

Newspaper Clips

July 8, 2014

Business Line, ND 08/07/2014 P-19

IIT-Madras urged to offer cheap power solutions

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, July 7

IIT Madras should concentrate on applied science and research, and projects that could benefit Tamil Nadu and the country at large, according to Mohan Varghese Chunkath, Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary.

The Institute had always emphasised on pure science, but there is need to work on applied science.

Projects on providing quality water and cost effective desalination projects could be great importance to the State, he said.

Chunkath said Tamil Nadu, along with Rajasthan and Gujarat, has abundant solar energy which should be harnessed to the full. Here again, the IIT Madras can help the State by developing cost effective solutions for water heating and power generation to be used in refrigeration and air-conditioning. "I have not seen work in this area," he said.

Solar thermal can be used in areas like food storage, cold chain and fish loading centres.

Countries like Germany, Turkey and Australia have tried this successfully. India has a tropical climate and looking at solutions for air-conditioning and refrigeration using solar energy, he said.

Chunkath was addressing the inaugural of an executive education programme on project management for government officials handling large infrastructure projects. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board has partnered with the IIT-Madras for the programme.

S Krishnan, CEO, TNIDB, said as per the Vision 2023 document, 217 significant infrastructure projects are to be implemented across the State.

These are complex engineering projects that will need to be implemented in fast-track mode, to high levels of quality and will therefore pose significant project management challenges. The TNIDB is committed to developing capacity within government departments to successfully manage such complex projects, he said.

UGC to be revamped, says Smriti

New national education policy also on cards

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The government is contemplating setting up a high-level committee of experts which will suggest measures to carry out a "comprehensive" overhaul of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

"The commission will be restructured and revamped not only to strengthen the regulatory framework but also to improve access, quality and employability as well as promote equity in the higher education sector," HRD Minister Smriti Irani said in reply to a written question in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Replying to another question, the minister also reiterated the government's plan to formulate a new national policy on education to meet the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in educational institutions.

Citing reasons for bringing a new policy on education, Irani said a "monumental change" was being witnessed in the education sector with the emergence of several "new para-

digms" in the last 20 years.

Though a national policy on education, which was formulated in 1986 and later amended in 1992, had been a "guiding document" for the central government so far, a new policy was needed to meet new challenges in view of the change in global scenario, she suggested. "In the last 20 years, the education scenario has seen a monumental change with the emergence of several new paradigms like rights based approach to elementary education, the endeavour to extend universalisation to secondary education," the minister noted.

She also highlighted the need to "reshape the higher education scenario" and its impact on the innovation environment as well as providing an "impetus" to skill development through vocational education keeping in mind the emergence of new technologies. "The government proposes to formulate a new education policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in our educational institutions," Irani said.

INDIA'S GOT TECH TALENT: SURVEY

HT ShineJobs Correspondent

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As per a study by LinkedIn, a well-known online professional network, the top four cities drawing tech talent are from India: Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai. The group analysed its 300 million member profiles across the world to understand which economies are attracting technology talent.

The technology industry is one of the primary growth engines of the economy and with rapid growth there is a demand for skilled workers to fill the increasing number of positions open at various companies within the sector. Governments around the world, including India, are investing in ways that attract technology talent to their cities.

The three most popular categories of skills among the surveyed members were IT infrastructure and systems management, Java development and web programming. For the 52 cities that LinkedIn analysed, the median percentage of new residents with tech skills was 16%, or just under one in six. Several Indian cities were clocking in more than double of that figure. This is indicative of several trends. More people are moving to big cities than ever before, and the Indian technology sector is experiencing explosive growth. Moreover, India's startup scene has evolved a great deal over the last two years, following the global trends in cloud, mobile and digital startups.

Additionally, and maybe not surprising, nearly one out of every three new residents who moved to San Francisco in 2013 had technology skills. Yet, San Francisco isn't the only city experiencing a tech boom. "The incredible opportunity that India can provide to economies around the world is evident from the fact that half of the top 10 global cities with technical skills are from India," says Nishant Rao, country manager, LinkedIn India.

B.Tech course without regulator's approval, leads to confusion

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission may have officially allowed the four-year-B.Tech programme in Delhi University to continue only for the batch that was started last year, but at the ground level confusion and uncertainty continues to prevail among the students, especially in the absence of a required approval from the regulator.

Even while allowing the B.Tech course to continue after the rollback of the four-year-undergraduate programme (FYUP), the UGC had clearly mentioned that the necessary approval should be sought from the regulator.

