

Newspaper Clips

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Hindu ND 12.05.2015 P-7

IIT-B to hone robotic skills of 50 A.P. rural students

Staff Reporter

ONGOLE: It is dream come true for 50 students from State residential schools as they will get advanced training in robotics, the technology of the future, at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Fifty students were short listed from over 150 students who spent their summer holidays productively by attending a workshop on Robotics conducted by IIT, Mumbai in collaboration with ARK Technologies, Mumbai and Prakasam Engineering College, Kandukur from May 2 to 11.

The students under the guidance of Abhijit Deshpande and Akash Shah from ARK Technologies developed 12 types of robots for different applications including wired, wireless and line-following ones aimed at improving the quality of life of people in different fields.

District BC Welfare Officer K. Mayuri, who distributed the certificates, was floored by the talent of the students who gave a dem-



A group of students of State-run residential school giving a demonstration at a robotics camp held at Prakasam Engineering College in Kandukur on Monday. - PHOTO: KOMMURI SRINIVAS

onstration of the functioning of robots they themselves had made.

Speaking on the occasion, PEC correspondent and secretary K. Ramaiah exhorted the students to think out of the box and make it a practice to learn by doing.

Creating jobs

College Director K. Srikanth impressed upon the students from rural background to develop an attitude to create jobs in the

future rather than go in search of jobs to cities and towns. Displaying the certificates issued to them after viva voce by the faculty from IIT, a group of students from class VI to X said "we want to become technocrats in the future".

The personality of students who started the day with yoga and aerobics, was moulded by Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) expert Shankar during the camp, programme director N. Balaji Naik said.

Financial Chronicle ND 12/05/2015 P-10



Economic Times ND 12/05/2015 P-6

Govt to Set up Startup Network to Support Young Entrepreneurs

HIGH-IMPACT SCHEME Ecosystem will encourage social enterprises and help commercialise grass-root level innovations

Vikas.Dhoot@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Modi government is creating an ecosystem for supporting young entrepreneurs through a formal network of incubators, accelerators and mentors that would help set up, grow and stabilise new businesses, with an emphasis on social enterprises and commercial adaptation of grass-root level innovations.

The network that would include institutions like the IIMs, IITs, Indian Institute of Science, research parks and industry bodies, is being steered by the Ministry of Skill De-

velopment and Entrepreneurship as a 'high-impact scheme' to spur job creation.

"We will have a workforce of billion persons by 2030 with a million persons entering the job market every month. While skill development is critical, it won't translate into enough employment unless existing firms grow and many new enterprises come up," a senior government official told ET.

The Indian economy is currently creating only 5.5 million organised sector jobs a year, resulting in a burgeoning demand for jobs that are non-existent, he pointed out.

The ministry is exploring tie-ups

with Ahmedabad-based Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and US-based non-profit, Wadhvani Foundation, both of which have extensive expertise on the subject. The National Skills Development Corporation and industry chambers like CII and FICCI are also likely to partner the startup network.

The new startup network would also bring on board existing entrepreneurship promotion initiatives

such as the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (set up in 1982 under the Ministry of Science and Technology) and the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development under the aegis of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

While social enterprises (read for-profit, but socially responsible businesses) would also be encouraged by the proposed startup network, a partnership is also being put in place for commercialising grass-root level innovations.

"We will work with the National Innovation Foundation to support

and scale-up grass-root innovations and idea. New technology-driven startups will get a platform of incubation, mentoring and assistance," the official said, adding that they are consulting state governments on these plans to boost entrepreneurship.

According to the ministry, the Wadhvani Foundation trains and backs over 100,000 aspiring student entrepreneurs at 500 colleges in India and has over 7,300 mentors and trainers. The EDII, which is an autonomous not-for-profit institute, has developed over 20,000 entrepreneurs and has 3,000 trainers in its institutional network.

