

Newspaper Clips

June 5, 2015

Indian Express ND 05/06/2015

P-10

IIT-DELHI ROW

MEA asks HRD Ministry why MoU is invalid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

MEA has sought a clarification from HRD Ministry, asking what provisions of the MoU between IIT-Delhi and Mauritius Research Council for setting up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy in Mauritius are not valid. The MoU hit headlines after IIT-Delhi director Raghunath K Shevgaonkar resigned in December. Reports said he quit following pressure from the Ministry to release Rs 70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary dues. Ministry officials, however, unofficially claimed he resigned as an enquiry into the MoU was initiated.

Sources said MEA sought the reply after a communication from Mauritius government. As per the MoU, IIT-Delhi would admit students for IITRA and award degrees to them. After 2018, IITRA would award the degrees.

The HRD ministry has maintained that the arrangement is "illegal" and violates IIT Act.

R&D FOCUS The premier institutes push for more international exposure to improve their global ranking on various parameters

IITs Eye Top Global Lists, Hike PhD Enrolments

Prachi.Verma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Major Indian Institutes of Technology, or IITs, are stepping up research and intake of doctorate students as the country's premier higher education centres look to improve their rankings in global lists of best universities.

IITs in Kharagpur, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai all plan to almost double enrolment of PhD students over the next 4-5 years to increase focus on research and drive internationalisation of these institutes, with an eye on drastically improving their global rankings. Currently, IITs struggle to make it to top global lists.

"Apart from providing a pool of high quality faculty and entrepreneurs to fuel the startup industry, increased focus on research will help the IITs to improve their image in world rankings," said a senior government official.

IIT Delhi plans to enrol 300 PhD students this year and almost double that number over the next two years.

IIT Madras more than doubled the intake of PhD students in the past two years to 500 from about 200, while IIT Kharagpur too is looking to double the number of PhD students from about 400 last year.

IIT Bombay, too, expects the number of PhD students

graduating to almost double in the next four years from 210 last year. This year, it has admitted over 500 doctorate students.

To improve their global ranking on various parameters, IITs are also pushing for more international exposure. "For a better ranking, IITs will have to work around building an international brand. We at IIT Kharagpur are roping in our alumni network for the same," said Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, dean of alumni affairs and international relations at the first IIT.

Mainly funded by its network of alumni, IIT Kharagpur plans to send more than 300 of its students on international summer and winter programmes, conferences and competitions this year. It's also pushing for international internship among its students.

To encourage research and innovation, the institute is also setting up innovation labs.

IIT Kanpur, too, is scaling up the size of its research projects. "Earlier, we were doing research on projects valued around Rs 20 lakh but now, through our faculty, we are chasing projects valued a few crores," said Sandeep Verma, head of chemistry department at IIT

The Research Hubs

IIT DELHI
Plans to enrol 300 PhD students this year and almost 600 over the next two years

IIT MADRAS
More than doubled the intake of PhD students in the past two years to 500 from about 200

IIT KHARAGPUR
Is looking to double the number of PhD students from about 400 last year

IIT BOMBAY
Expects the number of graduating PhD students to almost double in the next four years from 210 last year. This year, it has admitted over 500 doctorate students



Kanpur. IIT Kanpur, over the past one year, has also been focusing on creating a strong database of academicians and experts who act as referrals in times of international rankings.

Sarit Kumar Das, dean of academic affairs at IIT Chennai, said a thrust on research will help IITs improve their global rankings to around 35 from 60-80 now.

He, however, said ranking is not the sole reason to focus on research. "IITs are role models for other institutes in the country. Also the role of IITs is moving away from being a mere supplier of manpower to producing entrepreneurs, CEOs and high quality professors," Das said.

IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi, too, are increasing the number of PhD students to push research. "World over, PhD programmes and PhD students are among the main generators of new knowledge and expertise, together with faculty and research staff in universities," said Narayan Rangaraj, dean of academic programmes at IIT Bombay.