But no approval was sought

from the All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) before starting the course or anytime later. The last date for submitting applications for approvals for this year closed last week.

More than 3,000 students are registered for the 5 B.Tech courses in nearly 30 colleges of Delhi. "None of the colleges have approached me for the required

approval," AICTE chairman S S Mantha told HT.

"Since the course is already running and the students have already completed their first year, it has to be a post facto approval if it is required. So the same can be taken next year if AICTE has already closed its approval process for this year. But we have to ascertain from the UGC whether an approval is really required or

not," said Dr S K Garg, principal DDU college and president of DU Principal's Association.

"There has to be a solution for the students. The approval should not be college-wise but university-wise. I am really upset the students have been left in the lurch without any proper solution so far. We should all work together for the benefit of the students," says the principal of a college.

Some principals maintained that when the course was started, they were told that an approval was not required as the university was competent to start its own courses. They, however, said all the modalities were being assessed and the new curriculum was being drafted.

Ansh Goyal, a B.Tech student,

said, "The four foundation courses that have not been covered have to be scrapped. So far we have not got any news about the revised curriculum. Only the first batch is allowed to continue with the course. Ideally it should have continued with the new batch also. This would have added weight to our degree and market employability."

"This has caused us a lot of anxiety. An approval from AICTE also means that the course curriculum has to be changed and some colleges which do not have the requisite infrastructure will have to work in this direction," said a student.

The same confusion prevails for the students of Bachelors of Management Studies (BMS).

NONE OF THE COLLEGES HAVE APPROACHED ME FOR THE REQUIRED APPROVAL. SINCE THE COURSE IS ALREADY RUNNING, IT HAS TO BE A POST FACTO APPROVAL IF IT IS REQUIRED

S S MANTHA, AICTE chairman

Times of India, ND 08/07/2014

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First FYUP batch in dark over course

Manash Pratim Gohain & Shreya Roy Chowdhury/TNN

New Delhi: There is an entire batch of students that's carrying the baggage of the four-year-undergraduate programme (FYUP) and will do so for another two years. Classes for the new academic session are set to start in two weeks but the university administration seems in no hurry to come to its help. Its silence over convening of the academic council for initiating structural changes has once again forced the students and teachers to the path of agitation. The UGC has now convened a meeting of the standing committee on Tuesday to discuss the issue.

With the rollback of FYUP – and as directed by UGC – the first batch of students under that programme is to be mi-

grated to the three-year structure and offered degrees on successful completion of three years. This process now requires statutory approvals – from AC, committee of courses and finally EC. After waiting for a week, 12 members of the AC have submitted a requisition for a meeting of the AC.

Vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh had announced the rollback of FYUP on June 27 and next day convened the AC and EC to ratify the same and to restore the three-year programme. However, 10 days later, the administration has not made any move towards changing the structure. The VC ought to have started the process of course restructuring at once through AC, EC, faculties and committees of courses of the departments in order to ensure that it is com-

CHANGING THE SYSTEM

- ▶ DU administration must convene meetings of academic council and executive council to pass proposed changes in structure for FYUP batch. 12 members of academic council have requested a meeting
- ▶ Courses will have to be restructured for second and third years of FYUP batch
- ▶ Colleges will have to compute workload distribution among teachers and prepare new timetables
- ▶ Issues related to optional papers and concurrent courses need to be resolved
- ▶ UGC has asked colleges offering BTech courses to seek AICTE approval

pleted before commencement of the academic session on July 21.

Demanding immediate steps from the DU administration, Nandita Narain, president, DUTA, said: "The task should have been initiated on June 21 itself following the UGC's order stating that FYUP was at variance with the na-

tional policy." DUTA is now demanding assignment of teaching work to teachers, timely appointment of teachers and preparation of a time-table so that teaching can start on commencement of the academic session.

J Khuntia, chairman, Academics for Action and Development (AAD, Rath) said:

"The syllabi for the second year students under the erstwhile FYUP should have come by now as the students are eager to know the kind of adjustments that have been made to accommodate them inside the coming two academic sessions. They The university cannot remain silent on this most important issue involving the future of nearly 54,000 students who were illegally enrolled in FYUP last year. It is time that the university administration behaves responsibly. Otherwise, DUTA will be forced to agitate."

Even in the case of BTech and bachelor in management studies courses, where clear guidelines from the UGC were issued on June 29 and 30, respectively, DU has so far made no move to safeguard the careers of these students.

