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Smriti Irani courts fresh controversy

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani has courted a fresh controversy having recently made a contradictory statement in Parliament about setting up of an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in Mauritius.

While replying to a discussion on the demands of grants of her Ministry on April 27, the Minister said that the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Act was violated to open up a technical institute at the international level in Mauritius with the "Indian taxpayers' money" during the erstwhile United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime in 2013.

"Today the question is that when Congress-led UPA's government was at the Centre, why IIT Act passed by this Parliament was violated? Why such an international agreement was signed where a commitment was made to set up a



Smriti Irani

campus with the money of the tax payers of India at an international level? Whether there was not any fear of law then or respect for Parliament and Constitution of India?" she stated in the Lok Sabha.

Same day in reply to an unstarred (written) question in Rajya Sabha, she stated that IIT-Delhi did not incur "any expenditure" either on the setting up of the campus of the IITRA in Mauritius or starting aca-

demical programmes at the institute.

"No Madam," she stated in her reply to Congress MP Renuka Chowdhury's question whether government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November, 2013 for setting up of IITRA at Mauritius.

Earlier in a written reply to another unstarred question in Lok Sabha on February 25 this year, the minister stated that there was no proposal to set up an international campus of the IIT as IITRA in Mauritius.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) took serious exception to the contradictory statements made by Smriti in Parliament on the setting up of IITRA in Mauritius, demanding a clarification from her.

"The Minister must clarify which of her statements that she made in Parliament is correct. The statements that she made in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with regard to IITRA are contradictory," TMC's MP Sug-

ata Bose demanded, questioning the credibility of the Narendra Modi government.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who was Minister of State for Human Resource Development during UPA regime, also demanded that Irani should clarify if there was any discrepancy in her statement relating to the setting up of IITRA in Mauritius.

Soon after IIT-Delhi director RK Sheogaonkar tendered his resignation following some differences with Irani in December, the HRD Ministry questioned his role in the setting up of the institute's "off shore campus" in Mauritius, citing violation of rules in signing of agreement with Mauritius.

The IIT-Delhi, however, later submitted its reply to the Ministry, saying the IITRA was neither an extension campus of the IIT Delhi nor was there any financial commitment on its part towards setting up of the institute in Mauritius.

DH News Service

Smriti vs IIT on foreign foray

Basant Kumar Mohanty

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150516/jsp/nation/story_20439.jsp#.VVdmU_C2Iy0

New Delhi, May 15: Human resource development minister Smriti Irani has questioned the logic of "spending taxpayers' money" to fund an IIT Delhi offshore campus in Mauritius, but her views appeared to contradict what the tech school said in a media release late last year.



Smriti Irani

In the press statement, the IIT said its agreement with the Mauritius Research Council in November 2013 - when the UPA was in power - had no mention of any financial commitments by India.

The December 29 media statement also said the IIT's role was only advisory in nature.

Smriti was replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on April 27 on demands for grants for her ministry when she made the statement.

"Why such an agreement was signed where commitments were made to set up a campus at (an) international level in violation of (the) Institute of Technology Act by spending India's taxpayers' money? Why did the minister of that time did not react," she told the House.

The reference to IIT Delhi came after Trinamul MP Sugata Bose, who mentioned the resignation of the tech school's director, asked the government to respect scientists.

R.K. Shevgaonkar resigned on December 22 on "personal" reasons, but sources said his resignation had not been accepted yet.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) that the IIT signed with the Mauritius Research Council was for setting up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in the Indian Ocean island nation.#

Under the MoU, the IIT would admit students for the IITRA according to the tech school's norms and award degrees once they successfully complete their research programmes. Such students can pursue their courses partly in IIT Delhi and partly in the IITRA. This arrangement - of the IIT awarding the degrees to IITRA

students registered with it - would continue till 2018. After 2018, the IITRA would award the degrees.

