

Newspaper Clips May 16, 2013

Hindu ND 16.05.2013 P-11

IIT-Hyderabad gets nod for JICA loan

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) will borrow ₹1,500 crore from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to set up infrastructure and expand academic and research capability.

The finance ministry approved the proposal after representatives from the institute and the human resource development ministry presented their case on 10 April, according to three officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

PRASHANT K. NANDA ●

Times of India Ahmedabad
15-05-2013 P-10

IIT aspirants drag CBSE to court over results

Hemali Chhappia | TNN

Mumbai: About 15 candidates who took the JEE (Main) and are unhappy with their results have moved the Delhi high court against the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE), which conducted the exam. JEE (Main) scores are used for admission to engineering colleges as well as to shortlist students who can take advance exam for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology.

In their petition, students have complained against the CBSE for not providing the answer key to question sheets.

"The respondents provided no mechanism to redress the grievances of petitioners who have secured a much higher score according to the solutions of prominent coaching institutions, but will be deprived of sitting in the JEE (Advanced) Exam 2013 being conducted by the CBSE as well as getting admission in any reputed engineering college, only because of institutional arrogance of respondents who have chosen to either not respond to the pleas of mercy or replied in an arbitrary and mechanical manner with patent absence of application of mind," the petition read.

The students, who have come together, will be represented by senior advocate Chetan Sharma. They claimed there is not a single regional office to attend to the grievances of the petitioners and other candidates, and even the helpline service no longer works. When results of the JEE (Main) Exam 2013 were declared, there was a "sea of difference" between expected marks and declared result of the petitioners, claimed a parent.

"If the CBSE is sure that the answer key of the coaching classes is not reliable, let them release their own answer key. It is just not fair that students do not have a fair redressal forum," said the mother of a student who is also trying to seek an appointment with CBSE officials in Delhi. About 10 other students plan to file interventions in the Delhi HC and ask that the admission process be stayed.

Rajasthan Patrika Jaipur 15-05-2013 P-19

आईआईटी-राजस्थान के निदेशक का इस्तीफा!

जोधपुर आईआईटी-राजस्थान के निदेशक प्रो. पी के कालरा ने अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। सूत्रों के अनुसार प्रो. कालरा ने मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय को अपना त्यागपत्र भेज दिया, हालांकि इस खबर की पुष्टि नहीं हो पाई है।

राजस्थान पत्रिका ने इस बारे में बात करनी चाही तो उन्होंने कल बात करने को कहा। वहीं, मंगलवार को दिनभर आईआईटी परिसर में उनके इस्तीफे की

चर्चाएं रही। सूत्रों के अनुसार आईआईटी राजस्थान से आकाश टेबलेट का प्रोजेक्ट आईआईटी-बोम्बे को स्थानांतरित होने और टेबलेट बनाने वाली कंपनी डाटाविंड और आईआईटी-राजस्थान के प्रबंधकों के बीच मतभेद को इस्तीफे की वजहों में गिना जा रहा है। वहीं फ्रांस के साथ होने वाले एमओयू में देरी को द्वाब की वजह माना जा रहा है।

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

IIMs' faculty worked up over appraisal scores

Faculty members' teaching and non-teaching activities are assigned scores for earning incentives under new scheme

VINAY UMARJI & KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 15 May

It's vacation time at the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and the faculty members are calling each other to check the score. Just that the score has no correlation to the ongoing Indian Premier League cricket season.

Faculty members, instead, are curious about the new performance management system (PMS), where their teaching and non-teaching activities, including research and administration, are assigned scores for earning incentives. Last year, the institute had initiated a new system of setting targets, assigning scores and offering incentives, based on the scores for teaching and non-teaching activities.

Following suit, other institutes, including IIM-Calcutta, IIM-Trichy and IIM-Udaipur, have initiated various systems to measure their faculty's performance. At IIM-Lucknow, for instance, faculty members' salaries would now carry a variable pay component based on targets achieved, such as the number of research papers, number of teaching hours and quality of teaching methods, as well as participation in consulting projects, among others.

"The good thing is that I can aggregate my scores over three years. The downside is the stress that comes from wanting to know how much score one has earned. In academic institutes, non-teaching activities are part of one's job. Hence, a person can get tense over how much of each activity he has finished and how much incentive he is liable for," said a faculty member at IIM-Ahmedabad.

