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Headless for over a year, IIT-Delhi to get new boss

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New Delhi: After remaining headless for nearly one-and-a-half years, IIT-Delhi is likely to get a new director in V Ramgopal Rao of IIT-Bombay, whose name has been sent to the President for approval.

Incidentally, Rao, P K Kelkar chair professor in IIT-Bombay, is from the same electrical engineering department to which the last IIT-Delhi director R K Shevgaonkar belonged. Shevgaonkar is now teaching there.

Rao's name was finalised from among 40 candidates who were called for interaction by the search-cum-selection committee last Wednesday. "He was the best among those called for interaction," a source said.

Recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Infosys prizes, among the many he has received, Rao is chief



FRESH CHALLENGE: Rao's name was finalised from among 40 candidates

investigator for the Centre of Excellence in nanoelectronics project at IIT-Bombay. Holder of 32 patents which includes 13 US patents, Rao's patents are being used by industry for commercial purposes.

He was also instrumental in setting up NanoSniff Technologies Pvt Ltd at IIT-Bombay that makes nanotechnology products.

He did his bachelor in technology from Kakatiya University, MTech from IIT-

Bombay and doctorate from Munich.

After Shevgaonkar resigned as director in December 2014, IIT-Delhi was being run by officiating directors. Shevgaonkar had left before the expiry of his term over serious differences with the HRD ministry on various issues. Though the HRD ministry later tried to convince him to take back his resignation, Shevgaonkar had made up his mind to go back to IIT-Bombay. In fact, his resignation was accepted after many months.

The ministry also tried to investigate his alleged role in setting up of an institution in Mauritius with the collaboration of IIT-Delhi. However, it was found that neither Shevgaonkar nor any faculty member had made any financial gain. In fact, IIT-Delhi had even sought the ministry's permission before going to Mauritius during the UPA's tenure.

The IIT test

If fee hike can't go through, larger reforms can't either

Under normal circumstances, the IIT Council's recommendation of hiking annual fees from a mere ₹90,000 today to ₹300,000 will get rejected by the human resource development (HRD) ministry, or significantly pared down after the usual protests by students and politicians on how education cannot be commercialised, and how the IITs are run using public money. There have, in any case, been several instances of the government obstructing fee hikes in the IIMs and, just recently, the Delhi government rolled back the fee hikes in colleges affiliated to the Indraprastha University.

These are, however, not normal times. Tucked away in the finance minister's budget speech was the 'commitment to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world-class teaching and research institutions'. An enabling regulatory architecture, the budget said, 'will be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions'. A detailed scheme is to be formulated. Since there is very little chance the IITs will not be part of the top 10 public institutions that are to be freed up, the fee hike proposal in a sense becomes a test of how serious the government is about its reforms. Obviously, the governance reforms will not just be about hiking fees—indeed one of the first things the IITs will have to do is to, like top universities abroad, work on beefing up their corpus in order to fund scholarships—but will have to encompass setting of curriculum, hiring of faculty, and so on. It is difficult to see how India can hope to improve its standings among global universities if its top institutions are not freed up in all aspects, ranging from setting fees to deciding curriculum—and yes, these institutions will have to be freed from the yoke of reservations, for teachers as well as students. While both students and politicians will protest if fees are hiked or reservations are withdrawn in the country's top 10 public universities, but if they are to grow, there is little other option—just the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore (ranked 147) and Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (ranked 179) figured among the top 200 in the QS World University Rankings 2015/2016. No country which does not have top-class academic institutions, it has to be kept in mind, has done well economically—the sharp jump in the number of Chinese universities in the global rankings is testimony to this.

The Pioneer ND 21/03/2016 P-5

CPI against IIT fee hike, says edu cannot be commercialised

New Delhi: Expressing concerns over proposed "steep" hike in fees at IITs, CPI on Sunday sought "immediate reversal" of the move in the interest of students from poor economic background.

"We are against the sudden and steep increase by 300 per cent. There is a necessity (for government to hike IIT fees) because of the inflation in expenditure.

"There can be some reasonable increase of 25 per cent to 30 per cent, but not 300 per cent. Education can not be seen

from commercial angle, especially in government institutes. We demand the proposed hike is rolled back immediately," CPI general secretary S Sudhakar Reddy said.

Reddy described the proposal as a "retrograde" move that will "affect" studies of students from economically poor background.

The Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC) on March 17 proposed a three-fold hike in annual fees of the technology institutes. At present, the fees is ₹90,000 a year. **PTI**

The Pioneer ND 21/03/2016 P-11

IIT-Roorkee wants to produce 100 entrepreneurs by next year

PTI ■ ROORKEE

IIT-Roorkee is giving the innovation hub in its campus a new push and has targeted to produce at least 100 entrepreneurs by next year besides shaping up an ecosystem where its alumni network world over would play the role of a mentor in guiding students from "ideation to execution".

As part of this new vision, the sprawling campus on Friday got a 'Tinkering Lab' which was inaugurated by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on the opening day of the college's technology festival 'Cognizance 2016'. Parrikar also inspected some of the

models on display.

"The Tinkering Lab as the name suggests is a place where students can literally tinker around with ideas, without any fixed agenda or set up, and thus allow their imagination to run riot. "And, once they have arrived at some shape as to the final output, that can be taken further or incubated," Director, IIT-Roorkee, Pradipta Banerji told the news agency.

In the opening remarks at the festival which concluded today, Banerji said any idea or vision--stands on three legs--theory, practice and innovation --and Parrikar had later added that the "fourth leg" was the ecosystem for

innovation, which the Government was committed to provide.

The Defence Ministry has already set the ball rolling for DRDO and other organisations under it to collaborate with some of the IITs, NITs, IISc and other top institutions to tap innovation from academic campuses for design and production, Parrikar said.

In his address to a massive gathering of students at the Convocation Hall, which once served as a hangar, Parrikar emphasised the need to think "out of the box".

"As students you must contribute to the India's growth story and come up with innovative ideas.

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Jamia Millia students develop eco friendly cart

NEW DELHI,PTI An eco-friendly food vending cart which has provisions for waste disposal and solar power generation, developed by students of Jamia Millia Islamia, was one of the innovations showcased at the Festival of Innovations at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The project, which the university is in process of patenting, was among the six entries selected out of 114 sent for presentation at the recently concluded Festival.

The other entries were from IIT Kanpur, Central University of Jammu, IIT Madras, NIT Tiruchirpalli and IIT Delhi.

"The product named 'Innokart' is an economical food vending cart that provides proper storage, shelter and hygiene. The cart promises to

transform street food selling in India for the better," said Mini S Thomas, Honorary Director, Jamia's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE).

"Besides the storage drawers, the cart has two sections for waste disposal-for dry and wet waste each.

The top panel has been kept free for advertisements while there is a plan to set up solar panel on the rooftop," she added.

The product has been developed by three students from the University's Faculty of Architecture-Huma Pervez, Faiza Jamal and Faraz Khan.

The university is now planning to test the cart in its premises and then work on its commercial viability.

PTI

JNU Hits Bottom Three in Research Publishing

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/JNU-Hits-Bottom-Three-in-Research-Publishing/2016/03/20/article3336100.ece>

While it has won an award for innovation, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is one of the bottom three institutions when it comes to publishing research papers.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has come up with a list of research papers published by the country's top 30 institutions. The study, done by global publishing company Elsevier, found that the top 100 institutions selected by a count of publications between 2002 and 2014, showed an average output growth rate of 14.1 per cent.

The Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Delhi have bagged the top three positions while Osmania University, University of Mysore and JNU are in the bottom three position.

Amrita Varsity Dean Wins IIT Alumnus Award

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/Amrita-Varsity-Dean-Wins-IIT-Alumnus-Award/2016/03/20/article3336278.ece>

KOCHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, has conferred its Distinguished Alumnus Award on Dr Shantikumar V Nair, dean of research and director of the Amrita Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine (ACNSMM) at the Amrita University. Dr Nair was selected for the award in recognition of his contributions as an outstanding academician and researcher in the field of Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine. He is widely known for his innovations in tissue-engineered products, nano-medicine, energy conversion and storage devices.



Dr Shantikumar V NairThe award was presented at a function chaired by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research director Dr Sandip Trivedi. IIT-Mumbai director Dr Devang Khakhar read the certificate citation.

Speaking after receiving the award, Dr Nair said, "I recall that my BTech project at IIT-Mumbai was on Composite Materials. Just ten years later, I received the Presidential Award from US President Ronald Reagan for research in composites. That is the kind of foundation IIT-Mumbai helped me build. After 20 years of teaching in America, I returned to India in 2006 to serve my country, inspired by the message of

Mata Amritanandamayi. An enduring lesson that I learnt from Amma is that one's career is not about self-gain but serving society for the larger good."