Navodaya Times ND 08/07/2014
P-7

आई.आई.टी. के लिए सैकेंड लिस्ट जारी

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के लिए एडमिशन कैंसिल करने की
व्यवस्था फ्री की है।

750 seats allotted in round two of IIT admissions

- 8 Jul 2014 Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: The second round of seat allocation for Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT's) saw 750 students being offered admission to the coveted institutes. The list was declared on Monday morning.

Around 650 seats saw no takers after the first allocation round, the last date to confirm admission for which was July 6. According to MK Panigrahi, chairman of the JEE Advanced, the total number of seats across each IIT is yet to be compiled.

Also, an additional 23 seats have been offered in the second round, which was not offered in round one. "These are some seats that come under the physical disability and other quotas that were not included in round one. Computer Science still remains to be the popular choice," he said.

In the first round 9,711 seats were offered, out of which, 9,061 were accepted. The remaining vacant seats after the first round, however has the institutes worried. Last year too, close to 200 seats across the institutes remained vacant after all rounds of seats allocations. The falling interest in IITs has been attributed to the top 20 percentile criteria set by the IITs for admission eligibility.

This year, Andhra Board's top 20 percentile list closed at a whopping 93% while many other boards closed at much lower percentages, creating an uneven pattern.



Students have till July 10 to accept the admissions offered in the second round and pay the fees. The third round of seat allocation will be declared on July 12.

The first choice: Why IIT Bombay is the first choice for many

— By Vinita Bajari, July 07, 2014 12:52 am

<http://freepressjournal.in/the-first-choice/>



There's something about IIT Bombay. It's proven by the fact that year after year, a majority of the JEE toppers opts for it. **Vinita Bajari** finds out why the institute is so loved.

Like every year, most of the JEE-Advanced top rankers have opted for IIT Bombay (IIT-B) as their first choice. Apart from the subject combinations, there is something about the coveted institute that it attracts so many students. So what makes the institute a favourite?

“There is a magnetism about IIT-B that I cannot explain. I don't say that it does not exist in the other IITs, but the pull of IIT-B is much stronger,” Nishit Agrawal, who has studied electrical engineering there is known to have said.

For years now, the media has projected IIT-B as the Mecca of technical education in India, and justifiably so. Year after year, the institute has consistently produced sharp minds. “That, however, is not the reason why students choose IIT-B,” says alumnus Shailesh Dave. The first and the most popular reason why people choose IIT-B, is for what everyone might term ‘having a life’ or even a ‘lifestyle’! “When I was making my choice, I went by what I had heard from others. Many told me that life at IIT-B is fantastic. And after spending four years on the campus, I couldn't agree more. In fact, when I was looking for admission, I was willing to take up any branch as long as I got IIT Bombay. My preference was electrical engineering but I got only civil so I made the choice of institute over branch.”

Lokesh Padhye, Assistant Professor at IIT Bombay, feels that from the student's perspective, this established institute has a great deal to offer. “The disposition here is different. Students want the IIT-B experience, and of course, you remain an IIT-B alum for life!” In addition, students want to opt for the brand value during placements, and even after.

Brand value aside, the one common opinion is about the experience one gathers by being part of an institution like the IIT. “Hostel life and the class experiences are the same, no matter which IIT you choose,” says Dave. Another IITian, Sohit Gupta, who completed his BTech in electrical engineering from IIT Bombay adds, “Going through such an institute and the sheer brilliance of the people you meet there, adds to your own intellect. And if you follow their progress after getting out, you feel proud to be associated with such ‘geniuses’.”

The extra-curricular life here is unparalleled, and it shows in the institute's popularity. Bijoy Kochar, second ranker at the JEE in 2012 hailed from Mohali, which is closer to IIT-Delhi, but decided to take admission in Mumbai because “everybody had good things to say about it”. This of course has something to do with the contours of the campus, with hills, lakes and all the greenery, which influences many choices.

Financial Chronicle, ND 08/07/2014 P-10

IIT-M to train TN govt officials

The TN Infrastructure Development Board on Monday inked a pact with premier educational institute IIT-Madras for executive education programme for its senior government officials.

