service parents has various gifts but the most important one is a realization early in life that you don't live in an economy but a society. Secondly, being born and brought up in Kashmir means you confront politics and policy with an intensity and immediacy that kids growing up in other parts of India don't face. Finally, I work for a people supply chain company that has hired somebody every 5 minutes for the last 5 years but we have only hired 5% of the kids who came to us for a job. We see two extremes of India's labour market — on one hand, I had a client screaming at me saying that he was so desperate for a pair

of hands that he did not care if a brain came attached. On the other hand we had a job fair in Jaipur where 35,000 kids showed up. I met 800 of them and can guarantee if they lived in Delhi, Mumbai or Bangalore they would have had a job. But they were born in Dausa, Barmer, Jhunjhunu or Ajmer. The last few years have made it clear to me that the two most important decisions a child in India makes are choosing your parents wisely and choosing your pin code wisely. The primary driver of my interest in public policy comes from the realization that fixing the infrastructure of opportunity — India's 3Es of education, employment and employability — can change lives in ways that no subsidy ever can.

Why doesn't vocational training get the kind of attention it deserves since it's central to solving the problem of unemployment in the informal sector which is where a majority of Indians work?

Vocational training all over the world is usually for other people's children and not yours because of social signaling value. But in India we have amplified this problem by poor strategy, execution and accountability. College isn't what it used to be (31% of retail sales clerks in the US, 60% of taxi drivers in Korea and 15% of high-end security guards in India now have a degree) yet our regulatory cholesterol has blunted the connection between higher education and vocational training. Vocational training is a policy orphan because strategy was set by Delhi but delivery systems were in the hand of states. Also there is a mismatch between what is taught and what employers need; we still teach automobile mechanics on a carburetor but no In-

dian car is now made with one. But this is changing; this is the first year when the top 20% of ITI graduates will get more salaries than the bottom 20% of engineers.

The PM recently said India that will emerge as the human resources capital of the world but free labour movement still faces resistance. How do you see this evolving?

The global financial crisis has clearly blunted the openness of advanced countries to immigration but technology could still enable India to emerge as the human resources capital of the world even without physical mobility; so much of even routine work is now information.

You said recently that labour market hasn't changed much since 1991. How do you kick-start job creation in India?

Four labour market variables for India are exactly where they were in 1991...

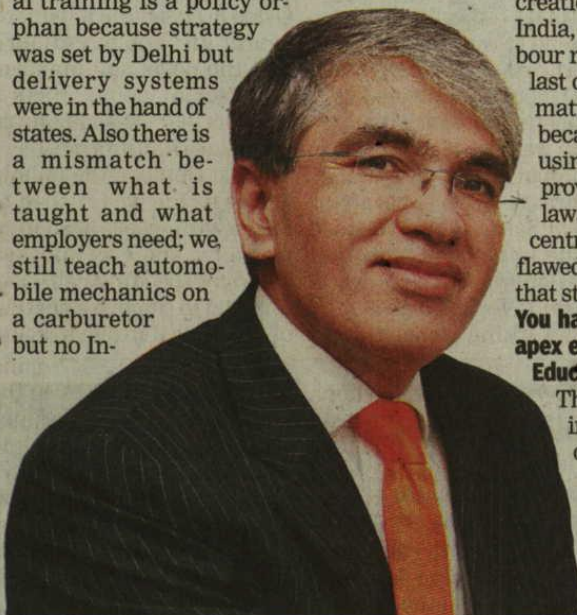
- 50% agricultural employment (only producing 13% of our GDP)
- 50% self-employment (not some overweighted entrepreneurial gene; the poor cannot afford to be unemployed so they are self-employed)
- 11% manufacturing employment (the same level as post-industrial US)
- And 90% informal employment (the slavery of the 21st century).

However, the contours of an integrated job creation agenda are emerging: GST, Make in India, ease-of-doing business, digital India, labour reform and co-operative federalism. The last one may be the most important; 29 CMs matter more for job creation than one PM because labour markets are local. I believe using Section 254 (2) of the Constitution (the provision used by Rajasthan to amend labour laws that allows state legislatures to amend central acts) is a huge innovation given the flawed political narrative since Independence that strong states will lead to a weak nation.

You have also been appointed to the country's apex education body, Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE). What will your role be?

There are many priorities but I'd like to get involved in reviewing the national policy of education, thinking about making the Right to Education Act the Right to Learning Act, and enabling the vocationalization of higher education.