The HRD ministry, however, feels that since the Institute of Technology Act does not allow the institute to award degrees abroad, the IIT's venture is "illegal".

M.M. Pallam Raju, who was the HRD minister when the MoU was signed, could not be reached for comment but IIT sources pointed out that the tech school would award the degrees since the IITRA students would be registered with the Delhi institute.

Sources in IIT Delhi said the Mauritius government had committed itself to spending 228 million Mauritius rupees (Rs 41 crore) over five years. It has already spent 10 million Mauritius rupees (Rs 1.8 crore) for a transit campus and the main campus, now under construction in Montagne in Blanche district, they added.

Earlier on April 27, Smriti had in a written reply to a question from Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury told the Rajya Sabha that IIT Delhi had not incurred any expenditure either on setting up the campus or starting an academic programme in Mauritius.

Trinamul MP Bose today said the minister must clarify if what she said in the Lok Sabha was correct or not.

Despite repeated attempts, no comments could be obtained from HRD ministry officials.

Govt for group discussion to appoint IIM directors

Brajesh Kumar

■ brajesh.kumar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government has sparked a controversy by breaking from academic traditions with an order that candidates for IIM director posts will have to clear group discussions, much like prospective students to the prestigious management institutes, a move that educationists dubbed "insulting".

The step was introduced by a selection panel constituted by the union HRD ministry to pick the director for IIM Lucknow with 17 applicants in the fray who will appear for the discussion and interview on Saturday.

The new move has drawn sharp reactions from academics who have said a group discussion for aspiring IIM directors is unusual and uncalled for.

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Govt for group discussion

"I have tremendous reservation for this selection method. The director position at IIMs is equivalent to the post of a senior government officer and subjecting candidates applying for it to group discussions is a

public insult to them. They are after all not MBA aspirants," said Pritam Singh, former director of IIM Lucknow.

This is the latest row to have hit the ministry that has been rocked by a string of disagreements with top academics and bureaucrats over appointments to India's leading institutions with the Opposition accusing minister Smriti Irani of destroying the educational establishments.

Nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar quit as the chairman of IIT Bombay's governing body in March following reports of differences with Irani over the selection of three IIT directors.

So far, the IIM selection committee invited applications for vacant director posts, shortlisted eligible candidates, called them for interviews and then recommended a panel of names to the ministry which forwarded it to the President, the visitor of the institutes.

"I have never heard of this (the GD process) before. It looks like an entrance test for CAT/MBA," said KRS Murthy, former director of IIM Bangalore.

Sources in the ministry said the new step is in line with the one applied during the selection of directors for three IITs—Ropar, Bhubaneswar and Patna—in February.

"The candidates called for the IIT director selection also had to go through GD and interview and it looks like it will be a norm for every selection," an official said.

HRD minister Smriti Irani and higher education secretary SN Mohanty, who is a member of the selection panel, were not available for comment.

HT.COM ND 16.05.2015 P-1

Discussion rages over IIM dir selection

Brajesh Kumar

NEW DELHI: It may soon be that not just students applying to IIMs need undergo a group discussion (GD) to get through. In a departure from past, candidates applying for the position of IIM director will have to undergo GDs as well to land the top job. The move introduced by the

search-cum-selection committee formed by the HRD ministry for selecting the director of IIM Lucknow was slammed by academics who said it is an 'insult' to applicants, many of whom are eminent scholars.

Around 17 candidates have been called for the said position and will appear for the GD followed by an interview.

Usually, IIM directors are chosen by a selection panel that invites application for the position, shortlists eligible candidates, calls them for an interview and then recommends a panel of names to the HRD ministry, which in turn forwards it to the President of India.

Ministry sources said the move follows the one applied

THE HRD MINISTRY HAS MANDATED A GROUP DISCUSSION FOR CHOOSING IIM-L'S DIR

during the selection of the three IIT directors – Ropar, Bhubaneswar, and Patna – in February.

