

Newspaper Clips

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Business Standard ND 11-Mar-12 P-5

IIT researchers in MIT's list of young Indian innovators

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 10 March

Four researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, feature in a list of 20 young Indian innovators, announced by the India edition of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Technology Review. Three of them are from IIT Mumbai, while the fourth is from IIT Kanpur.

The list includes innovators from biomedicine, communications, computing, energy, materials, transportation and the web. While VSK Murthy Balijepalli of IIT Mumbai was chosen to be part of the list for developing a novel method to forecast electricity price, grid frequency and load which can assist in making power grids smarter, Nitin Joshi (also of IIT Mumbai) made it to the list for developing dual compartment nanostructures which can encapsulate two anticancer drugs, paclitaxel and curcumin, and deliver them in combination to lung cancer patients. Conventional chemotherapy is limited due to its non specificity, poor pharmacokinetics and multi-drug resistance.

The Innovator of the Year Aniruddha Sharma from Ducere Technologies, Bangalore, created a haptic shoe for the visually impaired. The haptic feedback guides the user to the destination by vibrating in front, back, or on either side of the shoe, indicating the user needs to turn.

The only woman innovator in this year's list is Priyanka Sharma, 28, from CSIR-run Institute of Microbial Technology in Chandigarh. She

developed a plastic chip which uses simple assay techniques to detect toxic materials in the environment quickly and cost effectively. Social Innovator of the year Venkatesan Oosur Vinayagam, 28, developed a multilingual speech recognition technology enabled mobile music service that is based on the classic Indian musical game of antakshari. The innovation in Mobile Antakshari lies in adding the right usability and technology elements.

These 20 technologists would present their innovations at the Emerging Technologies conference EmTech India 2012 at Bangalore later this month. The conference will be addressed by a team of eminent scientists from Cambridge, USA based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The India TR 35 program started in 2010 and in the last two years, Technology Review India has identified 37 young innovators. India lists have so far been dominated by innovators from small and medium size private research institutions.

"It is heartening to see IITs solving unique Indian problems. This culture of innovation in public institutions will enthuse thousands of bright students pursuing technical programmes," said Pradeep Gupta, Publisher of Technology Review India and a distinguished alumnus of IIT Delhi.

This year Technology Review India received over 250 nominations from all over India. Over a period of three months, a panel of 23 expert judges identified 20 individuals who have developed technologies that are likely to benefit the society at large.

Asian Age ND 11-Mar-12 P-3

Sibal works hard on pending bills

NITIN MAHAJAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal is likely to push for further reform in higher education in the forthcoming Budget Session by hoping to evolve a consensus on almost a dozen bills still pending before Parliament.

The UPA government's ambitious plan for reform higher education in the country has been delayed with important bills stuck at various stages in the Parliament. Over the past few months, Mr Sibal is understood to have engaged in several rounds of consultation with MPs to ensure that these bills are passed in the Budget Session of Parliament, which begins on Monday.

Several important bills, like the Educational Tribunals Bill, Foreign Education Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill 2010, the Education Malpractices Bill, the Accreditation Bill, the high profile National Academic Depository (Amendment) Bill, 2011, and National Council for Higher

HIGHER EDUCATION



Kapil Sibal

Education and Research 2011 are still pending before the Parliament.

Despite a serious attempt, the Union human resource development ministry was unable to get even a single bill passed during the last Winter Session of the Parliament, putting additional pressure on Mr Sibal for pushing the UPA's education reform agenda.

These important legislation have been pending, in some cases for over two years, despite the fact that Mr Sibal had worked overtime to placate Congress MPs and Opposition members. Sources pointed out

that Mr Sibal has held several rounds of meetings with MPs, cutting across party lines, to ensure that their queries regarding various pending bills were resolved properly. Several of these bills have come under repeated attacks from the Opposition and ruling party members, ever since Mr Sibal initiated the reform process. It is understood that currently there are about 12 bills at various stages of legislative and consultation process in the Parliament and the delay in their clearance has pushed the educational reform agenda back by several years.

Some of these bills, like the NCHER Bill, which aims at creating an overarching body for higher education regulation in the country, have been facing multi-pronged opposition. The NCHER Bill has faced stiff opposition from Union health ministry, forcing the ministry to drop Health education from its ambit. The bill is currently also facing stiff resistance from the Bar Council of India, the legal education regulator in the country.