For full interview, log on to www.timesofindia.com



July 27

Times of India ND

27/07/2015 (Focus) p-2



STUDENT WINNERS

IIT Delhi emerged as the winners of the eleventh Enactus India national championship. Ramjas College was the first runner-up while Hans Raj College was the second runner-up. The contest drew 57 student entrepreneurship projects for community outreach from the non-profit's network of over 90 colleges and 3,000 students participated. The winning team will present its project at the Enactus World Cup 2015 to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from October 14-16, 2015.

IIT Ropar is now independent of IIT Delhi's mentoring and administration

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iit-ropar-is-now-independent-of-iit-delhis-mentoring-and-administration/articleshow/48217835.cms>

The cab driver at Chandigarh railway station has not heard of IIT Ropar.

But, when we get there, he recollects having dropped off a bunch of BTech students. "In another year all visitors will remember our state-of-the-art campus, which is coming up 4 km from the temporary campus (in a former women's polytechnic), spread over 500 acres on the banks of the Sutlej," declares IIT-Ropar director Sarit Kumar Das, a professor formerly at IIT-Madras.

That hasn't stopped Das, who arrived at the transit campus to take charge a month ago, from getting to work immediately to change the perception of the newbie IIT, which held its first academic session in 2008-09 from the IIT-Delhi campus.

Moving out of the Delhi campus, however, may prove easier than moving out of the shadows of the famous mentor in the capital. To be sure, for IIT-Ropar, as well as for the other newer IITs, to gain as much prominence as their famous counterparts — Kanpur, Bombay, Madras, Kharagpur, and Delhi — will be a long haul.

That said, there's little doubt on the need for more IITs, not at least in Das' mind.

"The IITs as premier institutions produce leaders not just in engineering but also entrepreneurship, finance and banking, academics and management. So it's ridiculous to say that there are too many IITs being set up; even if all Indian states were to have an IIT, the maximum number of engineers who will graduate from them will be about 10,000 annually," he says. India needs a much bigger engineering workforce — close to three lakh from every graduating batch, adds Das, brushing aside apprehensions of the brand's dilution.

For now Das reckons comparing the new IITs to the premier IITs, which have evolved over decades, is an unrealistic exercise. "In India and overseas, it takes many long years to build world class institutions. So expecting the new IITs to play catch-up in a few years is not feasible."

Das is aware that IIT-Ropar doesn't have an alumni network to tap into.

But he sees a way out. "Punjab has a huge diaspora spread across countries such as the US, UK, Canada and we hope to build an emotional connect with the non-resident people from this state who feel a sense of pride at the IIT label coming to their home state. That's one way to compensate for the lack of powerful alumni networks which the traditional IITs benefit from."

The absence of an alumni network is felt in placements and pay packets. Abhishek Raj Nigam, a student member of the placement and training team, acknowledges the challenge, but points out that they aren't doing too badly vis-a-vis the top tier. "IITRopar is getting good companies coming to campus for recruitment and our average salary packages are comparable to the other new IITs," says the computer science student in IIT-Ropar's graduating batch of 2016.

DP Singh of the training and placement office at IIT-Ropar confirms that the placement season for the class of 2015 has been a good one. "Overall there has been a 73.4 per cent placement for our class of 120 students.

There was a good mix of recruiters including IT companies such as Google, Microsoft, TCS; ecommerce players like Amazon, Flipkart, eBay, Paypal, Zomato; engineering companies like L&T, Mahindra, Tata MotorsBSE -2.75 % and public sector companies as well. Some of our students have also started their own companies," adds Singh. While the best overall package was Rs 28.5 lakh, the average was Rs 11 lakh.

Abhishek Singh (name changed on request) of the mechanical engineering department of the previous batch at IIT-Ropar has joined a leading e-commerce company at an annual package of Rs 11 lakh after being recruited on campus. "Being part of a small class at IIT-Ropar was a huge advantage.

Also in a new campus we got the opportunity of starting new things such as the economics and finance club, of which I was the founder, which students at the older IITs will never get," Singh, who now works in Bengaluru, said.

In 2012, one of IIT-Ropar's BTech students, Anshul Garg, topped the IIM Common Admission Test (CAT). "IIT-Ropar already has good faculty members but we need more global exposure for our students and faculty," says Raghunath Reddy, a PhD scholar who has been working at IITRopar for the last three years.

Das, meanwhile, believes the new IITs should go beyond salary packages and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) percentages. "We have a lot of freedom to choose areas of expertise and excellence, both locally and at the national level," he says.

IIT-Ropar is also in that tricky phase where it has to stand on its own feet and not let the mentorship model stretch too far. "After six years and four batches passing out of the institute, it's time to cut the umbilical cord with IIT-Delhi," asserts Das.