Naya India ND 16.05.2015 P-7

नई शिक्षा नीति पर बहस, सरकार की नई पहल

नई दिल्ली ■ वार्ता/डेस्क

मोदी सरकार ने अपने एक साल के कार्यकाल में जहां शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में कई नई योजनाएं शुरू की और करीब तीस वर्ष बाद नई शिक्षा नीति बनाने को लेकर राष्ट्रीय बहस की शुरुआत की वहीं उस पर शिक्षा के भगवाकरण के भी आरोप लगे तथा मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी भी विवादों में घिरी रहीं।

सरकार बनते ईरानी को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री बनाया गया तो उनकी शैक्षणिक डिग्री को लेकर मीडिया में विवाद खड़ा हुआ। उसके बाद शिक्षक दिवस पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के बच्चों के नाम संबोधन को स्कूलों में सुनने के लिए अनिवार्य किए जाने पर भी ईरानी विवादों में घिरी भले ही उन्होंने सफाई दी कि यह अनिवार्य नहीं किया गया है। वह विवाद थमा ही था कि केंद्रीय विद्यालयों में जर्मन भाषा को हटाकर संस्कृत पढ़ाने को लेकर वह फिर विवादों में घिरी।

दिल्ली आई आई टी के निदेशक के इस्तीफे को लेकर भी वह विवाद में घिरीं। भारतीय इतिहास अनुसंधान परिषद् के अध्यक्ष एवं अन्य नियुक्तियों को लेकर उन पर शिक्षा के भगवाकरण के आरोप भी लगे।

विपक्ष ने मोदी सरकार पर शिक्षा के बजट में भारी कटौती करने का आरोप लगाया लेकिन सरकार ने सफाई दी कि 14 वें वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों के आधार पर राज्यों को अधिक पैसे आवंटित किए गए हैं। इस लिहाज से शिक्षा के बजट में कोई कटौती नहीं की गई है।

सरकार ने कर्नाटक में आईआईटी खोलने, इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ माइन्स को आईआईटी का दर्जा देने, जम्मू-कश्मीर तथा आन्ध्र प्रदेश में आईआईएम खोलने तथा पंडित मदन मोहन मालवीय मिशन शुरू करने की घोषणा की। इस मिशन को गत वर्ष प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी तथा ईरानी की



पानी छोड़ने के मुद्दे पर बैठक जल्द

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास व गंगा संरक्षण केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने अपने मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया है कि वह बाणसागर नियंत्रण बोर्ड की बैठक जल्द बुलाएं। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष से अपने हाल के संवाद में अपील की थी कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को दो महीने के लिए बाणसागर बांध से सोन नदी में 2000 क्यूसिक पानी छोड़ने का निर्देश जारी किया जा सकता है। बाणसागर समझौता, 1973 के तहत बाणसागर बांध से एक एकड़ फीट पानी पर उत्तर प्रदेश की हिस्सेदारी बनती है। अपने संवाद में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने कहा है कि बढ़ती गर्मी व बारिश की कमी कि वजह से सोनभद्र व मिर्जापुर जिले में पीने व सिंचाई के लिए पानी का संकट बढ़ गया है। स्थानीय बांध व तालाब सूख चुके हैं। जलस्तर काफी नीचे चल गया है। सोन पंप नहर भी बंद पड़ी है क्योंकि इसको चलाने के लिए सोन नदी का जल स्तर (164.612 एम) होना चाहिए, जो कि इस समय नहीं है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने इस आधार पर पानी छोड़े जाने से इंकार कर दिया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार बाणसागर के रखरखाव पर आने वाले खर्चों को साझा करने पर राजी नहीं है, इसलिए उन्होंने बाणसागर बांध में उत्तर प्रदेश के हिस्से का पानी जमा नहीं किया। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के इस दावे को गलत बताया है। बीसीबी केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास व गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत काम करने वाला कार्यालय है। बोर्ड का गठन 30 जनवरी 1976 को स्वीकृत प्रस्ताव के जरिए हुआ था। यह प्रस्ताव बाणसागर समझौते के अनुरूप था जो कि मध्य प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश व बिहार के बीच 16 सितंबर, 1973 को सोन नदी के पानी के बंटवारे व बाणसागर की कीमत के लिए हुआ था। उत्तर प्रदेश व बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री व मध्य प्रदेश के सिंचाई मंत्री बीसीबी के सदस्य हैं। (पीआईबी)