Dainik Bhasker, ND 08/07/2014 P-6

मां मजदूर-पिता विकलांग, बेटा पहुंचा आईआईटी

राघवेंद्र चतुर्वेदी | उमरिया

दाएं हाथ से विकलांग पिता और घर निर्माण में मजदूरी करने वाली आदिवासी मां का बेटा देश के चुनिंदा उन होनहारों में शामिल हो गया है जिसे देश का टॉप इंजीनियर कॉलेज माना जाता है। उसे आईआईटी रुड़की में दाखिला मिला है।

बेटे सोनेलाल कोल ने आईआईटी परीक्षा में अपनी कैटेगरी में देश में 175वीं रैंकिंग प्राप्त की है। शहडोल जिले के धनपुरी के समीप बंडीखुर्द में रहने वाले सोनेलाल के माता-पिता को इस बात का अहसास भी नहीं है कि

उनके बेटे ने क्या कमाल किया है। मजदूरी कार्य में लगी सोनेलाल की मां कमलाबाई बस इतना ही कहती हैं 'बेटा नौकरी करेगा तो हमें मजदूरी नहीं करनी पड़ेगी। सोनेलाल के विकलांग पिता हीरालाल बेटे की सफलता को भले ही अल्फाज ने दे पाएं लेकिन आंखों से झलकती उनकी खुशी सब बयां कर देती है। शहडोल कलेक्टर अशोक भार्गव का कहना है कि सोनेलाल की सफलता शहडोल संभाग के लिए गौरव की बात है। उसे पढ़ाई के लिए राज्य कोष से राशि दिलाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।



Chitradurga synchrotron is down, but not out: IISc.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/chitradurga-synchrotron-is-down-but-not-out-iisc/article6184778.ece>

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) on Sunday dismissed reports that its plans for the multi-crore ‘synchrotron’ — gigantic high-energy electron accelerator — had been scuttled.

The project was in limbo as it awaited a feasibility report.

There had been no communication from the Centre that the project was being called off, said D.D. Sharma, member of the expert committee formed by the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet to study the proposal’s feasibility.

The IISc. was, in 2010, given the go-ahead to submit a detailed feasibility proposal to the SAC-C.

The synchrotron, which has been proposed over a 100 acre space in Chitradurga, is a circular installation that operates roughly on the same principle as does CERN’s Large Hadron Collider. Charged particles are accelerated to move in an orbit at nearly the speed of light, generating electromagnetic radiation.

Synchrotrons are relied upon for a huge spectrum of research that ranges from experiments in scattering and diffraction to tests in imaging and spectroscopy.

Meeting convened

“The expert committee is still active, and a meeting was convened by the Planning Commission just a few months ago to chalk out what is needed to acquire a very advanced research synchrotron,” said Professor Sarma, who is also professor at the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit at the IISc.

No country that considered itself scientifically advanced could afford to lack a synchrotron, Prof. Sarma maintains. “Today, Taiwan, South Korea, Brazil and China each have more than one facility.”

At the moment, India accesses synchrotrons abroad, including in Germany and Italy. Two synchrotrons in Indore are also used, although they are not considered “internationally competitive”.

“A synchrotron is a big investment, but India is not a small country and scientists here can’t afford not to have one,” said IISc. director P. Balaram. “It will have to eventually come up.”

Expertise from IITs to be utilised for cleaning Ganga: Uma Bharati

http://zeenews.india.com/news/nation/expertise-from-iits-to-be-utilised-for-cleaning-ganga-uma-bharati_945788.html

New Delhi: Union Minister for Water Resources Uma Bharati on Monday said expertise from premier IITs would be utilised for cleaning river Ganga, which would be completed at the shortest period.

"We will be using various technologies for rejuvenation of river Ganga. We will be utilising the services of IIT experts and explore all possible options," she told reporters on the sidelines of Ganga Manthan here.

"The Modi government is concentrating on how fast we can usher in development without any flaw... We are executing things at a fast phase. The Ganga rejuvenation project would be completed within the shortest period," she asserted.

Replying to a query on the inter-linking of rivers, which was the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, she said that there was no progress in the last 10 years in this regard.

"The concept of interlinking of rivers has been halted. The earlier government did nothing... Therefore, it has not progressed further in the last 10 years. There was no activity... We would use modern technology for the purpose. We will not flout any environmental rules in anyway," she added.

Bharati also announced that a web portal would be launched as part of Ganga clean-up to get suggestions from various stake holders.

"We have decided that we will create a website for Ganga and by the end of this week, suggestions will be uploaded. We will discuss the suggestions and move towards a conclusion," she stated.

She emphasised on creation of a structure to take effective action against those committing offences, so that the society itself protects the free flowing nature and purity of Ganga.