“Punjab has a huge diaspora spread across countries such as the US, UK, Canada and... that’s one way **to compensate for the lack of powerful alumni networks** which the traditional IITs benefit from”

Sarit Kumar Das,
director, IIT-Ropar



ABOUT IIT-ROPAR

One of eight new IITs set up by the ministry of human resources development in 2008

Currently offers 4-year BTech programme in computer science & engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering; classes of 40 students each

New campus spread over 500 acres coming up on the banks of Sutlej

Cost: ₹ **388** crore

Will house: **7 departments**

Will be ready by: **Early 2017**

Prominent recruiters in 2015:
Google, Microsoft, TCS, Amazon, Flipkart, L&T, Mahindra, Tata Motors

Best overall package

₹ **28.5 lakh** pa

Average package: ₹ **11 lakh** pa

PM Modi inaugurates IIT-Patna campus



Patna: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a day-long visit to Bihar, today inaugurated the new IIT campus here. He also launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Gramin Joyti Yojna aimed at power sector reforms in the rural areas.

He also inaugurated Daniyawan-Biharsharief new rail line and construction work of phase-1 of Jagdishpur-Haldia Natural Gas Pipeline here. Besides, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for an incubation centre for medical electronics at IIT-Patna.

IIT-P: An architectural wonder in imported glass

Though construction of only first part of first phase of campus has been completed since its foundation was laid in 2012, it is still enough to overawe anyone

Hindustan Times (Patna)

It is not a glasshouse. But, the glasses that envelope the mammoth buildings in the new and permanent Bihta campus of Indian Institute of Technology, Patna, are a specialty in themselves.

For, besides being aesthetically pleasing, the glasses block ultraviolet rays, a useful quality that goes hand in hand with the structures' 'green building' tag. The glasses have been manufactured by UK-based company Pilkington and imported from outside India, as they are not manufactured here.

"The glasses make the buildings more energy efficient," said an engineer, his voice doing little to hide the pride that comes automatically when one is associated with such an ambitious project.

"The glasses, with its UV-rays blocking capacity are literally 'pleasing to the eyes'," the engineer added.

The glasses are just one of the several things that attract eyeballs in the sprawling 500-acre campus of the institute, which would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 25 via remote from Patna.

While the construction of only the first part of the first phase of the campus has been completed since its foundation laying in 2012, it is still enough to overawe anyone who walks through the front gates.

A tutorial block and three academic blocks are what one sees first upon entering. Three blocks, Block-3, 4 and 6 are complete and ready to host classes for students, as the institute starts its session by this month end. Blocks 3 and 6 are five-storeyed and house the departments of mechanical and electrical engineering and that of civil and environmental, material science, chemical and biochemical streams, respectively. Block 4 is three-storeyed and is dedicated to Physics and Chemistry classes.

The tutorial block, Block-9, is again five-storeyed and houses laboratories. Flanking the corridors are laboratories on one side and the chamber of respective laboratory in-charges on the other.

The administrative block is next as one moves inside the campus. It has two three- storeyed buildings connected via a walk- bridge and houses all the offices, right from that of the director, the registrar to the engineers and others. It also has a senate hall, conference room, placement and training wing

and other administrative units.

The walk from the academic, administrative portion of the campus to its residential area is around 3 km long.

There, four seven- storeyed blocks serve as the boys' hostel. In all, the four blocks have 912

single rooms on its upper floors, with each floor having a pantry, reading room and support systems. The lower floor has a common room, music room, kitchen and dining space. Arrangements for gym equipment have been made in the common room.

Besides the block are courts for volleyball, basketball, table-tennis and others, which would be constructed in the days to come.

The accommodation for girls is not ready yet. So, alternative arrangements have been made in the lower floors of B-Type

staff quarters, situated almost a kilometre away from the boys' hostel. These nine-storeyed staff quarters house 144 3-BHK rooms. The students would be ferried from hostels to the academic blocks via buses.

D-Type staff quarters having 64 2BHK rooms are also situated in the campus, as are the director's bungalow, a hospital and sewage treatment and water treatment plants.

Such a big campus, with its computer centres, its server rooms, its classrooms, its hostels and its offices needs electricity to function round the clock. This problem has been solved with the installation of a 33kV main receiving sub-station and two 11kv distribution substations.

“While power would be uninterrupted, a hi-quality genset is also in place to ensure power to all essential services during a blackout. These essential services include the servers and computer centres, a few laboratories and the street lights,” said an engineer at the campus.