उपस्थिति में वाराणसी में लांच किया गया। मोदी सरकार ने लड़कियों की शिक्षा पर जोर देते हुए 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना के तथा तकनीकी शिक्षा में लड़कियों के लिए 'प्रगति' छात्रवृत्ति शुरू की। उसने शिक्षा को ग्रामीण विकास से जोड़ने के लिए 'उन्नत भारत योजना' भी शुरू की जिसके तहत आईटी, एनआईटी तथा भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान को भी गांव गोद लेने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। इसके तहत 132 गांव गोद भी लिए गए। इसके अलावा कोशल विकास के लिए सभी विश्वविद्यालयों में 'च्चाइस वेस्ट क्रेडिट सिस्टम' भी शुरू किया गया।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए विदेशी प्रोफेसरों को कॉलेजों तथा विश्वविद्यालयों में आयोजित करने की 'ग्लोबल इनिशिएटिव ऑफ एकेडेमिक नेटवर्क (ज्ञान) योजना शुरू की और अमरीका के साथ एक करार भी किया। इस सरकार ने संप्रग सरकार के समय से संसद में पेश उच्च शिक्षा विधेयक तो वापस ले लिया पर विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग की समीक्षा के लिए यूजीसी के पूर्व अध्यक्ष डा. हरी गौतम की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति भी गठित कर दी जिसकी रिपोर्ट पर अब सरकार विचार कर रही है।

ईरानी ने नई शिक्षा नीति बनाने के लिए द्वाइ लाख पंचायतों में विचार-विमर्श करने की घोषणा की। इसके लिए लोगों, थीम तथा टेग लाइन भी जारी की गईं और 33 विषयों पर 12 हजार से अधिक सुझाव भी आ चुके हैं। सरकार ने शिक्षकों के लिए एक हेल्पलाइन 1800110039 भी शुरू की तो छात्रों के लिए 'नो योर कॉलेज' पोर्टल भी शुरू किया। यूजीसी ने भी छात्रों की शिकायतें दूर करने के लिए एक पोर्टल का शुभारंभ किया। इसके अलावा विकलांग बच्चों के लिए भी पढ़ाई में मदद करने की विशेष योजना बनाई।

HRD ministry's moves leave NAAC headless

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-hrd-ministry-s-moves-leave-naac-headless-2086122>

After a quiet exit of [Delhi University](#) Vice Chancellor [Dinesh Singh](#) from the position of Chairman NAAC, its director Professor AN Rai too has had a mid-term unceremonial exit, leaving the council headless.

Both Singh and Rai were appointed by the previous UPA government. Singh was asked to step down as Chairman NAAC after his relations with the HRD minister [Smriti Irani](#) ran through rough weather over Delhi university's controversial four-year undergraduate course. "Singh was asked to move out quietly. He resigned from the post in the later half of the previous year," informed a UGC functionary.

Differences with Singh also happened as Singh had failed to deliver. "It was made to understand the Singh would help NAAC set up an office in Delhi. Singh was to provide space to NAAC on the Delhi university campus and would get Delhi University and its colleges accredited from NAAC," added the official. Singh, however, failed on both counts. The position of chairman NAAC continues to remain vacant, ever since Singh's exit.