UGC wants websites to show cases of discrimination

<http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/ugc-wants-websites-show-cases-discrimination-065>

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all its affiliated universities and colleges to maintain an official page on their websites wherein discrimination cases, especially those against SC/ST and dalit students, can be lodged and maintained. The initiative has been taken following the suicide of dalit scholar Rohith Vemula who hung himself in the hostel of Hyderabad Central University in January.

As per the order, "officials/faculty members should desist from any act of discrimination against SC/ST students on grounds of their social origin." The order further states that "the university/college should develop a page on their website for lodging such complaints of caste discrimination by SC/ST students and also place a complaint register in the Registrar/Principal office for the purpose. If any such incident comes to the notice of the authorities action should be taken against the erring official/faculty members promptly."

The UGC has further reminded the universities/colleges that it had issued letters in the past with similar instructions aimed at curbing suicide of dalit students on the campuses but there had been no action by the incumbent, hence the reminder was being sent with the expectation that it would be put into effect this time round.

The order issued by Dr Jaspal Sandhu, secretary, UGC has also asked universities/colleges to ensure that no official/faculty members indulge in any kind of discrimination against any community or category of students with a request to make official/faculty members more sensitive while dealing with above such incidents of caste discrimination and to send an Action Taken Report to UGC as and when the incident occurs.

Vemula, a dalit research scholar, had committed suicide in the hostel of Hyderabad Central University on January 17 allegedly due to harassment by the university officials who had suspended him and five other dalit scholars.

UGC to honour gender champions with badges in edu institutes nationwide

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/UGC-to-honour-gender-champions-with-badges-in-edu-institutes-nationwide/articleshow/51486660.cms>

Kolhapur: A badge of recognition awaits gender champions in educational institutes across the country. A recent circular stated that the University Grants Commission (UGC) via the Ministry of women and child development has decided to give badges to gender champions appointed at educational campuses in the country.

In order to achieve the gender equality in educational institutions, the UGC had instructed institutions to appoint gender champions among students last year to foster equal treatment for both genders.

The circular from UGC secretary Jaspal Sandhu, said that the badges are available on its website and educational institutions have to give away these badges to those gender champions appointed in their institute. It also added that a report of this action should also be sent to the UGC.

A Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK) official said that the initiatives such as gender champions are the need of the hour and might change how the new generation looks at gender in a positive way.

Giving the badges is also a way of appreciating the efforts of the gender champions and this positive reinforcement may get better results. and it might yield better results. "Almost all the colleges and universities these days have a women's cell which look into issues related to women, however, initiatives like gender champions, directly involve the students," added the official.

A circular sent by Sandhu on August 3, last year, stated that the UGC expects gender champions to strengthen the potential of young girls and boys to advocate gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice and create a society that is gender sensitive.

"Gender champions are envisaged as responsible leaders who will facilitate an enabling environment within their schools, colleges, academic institutions where girls are treated with dignity and respect," it added.

The commission had asked colleges and universities to nominate a student as gender champion on campus. These students were to be in charge of identifying gender bias in classrooms, and observe the reasons for gender inequality and suggest measures that would promote gender equality.

The gender audit report prepared by the university's Centre for Womens Study Centre in 2014 stated that womens representation in the SUK's various authorities and committees was very poor. The report was handed over to the then vice-chancellor N J Pawar on September 22, 2014.

Plans Afoot to Make Second Yoga Day a Big Affair

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/Plans-afoot-to-make-second-Yoga-Day-a-big-affair/articleshow/51483415.cms>

Prime minister Narandra Modi's international yoga day agenda is back on campuses. Institutes under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have been instructed to organise yoga workshops designed by Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (Vyasa), which is headed by PM's yoga guru, Dr

HR Nagendra. The Central government this year is looking at a 100 per cent participation from institutes that fall under AICTE, University Grants Commission (UGC), as well as IITs, IIITs and IISERs.

According to a circular issued by the Council, "AICTE has drawn the action plan and decided to organise a one-day yoga workshop" for students of institutes approved by it in Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Pune and Delhi. "At each of the venues, a maximum of 300 students would be accommodated. Hence, we request you to nominate five to 10 motivated students, who would in turn take up yoga in their respective colleges. The contents of the workshop have been designed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-Vyasa), Bengaluru, in which the key speaker and experts will also be from S-Vyasa, who will provide theoretical or practical training, in line with the IDY common yoga protocol," states the circular signed by AICTE chairman, Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe. The international day of yoga (IDY) will be observed on June 21.

Stating that in order to "motivate young minds towards holistic health, practising yoga is the best tool", the circular says that in competitive environments, students are under pressure from various directions and due to this, they are unable to focus and concentrate properly towards achieving their targets. "Practising yoga shall (help) overcome stress and contribute to memory development. As a result, they can focus and concentrate properly," it says. The letter also asks institutes to make yoga a regular feature in students' welfare activities of the institutions.