The activity of labourers, engineers and construction supervisors can be seen throughout the day. It is more prominent now, as the institute inches towards inauguration. The engineers get endless calls on their mobile phones, shouting instructions or politely assuring whoever is on the other side, that ‘all is well.’

“This is perhaps the only new IIT, which has its own campus. While there were some hiccups along the way, we managed to complete it in good time,” say the engineers.

The rays from the setting sun bounce off the glasses. The scene is picturesque. And, amidst all the sounds of mobile ringtones, there is a calm that envelopes the campus as it waits for its inauguration.

CU signs MoU with five US varsities

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

SAS NAGAR: Chandigarh University, Gharuan, has joined hands with five universities - Arkansas State University, State University of New York, Albany, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, University of Illinois, Chicago and Louisiana State University - from the USA to provide international exposure to its students. On an invitation, RS Bawa, vice-chancellor, CU, is currently visiting these universities. The MoU has been signed to benefit students through sharing of faculty and knowledge in various technology areas. Under the programme, students of engineering, business management, hotel management, bio-technology, animation and pharma sciences from these USA universities could choose the CU for their studies.

Times of India ND 27/07/2015 P-13

Floating forever: Now 'windbot' mission to Jupiter?

Washington: Nasa is investigating the feasibility of creating a windbot, a robotic probe designed to stay aloft in a planet's atmosphere for a long time, to explore gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn.

Engineers at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, are looking into the possibility. The one-year, USD 100,000 study, funded by Nasa's Innovative Advanced Concepts programme, will probe how future spacecraft of this kind could stay



EXPLORING THE ATMOSPHERE

airborne and harvest energy.

Unlike Moon and Mars, which have already been explored by robotic rovers, gas giant planets like Jupiter and Saturn have no solid surface for a probe to land on. In 1995, Nasa's Galileo spacecraft dropped off an atmospheric probe that descended into Jupiter under a parachute. The battery-powered probe survived only about an hour before succumbing to high heat and pressure.

In contrast, a windbot could have rotors on several sides of its

body that could spin independently to change direction or create lift, much like a dandelion seed, said Adrian Stoica, principal investigator of study at JPL. "A dandelion seed is great at staying airborne. It rotates as it falls, creating lift, which allows it to stay afloat for long time, carried by the wind," Stoica said.

The team suspects that the best bet for an atmospheric robot to harvest energy is turbulence-wind that's frequently changing direction and intensity. PTI

BUILDING BLOCKS Five-year dual-degree course by IIT-Madras aims to ingrain basic engineering concepts much beyond the duration of course

Engineering a New Class

Krithika.Krishnamurthy
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Despite the many engineering colleges that India boasts of, talented engineers who can really build things are a scarce commodity. But a five-year dual-degree course introduced by IIT-Madras is slowly changing and challenging the status quo. Called Engineering Design, the course aims to ingrain basic engineering concepts much beyond the duration of the course. As a result of this decade-long experiment, the graduates are making successful forays into difficult areas like biomedicine, automobiles and medical technology.

"We wanted to bring engineering close to practice. Traditionally, there is a lot more theory than domain knowledge, that's not always good," said R Krishna Kumar, professor, department of engineering design at IIT-Madras.

Kumar said over the past few years, he has seen several graduates in a batch opting to set up their own ventures. For instance, there is Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain of Ather Energy, who took a leap to build India's first smart electric scooter. Alumni Chinmay Deodhar is building minimally invasive surgical tools, while Kartik Mehta is building the country's first sanitary napkin making machine. For a country that has seen a large number of startups in the software space, IIT-Madras is filling a crucial gap by training students with skill sets required to build hardware products. But more importantly, the course is allowing engineers to think beyond the obvious, potentially serving as a blueprint for other colleges. "By the time we started Ather, we just knew where to look for what. We had built vehicles several times over from scratch," said Tarun Mehta, CEO of Ather, whose firm raised ₹75 crore from Tiger Global recently. When the department opened shop for applications in 2005, Chinmay Deodhar's well wishers advised him against opting for it.

"But the curriculum design was too good to refuse," said the 28-year-old Deodhar. And for a valid reason: besides concepts of mechanical and electronics engineering, the course included a smattering of a foreign language and legal know-how. More importantly, they were also taught to appreciate various forms of art: from clay modeling, to studying prehistoric, Egyptian and Islamic art, among others. The decision probably served Deodhar well, as he now heads Croleon Innovation Labs, which is building tools to perform minimally invasive surgeries. The three-year-old firm's latest product is expected to reduce the incision size in surgeries to half a millimeter from 5 mm. While several IITs in India have a design course in their curriculum, few colleges have set up a separate department, IIT-Guwahati being one of them.