UGC's vice chairman Prof H Devaraja has currently been made the acting chairman of NAAC. In the meeting of the UGC in the last week of April, UGC chairman Dr Ved Prakash apprised the members of the exit of NAAC director AN Rai. Rai had resigned on April 21. "The position of NAAC director lying vacant was not placed on the agenda. In fact the chairman mentioned it in his address," said UGC member MM Ansari, who was a part of the meeting.

In an interim arrangement UGC secretary Prof Jaspal Singh Sandhu has been as director NAAC. Rai is a professor at North Eastern Hill University Shillong. His appointment in 2012 by the UPA government was also marred with controversies. "While the chairman is an honorary post, the director is responsible for the day to day functioning of NAAC. The position should be filled in soon," said Rai. The UGC has now advertised for the post of director. No such advertisement has been announced so far for the position of chairman.

NAAC works as an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC). It accesses and accredits institution of higher education across the country.

HRD ministry trying to trample upon autonomy of universities: Teachers' unions

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-hrd-ministry-trying-to-trample-upon-autonomy-of-universities-teachers-unions-2086232>

The teachers' unions of various varsities in Delhi, including DU, JNU and Jamia, on Friday staged a protest against the reforms being mooted by HRD ministry as they alleged that it was an attempt to trample upon these institutions' autonomy.

"There is a growing consciousness within the academic community that the government's reform agenda in higher education is insincere, undemocratic and in tandem with the corporate lobbies' efforts to vandalise the public-funded system," said [Delhi University](#) Teachers' Association President, Nandita Narain. The teachers, who staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar, were also joined by Congress MP and member of the HRD Consultative Committee, Mani Shankar Aiyar.

"The intention of the MHRD is to trample upon the autonomy of universities and bring about drastic changes in a top-down and centralised manner, ignoring real concerns of access, affordability and equity in higher education," the teachers' unions said in a joint statement. They also gave a call for a united nation-wide struggle of teachers and students against Choice-Based Credit System, Common Central Universities Bill and the draconian provisions of the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

"Starting with the Semester System and FYUP under the previous government, there have been continuous efforts to derail the concerns of improving infrastructure and access in higher education by proposing models that favour the growth of foreign and private investment, dilute the academic and statutory processes of decision-making in universities, and sideline or suppress the voices of teachers and students," the statement said.

"The overarching policy design links the funding of universities with accreditation parameters that completely ignore the social goals of the public-funded system and the concerns of the backward sections while harping on an idea of quality that is driven by commercial prerogatives. "It seeks to destroy quality and equity in the public-funded system in order to promote private profit-making initiatives," it added. Meanwhile, the unions' efforts to seek an appointment with the HRD minister to raise their concerns did not materialise.

Smriti Irani must be doing something right if Leftie Teachers Unions are unhappy

<http://www.niticentral.com/2015/05/15/smriti-irani-must-be-doing-something-right-if-leftie-teachers-unions-are-unhappy-313562.html>

New Delhi, May 15 (PTI) The teachers' unions of various varsities in Delhi, including DU, JNU and Jamia, today staged a protest against the reforms being mooted by HRD ministry as they alleged that it was an attempt to trample upon these institutions' autonomy."

There is a growing consciousness within the academic community that the government's reform agenda in higher education is insincere, undemocratic and in tandem with the corporate lobbies' efforts to vandalise the public-funded system," said Delhi University Teachers' Association President, Nandita Narain.

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Now, IIT-Kharagpur offers a 'Make in India' course

The course will deal with the changing labour law scenario to make a success of Modi's pet campaign

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/now-a-make-in-india-course-on-offer-115051600688_1.html

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet 'Make in India' campaign has found a taker in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur.

The institute is offering a short-term course on 'Industrial Relations and Make in India: Emerging Trends' from July 11-17 which will deal with the importance of changing the crucial Industrial Disputes Act to make a success of Modi's pet campaign.

This comes as a time when the union government is trying to convince the opposing voices, particularly the

trade unions, about its move to amend crucial labour laws to boost the 'Make in India' campaign.