The UGC have also issued a circular to all universities and colleges, stating that during the review of proposed plan of action for IDY, the PM emphasised the "need for making yoga more appealing to the youth so that they can imbibe this rich cultural heritage and their youthful energy could be effectively channelised in nation-building".

It asks universities to organise two to three days' yoga fest during April or May, where students could be sensitised about the strengths and health benefits of yoga in promoting "physical, mental and spiritual" health. "They may also be trained in the common yoga protocol to be performed on IDY on June 21. Some of the other activities suggested for this fest could be musical and cultural programmes based on yoga and sensitisation of youth about career prospects in yoga," it says. Lectures by experts on subjects such as, 'yoga for lifestyle modifications', 'yoga for wellness', 'yoga and detoxification', 'power of pranayama', and 'yoga for mind and body', could be part of the fest, it says.

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Never anticipated joining politics, says Parrikar

ROORKEE, PTI: An IIT oalumns, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar says a public life was something he never anticipated and he was pushed into the river of politics from behind but managed to "swim successfully".

He used disarming sense of humour in his address to future technocrats while inaugurating IIT Roorkee's 'Cognizance 2016' on Friday, often having the students in splits.

"When I came here, I was given this two-page prepared speech but then I thought since we are talking of 'Make in India', so I would have my own speech. So, guess I'll go my way, the IIT way, and talk directly the students," he said, to a loud cheer, as he spoke ex-

tempore. "It's almost like coming back to IIT-Bombay. I spent my B.Tech days at IIT and later also took up a PG course but never finished the M.Tech. But more than degree and I valued knowledge. I spent 6.5 years at IIT, I didn't spend 6.5 years for under-graduation, but I have a B.Tech degree, as my affidavit says, and not M.Tech. Someone, may file a case (against me)," he said, leaving the crowd in raptures.

The minister was apparently making a reference to the row related to Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani's educational qualifications. On being a reluctant politician, he said, "Many IITians went to the US, the UK but I stuck here. Let



Manohar Parrikar

me tell you I never anticipated joining politics. I was the one sitting by the side of the river and someone pushed me from behind into it." But, I swam successfully, in that river and became chief minister of Goa and then the defence minis-

ter," he said, adding, "I was the general secretary of the mess and quite popular and thus got elected for three years.

At least that proves that doing the mess management I learned to steer the state finances properly."

Moving on to examinations, he said the current generation is "luckier" as far as engineering examinations are concerned.

"Let me tell you, open book examination is the most difficult one.

As you have to know where the answer lies, going through the book twice, thrice" as he asked students to inculcate, out-of-box thinking and contribute to the growth story of India.

Aaj Samaj ND 20/03/2016 P-5

कोई आंखें दिखाए, ये बर्दाश्त नहीं

आईआईटी रुड़की के टेक्नो फेस्ट में बोले रक्षामंत्री

■ कहा, रक्षा खरीद के लिए प्राथमिकता है 'मेक इन इंडिया'

रुड़की। रक्षा मंत्री मनोहर पर्रिकर का कहना है कि 'मेक इन इंडिया' कैम्पेन रक्षा संबंधी खरीद के लिए एक प्राथमिकता है, लेकिन 'सैन्य परिचालन संबंधी तैयारी' सेना का प्राथमिक काम है। पर्रिकर ने कहा कि हम नहीं चाहते कि लोग हमें आंखें दिखाए। रक्षा मंत्री शुक्रवार शाम को आईआईटी रुड़की में तीन दिन के टेक्नोलॉजी फेस्टिवल के पहले दिन रक्षा क्षेत्र में 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल से जुड़ी एक पैनल डिस्कशन में बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि हमें पर्याप्त उपकरण चाहिए और यह बदल नहीं सकता। मेक इन इंडिया अपनी जगह पर है। हमारी सैन्य तैयारी सबसे ऊपर है। पर्रिकर ने कहा कि मैं साफ करना चाहूंगा। मेक इन इंडिया रक्षा खरीद के लिए

सुरक्षा तैयारी तेज करने की मांग

रक्षा मंत्री मनोहर पर्रिकर ने बताया कि पटानकोट वायुसेना स्टेशन और गुरदासपुर में आतंकी हमले के बाद देश की रक्षा तैयारियां तेज करने की मांगें हो रही हैं। गौरतलब है कि हाल में विपक्षी कांग्रेस ने पटानकोट हमले से निपटने के तरीके को लेकर संसद में सरकार की आलोचना की थी। हमले में सात सुरक्षा कर्मी मारे गए थे।