Anurag Sharma, dean of academics at IIT Delhi, said the institute is building more hostel facility for PhD students. "Perception so far is that IIT Delhi is an undergraduate institute but we are now looking at establishing ourselves as a research institute. PhD is the main engine for research," he said.

Economic Times Hindi ND 05/06/2015 P-8

रिसर्च पर फोकस के जरिये ग्लोबल रैंकिंग सुधारेंगे IITs

खड़गपुर, दिल्ली, मुंबई में मौजूद आईआईटी अगले 4-5 साल में PHD रजिस्ट्रेशन डबल करेंगे

[प्राची वर्मा | नई दिल्ली]

ज्यादातर आईआईटी रिसर्च और डॉक्टरेट से जुड़े स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या बढ़ा रहे हैं। हायर एजुकेशन के क्षेत्र में देश के इन प्रीमियर संस्थानों का इरादा ग्लोबल लेवल पर अपनी रैंकिंग बेहतर करना और रिसर्च को बढ़ावा देना है।

खड़गपुर, दिल्ली, चेन्नई और मुंबई में मौजूद आईआईटी की योजना अगले 4-5 साल में पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स का रजिस्ट्रेशन दोगुनी करने की है, ताकि इन संस्थानों के अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण की दिशा में आगे बढ़ते हुए रिसर्च पर फोकस किया जा सके। फिलहाल ग्लोबल रैंकिंग में जगह बनाने के लिए इन भारतीय संस्थानों को कड़ी मशक्कत करनी पड़ रही है। एक सीनियर सरकारी अधिकारी ने बताया, 'रिसर्च पर फोकस बढ़ाने से न सिर्फ हाई क्वालिटी फैकल्टी और स्टार्टअप इंडस्ट्री के लिए आंत्रप्रेन्योर्स तैयार करने में

मदद मिलेगी, बल्कि इन संस्थानों को वर्ल्ड रैंकिंग में भी अपनी इमेज बेहतर करने में सहाय्यत होगी।' इस साल आईआईटी दिल्ली की योजना 300 पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स को लेने की है और संस्थान अगले दो साल में इस संख्या को डबल कर सकता है। आईआईटी मद्रास ने पिछले दो साल में पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या 200 से बढ़ाकर 500 कर ली, जबकि आईआईटी खड़गपुर भी पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या डबल करने की तैयारी में है।

पिछले साल आईआईटी खड़गपुर में पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या 400 थी। आईआईटी बॉम्बे भी अगले चार साल में पीएचडी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या डबल करने की योजना बना रहा है। पिछले साल इस संस्थान में पीएचडी के 210 स्टूडेंट्स थे। आईआईटी बॉम्बे ने इस साल 500 डॉक्टरेट स्टूडेंट्स का दाखिला लिया है। कई मानकों पर अपनी ग्लोबल रैंकिंग

सुधारने के लिए आईआईटी इंटरनेशनल पहचान के लिए भी काम कर रहे हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर में एल्युमनी मामलों और इंटरनेशनल रिलेशंस के डीन सिद्धार्थ मुखोपाध्याय ने बताया, 'बेहतर रैंकिंग के लिए आईआईटी संस्थानों को इंटरनेशनल ब्रांड बनाने पर काम करना होगा। आईआईटी खड़गपुर को इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हम अपने एल्युमनी नेटवर्क को तैयार कर रहे हैं।' मुख्य तौर पर एल्युमनी नेटवर्क की फंडिंग के जरिये आईआईटी खड़गपुर इस साल अपने 300 से भी ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स को इंटरनेशनल समर और विंटर प्रोग्राम के लिए भेजने की तैयारी में है। इन कार्यक्रमों में कॉन्फ्रेंस, कॉम्पिटिशन आदि सामिल हैं। संस्थान अपने स्टूडेंट्स के लिए इंटरनेशनल इंटरनिशिप के जुगाड़ में भी लगा है। रिसर्च और इनोवेशन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए संस्थान इनोवेशन लैब्स भी बना रहा है।



Only Half of 10 New IITs & IIMs to Start This Yr

WHERE IS THE PERMANENT CAMPUS? HRD ministry might postpone launch of IITs in Jammu, Chh'garh & Goa and IIMs in Punjab & Odisha to 2016

Ritika.Chopra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With less than two months to go for the new academic session, it seems that the government may only allow about half of the 10 new IITs and IIMs, announced in 2014, to start admissions this year.