Also, as the government is making efforts to break the deadlock over the proposed land acquisition Bill, IIT-Kharagpur has offered a one week course on "Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Environmental Clearance of Projects" which will discuss the new Bill.

After coming to power last year, Modi had launched this campaign to promote India as a manufacturing hub.

"In order to translate the slogan into real action, there is a need to revisit regulatory framework linked to industrial relations in the country. The regulatory framework dealing with the relationship between employer and employee has got a vital role in materializing the agenda of the government," the summary of the labour-related course outlined.

This comes in the wake of the recent labour law proposals of the Centre to ease retrenchment policies in a factory.

"Since labour laws are so much in discussion nowadays, we thought there is a need to teach how we need to re-orient them to make the government's agenda successful. The government's campaign requires a focused teaching on the labour law issues," said one of the course co-coordinators in the institute, who didn't wish to be quoted.

One of the objectives of offering the course is to understand the agenda of 'Make in India' from the perspectives of industrial relations.

Recently, the NDA government had proposed to allow companies hiring up to 300 workers to retrench workers without seeking official sanction. Currently, industries with up to 100 workers are allowed to do this. While the industry has cheered the proposals as it has been their long pending demand, the trade unions have registered a strong protest against the move.

The course is open for students (from other institutes too), academics and industry players and is free of cost for faculty of AICTE-approved institutes. Industry players will need to pay Rs 10,000, academics Rs 6,000 and students Rs 3,000 for the course. Each participant will get a certificate on successful completion of the programme.

The course module will "explore" the labour laws impacting industrial relations, "educate the participants how to restore industrial harmony through industrial democracy" and talk about the changing nature of trade unions, preventive measures for an industrial dispute among other issues.

Although land acquisition and rehabilitation has been a topic of discussion in the past as well, the teaching will revolve around the new Bill that the union government has introduced in Parliament.

"Although we have taken up the subject in the past as well, the current scheme of changes will be brought into perspective this time," said Jayanta Bhattacharya, a Mining and Environmental Engineering professor at IIT-Kharagpur.

Bhattacharya said the institute will invite people from public services and industry who will share their experiences on the issue. To bring a sector-wise perspective, the institute has invited applications from across the industrial sector such as banks, railways, aviation, roads, etc, he said. The course will be held from September 15-19.

The controversial land acquisition Bill, which seeks to dilute the provision of consent and social impact assessment in some categories, was referred to a joint Parliamentary committee recently.

आईआईटी के साथ ही एनआईटी में एडमिशन

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/education/admission-alert/admission-process-going-parallel-in-iit-and-nit/articleshow/47304754.cms>

इस बार जेईई मेन व जेईई अडवांस की काउंसलिंग एक साथ होगी। इसके तहत देश के 20 इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलजी (आईआईटी), इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ माइनिंग, 31 नैशनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलजी (एनआईटी), 16 इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नॉलजी व केंद्रीय कोटे की 20 फीसदी सीटें भरी जाएंगी। जेईई की सीट एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी ने नई एडमिशन पॉलिसी का नोटिफिकेशन जारी कर दिया है।

आईआईटी बांबे में हुई जॉइंट सीट एलोकेशन कमिटी की बैठक में नई नीति पर सहमति बनी है। इससे पहले जेईई एडवांस व मेन की काउंसलिंग अलग-अलग होती थी। कमिटी ने काउंसलिंग का शेड्यूल भी जारी कर दिया। आईआईटी व एनआईटी में एक साथ काउंसलिंग के लिए सेंट्रल सीट एलोकेशन बोर्ड का गठन भी किया गया है।

यह है शेड्यूल: जारी किए गए शेड्यूल के तहत जेईई अडवांस की परीक्षा 24 मई को होगी। इसके बाद 18 जून को ऑल इंडिया मेरिट लिस्ट जारी कर दी जाएगी। वहीं, जेईई मेन की कॉमन मेरिट लिस्ट 24 जून को आएगी। 25 से 29 जून के बीच अडवांस व मेन के सिलेक्टेड कैंडिडेट्स अपनी चॉइस फिलिंग करेंगे।