Since students are required to come up with a project every year for five years, there is a very large component of hands on learning.

Balaji Teegala recalled his course on Vehicle Dynamics, which he expected would have a lot of mathe-

matical modeling to deal within the four walls of the classroom. Instead, the professor put a car in front of them, attached with simulators, allowing them to experiment with different controls to understand what effect it had on dynamics.

"Most of the work revolved around thinking about and coming up with new innovative things. As a student, I always thought, what is it that will create a wow-factor?" said Teegala, who is developing an electronic labour monitoring tool for expecting mothers as cofounder of Brun Healthcare. Buoyed by the success, Krishna Kumar has decided to flip around the entire model of the course: Practicals first, to spark curiosity, followed by theory.

"Instead of teaching them machine tools, we allow them to play and experiment with it. So, the next time they read, they will not lose interest," said Krishna Kumar. The course has also been able to arrest the brain drain to a certain extent as well.

"The best part is, almost everyone of us have stayed back in India. Very few have gone out of the country to study or work," said Deodhar.

Designed to Be Big

Companies that have come out of IIT-Madras' Engineering Design Course

- **ATHER ENERGY** - Makes smart electric bike
- **BRUN HEALTHCARE** - Makes labour monitoring tool for expecting mothers
- **EMBRYO TECHNOLOGIES** - Makes medical devices
- **CROLEON INNOVATION LABS** - Makes minimally invasive surgical tools
- **SARAL DESIGNS** - Makes manufacturing machines for sanitary pads



Instead of teaching them machine tools, we allow them to play and experiment with it. So, the next time they read, they will not lose interest

R KRISHNA KUMAR, Professor, Dept of Engineering Design, IIT-Madras

Economic Times ND 27/07/2015 P-15

Maharashtra's First IIM Unveiled in Nagpur

The new IIM will start its first batch with 60 students from a temporary campus in Visvesvaraya NIT this week

Anumeha.Chaturvedi@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: First of the six new Indian Institutes of Management that the Narendra Modi government proposed last year was inaugurated by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur on Sunday.

It is Maharashtra's first IIM and is being mentored by IIM Ahmedabad. It will start its first batch with 60 students from a temporary campus in Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology this week.

"It's a day when I can say that the dreams have come true, not just for me, but also for the people of Maharashtra," Fadnavis said at the launch. "I must thank professor (Ashish) Nanda and IIM-A to agreeing to mentor IIM Nagpur. The need of the hour is to create human resources and to do that, we need great institutions," he said.

Nanda, director at IIM Ahmedabad, said the institute had volunteered to mentor the IIM to be set up in Maharashtra when the government proposed six new IIMs.

"We wanted to take the learning and wisdom from IIM Ahmedabad, and implement some of the best practices of global business schools, but also wanted IIM Nagpur to evolve in its own unique way and develop its own identity in the field of management education," he told ET.

As many as 1,857 students who cleared CAT and met the cut off had expressed in-



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis with Prof Ashish Nanda, Director of IIM-A, during the inauguration of IIM Nagpur on Sunday. — PTI PHOTO

terest in studying at IIM Nagpur considering the opportunity to be mentored by the faculty members of India's top business school. Out of those 60 were selected.

The other new IIMs will come up in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh), Sambalpur (Odisha) and Amritsar (Punjab).

Nanda said that while the location and infrastructure, which he referred to as 'hardware', was the easy part, putting together the 'software', or course content and curriculum, and student body was also important.

He said the innovations could be grouped in two categories: "bringing students in closer touch with the industry, with more field based courses, and greater learning from the industry; and (offering) courses which were on the interface of traditional course offerings".

IIM Ahmedabad got its dean, pro-

grammes, Ajay Pandey, to take the overall leadership for IIM Nagpur, while its professors Chetan Soman and Pradyumana Khokle led the course design and offerings.

The course content at IIM Nagpur will focus greatly on field immersion and industry projects.

"There's a greater focus on field exposure in the programme — not just in business, but in environment, agriculture, government and social infrastructure projects — accounting for a duration of two and a half months," said Khokle.

"Managerial approach can't come in standard functional areas. The courses are meant to enable decision making in a cross functional manner and people from different functional areas will come and teach these subjects," he said.

IIM Nagpur will have core courses in pricing, economic boundaries of the firm, decision making and new age organisations. At the end of the first term itself, students will work for two weeks on field immersion on both private and government and not for profit projects. This is different from the usual MBA programmes in which students go for industry training after trimester three.