मुझे धक्का देकर राजनीति में उतारा गया



बात करते हैं तो मेरा खुद का भाषण होना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं अपने तरीके से, आईआईटी की तरह छात्रों से सीधे बात करूंगा।

हमारी प्राथमिकता है, लेकिन पहली प्राथमिकता भूली नहीं जा सकती। अपने पढ़ाईसियों को ध्यान में रखते

आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र रक्षा मंत्री मनोहर पर्रिकर ने कहा है कि सार्वजनिक जीवन में आने की उन्होंने कभी नहीं सोची थी और राजनीति की नदी में उनको धक्का देकर उतारा गया लेकिन वह तैरने में कामयाब रहे। तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट के बीच उन्होंने कहा कि जब मैं यहां आया तो मुझे दो पन्ने का तैयार भाषण दिया गया लेकिन तभी मैंने सोचा कि जब हम 'मेक इन इंडिया' की

हए हमारी सेना का पहला काम परिचालन संबंधी तैयारी है, ताकि कोई हमें आंखें न दिखाए।

Def Min to tie up with academia to tap innovation for sector

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/def-min-to-tie-up-with-academia-to-tap-innovation-for-sector-116031800841_1.html

Seeking to tap innovative ideas from academic campuses, Defence Ministry has set the ball rolling for collaboration with IITs, NITs, IISc and other top institutions to work out a research and development paradigm which will include both "innovation and production" for the sector.

"I have already instructed DRDO and our other organisations to tie up with academic institutions in tapping the potential for innovation there and use it for not just academic research but also for defence production, based on merit," Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said here today.

The Union minister, an IIT-Bombay alumnus, was speaking at the opening ceremony of the three-day technical festival 'Cognizance 2016' of IIT Roorkee.

"Some IITs, some NITs, IISc, some regional engineering colleges and other top academic institutions, we have planned to tie up with to work out R&D not just for innovation but production in the defence sector too.

"And, I think in six-twelve months we should be in a position to start the programme," he said.

Parrikar while addressing a gathering of students, academicians and guests at the Convocation Hall emphasised the government's 'Make in India' vision and asked students to contribute to the country's growth story by innovating.

"I don't claim that all intelligence lie at IITs, but a substantial amount of it does. I mean look at this Convocation Hall, it was a hangar used during the Second World War or something and you have turned in into this big facility, therein lies your innovation," he said, as he received a loud applause.

He also proposed using defence offsets to create projects that bring in academic participation.

"I think we should also use defence offsets to create such type of research projects in defence with academic participation," Parrikar said.

The minister cited example of some of the projects taking place in few institutions like IIT-Bombay with Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the US.

Parrikar went down memory lane and even recalled his days of entrepreneurship.

"After finishing college, we started our own venture and later decided to enter politics. But, innovation is something the campus environment promotes and if you have great ideas then this programme fits in

right there," he said.

The 60-year-old politician graduated in 1978 and was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by his alma mater for his achievements in 2001.

“Join in economic development”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/join-in-economic-development/article8376405.ece>

University Grants Commission (UGC) Vice-Chairman H. Devaraj has called upon educational institutions, especially engineering colleges and technical institutions, to change their culture and enter into the country's economic life.

“The time has come when we ought to change the culture of our educational institutions and make them partners in the country's progress, research and development activities,” he said in his address at the graduation ceremony of Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering and Technology here on Saturday.

He said that region-wise imbalance in the growth of technical education was a cause of concern and to address the issue, the National Skill Development Corporation had developed a model to bridge the industry-academia gap. NSDC was working with 21 universities, UGC and seven AICTE, catering to more than 1,200 colleges and 400 community colleges , he said.

'1/3rd of teaching posts in central varsities vacant'

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Information provided by the human resource development (HRD) ministry shows that one-third of teachers' posts in central universities are lying vacant.

More than 53% of associate professors' posts are not filled and most universities are relying on ad-hoc, contractual and guest faculty. A senior HRD official said the ministry and University Grants Commission (UGC) have been monitoring universities to fill up posts but the situation has not improved.

"Procedural issues are a major obstacle in filling the vacant positions. There are some departments in which permanent positions have not been filled for the past 14-15 years. Authorities give us the excuse that they can't find a good person for the job. A Nobel laureate won't come and teach here, right? But authorities don't understand that," said Professor KN Uttam of Allahabad University, where 60% positions are vacant.