1 जुलाई को फर्स्ट अलॉटमेंट लिस्ट जारी की जाएगी। 2 से 6 जुलाई तक कैंडिडेट्स के एडमिशन होंगे। 7 जुलाई को सेकंड अलॉटमेंट जारी किया जाएगा। 23 जुलाई से सभी आईआईटी व एनआईटी में अकैडमिक सेशन शुरू हो जाएगा।

Science journal gives Panjab University top rank

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Science-journal-gives-Panjab-University-top-rank/articleshow/47303620.cms>

CHANDIGARH: World renowned science Journal, 'Nature', has given top rank to Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, among leading science institutions of the country.

In the special issue on 'Science in India', 'Nature India' identified the leading science institutions by comparing the citation rates in Elsevier's Scopus database of Indian institutions, which had produced more than 2,000 papers between 2010 and 2014.

PU topped the 10 'Elite Research Centres of India'. PU is followed by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata; Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay; Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; IIT, Guwahati were at third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh places, respectively.

PU vice-chancellor Prof Arun Kumar Grover said the recognition from the top science journal should motivate the university in excelling in the field of research and innovation.

Nature has mentioned that China's research spending has shot up to almost 2% of its GDP but India is languishes at 0.9%, which has changed a little in more than a decade.

ISRO's new multi-purpose radar can track space debris, too

M RAMESH

Sriharikota, May 15

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is close to commissioning its new, home-made radar system capable of tracking several objects at the same time.

The radar will give ISRO better capability to handle future space missions that involve re-entry of modules back into the earth's atmosphere, and to track space debris.

The system will be tested during the next PSLV rocket launch in June; its commissioning could take three more months.

Disclosing the 'multi object tracking radar' to journalists here, MYS Prasad, Director, Satish Dhawan Space Centre (from where Indian rockets are launched), said that the radar could see objects as small as half a square meter in size, up to 1,000 km away.

"As far as we know, only five other companies in the world have the capability to build radars of this sophistication," Prasad said, naming Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, of the US, Thales, Canada-Europe, Elta of Israel and NEC of Japan.

While it would cost ₹800 crore to buy a radar of comparable capabilities from the international market, ISRO has built it for ₹245 crore, without any dedicated manpower, Prasad said.

V Seshagiri Rao, a former Director of the radar project, said that the software developed in-house would be worth another ₹100 crore. The project was approved in August 2012 and has been completed in time.

Unlike the disc radars that keep spinning, the 35-tonne MOTR is a stationary, 12 meter long, 8 meter tall rectangular radar that contains 4,068 individu-

al radiating elements. All these emit radio-frequency waves that combine to form a single beam. The beam can be electronically steered so that a third of the sky is scanned. Since the radar's base can be rotated to three positions, the entire sky can be covered.

Varied uses

Without this radar it would be extremely difficult for ISRO to handle manned space missions that involve the 'crew module' (and some other parts of the rocket) re-entering the atmosphere, because tracking them as they descend is crucial.

Since the radar can also track small objects, ISRO expects to use it to protect satellites in the 'low earth orbit' region (mainly, remote sensing satellites) from being hit by debris.

ISRO today uses NASA's debris data for that purpose. Prasad said that ISRO had to manoeuvre satellites out of harm's way as many as 12 times in the last five years. Now the data from the radar will supplement NASA data, to enhance ISRO's capacity to protect satellites.

All but the dome that covers the whole system were designed by ISRO and made by the Indian industry, Prasad said. The dome had to be imported because there was no Indian supplier who could assure 'RF transparency'.

He said that the radar could be put to several other uses as well. For instance, less sophisticated versions could be used by airports.

He did not want to comment on the military uses of the radar, but he observed that similar radars of Israeli make are being bought by military establishments all over the world.

