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IIT Delhi for the first time decided to adopt the style of Ivy League universities to tap wealthy alumni for donations.

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EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND): For the first time ever, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has decided to adopt the style of Ivy League universities to tap wealthy alumni for donations. The institute, which has consistently been India's top ranked entry in most of the recent world university rankings, is in the process of recruiting its first development officer whose only mandate will be to liaise with the illustrious alumni for raising funds. In an exclusive interview to Times of India, IIT Delhi director Professor R K Shevgaonkar said at present, alumni donations to their alma mater is abysmally low. Professor Shevgaonkar said at the opening of the Edinburgh India Institute that IIT Delhi is in the process of finalizing a vision document that will inform alumni exactly where they can help donate in the form of increasing teaching facilities, housing quarters, hostel accommodation and fund scholarships.

The revelation comes just a day after British universities announced that it had received a record number of donations from its wealthy alumni last year, leading to a 23% increase in cash income for universities across UK. Universities in the UK were given a record amount in philanthropic donations last year — £774 million in 2011-12, up 14% on the year before. Of this, a total of £ 659.8 million was given in cash donations in 2012-13, excluding pledges and gifts in kind. The funds raised include donations, pledges, legacies and gifts in kind.

UK universities had just over 9.3 million contactable alumni in 2012-13. Of them, 174,000 made a gift.

Professor Shevgaonkar told TOI "We at present have a dean of alumni and international relations whose job is to co-ordinate events. However we are setting up a fund raising cell that will be manned by a special officer whose only job will be to tap wealthy alumni and inform them exactly where they can put in their money. At present in its 52 year old history, IIT Delhi has over 40,000 alumni, majority of whom have done very well for themselves". IIT Delhi at present provides 1100 masters degrees, 200 PhDs and 700 B Techs a year.

Professor Shevgaonkar added that tapping alumni can easily generate "a few hundred crores a year".

He said "At present we get about Rs 200 crores from the government a year to run the institute. We need double of that. Help from alumni will ensure we can provide many more scholarships and expand our infrastructure. The vision document will tell them exactly where they can donate. We can name parts of the institute set up with their money after the alumni themselves. The development officer will be hired in the next few weeks". Professor Shevgaonkar however lamented that "If you look at colleges and universities in the US and UK, they raise millions of dollars every year from donation from their alumni. In India unfortunately, the culture of philanthropy in education is almost non-existent."

Interestingly, UK puts in a great deal of effort and invests a lot of money in fund raising from alumni.

The latest data shows that UK universities invested £33 million in alumni relations last year.

The universities with fundraising programmes employed 1,198 full time equivalent (FTE) staff who worked mainly on fundraising in 2012-13 and an additional 604 staff who worked mainly on alumni relations.

The largest individual cash gifts were received by universities of Oxford, Cambridge, King's College London, Nottingham Trent and London Business School.

Dr Shevgaonkar also wants to introduce a sense of mentor ship among IIT Delhi's alumni. The illustrious list includes the RBI Governor Dr Raghuram Rajan, co-founder of Sun Microsystems Vinod Khosla, novelist Chetan Bhagat, former chairman of Unilever Manvinder Singh Banga, ITC chairman Y Deveshwar and the first female IPS officer of India Kiran Bedi.

"I want more alumni to come and interact with students. The alumni should inspire the present IITians to soar with their dreams and make them happen. Most of the alumni have great success stories to them. They should tell the students to look big. The culture of mentorship in India at present not very strong".