According to sources, the HRD ministry might postpone the launch of proposed IITs in Jammu, Chhattisgarh and Goa and new IIMs in Punjab and Odisha to next year as the respective state governments haven't been able to offer suitable land for the permanent campus yet.

ET spoke to the mentor institutes of each of the above IITs and IIMs. None was willing to comment on admissions for the new institutes, saying there was little clarity on the matter

from the Centre. Unlike the UPA-II when many institutions (IITs, IIMs and central universities) were immediately launched from temporary campuses, the HRD ministry under Smriti Irani has decided to not give the go-ahead unless the states fulfil the precondition of identifying suitable land for the permanent campus. The Modi government wants to ensure the permanent campus is not in a remote location and is well-connected to an airport and the nearest town/city.

"The new institutions announced by the UPA-II are still struggling to move to their permanent campus even five years after they started. IIM Ranchi is an example of that. This would not have happened had the land issues been sorted beforehand. The delay eventually affects an institution's ability to attract good faculty

STILL STRUGGLING
New institutions announced by UPA-II are still struggling to move to their permanent campus

AN HRD MINISTRY OFFICIAL

and also increases the cost of construction," said a ministry official. Over the last one year, the site selection committee constituted by the ministry has visited each of the 10 states to inspect the sites offered by their governments. Of these, the panel has finalised and approved the sites

for the proposed IITs in Kerala and Andhra and new IIMs in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

The final decision on whether new IITs in Goa, Jammu and Chhattisgarh and IIMs in Punjab and Odisha can start their academic session this year will be made in the next two weeks. "A decision needs to be made soon as the mentor institutes and state governments need time to refurbish the temporary campuses and make other preparations," said another officer.

The Centre is not leaving anything to chance. It has circulated a Cabinet note to set up societies for all new IIMs and IITs. The government has allocated ₹500 crore in 2015-16 for setting up five IITs (Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Kerala and Andhra) and five IIMs (Odisha, Bihar, Punjab, HP and Maharashtra) announced last year.

Final Decision in Two Weeks

Final decision on whether new IITs & IIMs can start their academic session this year to be made in next two weeks

Modi govt wants to ensure permanent campus is not in a remote location but is well-connected to an airport and nearest town/city

Panel approves sites for IITs in Kerala and Andhra and IIMs in Himachal, Bihar and Maharashtra



10 नए IIT, IIM में से इस साल आधे ही होंगे शुरू

HRD मिनिसट्री जम्मू, छत्तीसगढ़ और गोवा में प्रस्तावित आईआईटी का लॉन्च टाल सकती है

[अर्थिका चोपड़ा | नई दिल्ली]

नए एकेडमिक सेशन के शुरू होने में दो महीने से भी कम समय बचा है। ऐसे में सरकार ने 2014-15 सेशन में जितने आईआईटी और आईआईएम खोलने की घोषणा की थी, वह उनमें से आधे ही इस सेशन में शुरू कर पाएगी।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि एचआरडी मिनिसट्री जम्मू, छत्तीसगढ़ और गोवा में प्रस्तावित आईआईटी का लॉन्च टाल सकती है। वहीं, पंजाब और ओडिशा में नए आईआईएम भी अगले साल खुलेंगे। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इन राज्य सरकारों ने परमानेंट कैम्पस के लिए सही जमीन अभी तक ऑफर नहीं की है।