Citing the Nirbhaya case, she said that incidents such as rape have not stopped despite creation of tough laws.

Times of India, ND 08/07/2014 P-23

'Nano juice' to unravel secrets of human gut

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London: A drink will soon unravel secrets of the human gut and help diagnose irritable bowel syndrome, celiac disease, Crohn's disease and other gastrointestinal illnesses. Researchers from the University of Buffalo in the US are developing an imaging technique involving nanoparticles suspended in liquid to form a "Nano juice" that patients would drink.

On reaching the small intestine, doctors would strike the nanoparticles with a harmless laser light, providing an unparalleled, non-invasive, real-time view of the organ.

"Conventional imaging methods show the organ and blockages, but this method allows you to see how the small intestine operates in real time," said Jonathan Lovell, UB assistant professor of biomedical engineering. "Better imaging will improve our under-

800 new bacterial viruses mapped

Using a new principle for analysing DNA sequence data, scientists have mapped 500 previously unknown microorganisms and 800 new bacterial viruses in the human intestine. The 800 bacterial viruses attack intestinal bacteria, said researchers who also identified which bacterial viruses attack which bacteria. PTI

standing of these diseases and allow doctors to more effectively care for people suffering from them."

In laboratory experiments with mice, the researchers administered the nano juice orally. They then used photoacoustic tomography, pulsed laser lights that generate pressure waves which when measured provide a real-time and more nuanced view of the small intestine.

PUNE UNIVERSITY RENAMED SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE

8 Jul 2014 Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: From now, the University of Pune will be referred to as the Savitribai Phule Pune University. The state government has taken the decision to rename the Pune university after social reformer Savitribai Phule.

Savitribai Jyotirao Phule, who, along with her husband Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, played an important role in improving women's rights in India during British rule. They opened the first women's school in India at Pune in 1848. The decision was taken after the University of Pune sent a formal proposal to the state government following a huge demand from several organisations representing the backward classes (OBC). The government hopes that renaming the university after Phule, it will send a positive message to the society. Phule, who pioneered in women education and worked towards making education available across sections, looked beyond caste and class.

“I welcome the decision to rename the university by the name of a progressive woman like Savitribai Phule. It has recognised the work of the great woman and also given a message to the new generation,” said Hari Narke, head and professor of Mahatma Phule Chair Pune university.

Deccan Herald, ND 08/07/2014 P-6

Anna University admits transgender in engg course

CHENNAI: Grace Banu is a student of engineering. Nothing exceptional here, but for the fact that she is a transgender who overcame much discrimination and many hurdles to script a new chapter in Tamil Nadu by securing an engineering seat in Anna University. She obtained her admission to the Electrical and Electronics Engineering (lateral entry) course through counselling held recently at Alagappa College in Sivaganga district's Karaikudi.

"I never thought I would get admission. It is really a surprise. I might perhaps be the first transgender in the country to be admitted to an engineering course," Banu told *Deccan Herald*.

She said she had planned to approach the court for admission if she did not get any information from the university.

A plus-two dropout, Banu, whose parents distanced themselves from her when she was 17, wanted to continue her studies after receiving encouragement from several transgender associations in the state.

"I realised some changes



Grace Banu

taking place within me during my plus-two studies. Circumstances led me to attempting suicide by consuming poison. My teachers and classmates came to know about my suicide bid and the reason behind it, and started avoiding me. At one stage, I was not even allowed to enter school. So, I discontinued my studies," she said.

Born and brought up in Tuticorin district, Banu joined a diploma course in computer engineering at Kovilpatti soon after clearing her school exams. "Though my parents had distanced themselves from me,

they encouraged me after I joined the diploma course, where I scored about 95 per cent," said Banu, who, during her school days, had nurtured ambitions of becoming a doctor. Anna University sources said Banu, who obtained admission for second year, was the only transgender to attend the counselling session.

Though Banu got a seat in the self-financing Sri Krishna College of Engineering near Arakkonam, she regrets not getting admission in a government college.

Hailing the recent Supreme Court judgment that a person can be legally recognised as gender-neutral, and that transgenders should be included in government welfare schemes offered to other minority groups, Banu said it should be implemented in all the states.

As for herself, she said, "I will pursue a postgraduate course after this." It may be noted that in what is claimed to be the first such instance in Tamil Nadu, six transgenders were recruited as Home Guards in the Madurai district in 2013.

DH News Service