Hindustan ND 18/05/2014 P-14

आईआईटी रुड़की ने किया करार

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान-रुड़की ने खासतौर से उड्डयन और रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्रों में संयुक्त अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साउथम्पटन के साथ साझेदारी की घोषणा की। इसकी घोषणा शनिवार को की गई।

इस साझेदारी के लिए 13 मई को साउथम्पटन में एक कार्यशाला के दौरान समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ था। इस समझौते का लक्ष्य प्रौद्योगिकीय समाधान विकसित करना है। यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साउथम्पटन के प्रो. वाइस चांसलर मार्क स्पीयरिंग ने कहा, ब्रिटेन तथा भारत सरकार द्वारा संयुक्त अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विकसित कई पहलों के माध्यम से इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ने के शानदार अवसर उपलब्ध हैं।

Jansatta ND 18/05/2014 P-10

आइआइटी रुड़की व ब्रिटिश विश्वविद्यालय में वैज्ञानिक सहयोग समझौता

देहरादून, 17 मई (भाषा)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान रुड़की (आइआइटी-आर) ने उड्डयन और रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में सहयोगात्मक अनुसंधान को प्रोत्साहित करने के प्रयास में ब्रिटेन के यूनिवर्सिटी आफ साउथेप्टन के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया है।

आइआइटी रुड़की की ओर से शनिवार को जारी एक बयान में कहा गया है कि इस संबंध में आइआइटी रुड़की के निदेशक प्रोफेसर प्रदीप्त बनर्जी और यूनिवर्सिटी आफ साउथेप्टन के कुलपति डोन नटबम ने हाल में साउथेप्टन में आयोजित एक कार्यशाला के दौरान एक सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए। बनर्जी ने सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद कहा कि संबंधों को मजबूती देने के लिए संस्थान ब्रिटेन और भारत दोनों ही जगह काफी संख्या में कार्यशालाएं आयोजित कर रहे हैं। इस हफ्ते साउथेप्टन में आयोजित कार्यशाला ने हमें ऐसे क्षेत्रों की पहचान करने में मदद की है जिसमें विषयगत वैज्ञानिक सहयोग की संभावना है। हम अगली कार्यशाला जुलाई में रुड़की परिसर में आयोजित करने को लेकर काफी रोमांचित हैं।

AICTE Makes Environmental Studies Compulsory

By Express News Service

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/AICTE-Makes-Environmental-Studies-Compulsory/2014/05/18/article2231368.ece>

BHUBANESWAR: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has mandated introduction of 'Environmental Studies' across all the technical institutions of the state from next academic session.

In a letter to the Employment and Technical Education and Training (ETET) Department secretary CS Kumar, AICTE vice-chairman Avinash S Pant notified about the decision which comes in the wake of a recent Supreme Court directive that mandated this move. This decision was taken after a PIL was filed in SC for implementation of Environmental Studies as a compulsory subject in all educational institutes.

Kumar has instructed the vice chancellors of Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT), Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology (IGIT) Sarang and individual college principals to make necessary arrangements for implementation of the proposal immediately.

The new subject will be introduced in both under-graduate and post-graduate courses in the technical institutes. The course curriculum for the new subject has been provided in AICTE website. The main objective behind introducing the new course is to familiarise the students with issues relating to the environment and environmental changes.

In addition to theory, the course includes field work, wherein a student has to study different aspects which determine the condition of the environment like river, forest, grassland, industries and agricultural lands.

One of the major hurdles which the technical institutes will face is recruitment and provisioning of faculties for the new subject on time, that is before the next academic session commences. Most of the technical universities are currently reeling under staff and faculty shortage. It is apprehended that it will be difficult for many individual colleges to implement the proposal by next academic session, which is expected to begin in about one month's time.

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IIT-Gandhinagar director to be felicitated

Runa Mukherjee Parikh, TNN | May 17, 2014, 07:13 PM IST

AHMEDABAD: The director of Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gandhinagar), Prof Sudhir K Jain will be felicitated by the Gujarat Institute of Civil Engineers and Architects (GICEA) along with Dr MN Patel, vice-chancellor of Gujarat University on Saturday.

GICEA is felicitating Prof Jain in recognition of his prized contributions to the field of earthquake engineering practice and for his selfless service to a diverse and dynamic learning community of India. At the event, GICEA will give Prof Jain an honorable membership.