ईटी ने इन आईआईटी और आईआईएम के मेंटर इंस्टीट्यूट्स से बात की, उनमें से कोई भी नए संस्थानों में एडमिशन के बारे में कमेंट करने के लिए तैयार नहीं था। उनका कहना है कि केंद्र सरकार से इस बारे में कुछ भी साफ तौर पर नहीं कहा गया है। यूपीए 2 के दौरान कई आईआईटी, आईआईएम और सेंट्रल

यूनिवर्सिटीज टेम्परेरी कैम्पस से तुरंत लॉन्च किए गए थे। स्मृति इरानी के दौर में एचआरडी मिनिसट्री ने तभी नए संस्थान खोलने का फैसला किया है, जब संबंधित राज्य परमानेंट कैम्पस के लिए जमीन की शर्त पूरी करें। मोदी सरकार परमानेंट कैम्पस दूरदराज के इलाके में नहीं चाहती। उसका मानना है कि लोकेशन एयरपोर्ट से अच्छी तरह कनेक्टेड हो और शहर के करीब हो।

एक अफसर ने नाम नहीं छापने की शर्त पर बताया, 'यूपीए 2 के दौरान सरकार ने जिन नए संस्थानों की घोषणा की थी, वे अब भी परमानेंट कैम्पस के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, जबकि उन्हें शुरू हुए पांच साल हो चुके हैं। आईआईएम रांची ऐसी ही मिसाल है।

संस्थान खोलने से पहले जमीन का मसला सुलझा लिया गया होता तो ऐसा नहीं होता। परमानेंट कैम्पस में देरी से इंस्टीट्यूट को अच्छी फैकल्टी अट्रैक्ट करने में दिक्कत होती है। साथ ही, कंस्ट्रक्शन की कोस्ट भी बढ़ती है।' एचआरडी मिनिसट्री ने लोकेशन तय करने के लिए साइट सेलेक्शन कमेटी बनाई है। यह

पिछले एक साल में सभी 10 राज्यों का दौरा कर चुकी है। कमेटी वह जमीन देखने गई थी, जो संबंधित राज्यों सरकारों ने ऑफर की है। इनमें से उसने केरल में आईआईटी, आंध्र प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, बिहार और महाराष्ट्र में नए आईआईएम की जमीन फाइनल की है। क्या गोवा, जम्मू और छत्तीसगढ़ में नए आईआईटी और पंजाब एवं ओडिशा में नए आईआईएम अपना एकेडमिक सेशन इस साल से शुरू कर पाएंगे, इस बारे में फैसला अगले दो हफ्तों में लिया जाएगा।

एक अन्य अधिकारी ने बताया, 'इस बारे में फैसला जल्द से जल्द करने की जरूरत है, ताकि मेंटर इंस्टीट्यूट और राज्य सरकारों को टेम्परेरी कैम्पस के लिए समय मिल सके और वे दूसरी तैयारियां कर सकें।' हालांकि, केंद्र सरकार इसमें अपनी तरफ से कोई गलती नहीं चाहता। वह सभी नए आईआईएम और आईआईटी की खातिर सोसायटी के लिए कैबिनेट नोट संकुलित कर चुका है।



HRD Ministry hauls up UGC chairman?

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/hrd-ministry-hauls-up-ugc-chairman/articleshow/47546277.cms>

NEW DELHI: The HRD Ministry is believed to have hauled up UGC Chairman Ved Prakash for reportedly hitting out at the flagship RUSA programme before a Parliamentary panel meet here recently.

He is understood to have contended that the Ministry- piloted Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) programme was performing the same task of funding state institutes for upgrade like UGC and therefore was undermining the latter's role.

He is also said to have argued that since the bulk of funds is now going to RUSA, UGC's endeavour to push for research and innovation could be hampered.

His views, however, did not go down well with the Ministry which expressed disappointment for the stand taken by him at the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on May 26, sources said.