Hari Bhumi ND
11/03/2012 P-1

इंजीनियरिंग के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा को मिली मंजूरी

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। लंबे समय से सुर्खियों में रहने वाली आईआईटी-जेईई की संयुक्त एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा को इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट आफ साइंस एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च (आईआईएसईआर) ने मंजूरी दे दी है। संस्थान में अगले वर्ष 2013 से शुरू होने वाले शैक्षणिक सत्र से यह परीक्षा आयोजित की जाएगी। इसी

साल फरवरी में केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने राज्यों के शिक्षा मंत्रियों, विभिन्न शिक्षा बोर्डों के प्रमुखों के साथ एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के मसौदे पर एक अहम बैठक की थी जिसमें इस बारे में विचार विमर्श किया गया था। केंद्र ने राज्यों से इसे जल्द से जल्द लागू करने की अपील भी की थी।

साझा एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के माध्यम से भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (एनआईटी) जैसी केंद्रीय संस्थाओं में दाखिला के लिए आईआईटी-जेईई और एआईआईईई को एक साथ जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव है। भोपाल, कोलकाता, मोहाली, पुणे और तिरुवनंतपुरम में खोले गए आईआईएसईआर की कुल क्षमता 600 छात्रों की है, जिसमें 150 सीटें आईआईटी-जेईई से माध्यम से भरी जाती हैं। आईआईएसईआर निदेशकों की यहां हुई एक बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया।

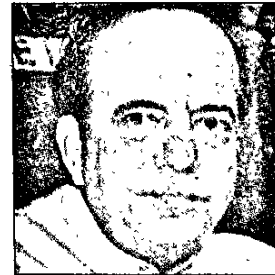
Amar Ujala ND 11-Mar-12 P-18

अब आईआईटी और आईआईएम भी तैयार करेंगे रेल के लिए टैलेंट

● आलोक शर्मा

नई दिल्ली। तकनीक और प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में विश्व भर में अपने व्यावहारिक पाठ्यक्रम का लोहा मनवाने वाली देश की दो सर्वोच्च शिक्षण संस्थाएं जल्द ही रेलवे के लिए भी टैलेंट विकसित करेंगी। रेल तंत्र में आमूल-चूल सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार देश की विशिष्ट संस्थाओं से सहयोग लेने पर विचार कर रही है। रेल बोर्ड के अधिकारी, आईआईटी और आईआईएम में रेल से संबंधित पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करवाने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से इस बाबत संपर्क साधेंगे।

रेल मंत्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी ने अमर उजाला को बताया कि विदेश में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की महत्वपूर्ण कंपनियों को वहां की शिक्षण संस्थाओं से पूरा सहयोग मिलता है। उसी तर्ज पर अब रेल मंत्रालय भी आईआईटी और आईआईएम से ऐसे पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने की सिफारिश करेगा जिससे रेलवे को अच्छे से अच्छा टैलेंट देश के भीतर ही उपलब्ध कराया जा सके। त्रिवेदी ने बताया कि रेल को आधुनिक और मुसाफिरो के लिए सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए रेल अधिकारियों के अनुभव के साथ-साथ नई पीढ़ी की काबिलियत की भी सख्त जरूरत है। इसी उद्देश्य को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार इस दिशा में कदम उठाने जा रही है। अभी रेल के तकनीक विभागों में भर्ती के लिए ज्यादातर मेकेनिकल (यांत्रिकी) इंजीनियरों को तरजीह दी जाती है। मगर आईआईटी में नया पाठ्यक्रम चालू होने के बाद मंत्रालय को इधर-उधर नहीं देखना पड़ेगा। सुरक्षा के मसले पर परमाणु विशेषज्ञ अनिल काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता में गठित की गई समिति



● जल्द शुरू किए जाएंगे रेल तकनीक से संबंधित पाठ्यक्रम

● रेल मंत्रालय करेगा मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से सिफारिश

● काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता में गठित की गई समिति ने भी इस बाबत सिफारिश की थी

ने भी इस बाबत सिफारिश की थी। काकोडकर ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में साफ तौर पर कहा है कि यदि रेल को यात्रियों के लिहाज से सुरक्षित बनाना है तो बेहतर टैलेंट की भर्ती बहुत जरूरी है। उन्होंने कहा है कि भर्ती के अलावा इंजीनियरों को बेहतर सुविधाएं और काम करने का खुला माहौल भी उपलब्ध कराना पड़ेगा। निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों में बेहतर पैकेज और सुविधाओं के चलते पिछले कुछ सालों में रेलवे से टैलेंट के पलायन में तेजी आई है।

Hindu Chennai 10.03.2012 P-16

IISERs to pick toppers in engineering entrance test

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have agreed to pick up a percentage of their students from toppers in the national common entrance test for engineering, to be held from the next academic session.