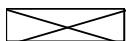
Along with Jain, Dr Patel will be felicitated for being the first civil engineer to become the vice-chancellor of Gujarat University. Former director of Cept University, Dr RN Vakil, will be present at the event.

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda is one of the personalities who has been honoured by GICEA in the past. GICEA is a premier institute of civil engineers and architects and is a non-government organization.

What does Manipal Institute of Technology have that IIT doesn't?

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<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/columns/sunday-read/What-does-Manipal-Institute-of-Technology-have-that-IIT-doesnt/articleshow/35268412.cms>



By: Deepti Shridhar & Jayanthi Madhukar

First, it was Satya Nadella taking over as Microsoft CEO. Then it was Rajeev Suri walking into the global boardroom, as CEO of Finnish telecommunication giant Nokia. Both products of Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Manipal University, fast gaining popularity as India's Massachusetts Institute Of Technology.

Suri had thanked MIT, in his letter to Dr Ramdas M Pai, chancellor, for celebrating his appointment with enthusiasm, and added, "You and my fabulous teachers and professors have been very kind. I recall a lot of happiness. Education was terrific, the learning was holistic and the infrastructure was excellent. My professors were very supportive, encouraging and superb at their skills. Like many students, I took full advantage of my education and the all-round experience that Manipal provided. I also ensured that I built remarkable and lifelong friendships and I had great camaraderie with many wonderful people. I thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic environment and the learning that was to be found everywhere in this beautiful university town. I would like to thank Manipal for its enormous positive contribution to me. It is not a stretch to say that because of Manipal I am what I am today. You will forever have my gratitude." Even as MIT is now waiting for a hat trick, there is a tectonic shift in the way educational institutions are being viewed. Generations of students have hoped to get the Indian Institute of Technology tag to their name. It offers them the choice of the best jobs, and marriage alliances. In fact, the saying goes that in the education sector, there are just two groups; the IITs and the non-IITs. But not anymore. Not when a Nadella or a Suri come from a relative newbie like the

MIT. It begs the question — where are the global leaders from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)?

Making leaders Professor Dr K Krishnaiah, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Madras, says: "No one can be trained to be a leader. It is an inherent quality. We (at IIT) make sure that the students are top-notch in their chosen fields." He believes education is about training of the mind. "Students at IITs are taught to analyse a situation, problem solve and complete the task with the best outcome." Mind training is a permanent skill that will help them resolve problems not only in the professional sphere but also personal, he believes. "It gives students an advantage that can help them shine in their fields."

Meanwhile, GK Prabhu, who joined MIT as a faculty, and then did his PG at MIT and later went to IIT Madras for a PhD, believes that MIT offers a rainbow environment conducive to growth. "MIT offers the distinct advantage of a good mix.

Currently there are students from 59 countries in Manipal. We offer most courses except for Veterinary and Agriculture, and the management runs a law college under the Mangalore University," he says. It is this interaction with disciplines and students from across nations that helps them climb the ladder of administration.

Feeling the pressure The big hall of the JSS Chintana Mantapa is packed with students and their parents. At this special congregation of IIT hopefuls or the 'top 10 per cent of students' who have qualified to write the JEE (Main) exams, there is elation and trepidation, as the coaching institution which has called for the meeting discusses special strategies and crash courses to help students have a better chance at cracking the famously difficult entrance exams. "It is tough to get into IIT," states student, Vijaya Talluri (17), "but it is tougher to get the subject that I want. I don't think I will get Computer Science at IIT." Many students feel that they may not flourish under the duress of competition from their peers in IITs. So, they choose other colleges.

Prof S Sadagopan, Director, IIIT Bangalore, who had taught for 25 years in IIT Kanpur, prior to his current role, says "the peer pressure will only ensure that what is taught is the best in class."