The Ministry in a letter to him said that the officials present should have been seen as a cohesive group, supporting the programmes of the government, they said, adding the Ministry should not have been seen as a disjointed unit.

The UGC chairman's use of certain words was also considered inappropriate by the Ministry while reprimanding him, the sources said.

Officials said Prakash had visited the Ministry later to clear his stand on the presentations made by him.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who was in China during the standing committee meeting, was briefed by the ministry officials soon after her return.

Times Of India ND
05/06/2015 P-1

Times Of India ND 05/06/2015 P-11

Seek nod to speak out, govt tells UGC chief

The HRD ministry has rebuked UGC chairperson Ved Prakash for his outbursts against Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) before Parliament's standing committee on May 26 and asked him to take permission before speaking against government policies, reports **Akshaya Mukul**.

In a letter on May 27, former education secretary S N Mohanty wrote, "any departure from the confirmed policy position of the government, if it is to be articulated, must be done with prior permission of secretary." **P 11**

Speak only with our nod, govt tells UGC boss

Akshaya.Mukul
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The HRD ministry has reprimanded UGC chairperson Ved Prakash for his outbursts against Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) before Parliament's standing committee on May 26 and asked him to take prior permission to articulate views contrary to the government's policies.

Criticising the flagship programme at the meeting, Prakash said because of it the programme money was not reaching the institutions directly with the state governments playing "middlemen". In a terse letter, former education secretary SN Mohanty, who has since been transferred, told Prakash that "government's position, including policy is articulated in unison and no discordant note is voiced". Reminding him that there is a set convention in such meetings, Mohanty said this should be kept in mind "for future interactions with the Parliamentary bodies".

A source said, "The UGC

Prakash had argued that because of RUSA the programme money was not reaching the institutions directly with the state governments playing middlemen

chairperson's criticism caused enough consternation in the ministry. Many senior officials had protested against Prakash's behaviour and wanted that it should not be repeated in future." "Heads of autonomous bodies go for standing committee meetings to assist the secretary, not to take adversarial position," a senior official said. HRD minister Smriti Irani was also later briefed about the incident.

Prakash told the parliamentary panel that RUSA, whose primary function is to fund state universities and ensure that systemic reforms are carried out, a job that was being done by the UGC, is undermining the Commission.

Deccan Herald ND
05/06/2015 P-6

APSC to IIT-M: No talks before fulfilling demands

CHENNAI: Attempt to end the standoff between IIT-Madras and the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC) suffered a setback on Thursday after the derecognised student group refused to meet with the Board of Students (BoS).

"First our demands should be fulfilled. Then only we will consider meeting with BoS," a communique from APSC said.

The IIT-M management organised the emergency meeting between APSC and BoS after the institute derecognised the student body for criticising the Central government's policies and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides hurting Hindu sentiments.

After meeting IIT-M's Director-In-Charge, the APSC laid down several demands including re-recognition of their group, unconditional apology from the Dean of Student for misusing power and overturning the code of conduct cited for their ban as it was against Article 19(A) of the Indian Constitution.

The group also asked recognition of all independent student bodies and allowing them to freely express their social, political and economic views.

The IIT-M authorities orally accepted APSC's demands but promised to give a written resolution after the APSC-BoS emergency meeting.

The APSC, however, refused to speak with BoS, saying the latter did not derecognise their group and wanted talks to be held directly with the IIT-M management.

DH News Service

The IIT-M management organised the emergency meeting between APSC and BoS after the institute derecognised the student body for criticising the Centre's policies and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Hari Bhumi ND 05/06/2015 P-2