To Spur Job Creation

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Senior Govt Official

आइआइटी के छात्र बना रहे पानी के भीतर काम कर सकने वाले रोबोट

कोलकाता, 11 मई (भाषा)। आइआइटी खड़गपुर के छात्र इन दिनों एक ऐसा रोबोट बना रहे हैं जो कि पानी के भीतर स्वायत्त रूप से काम करेगा।

पानी के भीतर काम कर सकने वाला यह स्वायत्त वाहन ऑटोनॉमस अंडरवाटर वीकल (यूएवी) ड्रोन के मुकाबले ज्यादा बुद्धिमता से काम करेगा। यह पानी के भीतर दिए हुए काम को पूरा करने में निपुण होगा। यह रोबोट किसी दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान के मलबे को समुद्र के भीतर खोजने में सक्षम होगा।

सेंटर ऑफ रोबोटिक्स के छात्र पहले ही इस तरह के रोबोट का प्रारंभिक स्वरूप क्राकेन 3.0 तैयार कर चुके हैं जो पनडुब्बियों की तरह 10 मीटर तक पानी की गहराई में जा सकता है। छात्रों की इस टीम का नेतृत्व करने वाले अभय कुमार ने बताया कि हम इसे पहले से किसी विशिष्ट कार्य के लिए निर्दिष्ट (प्रोग्राम) कर देते हैं जैसे कि जल के भीतर सर्वेक्षण करना, मलबे में खोए सामान को पहचानना और उन्हें उठाना इत्यादि। इसे पानी के भीतर किसी जहाज की तली की मरम्मत करने के लिए भी काम में लाया जा सकता है।

Millennium Post ND 12/05/2015 P-3

'Global ranking heavily tilted in favour of foreign universities'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and founder of Boscai, Manu Mital has questioned the global ranking of universities by international agencies. He argued that the criteria of international ranking agencies like Times Higher Education (THE) is tilted in favour of foreign universities and educational institutions. According to Mital the global rankings are done on the basis of 'invitation only' which means 'they' get to decide who is worthy of participating in the survey and whose isn't, and therefore, many deserving institutions are conspicuous by their absence in the final ratings.

"Firstly the process of ranking should be made more democratic. In these global rankings a huge weightage is assigned to research work being done and the number of research papers being published. However, end users - students, parents or alumni normally cannot relate to these rankings because the parameters that are important for them from the perspective of seeking admission in an institute, college or univer-



sity are significantly different," argued Mital.

Mital was reacting to IISc being awarded a lowly rank of 122 by THE in the top 100 universities of the world. More than 13 lakh institutions figure in Boscai's exhaustive list of colleges.

He further added that the prime concern for end users are the courses offered, fee structure, student-faculty ratio, quality of faculty (qualification and experience), infrastructure, campus placement statistics, average salary offered, industry connect etc.

The criteria of 'university' also means that premier Indian institutes like IIMs, IISc, ISB etc that offer only specialized courses and have

otherwise earned reputation over the years amongst students and employers alike, are not even considered for ranking.

"Moreover, the fact that Indian institutes/colleges/universities don't have too many overseas students enrolled here becomes a drawback too, since the survey criteria demands so," he added.

Mital argued that Indian students are held in high esteem the world over and this is evident from the fact that leading organisations like Google, Microsoft, Accenture, IBM, Dell, and even NASA, that are known to hire only the best talent, now have a sizable chunk of Indians across the ranks powering their engines.

Deccan Herald ND 12/05/2015 P-9

Nasa's heartbeat tracing technology saves lives in quake-hit Nepal

WASHINGTON, PTI: A new heartbeat-detecting device developed by NASA has helped rescue four men trapped under as much as 10 feet of bricks, mud and other debris in Nepal after a killer earthquake devastated the country.

The device called FINDER (Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response) uses microwave-radar technology to detect heartbeats of victims trapped in wreckage.

Following the 7.9 magnitude April 25 earthquake in Nepal, two prototype FINDER devices were deployed to support search and rescue teams in the stricken areas.

"The true test of any technology is how well it works in a real-life operational setting," said Dr Reginald Brothers, Under Secretary for Science and Technology at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"Of course, no one wants disasters to occur, but tools like



The FINDER device. NASA

this are designed to help when our worst nightmares do happen. I am proud we were able to rescue the men," said Brothers.

The men had been trapped beneath the rubble for days in Chautara village. FINDER was able to detect two heartbeats, allowing the rescue workers to find and save the men.

Pioneer ND 12/05/2015 P-4

HRD Ministry backs UPA appointed NBB Director

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry on Monday apparently shielded an irregular appointment made by the erstwhile UPA regime.

The Ministry told Parliament that the appointment of incumbent Director at National Bal Bhawan (NBB) Usha Kumari MC was done by a "competent authority" on the basis of three names shortlisted by a panel in 2013.