Vishwanath Pandey, former public relations officer of Banaras Hindu University, said, "Our vice-chancellor has started the process of filling up vacancies and 250 posts have been filled so far. The process for 475 vacancies is also on, the V-C is confident of filling them soon." The university has more than 65% permanent positions that are vacant.

A senior HRD official said, "Central universities are adopting different methods to address faculty shortage to ensure studies are

A SENIOR HRD OFFICIAL SAID THE MINISTRY AND THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (UGC) HAVE BEEN MONITORING UNIVERSITIES

FACING THE STAFF CRUNCH

35.7% Total vacant teaching posts

18% Vacancy in teaching positions if the ad-hoc, guest faculty, contract positions are taken into account



not affected. This includes hiring ad-hoc and guest faculty. The retirement age was also increased to 65 years in 2007 to solve the problem."

A total of 2,922 ad-hoc and contract faculty have been employed by central universities to manage the staff crunch. "At times, certain subjects are not taught due to lack of specialist faculty. In many cases, existing teachers are burdened with additional work which puts a lot of stress on them," said a Delhi University professor.

HRD minister Smriti Irani responded to queries by saying the "onus of filling up posts lies on central universities, which are autonomous bodies created under Acts of Parliament". The issue was also discussed in a conference of V-Cs of central universities on Feb 4 and 5. "The minister had told universities to look into the issue immediately and fill up the posts in a time-bound manner. They were also asked to file a status report," said a senior HRD official.

Punjab Kesri ND 20/03/2016 P-3

देशी तकनीक से बनेंगे एलीवेटेड फ्लाईओवर

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो): दिल्ली की सड़कों को जाम फ्री बनाने के लिए सरकार विदेशी नहीं बल्कि देशी तकनीकों की मदद से डबल डेकर एलीवेटेड फ्लाईओवर बनाएगी। इसके लिए बाकायदा दिल्ली सरकार ने लगभग 11 जगहों को चयनित किया है। जहां पर डबल व थ्रिपल डेकर एलीवेटेड फ्लाईओवर बनाए जाएंगे। इसके अलावा दिल्ली सरकार एक टूलन बनाने पर भी विचार कर रही है। इनके निर्माण में लोक निर्माण विभाग के इंजीनियरों के अलावा आईआईटी एक्सपर्ट्स की भी मदद ली जाएगी।

इससे पहले मलेशिया जैसे विदेशी मॉडलों को अपनाने पर भी विचार किया गया। जोकि दिल्ली के हिसाब से फिट नहीं बैठता। लिहाजा अब देशी तकनीक को ही अपनाने का फैसला लिया गया है। बता दें कि मलेशिया का मॉडल जानन और दिल्ली में लागू करने को लेकर दिल्ली सरकार के लोक निर्माण विभाग मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन पीडब्ल्यूडी अधिकारियों के साथ मलेशिया दौरे पर भी गए थे। लेकिन मलेशिया का मॉडल पंसद नहीं आया।

कोशिश

डबल-डेकर फ्लाईओवर के लिए आईआईटी एक्सपर्ट्स देंगे अपना आइडिया

इसके पीछे दिल्ली की भौगोलिक स्थिति, ट्रैफिक स्थिति, राजनीतिक दबाव, सड़कों पर अवैध कब्जा जैसे कारणों का हवाला दिया गया। जबकि लोक निर्माण विभाग मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन ने कहा कि मलेशिया ट्रिप का फायदा मिला है।

उन्होंने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि हम अपने स्तर पर डबल व थ्रिपल डेकर एलीवेटेड फ्लाईओवर बनाने की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं।

जानकारी के मुताबिक नजफगढ़ नाले पर बनने वाले एलीवेटेड फ्लाईओवर को प्राथमिकता देते हुए निर्माण कार्य की शुरुआत की जाएगी। इसके तहत ककरोला मोड़ से पंजाबी बाग पर एलीवेटेड कोरिडोर बनाना है। वहीं, दिल्ली सरकार देशी तकनीक अपनाकर लागत में भी कमी लाना चाहती है।

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Hindustan Times ND 19/03/2016

P-13

HRD ministry finalises new IIT-B chairman

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: After nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar resigned from the post of chairman of IIT Bombay last year, the HRD ministry has finalised the name of Dilip Shanghvi, chairman of Sun Pharma, as the new chairman of IIT Bombay, it is learnt. Kakodkar had resigned due to differences with the ministry.