Currently, IISERs take students who qualify in the IIT-JEE or Kishore Vaigyanic Protsahan Yojana, or those applicants who have high aggregate scores in Class XII examination of CBSE or State Boards.

With the Human Resource Development Ministry deciding to conduct a national common test for central engineering institutions, instead of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology, the

best ranking students would be picked up by the five IISERs across the country. The finer details are being worked out.

The common entrance test will cover admissions to 15 IITs, 30 National Institutes of Technology and four Indian Institutes of Information Technology. Weightage will also be given to State Education Board results. The State governments and private institutions can, however, decide whether or not to join the common entrance test regime.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal told IISER Directors that to help facilitate awarding degrees to the students, the government was leaving no stone unturned in getting the NIT Amendment Bill, 2007 passed in the budget session of Parliament. The IISERs are yet to be governed by any law that would entitle them to grant a degree to the students, though the first batch has already passed out after completing a five-year integrated course.

Times of India ND
11-Mar-12 P-15

IIM-Raipur makes rural stint must

Bangalore: IIM-Raipur has made a rural stint mandatory for its students. Students of the Postgraduate Programme, the flagship course at Indian Institutes of Management, will have to spend one week in rural India 'to understand the spirit of true India'.

"Rural marketing is the buzzword. Many marketing managers are disconnected from the real world. When they plan to enter the rural market, they devise strategies sitting in corporate offices for a market they have seen only in 'Swades'," said B S Sahay, director, IIM-Raipur.

The course will be done in partnership with Padma Shri awardee from Chhattisgarh Pholbasan Yadav, who has been working with over 10,000 women on self-help groups.

In this course, students are expected to take up a project of their choice and prepare a report on what new ideas can be implemented in the village. The programme will be formally launched in the next academic session and students will spend one week in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. TNN

Times of India ND
11-Mar-12 P-14

93% aspirants fail teacher's eligibility test

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: With a staggering 93% of aspiring school teachers failing to clear the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) 2012, the quality of teacher training in the country has come under the scanner.

The results of the competency test conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, declared on Tuesday, show that just around 7% of the 7.85 lakh managing to clear the exam.

Of the 8,61,231 aspirants registered of which 76,004 could not appear in the test due to the assembly elections in five states. Of the 7,85,227 aspirants who appeared only 55,422 managed to clear either paper I or paper II or both.

What's even more worrying that this year's performance is worse than the CTET in 2011, which recorded around 9% pass percentage. Meanwhile, after the dismal show last year, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has already asked the CBSE to analyse the results institution wise and has decided to provide feedbacks to teacher education institutions so that they can improve on their teaching and training.

The CTET was introduced in 2011 by the ministry to improve the quality of teaching in schools after the enactment of the Right to Education Act.

The CTET certification has been made mandatory to become a teacher for classes I to VIII in any central government school, while the CBSE affiliated schools can either recruit teachers based on the CTET or the respective test conducted by the states.

In fact, the Delhi government too decided to adopt the CTET for recruitment of teachers for government run and aided schools.

The CTET comprised two papers, paper I for teachers for classes I to V and paper II for classes VI to VIII. Aspirants who wish to get certified for classes I to VIII need to clear both the papers.

The objective is to test their knowledge on the syllabi — English, mathematics and environmental science.

Hindustan Times ND 11/03/2012 P-8

2 Ganga Authority members quit over ex-IIT professor's fast
NEW DELHI: Two non-official members of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGBRA) headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday resigned after the Centre failed to intervene to end fast up to death of former IIT professor GD Aggarwal. Aggarwal had started his protest in Haridwar — amid assembly polls — accusing the Centre for failing to act on its promise to save Ganga from exploitation and maintain minimum flow to save the river.