अब सोलर ट्रेन चलेंगी

गाजियाबाद। केंद्रीय मंत्री हर्ष वर्धन ने कहा है कि केंद्र इंटीग्रेल कोच फैक्टरी और आईआईटी मद्रास के साथ सौर ट्रेन परियोजना पर काम कर रहा है और जल्द ही यह शुरू हो जाएगी। विज्ञान प्रौद्योगिकी एवं पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री हर्षवर्धन ने कहा कि जीवाश्म ईंधनों और पावर ग्रिड पर निर्भरता घटाने के लिए सौर ऊर्जा परिवहन विकसित किया जाएगा। मंत्री साहिबाबाद में परमाणु सौर ऊर्जा मॉड्यूल उत्पादन संयंत्र के उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि उत्पाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के 'मेक इन इंडिया' अभियान को बढ़ावा देगा। मंत्री ने कहा कि सौर ऊर्जा ग्रीन हाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन को घटाकर ग्लोबल वार्मिंग को कम करेगा। यह जीवाश्म ईंधनों पर निर्भरता भी घटाएगा। सौर इकाई नागरिकों को बिजली संकट से निकलने में भी मदद करेगा।

Only 13 of India's 431 universities have women VCs

Chethan.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The prestigious Oxford University last week announced that Professor Louise Richardson, subject to approval, could go on to become the university's first woman vice-chancellor in its 800-year-old history.

Down in India, things are not too different. Multiple studies reveal the percentage of women vice-chancellors here is a shocking 3%, with just 13 universities of the 431, a UGC study surveyed, having women running a varsity. This, despite girls outdoing boys year after year in exams, and women constituting more than 50% of teaching posts in universities.

According to a British Council commissioned report titled 'Women in Higher Education Leadership in South Asia: Rejection, Refusal, Reluctance, Revisioning', the percentage of women teaching staff drops drastically at higher levels. "Women constitute only 1.4% of the professoriate, though there are many at other positions like readers, lecturers etc," the report released in February 2015 notes.

Adding that even of the 13 women VCs, six are from all-women universities, the report flags the culture of discrimination. "There are many reasons — from the way selection committees are constituted to the way women and men think.

Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar, VC, Karnataka State Women's University said most women academicians are more passionate about teaching than running institutions

Most women academicians are more passionate about teaching than running institutions, which is why many of them, although qualified, do not choose to apply for such posts," Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar, VC, Karnataka State Women's University, told **TOI**.

Quoting a UGC-constituted task force in 2013, the report says, "Glass ceilings and fears over promotion must receive more attention, the feedback indicates widespread practices of discrimination and harassment among women working in higher education institutions."

Berin Lucas, sociology professor of St Joseph's College of Arts and Science says, "Higher education must open its doors to new learning, but it is only a reflection of the patriarchal fabric of society, which operates in every spectrum of life, not even exempting education." The report, though, paints a bright picture at the under-graduate level for women.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Deccan Herald ND 05/06/2015 P-8

Odisha's plans for IIM faces uncertainty

ST Beuria

BHUBANESWAR: A political ballgame by the ruling BJD and its former ally the BJP has pushed the proposed Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Odisha to an uncertainty.

The selection of sites for four other IIMs which were announced to be set up in different states along with Odisha is already over. But that has not been possible in the eastern state so far, owing to politics over it.

After the finance minister announced establishment of new IIMs in his budget speech last

year, the union human resources development ministry wrote a letter to the Odisha government in August 2014 directing it to select an appropriate site for the new institution.

The state government then selected two sites near Bhubaneswar as the capital city was the only place in the state which was fulfilling all the guidelines for the new IIM following which a central site selection team selected one of the two sites in the month of January this year.

Politics over the issue began soon after when a group of state BJP leaders reportedly met

union human resources development minister Smriti Irani and appealed to her to set up the new IIM in western Odisha town of Sambalpur.

The move was aimed at appeasing the locals who were also demanding the new IIM in the region. Western Odisha was a BJP and Congress stronghold which has of late slipped out of their hands and gone to the BJD.

The development prompted Irani to send a letter to chief minister Naveen Patnaik asking the state government's opinion on Sambalpur as the new site for the IIM. To checkmate the

BJP in its game plan, Patnaik wrote back to the union minister saying that his government had no problem if the prestigious institute is set up in Sambalpur and that the Bhubaneswar site was selected because it was fulfilling all the guidelines.