Most IITs have industrialists as their chairman of board of governors (BoG). The board is entrusted with the job of making policy-related decisions, which includes administrative and academic work and overall supervision.

According to officials, the move is aimed at strengthening the partnership between the industry and academia. The file will now be sent to President Pranab Mukherjee for

an approval as he is the visitor of the institutes.

"It is quite important for us to appoint eminent persons, including industrialists, to head engineering institutes. This not only helps in establishing partnership between the industry and the academia but also provides greater insight to institutes to gauge what industry demands. Also, as the head of board of governors, the persons appointed by us bring in a fresh outlook, which is missing at times. Our intent is to ensure we bring greater expertise through some appointments," said a senior HRD official.

Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, and Rajiv I Modi, chairman and managing director of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, were appointed the chairmans of IIT Delhi and Guwahati respectively.

The IITs need financial autonomy if they are to remain centres of excellence

With the Standing Committee of IIT Council accepting an internal expert panel's recommendation for a three-fold increase in the tuition fees charged by Indian Institutes of Technology), the ball is now firmly in the Centre's court to take a call on the issue. If the Union HRD Ministry accepts the suggestion, fees are slated to go up from the current ₹90,000 per annum to around ₹3 lakh per annum. While the proposed increase may appear steep in percentage terms, the revised fee will place the IITs at par with other premier State-run engineering colleges like the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and well below what is charged in private sector engineering schools. The fees will also be less than the ₹3.5-4 lakh that each student actually costs the exchequer. Restructuring the financial resources of IITs so that they generate more resources internally was one of the key recommendations in the Anil Kakodkar Committee report, submitted way back in 2011. However, with fee hikes becoming a hot button political issue, the previous UPA regime kicked the can down the road by appointing a committee to examine the issue.

Financial autonomy is essential if the IITs are to maintain their educational standards. With their numbers burgeoning — there are already 18 operational, with three more slated for this year — the Centre will be hard pressed to find the resources required. Increasing the fees, therefore, is an obvious solution. In any case, about 45 per cent of undergraduate students in IITs falling in various reserved and economically backward categories, pay only 10 per cent of the fees charged to others, which effectively halves the collection. To ensure that higher fees do not prevent the poor and the underprivileged from accessing quality education, the panel has suggested a system of scholarships and interest-free student loans.

The latter suggestion merits serious consideration, since the Centre can ensure targeted help to those who need it, while reducing its subsidy outgo to the interest component. Merely ensuring availability of loans is not enough. High student indebtedness is one of the biggest issues facing higher education in countries like the US and the UK. With median salaries for IIT graduates ₹8-10 lakh per year, repaying a subsidised or interest-free loan would not be a burden. The IITs also need to actively pursue other sources, such as sponsored research and endowments, which currently account for less than a quarter of their revenues. India Inc, which has benefited vastly from the talent pipeline provided by IITs, also need to step up.

Economic Times 19/03/2016 P-2

WOONG FOREIGN STUDENTS Ambassadors of at least 40 nations to participate in education meet

Govt to Showcase India Education Hub

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New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced over 50,000 scholarships for foreign students at the India-Africa summit in October. Six months later, it has been found that a series of issues need to be addressed to draw in foreign students in greater numbers.

Coordinating efforts with several ministries, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations is holding a major conference with ambassadors of at least 40 nations on Monday to showcase India as an education destination and the focus is not just course on Indology but the much in demand technical and management courses of India.

On the table are issues like safety of foreign students, student welfare systems, cultural sensitisation, language

To Make India Attractive

6,900 FOREIGN students in India in 2000; 33,000 in 2012

EARLIER, STUDENTS used to come to study religion, Indology, Sanskrit etc, but now demand for technical & mgmt courses is rising

HRD MINISTRY is looking at ways to open up technical education for foreign students



barriers, visa irritants and so on.

As per the All India Survey of higher education, while there were some 6,900 foreign students in India in 2000, the number rose to 33,000 in 2012. ICCR which manages a range of scholarships for foreign students gives over 6,000 scholarships currently and the aim is to increase this exponentially.

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Issues like safety of students, student welfare systems, language barriers & visa irritants to be discussed

One of the key measures being taken — more so after the recent incident involving a Tanzanian woman student in Bangalore — is to involve voluntary organisations and eminent persons and experts to handhold, mentor and guide foreign students to help them navigate better through the cultural and social landscape of the country.

“The idea is to give special attention to the welfare and wellbeing of its scholars while they are in India— arranging talks and meetings with eminent experts, personalities, facilitating participation and cultural events and visits to historical and cultural places. The idea is to give the visiting scholars a comprehensive and lasting experience of India so that they return to their respective countries as lifelong friends and admirers of India”, a senior ICCR official told ET.