Asian Age ND 11-Mar-12

P-9

Solar storm causes power grid upsets

Washington, March 10: A strong space weather storm packed a late punch overnight and ended up being the most significant geomagnetic event since 2004, US experts said, warning more disruption was coming this weekend. The fusillade of radiation from the sun caused limited power grid upsets, forced airlines to reroute around the poles and sparked vivid displays of the Northern Lights in some parts of the world.

The event began late Tuesday with a series of

explosions on the sun that sent charged particles hurtling toward earth, but the storm appeared to fizzle on arrival Thursday, causing no power outages or problems with GPS navigation systems as expected.

Conditions changed late Thursday that boosted the ferocity of the storm, raising it to the initially forecast G3 level of "strong" on a scale of one to five, said Bob Rutledge who heads the space weather forecast office at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric



Administration (NOAA).

"We ended up getting some of the strong storming that was expected," he

said explaining that change was due to a flip in the magnetic field inside the coronal mass ejection that burst off from the sun. "When you look at the storm overall for length and strength, it is arguably the strongest storm since November 2004," he said.

People across the northern US states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Washington reported seeing the nighttime light show caused by the aurora borealis when highly charged particles interact with the earth's magnetic field, creating a

colourful glow.

And although power industry operators have "certainly seen these disturbances on their systems... It should all be well within what they are capable of handling," Mr Rutledge added.

As the current storm wound down Friday, Mr Rutledge warned there was a potential for more disruptions by Sunday due to a flare overnight from the same region on the sun, known as 1429, that has been acting up since early in the week. — AFP

Hindu Chennai 10.03.2012 P-2

Venkataramanan to take over as MD & CEO of L&T on April 1

Naik will continue as Executive Chairman of the group

Special Correspondent

MUMBAI: K. Venkataramanan will take over as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) from April 1, 2012. He will succeed A. M. Naik who will step down as Managing Director, but continue as Executive Chairman of the group.

The decision by the board of directors of L&T to bifurcate the position of Chairman & Managing Director brings to an end weeks of speculation regarding a successor to take over from Mr. Naik, 70, who has been at the helm as CEO and Managing Director since 1999 and as Chairman and Managing Director since 2003.

Mr. Venkataramanan, 67, at present, President, Hydrocarbons and whole-time director on the company's board, is a chemical engineer from IIT (Delhi). He joined L&T as a graduate engineer trainee. He was elevated to



A. M. Naik (right), Executive Chairman, L&T Group, with K. Venkataramanan, President, Hydrocarbons, L&T, at a press conference in Mumbai on Friday. - PHOTO: PAUL NORONHA

the board as a whole-time director in 1995. According to Mr. Venkataramanan, "the appointment has come in at a time when there are opportunities in the long-term and volatility in the short-term. It is going to be a challenging period but we have a capable team."

L&T undertook project 'Lakshya' to simplify its port-

folio and created 10 independent companies (ICs) and seven subsidiaries to bring focus, autonomy and accountability in functioning. While the project is still on, changes in the economic environment have necessitated L&T to undertake a mid-term review of the strategic plan which is now under finalisation. The Lakshya project will be com-

pleted by 2015. The search for a suitable MD & CEO started more than a year ago and was overseen by a high-powered non-executive directors committee which has one member on the board of each IC. The chairman did not participate in the selection process.

The board also decided to continue with Mr. Naik as Executive Chairman of the group for five years till he reaches the age of 75. The company's policy is that the chairman, executive or non executive, will retire at the age of 75.

Mr. Venkataramanan will be responsible for the businesses of the company. Mr. Naik will focus on completing the portfolio restructuring, institutionalising the IC structure, mentoring and developing the leadership team.

L&T Infotech

On plans for L&T Infotech, the group's IT venture, Mr. Naik said the aim was to grow it to about a \$2 billion business. "Over the last two years,

the IT industry went through some stagnation. We will close this year at around \$830 million and cross \$1 billion next year."

Asked whether L&T Infotech was looking to acquire Hexaware Technologies, Mr. Naik said, "There is news in the market that they have appointed bankers for a potential sale. We have not appointed any bankers. We look at every opportunity as an integration possibility."

Roy elevated

As a part of its succession plan, the board approved the elevation of Shailendra Roy as a whole-time director, with immediate effect. Mr. Roy is now Senior Vice-President-Power Development Business, Corporate Affairs & Corporate Initiatives. He is also a member of the Executive Management Committee of L&T. Before joining L&T, he was Managing Director & CEO of Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV) from 2002 to 2004.