"If you can change the guidelines, we have no problem on Sambalpur", Patnaik said in his letter. After a gap of a couple of months, a fresh round of letter war has begun with the union human resources development ministry writing another letter to the state government.

DH News Service

Railways to sign MoU with IIT-BHU for research work

The chair is being named after Madan Mohan Malaviya — the founder of BHU.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/railways-to-sign-mou-with-iit-bhu-for-research-work/>

To get better raw material for technology in development of Railways, Union Minister Suresh Prabhu is set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIT-BHU for research work in this regard.

Prabhu will visit Varanasi on coming Monday to sign the MoU. The ministry has sanctioned Rs 5 crore for research work to be conducted at IIT-BHU this financial year. On Thursday, MoS for Railways Manoj Sinha said a 'Malaviya Chair Committee', chaired by Sinha's advisor R K Verma, will be set up at the institute to supervise research work.

The chair is being named after Madan Mohan Malaviya — the founder of BHU. It will work towards developing new materials to be used in various assets of Railways. "The ministry has released Rs 5 crore for IIT-BHU for conducting the research... It will help find out ways to better prepare assets — from bogies to tracks," said Sinha

Tribune ND 05/06/2015 P-4

PTU not on UGC list for distance education

DEEPKAMAL KAUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, JUNE 4

Having remained suspended for two years, the main revenue-generating distance education programme of IK Gujral Punjab Technical University is in the midst of a controversy all over again.

The name of IKGPTU does not figure in the list of 127 universities which have been authorised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to continue with the programme for the forthcoming academic session.

Pensive officials at the university today rushed their staff to the UGC office in New Delhi to pursue the matter with the authorities.

The decision has come at a time when the university was set to re-launch the scheme for the new session by next week at slashed charges. It had aimed to enrol 20,000 students for various courses from Punjab.

Ever since the bureaucracy has taken over the university, distance education has been on top of the agenda so as to restore the falling revenue.



“The UGC has sought an affidavit from us which we will provide at the earliest. We were given a go-ahead in a letter on August 24, 2014. Since the UGC has mentioned in its note that status quo be maintained, there should be no reason to panic.”

RK Verma, OFFICIATING VICE-CHANCELLOR, PTU

<< File photo of Punjab Technical University.

The university, which in 2012 had 1.6 lakh students across the country enrolled in the programme bringing in revenue of Rs 100 crore per annum, got just 428 admissions in December 2014 at the time of restarting of the programme.

While it then even had learning centres off-shores, its area of operation was confined by the UGC to Punjab alone.

Though the name of Lovely Professional University,

Phagwara, figures in the UGC's list, PTU's name does not find a place. This has given jitters to the staff concerned.

Officiating Registrar of PTU and Deputy Controller of Distance Education Programme Dr Amanpreet Singh said, “There seems to be some error on part of the UGC. Our officials have gone to Delhi to get it rectified. We are hopeful that it will get done.”

Secretary, Technical Edu-

cation, Punjab, and officiating Vice-Chancellor, IKGPTU, RK Verma, said, “The UGC has sought an affidavit from us which we will provide at the earliest. We had been given a go-ahead in a letter on August 24, 2014. Since the UGC has mentioned in its note that the status quo as during December 22, 2014 Commission meeting be maintained, there should be no reason to panic”.

Meanwhile, the university,

which had launched the course with the title EDvantage in December 2014 with an enhanced fee structure since the tenure of previous VC Dr Rajneesh Arora, has now decided to return to the old model.

The fee structure ranging between Rs 8,500 to Rs 10,000 (depending on courses) which had been enhanced to a range of Rs 15,000 to 17,000 has been revised to the old rates to attract more students.

Deccan Herald ND 05/06/2015 P-9

Pluto's moons, Nix and Hydra tumbling: Nasa

WASHINGTON, PTI: Two of Pluto's moons, Nix and Hydra, wobble unpredictably, according to a comprehensive analysis of data from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

The moons wobble because they are embedded in a gravitational field that shifts constantly, researchers said.