According to Sadagopan, the freedom that the IITs enjoy gives them a space to experiment with new topics; new forms of engagement and evaluation of students. A relatively 'freer' environment goes a long way in nurturing late bloomers. "IIT will always be my first choice. But if I get my preferred subject at say, MIT, and don't at IIT, I will go with MIT. Peer pressure will be less intense there for sure," says Akshaya M (18), who is currently writing her entrance exams. Like her, Mridul Sharma, a 12th grade student preparing for engineering examinations in Kota, seeks Manipal to pursue engineering without compromising on quality, since he is skeptical about getting admission in IIT because of his weak Chemistry.

What sets Manipal apart? Dr Vinod V Thomas, Director and Professor Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, MIT, says: "The residential campus environment provides an ambiance for holistic development. In general, the administration does not get into micro-management of campus activities. Students manage it themselves." The curriculum permits students to manage the eighth semester without any course work. Instead, they spend it in industry internships or abroad. Many convert this internship into placement "Student exchange programmes give them exposure. We are willing to change and adopt all new practices."

Diversity, it seems, is the buzzword. Priyadeep Sinha, Founder and CEO Gyan Lab, Bangalore emphasises how the students on campus come from 60 countries and different ethnicities and religions. "Mine was the first student start-up to be incubated at the University in 2011, and today 18 start-ups are being incubated and supported by MIT and the University."

That is the kind of freedom which encourages "holistic learning", believes Kartik Mandaville, a 2012 MIT Computer Science and Engineering graduate, currently studying Masters in Computer Science with focus on Biotechnology and Healthcare in the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, "Manipal is one of the few colleges in India where you get holistic learning— cultural diversity, student town, foreign internships, great infrastructure, awesome student groups."

Holding records IIT too has been taking steps to ensure excellence. Around two years ago, a Leadership Lecture Series was started in IIT Madras. Well-known people in science, engineering, management, medicine and politics are invited to speak to the students. "Some of these students may become leaders, but still it is a hypothesis," says Prof Krishnaiah, adding that the real effect of the lecture series will be seen only after 25-30 years.

But what about the past? "Oh, there have been several IITians who have excelled globally," the professor is quick to

point out. For example, Subra Suresh, alumnus of IIT Madras. Suresh was handpicked by President Obama to be the Director of the National Science Foundation (2010-2013) where he was responsible for the dispersion of billions of dollars for various research programmes. "When you look at it, Nadella is the head of a private company whose finances can't match the enormous wealth of the US government."

MIT holds its own records. Like alumnus Rahul Gupta, who has published the highest number of international research papers as an under graduate student. He is currently working in Mumbai as a Data Scientist in one of the finest predictive analytics and big data company, and points to the student community and resources for research offered at MIT. "MIT was founded much before most of the IITs in India, which resulted in a very strong alumni network all across the globe."

Another alumnus, itansh Khirbat, currently a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, Australia, agrees. "The state of art infrastructure and hands-on experience of latest technologies makes MIT a better college than others."

Creating influence So are IITs losing their stronghold? Debatable, says Sadagopan. "Leadership is not about riding roughshod over others; it is a quality of pursuing excellence at any cost. Such excellence commands respect and they become leaders." And excellence, according to him, will come from the quality of faculty who create knowledge and disseminate. "That makes IITs and IIT significant in terms of pedagogy."

An industry watcher says that IITs don't really look at prominent students for reflected glory. According to him, IIT students are of three varieties: one group begins their careers with their own start-ups, another works in smaller companies to get more hands-on experience for future endeavours and the third set pursues careers in the corporate world. "Paraphrasing what they say of Harvard graduates, IIT graduates seem to exemplify the adage 'it is not what job you get but how many jobs you create'."

And therein lies the brand IIT-ian.

Memories of Satya Nadella and Rajeev Suri Prof Niranjana UC, a visiting professor at MIT, Manipal, who taught Satya Nadella and was a project guide for Rajeev Suri, remembers both as hardworking, talented team players. Satya always wanted to go abroad and Suri never got a higher degree. "Rajeev, along with four others, had developed a device that would help quiz masters keep scores as well as buzz. It was also used for a couple of quiz competitions in college. I would often find him in the lab," he recalls. "Rajeev was mesmerised by technology and I always felt that he would do be a big achiever. On the other hand, Satya had approached me for some recommendation letters before going abroad. My colleagues now tell me that I should have kept a copy of the same. Satya was more of an academician and I probably thought that he would land in a big company."