There is another immersion programme of two and a half weeks in the second term, and the students can interchange sectors among themselves. Field immersion would count for 25% of total assessments in the new MBA programme at IIM Nagpur.

"Our commitment is for two to three years. We have a group of 7-8 competent faculty members. The advantage is that we were not just looking at full time faculty members," said Khokle. Khokle and Soman met various faculty members and identified those interested in teaching in the early cohorts, and several teachers expressed interest.

Tribune ND 27/07/2015 p-3

IIM Amritsar's temporary campus misses deadline

Officials claim classes will begin from August 5

GS PAUL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JULY 26

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) would not be able to kickstart its temporary operations from here tomorrow, as was officially announced.

The work to raise the requisite infrastructure could not be finished and the campus may take another week to be ready for classes. Officials said the work would be completed by August 4 and the classes would commence soon after.

The campus is housed in a portion of the building of the Punjab Institute of Technology at the Government Polytechnic compound. Faculty of its mentor institute (IIM, Kozhikode) would take classes till the time Amritsar's faculty is appointed.

The PWD has been roped



Work in progress at IIM Amritsar's temporary campus in Amritsar.

in to upgrade the classrooms and the work is underway on fast pace.

Sources said networking cables had been laid and final preparations were being made so that there should be no room for any error. Preparations are underway to prepare digitised classrooms, activity rooms, faculty rooms, air

conditioning, wooden partitioning of large halls and e-library.

JS Sodhi, SDO, PWD, said except for some civil works, the major work had been done. "Except for the wooden partitions and some flooring, everything has been done. The campus will be ready by August 4," he said.

Times of India ND
27/07/2015 P-2

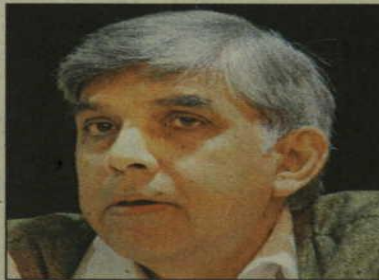
Stop making all appointments, govt tells DU VC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With three months left for Delhi University vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh to complete his term, the ministry of human resource development has asked him to stop making any appointments.

The chances of his removal are caught in the wrangling within the government.

"A few Cabinet ministers are opposed to removing him when barely a few months of



Three months are left for DU VC Dinesh Singh to complete his term. The HRD ministry's missive is part of the government's standard procedure. All VCs and directors of institutes are told three months before the end of their term not to make appointments

his term are left," a source said, adding, "HRD ministry's recommendation of removal has been sent for legal vetting and a clearer picture will emerge in the next few days."

The ministry's missive to stop appointments is part of the government's standard procedure.

All vice-chancellors and directors of institutes are told three months before the end of their term not to make appointments. "Any appointment done after July 27 would be considered illegal," the

source said, adding this includes appointment of university officials or faculty members in university departments or colleges.

In the last few months, DU has been on an appointment overdrive. "Appointments were made in the Departments of Adult and Continuing Education over July 15-16. But since July 20, there have been appointments in Hindi, English, political science and history. And in every case, loyalty was the only qualification," a Delhi University teacher said.

The process for appointing non-teaching staff has also been on. The interview for the post of controller of examinations was scheduled for July 25 but was cancelled. The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) had asked the President to put a stop to this "unseemly scramble" and also questioned the credentials and suitability of a top contender for the controller's post.

This is not the only candidate they have raised questions about—allegations of corruption and plagiarism are flying thick and fast. The recruitment process is also on in colleges.

"DUTA fails to understand why these positions that have been lying vacant for years must now be filled up in a matter of days by violating all procedures and norms such as notice period to candidates and proper screening of their antecedents and qualifications," a statement from DUTA president Nandita Narain said.

"DUTA condemns the unethical hurry displayed by the team of the current vice-chancellor, himself under visitorial enquiry and show cause notice for serious irregularities and scams, to fill up top administrative and academic posts just days before the official deadline," Narain added.

IIMs change CAT format to boost diversity

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
prashant.n@livermint.com

The Common Admission Test (CAT) required for admission to India's top business schools will add descriptive questions in 2015 to address criticism that the existing multiple-choice format favours those from an engineering background.

The introduction of the descriptive question pattern is among several other changes in the CAT announced on Sunday by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, which will conduct the exams this year. CAT 2015 will be conducted in two sessions on 29 November. While the standardised test will still have a total of 100 questions like the one conducted last year, all questions will not be of multiple-choice type.