"For the appointment of Director, NBB, a search-cum-selection committee was constituted by the MHRD. The committee after interviewing 26 candidates, unanimously recommended three names viz Rishi Kumar Vashisht, Usha Kumari MC and Jyotsana Tiwari for appointment to the post. The competent authority after going through the bio-data of these three candidates, found Usha Kumari most suitable for the post. Accordingly Kumari joined as Director NBB on deputation in January 2013," HRD Minister Smriti Irani stated in a reply to former Union Minister and

The Ministry told Parliament that the appointment of incumbent Director at National Bal Bhawan Usha Kumari MC was done by a "competent authority" on the basis of three names shortlisted by a panel in 2013

Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel in the Rajya Sabha.

The names were indeed in a preference order where Usha Kumari figured second. However, it was here that Irani's predecessor MM Pallam Raju favoured Usha Kumari, who was the wife of a top IAS officer who had served as Private Secretary to late Arjun Singh during his tenure as HRD Minister.

In doing so, Raju overruled the recommendation of the Ministry's search-cum-selection panel. Incidentally, Irani's reply comes days after she herself stated in the Lok Sabha that she is looking into cases of nepotism undertaken by her predecessor.

The search-cum-selection panel was headed by the then

Additional Secretary Amarjit Singh, who had indicated that if Vashisht is denied, Usha was to be appointed.

In reply to another query regarding the action over the overruling, the Ministry said the matter is sub judice since Vashisht has moved court against the HRD Ministry.

Former NCERT Director JS Rajput, who has served as Chairman of the Bal Bhawan, said that the institute used to be a centre of excellence for children but during the last couple of years lot of irregularities including some controversial appointments have been reported which is not a healthy sign for institute which caters to children.

"The institute is not at all being managed professionally. We had introduced several technical and science learning projects to enhance the creative potential of children. It pains me a lot to know the autonomy of the institute has been hijacked to express nepotism. The present dispensation should take care to restore its legacy. Given an opportunity the institute can do wonders," said Rajput.

IIT Goa to offer 90 seats in 3 streams in '15

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/IIT-Goa-to-offer-90-seats-in-3-streams-in-15/articleshow/47239646.cms>

PANAJI: If the new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) allotted to Goa by the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry last year gets the nod to begin operations from July/August 2015, it will function from the campus of Goa Engineering College (GEC) at Farmagudi, official sources said.

During the period when the permanent location of the IIT Goa is finalized and the infrastructure is raised, it is being planned that the new IIT will operate from the GEC campus, which is expected for now to be for a period of four years.

Ninety seats - 30 each in three streams of electrical engineering, computer engineering and mechanical engineering - will be on offer at the Goa IIT when the first batch is admitted to the institute in 2015.

During the initial years it will be mentored by IIT Bombay.

"The GEC as the temporary location of the IIT, is yet to be finalized by the Union HRD ministry. GEC too being an engineering college all the infrastructure required for an engineering course is available at GEC. We have been told that any additional equipment required will be acquired by the IIT," an official source said.

TOI had first reported that IIT Goa will operate from GEC at Farmagudi until it gets its own campus.

The first national institute to be allotted to Goa, the National Institute of Technology, too had begun operations from the GEC campus in 2010. The NIT has since moved to a renovated building near the GEC premises, which was earlier being used to run a polytechnic course.

It has been five years now since the NIT was set up with promises from the state government of land for permanent infrastructure, but the NIT is yet to get the identified land at south Goa for its campus.

Officials though claim that land acquisition could be simpler for the IIT if Union officials opt for the land in Dhargalim for the institute. Land in Dhargalim is one of the locations identified to set up the IIT.

"Land acquisition can prove to be a tedious and unending process. But we already have acquired land in Dhargalim, which was marked for a sports city for the National Games. With the project now cancelled, the land will be shown as one of the proposed sites for the IIT. If the central government team finalizes this land then the work on raising the infrastructure can begin immediately," the source said.

Recently, Union HRD officials had written to the Goa chief minister to act fast on the Centre's request to leave out some of the unacquired land from the Dhargalim site and submit a fresh proposal to set up the IIT in the 100 to 200 acres of land where the acquisition process has been completed.

Industry-academia conclave held at IIT Ropar

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

RUPNAGAR: The department of mechanical, materials and energy engineering of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, organised its first industry academia conclave (IAC 2015) on its campus on Monday.



HT PHOTO The vice-chairman of Chandigarh CII branch, Dinesh Dua (right), and director of IIT Ropar MK Surappa (centre) at the Industry Academia conclave held at IIT Ropar on Monday.