Suri is an inspiration, believes Dr Narasimha Bhat, CEO, Manipal.net. "Satya went to the US for his Masters degree in computer science and then an MBA, but Suri did not go for higher studies after a bachelors degree. He proves that even with a basic BE, you can rise to the top. He went to one college, learnt the basics and succeeded. I did help him with his project to fix a problem, but I will be tickled pink if he remembers me," he says with a laugh.

Dr Prabhakar Nayak, HOD E& C department, MIT, who taught Satya Electronics circuits in the second year and Rajeev transducers and instrumentation in his final year, remembers Satya as a curious student, "especially in the lab."

Dr Vinod V Thomas, Director and Professor Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, MIT, says Satya and Rajeev were mentored by a "team of excellent professors including Dr S J Bhat, and Prof Chandrakar Kamat and Prof Harishchandra Hebbar. Both passed out with a distinction."

MIT sees rise in admission applications The institute, which churns out an average about 10 PhDs a year, expects a rise in admission applications. Dr Vinod V Thomas, Director MIT, says, "We generally get about 39,000 applications annually. This number is expected to increase because of the additional visibility created by Nadella and Suri." GK Prabhu says the admission drive begins in November, and applications have risen compared to last year. Last year (for all courses) 1.03 lakh applications were received, while the number this year so far has been 1.21 lakh.

MIT at a glance ranking 1957: Manipal Engineering College- First self financing Engineering college in India under the Karnataka University 1965: Affiliated to Mysore University 1974: Renamed as Manipal Institute of Technology 1980- Affiliated to Mangalore University 1998- Affiliated to VTU 2000- Constituent institute of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Deemed University 2003: Academic Autonomy, 10 point credit system 2007: MAHE renamed as Manipal University The university has been ranked as the top five among the private engineering colleges and top 30

among the government and private colleges.

Other MIT achievers Banmali Agrawala (Mechanical- 1984) CEO and President G E South Asia Anant J Talaulicar (Mechanical, 1984), Chairman and CEO, Cummins India Limited Ashok Krishnamurthy (electrical 1986), Former VP, Juniper Networks and CEO Xsigo Systems, acquired by Oracle for \$220M Rajeev Chandrashekar (Electrical 1985) MP Bangalore Urban, Chairman and CEO of Juniper Capital, FCCI president, Former CEO and Founder, BPL Mobile P V Shridhar(E&C) Senior Director, Operations Engineering at Apple Computer Glenville Da Silva (Chemical, 1979) Vice president of Business Development Asia at Volvo Construction Equipment Arun Shenoy, (Computer, 1999) Music composer, Grammy nominee 2013, Singapore.

May 19

HT.Com ND 19.05.2014 P-6

IIT-Roorkee collaborates with University of Southampton



■ The alliance will focus of developing technological solutions by holding workshops, conducting staff visits and exchanges

FILE

Indo-Asian News Service

The Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee has announced a partnership with University of Southampton to promote collaborative research primarily in the areas of aviation and railway engineering.

The agreement, which was signed May 13 during a workshop at Southampton, aims to develop technological solutions.

"There are tremendous synergies between our institutions and excellent opportunities to build on these, via a number of initiatives developed by the United Kingdom (UK) and Indian governments to promote collaborative research, for example UKIERI (UK-India Education and Research Initiative) and the recently established Newton-Bhabha

Fund," Mark Spearing, pro vice-chancellor (international) for the University of Southampton, said.

IIT-Roorkee director Pradipta Banerji said that the institutions are conducting various thematic workshops in both the countries to cement relationships.

"The workshop this week in Southampton already enabled us to identify areas where there is real potential for thematic scientific collaboration and we very excited to be holding the next workshop at our Roorkee campus in July," he said.