"Some questions in each section may not be of multiple-choice type. Instead, direct answers are to be typed on the screen," Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, convener of CAT-2015, said on the official website of the CAT.

In addition, this year, the CAT exam will have three sections—

TURN TO PAGE 2 ▶

IIMs change CAT format to boost diversity

▶ FROM PAGE 1

quantitative aptitude (QA), data interpretation and logical reasoning (DILR), and verbal and reading comprehension (VRC) instead of just two sections—quantitative ability and data interpretation, and verbal ability and logical reasoning—last year. Reading comprehension has been added this year and will have a bearing on the final score of candidates.

The changes are likely to give non-engineers a better chance at cracking the exams for admission to the IIMs, where 75-90% of students are traditionally from the engineering background. The IIMs have been speaking about increasing diversity among students to improve the learning environment in the campuses. With two leading IIMs—Ahmedabad and Bangalore—hiring directors from outside India, such a change was

expected to happen as diversity is an important consideration in the world's top business schools. Both IIM-Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda and IIM-Bangalore director Sushil Vachani in two separate interviews earlier this year had indicated that they are for diversity in IIM campuses.

"For several years, the common complaint was CAT favours engineers; now, we hope it will bring more rationality. The change in format and introduction of descriptive questions may bring in two types of diversity—gender and background," said P. Rameshan, director of IIM-Rohtak.

In the current year, the duration of the CAT exam has also been increased to 180 minutes from 170 minutes last year. Last year, the IIMs had increased the test time from 140 minutes to 170 minutes. Each of the segments will have a stipulated time

KEY CHANGES

- Introduction of descriptive questions
- One-day exam
- Test duration increased by 10 minutes to 180 minutes
- Three sections in question paper instead of two last year
- Students cannot switch between sections while answering questions
- More test cities and more test centres for CAT 2015



limit and candidates will not be allowed to shift from one segment to another. "Candidates will be allotted exactly 60 minutes for answering questions in each section and they cannot switch from one section to

another while answering questions in a section," IIM-Ahmedabad said on the CAT website. Last year, there was no such restriction.

Like last year, CAT applicants will need to answer 100 ques-

tions, but instead of two sections of 50 questions each, this time, QA and VRC will have 34 questions each, and DILR will have 32 questions.

Harivansh Chaturvedi, director of the Birla Institute of Man-

agement and Technology (BIMTECH) in Greater Noida, said the changes will also help in screening better students from all backgrounds. "Employers have been complaining for the last five years that only engineering-background passouts from B-schools are an impediment to creating well-rounded managers. The shift from quantitative heavy exam to a balanced entrance will benefit employers, too," Chaturvedi said. Other than the IIMs, the CAT score is also accepted by leading private B-schools such as BIMTECH.

In 2015, the IIMs are also allowing students to give the preference of four cities in which they would like to take the test instead of three choices given in 2014. This year, the entrance will be conducted in 650 centres in 136 cities. In 2014, it was conducted in 99 cities comprising 354 test centres. The test is scheduled for 29 November and results will be announced in the second week of January. Nineteen IIMs and scores of other business schools screen students based on their CAT score.

HT.COM ND 27.07.15 P-6

Who is checking that foreign degree?

ANYONE WATCHING? Indian and foreign joint educational courses are being launched without the approval of the UGC, despite a regulation to control growth of foreign institutions in India

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

Hundreds of educational degrees are being offered in India through collaborations between Indian and foreign institutes, but despite regulations which give it the mandate to approve each course, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has not received a single request for clearance of programme.

Despite the existence of "the University Grants Commission (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations 2012", which was notified in the gazette on September 21, 2013 to control the unchecked growth and variant mode of operations of foreign educational institutions in India, the UGC has so far not been able to perform its regulatory role.

Speaking to this correspondent, a senior UGC official admitted that, till date, not a single foreign education provider had approached UGC for its permission to collaborate with Indian educational institutions for awarding general degree courses.

"Regulations 2012, which are still in operation to regulate general degree and post degree courses, define what foreign educational institutions mean and who can award degrees etc. These also set the eligibility criteria and conditions for collaboration for foreign universities so that the interests of the students are not compromised. One of the provisions of Regulations 2012 makes it mandatory for a foreign educational institution to provide

Institutes should be encouraged to collaborate with foreign universities and there should be minimum regulation to control them. I want some regulations also so that in case an institution is cheating a student, the authority can take action

G VISWANATHAN, founder and chancellor, VIT University

UGC with each and every detail of its MoU/collaboration with Indian educational institutes and secure UGC's approval to start a degree programme. About a hundred international institutes are offering general degree courses in India but till today no one has approached us for approvals," says the UGC official.