Representatives from various industries such as Siemens, Tata Motors, GE, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai, Mahindra and Mahindra, National Instruments, Ralson, Jeol India Private, Madhav Alloys Private Limited participated in the conclave.

During IAC-2015, inputs from industrialists, with regard to under graduate and post graduate curriculum, industrial internship, BTP and capstone project, research and consultancy, innovation and entrepreneurship were taken.

CII, Chandigarh, vice chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) and director of Nectar Life Science Limited, Dinesh Dua, inaugurated the conclave. IIT, Ropar, director MK Surappa presided over the conclave.

In his inaugural address, Dua emphasised on the need to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

He emphasised that the industries and academic institutions should play pro-active role in working together on the real world problems, so that the young minds could be nurtured as per the specific requirements of the industry.

In his address, Surappa stressed on the need for industry-academia partnership. He mentioned that the faculty should work in close association with industry on real world problems and must give competitive solution to industry.

Co-ordinator of the school of mechanical, materials and energy engineering, Navin Kumar, welcomed the delegates, while associate professor Harpreet Singh presented the vote of thanks.

IIT, Ropar, registrar, Javagal K Sridhar, and dean (A&R) PK Raina, were also present on the occasion.

HRD ministry wants varsities exempted from new MoU rule

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

HRD MINISTRY SOURCES ARGUED THAT THE MINISTRY DID NOT HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO GO THROUGH EVERY MOU SIGNED

After the cabinet circular asking all ministries/ departments to ensure every MoU signed by an agency with any foreign country/ agency be routed through the cabinet, the HRD ministry has written to the cabinet secretariat asking it to exempt higher educational institutions that sign a number of MoUs with foreign universities from the said directive.

The ministry wrote to the cabinet secretariat before President Pranab Mukherjee embarked on a five-day visit to Russia where a number of MoUs are to be signed between higher educational institutions of the two countries.

In its letter, the ministry is understood to have argued that since huge impetus on internationalisation of education was being given, a number of MoUs are expected to be signed in the near future and therefore, MoUs for educational exchanges be exempted.

In its circular dated April 24, the cabinet secretariat, while directing that every MoU should seek prior approval of the cabinet, had granted exemption for cultural agreements and agreements under science and technology saying such agreements nonetheless be placed before the cabinet. The HRD ministry wrote back saying MoUs/agreements for educational exchanges be exempted under the broad framework of cultural exchanges.

In its letter, the ministry sources argued that long process of approval for such a large number of MoUs would hinder internationalisation for attaining quality in the country's higher education system.

It also said the ministry did not have the wherewithal to go through every MoU signed between Indian institutions and foreign ones. Every year, higher educational institutions, including IITs, IIMs and central universities, sign agreements with foreign universities for various activities like student/faculty exchange. Joint research programmes, leadership development programmes, joint degree programmes, development of community colleges and skill development.

IIT classes to start on July 16, NIT's on July 23

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/IIT-classes-to-start-on-July-16-NITs-on-July-23/articleshow/47239063.cms>

MUMBAI: IITs will begin their academic session from July 16 while NITs are likely to start theirs from July 23.

IITs and NITs have almost finalized the schedule for the joint seat allocation process in 88 institutes across the country. Students can start filling their options from June 25 till 29. For the first time, the two sets of premier institutes have come together to offer students a variety of courses for admissions on a single platform.

The joint seat allocation process will be regularized by the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA). The JoSAA first met on May 2 to finalize the process and fill the gaps, wherever necessary. The IITs had put up the schedule on the JEE (Advanced) website, but removed it later to edit some minor information. Students will

soon get to access the schedule and other business details of the process. While IITs will begin sessions as per their regular schedule, the joint process will help NITs begin their academic session early, too. The idea of a joint process was initiated to reduce the number of vacant seats in these premier institutes. There are, in all, 32,000 seats in the 88 institutes, of which around 10,000 are in IITs alone.

"Students can fill in as many options as they want from the available pool of courses in the 88 participating institutes. Some courses have minor restrictions, such as the mining course where female students cannot apply. We have already put up the opening and closing ranks for different courses offered by the IITs in 2013 and 2014. Students should make their choices accordingly," said a professor. He added that students should be very careful in making their choices—those with a lower rank should not opt for a course that has closed at a higher rank in the past two years. The opening and closing ranks will give them an idea of how they should opt for courses, said the professor. Meanwhile, admit cards for JEE (Advanced), will be made available from May 15 instead of May 11 as planned.