"Other initiatives too are on the cards, including a number of staff visits and exchanges and proposals which will be of interest to both UK and Indian commercial organisations and Government bodies," he added.

Times of India ND 19/05/2014
(Education Times) P-1

Global rank

Ruchi Chopda/TNN

Around 17 Indian universities have made it to the QS University Rankings: Asia 2014 that was recently unveiled by the Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation in association with Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) at the 'Rankings and Excellence Dialogue,' in Delhi. The first copy of the rankings was presented to the President, Pranab Mukherjee, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by a delegation from ICAA, British Council, FICCI and KPMG, all of which supported the event, along with QS. The delegation took the opportunity to apprise the President on the position of some of India's key universities in the global rankings and the challenges in scaling up.

Like the previous years' editions of the ranking, that was first launched in 2009, this year's ranking, too, reveals that the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) lead the way amongst Indian universities when it comes to international benchmarking. IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay, with the 38th and 41st spots, respectively, are the only Indian institutes in the top 50 slot. The other IITs that feature in the top 100 include IIT Kanpur, Madras, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati.

Amongst traditional universities, only the University of Delhi (DU) falls in the top 100 holding the 81st position compared to 80th last year. Speaking about the poor performance by traditional universities, Ben Sowter, QS head of research, says, "The metropolitan universities in India are, broadly, less responsive than the technical institutes and private institutions. Thus, we have a less complete picture of their performance, particularly in the international measures. Our data picture for DU is better than for the rest. However, DU comfortably outperforms the other institutes in terms of our reputation measures — both amongst academics and employers — and this is the principal reason for its edge over other similar institutions in India. Beyond the IITs, the University of Delhi appears to be the only institute to have a strong reputation outside India."

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जेईई मेन : टॉप-2000 छात्रों को स्कॉलरशिप



अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम (जेईई-मेन) की रैंकिंग के आधार पर मेधावी छात्रों को स्कॉलरशिप स्कीम का लाभ दिया जाएगा। जेईई मेन में टॉप-2000 ऑल इंडिया रैंक होल्डर्स को यह स्कॉलरशिप इंजीनियरिंग स्ट्रीम के दाखिले के लिए दी जाएगी।

एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी समेत अन्य केंद्र व राज्य सरकारों के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एडमिशन के लिए सेंट्रल सीट एलोकेशन बोर्ड (सीसैब) का गठन किया गया है।

दरअसल, जेईई मेन-2014 की काउंसलिंग के लिए सीसैब की जिम्मेदारी सत्र 2014-15 के एडमिशन के लिए मालवीय नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एमएनआईटी) जयपुर को सौंपी गई है। सीसैब के गठन और जेईई मेन के टॉप-2000 ऑल इंडिया रैंक (एआईआर) के छात्रों को दी जाने वाली स्कॉलरशिप की घोषणा कर दी गई है। छात्रों को दी जाने वाली इस

ऑल इंडिया रैंक पर सीसैब काउंसलिंग में मिलेगा लाभ

स्कॉलरशिप का भुगतान एमएनआईटी द्वारा ही किया जाएगा। इसके लिए एडमिशन के बाद स्कॉलरशिप के दायरे में आने वाले छात्रों की सूची स्ट्रीमवाइज जारी की जाएगी। रैंकिंग के बाद सीसैब की काउंसलिंग और सीट अलॉटमेंट का कार्यक्रम जारी किया जाएगा। सीसैब के गठन, अधिकारी, जिम्मेदारी, नियम और दाखिला प्रावधान संबंधी आदेश जारी कर दिए गए हैं।

दूसरी ओर, जेईई मेन की रैंकिंग 12वीं के नतीजों के बाद की जाएगी। 12वीं के 40 फीसदी अंक और जेईई मेन के 60 फीसदी अंकों के वेटेज पर जेईई मेन की रैंकिंग जारी की जाएगी।