To fight fund crunch, IIT-K to burden students

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx#>

KANPUR: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has proposed to take drastic measures to overcome the ongoing financial crisis. The proposals would be discussed at the meeting of the IIT council for approval before they are implemented, said professor RK Chaturvedi, deputy director, IIT-K.

Chaturvedi said efforts were being made to overcome the existing financial crisis and there was a proposal to reduce certain expenditures and enhance the revenue generation by exploiting the internal resources.

The proposal would be submitted to the IIT Council and if it gave its nod to the proposal it would be sent to the government for approval. There was also a proposal to enhance the fee, he added. The union government had curtailed the budget by Rs 75 crore which caused the financial crisis.

Recently the Board Of Governors (BOG) of the IIT-K had asked the union ministry for human resource and development (MHRD) to raise the budget allocation. The MHRD advised the IIT-K Board to cut the heavy expenditure and generate its own revenue.

Consequently, the IIT-K administration has drawn up a plan that could ensure a drastic cut in the expenditure incurred on students, teachers and maintenance of the institute.

The IIT-K has decided to charge ` 10,000 per annum as maintenance charge from the students as against the existing charge of ` 3,600 per annum. Similarly, it has proposed to bring down the electricity bill by banning the use of electricity round the clock. The time limit for the use of WiFi and Internet would also be fixed and the two services would not be available for all 24 hours as per the proposal. On the other hand, the facilities provided to teachers, professors and other employees in the campus would be curtailed. Restrictions would be imposed on the installation of computer and the printers in the office and at the residence and on the unrestricted use of electric gadgets.

UGC review of scholarship stipend to 300 TISS students kicks up a row

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/news/ugc-review-of-scholarship-stipend-to-300-tiss-students-kicks-up-a-row/article8373409.ece?css=print>

The Students Federation of India on Friday said it will stage protests against the University Grants Commission (UGC) stopping the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) scholarship stipend to over 300 Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) PhD students, accusing the Centre of depriving backward class students the opportunity to pursue higher education.

Reacting to reports that UGC had suspended scholarships to PhD students, stating that TISS is not one of the recognised institutions in the list specified under 12 (b) of the UGC Act eligible for UGC funding, SFI Mumbai district secretary Rameshwar Shere said that SFI activists would stage a protest outside Churchgate station on Saturday at 11.30 am.

“TISS is a well-known social science institution. Moreover, students studying in TISS are from socially weaker sections. This year, 26 students had applied for the scholarship, but only 10 were eligible. However, the scholarship amount has not reached them. This is nothing but the Centre’s way of keeping backward class students away from education,” Mr Shere said in a statement.

Mr Shere said, “Many of the 303 PhD students are from the ST and the SC community. UGC had earlier suspended scholarships for OBC students, and now SC and ST students are likely to be affected. The national budget has also cut down education sector spending. We demand that the Centre should not just sit quietly, [but] intervene in this matter so that Adivasi students get justice.” He said several TISS students and other students organisations would participate in Saturday’s protest.

Mumbai Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam perceived UGC’s snapping the funding for TISS scholars as a politically motivated move, and tweeted, “After #HCU & #JNU, it's #TISS in Mumbai. UGC grant for scholarship of 300 PhD students is withdrawn. Dir. Parshuraman criticises central govt.”

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr Nirupam said, “This denial of scholarship is exactly what had happened in Hyderabad Central University, and with Rohit Vemula, and I see TISS as the next target. I see a clear link and a deliberate agenda by the HRD ministry at the behest of the RSS to harass all students who don’t subscribe to their ideology. And the result we have seen in Kanhaiya Kumar and Rohit Vemula.”

Mr Nirupam said that he would meet TISS director S Parsuraman regarding the issue.

Prof Parsuraman said that the non-NET scholarship is a small stipend given by the Centre to research scholars until they clear NET to receive Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in order to encourage students to opt for research. He said that TISS had 303 students who receive this non-NET Fellowship, which is under review by a government-appointed committee.

“In the meantime,” Prof Parsuraman said, “TISS has not received reimbursements from the UGC for 2014-15 and 2015-16. However, we continue to pay this scholarship for students through deficit budget. We have reached a stage that it will not be possible to continue with the non-NET scholarship if the UGC does not provide allocation for 2016-17 and reimburse pending dues. However, to those scholars who secure admission to the integrated MPhil-PhD programme without JRF, non-NET scholarship will not be given.”