Moreover, it is perceived that Indian academicians, compared with their Western counterparts, are more inclined towards teaching than research, and, hence, such a system would add pressure on them.

"There is a general inclination towards teaching among Indian faculty members. That is the reason one needs to find encouragement for them to pursue or enhance research activities," said Janat Shah, director of IIM-Udaipur, which has a research incentive scheme. According to Shah, the institute also has a liberal faculty development allowance in place, to encourage faculty members to seek overall development.



REPORT CARD

- Last year, IIM-A initiated a new system of setting targets, assigning scores and offering incentives based on scores for teaching and non-teaching activities
- At IIM-Lucknow, faculty members' salaries would now carry a variable pay, based on targets achieved, such as the number of research papers, the number of teaching hours and the quality of teaching methods, as well as participation in consulting projects, among others
- Other institutes, including IIM-Calcutta, IIM-Trichy and IIM-Udaipur, have initiated various systems to measure the faculty's performance

Further, IIM-Calcutta says it is important to understand that all faculty members have a different set of strengths. All teachers need not be good researchers and a good researcher need not necessarily be a good teacher. Thus, faculty members at the institute decided to draw a three-year plan for themselves.

"We decided that a faculty member may be allowed to choose his or her mix and declare it for the next three years. What we have noticed is that when people declare their plans, sheer peer pressure makes them work to achieve it. No one else needs to judge them," said Ajit Balakrishnan, founder chairman and chief executive officer of Rediff.com and chairperson of IIM-Calcutta.

According to a director of one of the IIMs, in their recent meeting with the ministry of human resource development (MHRD), the latter had sought

QUALITY WATCH The HRD ministry had recently sought details on how the premier B-schools were going about increasing faculty's performance

details on how the premier B-schools were going about such a system.

"Technically, each IIM will have to decide on its own (whether to develop a faculty's teaching and non-teaching evaluation system as part of the compensation package). But, it's true that we, as IIMs, need to have some system. The problem is how to measure research. There have to be quality and effort indicators in evaluating research," said the director, who did not want to be named. "We are trying to be as comprehensive as possible, by ascribing indicators for various research and other non-teaching activities, based on the effort and quality of that work."

At IIM-Trichy, the board recently approved rewarding faculty members financially for using their services other than academically.

"My experience has been that whichever department faculty member supervises sees a smooth run. So far, we were giving only credits to faculty members for their total workload. Thus, we decided to pay faculty members for their services other than academics," said Prafulla

Agnihotri, director, IIM-Trichy. Shah is also of the view that faculty members should be freed from administration work. "Faculty members are also involved in admission, placements and other administration work. Why should the faculty do that? At IIM-Udaipur, therefore, we don't have faculty doing administration work; they merely oversee it."

The perception is Indian academicians, compared with their counterparts abroad, are more inclined towards teaching than research

Navbharat Times ND 16/05/2013 P-13

IIM स्टूडेंट्स सीख रहे चाइनीज लैंग्वेज

[ईटी ब्यूरो नई दिल्ली]

आईआईएम के संस्थानों में चीन की भाषा मंदारिन का कोर्स काफी पॉपुलर हो रहा है। आईआईएम बेंगलोर के मुताबिक, भारत और चीन दोनों मुल्क आर्थिक क्षेत्र में एक-दूसरे का मुकाबला कर रहे हैं। ऐसे में भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स चीन को नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते हैं। इस संस्थान में लैंग्वेज कोर्स-बिजनेस चाइनीज के प्रोफेसर एस



स्वामीनाथन ने बताया, 'हमारे बिजनेस का भविष्य चीन के साथ है। अगर हमें ग्लोबल लेवल पर अपनी छाप छोड़नी है, तो हम चीन को नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते।'।

चाइनीज बिजनेस कोर्स के तहत स्टूडेंट्स को मंदारिन के 550 शब्द सिखाए जाते हैं, ताकि इस भाषा में रोजमर्रा की बातचीत सीखी जा सके। इस कोर्स में उच्चारण पर