A man-made mini-star to power our future

Experts To Harness Energy From Controlled N-Fusion

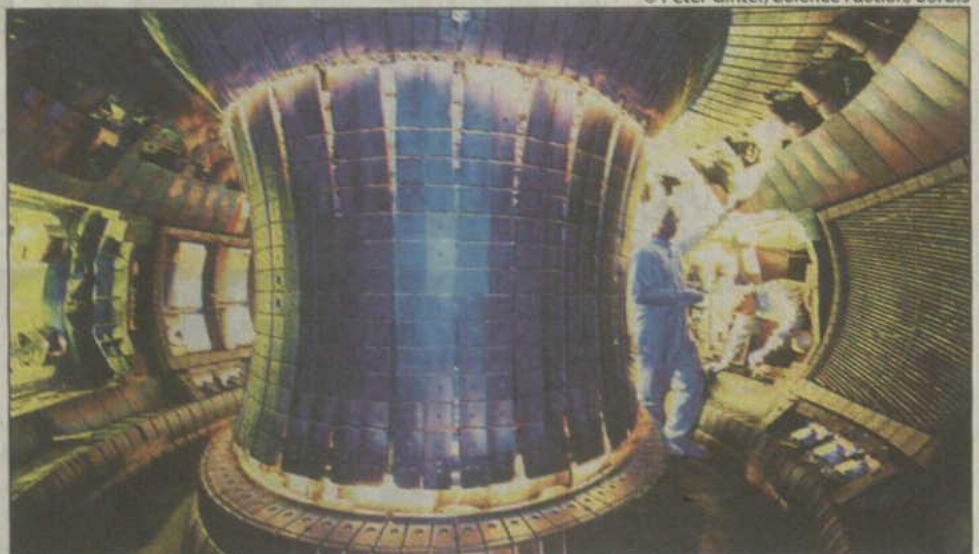
Andrew Griffin

Engineers and scientists are constructing a huge mini-star, which will produce the same reactions that happen in the sun to provide energy for the future. The project, known as Iter (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), is based in Cadarache, near Aix-en-Provence in southern France. It will weigh three times as much as the Eiffel Tower and be as big as 60 football pitches.

Inside the new building will be a nuclear reactor that scientists hope can provide power through nuclear fusion. In doing so it could generate clean, safe energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Earlier this year, the team behind the project appointed a new leader, Bernard Bigot. "We are now entering into manufacturing and preparations for assembly," he said as he joined in March. Bigot said that he had joined as part of a new management team that was set up to deliver "both a research and an industrial facility".

Inside that facility there will be a smaller and controlled version of the same reactions that happen in our sun, nuclear fusion. That happens when two atomic nuclei collide with each other, releasing energy in the form of photons. The scientists hope to harness that en-



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A SUN OF OUR OWN: The 'mini-star' will weigh three times as much as the Eiffel Tower and be as big as 60 football pitches

ergy and re-use it, to replace the dirty and limited forms of energy that we use today.

A super-hot cloud of hydrogen will rotate faster than the speed of sound while being bombarded with surges of electric current which will leave the hydrogen ten times hotter than the sun's core.

According to the organization's website, it is based on the tokamak concept of magnetic confinement, in which the plasma is contained in a doughnut-shaped vacuum vessel. The fuel, which is a mixture of two isotopes of hydrogen, will be heated to temperatures in excess of 150 million degrees, forming a hot plasma. By scorching it with concentrated

waves of radiation, scientists believe they will be able to harness the energy (in the form of photons) which are created when atomic nuclei collide with each other. It is the same process of nuclear fusion which occurs on the sun.

The project was launched in an early stage in 1987. It is now being pushed forward by a group of seven entities — including the EU, as well as the US, Russia and China.

Since then, the project has repeatedly run into problems, with the schedule being pushed back. But scientists hope that early operations can begin in the 2020s, with harnessed energy coming sometime after that. THE INDEPENDENT