There are a number of international institutes which have tie-ups with Indian educational institutes to offer degree courses. Three types of degrees are awarded through such collaborations. One degree does not mention the name of the foreign counterpart on the certificate. For instance, BML Munjal University (BMLMU) and the highly regarded Imperial College of London have collaborated for degree courses. A spokesperson from BMLMU, clarifying the university's position on the collaboration, says, "Imperial College London is the academic mentor of BMLMU. It is actively involved



Till date, not a single foreign education provider has approached UGC for permission to collaborate with Indian educational institutions, according to a senior UGC official. ISTOCK

in a wide spectrum of activities such as curriculum design, content development, student exchanges, joint research activities, digital learning platforms, faculty training, and setting up joint research centres."

Will the collaboration be considered invalid because of violation of Regulation 2012 as Imperial College hasn't taken UGC approval for the same? The BMLMU spokesperson says that submissions for approval have been made to UGC.

However, the UGC official says, "Technically speaking, UGC can question the validity of the degrees because the MoU between Imperial College of London and BMLMU violates Regulation 2012 and doesn't have

UGC's approval. Such degrees are, however, easily acceptable for higher education or jobs because there is no mention of a foreign collaborator on the degree certificate which makes it a normal degree of the university."

Some foreign institutes are offering degrees in their name to students of Indian institutes they have collaborated with. GD Goenka World Institute has a tie-up with Lancaster University through which the former, while aggressively marketing its degree courses, claims to be awarding a Lancaster degree in India.

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) which issues equivalence certificates to students who have studied in institutes abroad cannot issue certificates for degrees for the collaborations mentioned above as per present policies, says Prof Furqan Qamar, secretary general, AIU. The reasons are: (a) GD Goenka World Institute isn't a university and does not have any affiliation from any university; (b) It doesn't have NAAC accreditation and (c) for the degree to be valid, the students should appear and pass examinations conducted on the campus of the foreign university in its home country.

Then there are the joint degrees issued by the Indian institute and its foreign counterpart, such as the one granted by Pearl Academy and Nottingham Trent University Regulation 2012

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY UGC IN REGULATIONS 2012

- While Regulations 2012 require Indian educational institutions to be accredited by NAAC with 'B' (grade) or its equivalent, the proposed amendment by UGC suggests accreditation by NAAC with 'A' or its equivalent
- While Regulations 2012 require degrees to be awarded by an Indian educational institution or a foreign educational institution in its home country, the proposed amendment says that degrees can only be awarded by an

Indian educational institution

While 2012 regulations say that collaboration is envisaged for the purpose of twinning programmes for Indian education institution is a mandatory requirement. However the proposed amendment says that Indian educational institutions will have to obtain the desired accreditation in six years from date of start of course



has no provisions for a joint degree. Given the number of collaborations between Indian and foreign institutes, are the UGC regulations necessary? G Viswanathan, founder and chancellor, VIT University, says, "I personally think that institutes should be encouraged to collaborate with foreign universities and there should be minimum regulation to control them. I want some regulations also so that in case an institution is cheating a student, the government authority can take action. Instead of regulatory authorities, I propose to have

accreditation agencies like the ones that exist in the US."

A lot of academicians are also of the view that UGC must stand up against foreign institutes operating illegally in India. Prof AK Bakshi, former executive director of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), Mauritius, says, "The UGC has the statutory responsibility to ensure compliance with its Act and Regulations. Such illegal collaborations cannot be allowed."

Everyone turning a blind eye to the issue has encouraged such collaborations," Prof MM Ansari, member, UGC, said.

CERTIFICATES NOT VALID IN COUNTRIES ABROAD

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

Degrees, offered by non-accredited institutes in India in collaboration with foreign universities are not valid in India. However, if you thought such degrees to be valid in reputed institutes abroad, you are mistaken.

The copy of a joint degree offered by Pearl Academy and Nottingham Trent University, forwarded to the United States-India Educational Foundation, elicited the following response from Renuka Raja Rao, country coordinator, EducationUSA advising services: "US universities accept applications from international students who have the prerequisite education from accredited institutions in their home countries. Since Pearl Academy does not meet this requirement, students from there may not be considered at accredited American institutions."

However, Pearl Academy claims that its students have already studied in universities like Academy of Art University, San Francisco, USA, Boston University, Central Saint Martins, UK, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London and Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles, USA. After HT Education had published an article on July 1 about how foreign degrees issued on Indian soil were not valid in India, institutes have begun to convince students about the international validity of these degrees.