काफी जोर दिया जाता है। इस भाषा की पढ़ाई पिनयिन मीडियम के जरिए होती है। पिनयिन के तत रोमन के जरिए चाइनीज सिखाई जाती है। प्रोफेसर स्वामीनाथन ने बताया, 'हम चीन के इकनॉमिक ग्रोथ मॉडल से काफी कुछ सीख सकते हैं। इससे हमें ग्लोबल मार्केट में दूसरों का मुकाबला करने में मदद मिलेगी। पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश, श्रीलंका और म्यांमार की इकनॉमी में चीन की अहम हिस्सेदारी है, जबकि हम इस मामले में सुस्त रहे हैं।' मंदारिन को पहली बार 2011-13 बैच के छात्रों के लिए सेकेंड ईयर में शुरू किया गया था।

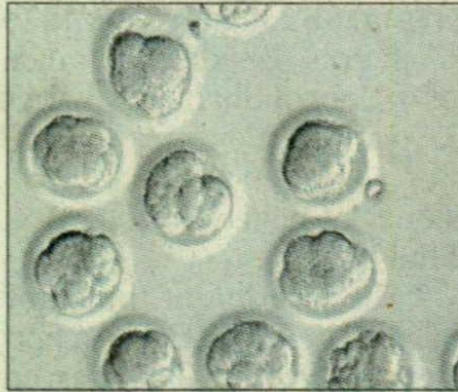
Deccan Herald ND 16/05/2013 P-1

Scientists create human stem cells through cloning

NEW YORK, REUTERS: After more than 15 years of failures by scientists around the world and one outright fraud, biologists have finally created human stem cells by the same technique that produced Dolly, the cloned sheep, in 1996. They transplanted genetic material from an adult cell into an egg whose own DNA had been removed.

The result is a harvest of human embryonic stem cells, the seemingly magic cells capable of morphing into any of the 200-plus kinds that make up a person. The feat, reported on Wednesday in the journal "Cell," could re-ignite the field of stem-cell medicine, which has been hobbled by technical challenges as well as ethical issues.

Until now, the most natural sources of human stem cells have been human embryos, whose use in research poses ethical quandaries. The technique announced on Wednesday, by scientists at Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon National Primate Research Center, uses unfertilised human eggs.



The medical milestone could lead to new treatments for illnesses like Parkinson's.

Eliminating the need for human embryos could boost attempts to use stem cells and their progeny to replace cells damaged or destroyed in heart disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and other devastating conditions.

But the achievement could also revive fears of reproductive cloning, or producing genetic copies of living (or dead) individuals.

Even before the study was published, a British watchdog group called Human Genetics Alert protested the research.

"Scientists have finally delivered the baby that would-be

human cloners have been waiting for, a method for reliably creating cloned human embryos," said David King, the group's director. "This makes it imperative that we create an international legal ban on human cloning before any more research like this takes place. It is irresponsible in the extreme to have published this research."

Among scientists, however, the accomplishment is being hailed as "a tour de force," as stem cell biologist George Daley of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute put it. "This represents an unparalleled achievement. They succeeded where many other groups failed, including mine."

The Oregon scientists, led by Shoukhrat Mitalipov, used a variation of the "Dolly technique." They carefully inserted an adult skin cell into a donated human egg whose DNA had been removed. The unfertilised eggs, stimulated by electric pulses to start dividing, developed to about the 150-cell stage.

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Scientists clone human stem cells

Clone, from Page 1

In succeeding with humans, the Oregon team toppled the dogma that there is something odd about human eggs or embryos, said stem cell expert Rudolf Jaenisch of the Whitehead Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Published data said there was a difference in principle between humans and the mice and other animals that had

been cloned, a difference that presented an insurmountable barrier to human cloning for either reproduction or stem cells.

The Oregon team figured out how to get the egg to act as if it had been fertilised. The secret was to keep the eggs in the phase of their growth cycle called "metaphase," which is when DNA aligns in the middle of the cell before the cell divides. The scientists got the

best results when they grew the eggs in a little of a substance that tends to be abundant in labs, caffeine.

"Reproductive cloning hasn't been advanced by this new paper," agreed MIT's Jaenisch. "If you implanted these embryos, which would be illegal, I think you would get the same results as in mice. Most of them die at birth, and the others encounter big troubles as they age."