This shift is created by the double planet system of Pluto and Charon as they whirl about each other. Pluto and Charon are called a double planet because they share a common centre of gravity located in the space between the bodies.

Their variable gravitational field sends the smaller moons tumbling erratically. The effect is strengthened by the football-like, rather than spherical, shape of the moons.

Scientists believe it's likely Pluto's other two moons, Kerberos and Styx, are in a similar situation.

"Prior to the Hubble observations, nobody appreciated the intricate dynamics of the Pluto system," said Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, who conducted the study with Doug Hamilton of the University of Maryland at College Park.

"Our research provides important new constraints on the sequence of events that led to the formation of the system," Showalter said.

The researchers also found three of Pluto's moons are presently locked together in resonance, meaning there is a precise ratio for their orbital periods.

"If you were sitting on Nix, you would see that Styx orbits Pluto twice for every three orbits made by Hydra," noted Hamilton.

Hubble data also showed that the moon Kerberos is as dark as a charcoal briquette, while the other frozen moons are as bright as sand.

It was predicted that dust blasted off the moons by meteorite impacts should coat all the moons, giving their surfaces a homogeneous look, which makes Kerberos' colouring very surprising, researchers said.

NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, which will fly by the Pluto system in July, may help settle the question of the asphalt-black moon, as well as the other oddities uncovered by Hubble.

The turmoil within the Pluto-Charon system offers insights into how planetary bodies orbiting a double star might behave, researchers said.

NASA's Kepler space observatory has found several planetary systems orbiting double stars.

"We are learning chaos may be a common trait of binary systems. It might even have consequences for life on planets if found in such systems," Hamilton said.

The research is published in the journal *Nature*.



Times Of India ND 05/06/2015 P-23

World's first 'digital drug' that can lift your mood

Washington: A new wearable device, which is being called the world's first digital drug, can zap your brain to make you feel either calm or energised. Users stick the device, called Thync, onto their front temple. A second connected pad goes in a spot farther back on the head, with its location varying depending on whether the calming or energising mode is being used.

Thync connects to the smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth. It can be controlled with an app, where the user can choose the length of their session. Users can also adjust the strength of the brain-zapping. Each programme follows a pattern of greater and lesser intensity, with cycles of

peaks and valleys, but users can also manually raise or lower the overall strength, 'Gizmag' reported. The minimum time needed for the calming effect is five minutes.

There are three different energising modes as well, lasting either 5 or 10 minutes. The product uses "low levels of pulsed electrical energy to signal specific neural pathways, allowing users to dial up or dial down their stress responses and energy levels." Thync said the product, which costs \$299, is perfectly safe.

It is being marketed as a lifestyle consumer product and has been independently approved by the Underwriter's Laboratory, a US-based safety organization specializing in electrical devices. PTI

Online test to tell if you will live beyond next 5 years

Kounteya.Sinha
@timesgroup.com

London: Will you live beyond the next five years? Take the death test which can tell you with 80% certainty.

Scientists have devised a score based on a set of simple questions that they say will be able to gauge your health accurately and predict your chance of making it till 2020.

The score to predict the mortality risk is especially applicable to those aged between 40 and 70 years. The score does not require a physical check-up but is all about answering basic questions like self-rated health and usual walking speed.

Scientists said that self-reported walking pace is a stronger predictor of death risk in both men and women than smoking habits and biological measurements such as pulse rate and blood pressure.

The score also helps calculate what scientists call an 'Ubble age', the age where the average mortality risk in the population is most similar to the estimated risk of the individual through an online questionnaire. "The Ubble website allows anybody in the UK between 40 and 70 years to calculate their risk of dying within the next five years compared to the general population," said study co-author Erik Ingelsson from Uppsala University, Sweden. The questionnaire consists of 13 questions for men and 11 for women.