इस रैंकिंग के आधार पर एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी समेत सरकारी व गैर सरकारी संस्थानों में सीसैब काउंसलिंग के जरिये एडमिशन होंगे। उम्मीद है कि 27 मई तक सीबीएसई 12वीं के नतीजे घोषित हो जाएंगे।

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IIT GUWAHATI MUN

The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, is going to hold a Model United Nations Conference, fall edition, from September 5 to 7. The delegate and executive board application window is now open. The councils and their respective agendas are:
General assembly-disarmament and international security committee;
Simmering tensions in the high seas;
Tehran convention: Six Degrees of Separation-The Middle East 1967. For more details and to register, visit www.techniche.org/iitgmun. For updates, go to www.facebook.com/iit-guwahatimun (Facebook page)

Sound Verdict: Supreme Court Restores AICTE's Powers

By D Suresh Kumar

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/education/edex/Sound-Verdict-Supreme-Court-Restores-AICTE%E2%80%99s-Powers/2014/05/19/article2228968.ece>



COIMBATORE: There is healthy news on the technical and management education front ahead of the new academic year 2014-15. The Supreme Court, on May 9, put an end to a year-long academic chaos by restoring the powers to regulate technical and management education offered by “technical colleges” to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), reversing its judgment of April 25, 2013.

Academicians including the heads of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the AICTE have hailed the verdict. They say it would end the confusion and uncertainty created by last year’s judgment of the apex court stripping the AICTE of its powers to approve engineering and management degree programmes offered by colleges affiliated to various universities.

A four-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India RM Lodha passing orders on a Special Leave Petition (Civil) petition filed by the Orissa Technical Colleges Association held: “It is directed that prior approval of AICTE is compulsory and mandatory for conduct of a technical course including the MBA/Management course by an existing affiliated technical college and also new technical college which will require affiliation by a university for conduct of technical courses/programmes for the academic year 2014-15.”

The order was issued as a clarification to an interim order passed on April 17 this year by a bench comprising Justices Lodha and Kurian Joseph. The two-judge bench had said: “AICTE shall now proceed in accordance with the approval process handbook for the 2014-15 academic year in so far as members of the petitioner association and all colleges and institutions situated similarly to the members of the petitioners’ association (are concerned).”

Acting on the latest verdict, the AICTE has notified its approval process for 2014-15, opening the doors to those wanting to set up new technical colleges, increase or reduce students' intake in existing colleges/courses, establish new courses or wind up existing academic programmes.

Last year, a bench comprising Justices B S Chauhan and V Gopala Gowda, while hearing an appeal against a judgment of the Madras High Court, had dramatically concluded that colleges affiliated to universities need not obtain the AICTE's approval for offering technical courses. Secondly, the court ruled that MBA/MCA will not come under the definition of "technical education" and therefore cannot be governed by the AICTE.

Citing a landmark judgment in the Bharathidasan University case and taking into consideration the ambiguity in the AICTE Act, the judges categorically pointed out: "It is also relevant to refer to the exclusion of university from the definition of 'technical institution' as defined under Section 2(h) of the AICTE Act. The Institution means an institution not being university, the applicability of bringing the university as defined under clause 2(f) of UGC Act includes the institution deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the said Act and therefore the affiliated colleges are excluded from the purview of technical institution definition of the AICTE Act."

Noting that as per the definition of 'technical education' under Section 2(g) of the AICTE Act, the MBA course is not a technical course, the bench had held that "approval from the AICTE is not required for obtaining permission and running MBA courses by the appellant colleges."

Following this verdict, the powers to regulate technical education were vested with the UGC, which had also drafted regulations for the same. In fact, the UGC chose not to approve any new engineering colleges in the country for the academic year 2014-15.

Former Anna University Vice Chancellor Prof E Balagurusamy says the Supreme Court has rightly reversed its verdict and restored the regulatory powers of the AICTE. "The April 2013 judgment was borne out of a misinterpretation of the wordings in the provisions of the AICTE Act. The court cannot take away the powers of a statutory body like the AICTE set up by enactment of legislation by Parliament and give them to the UGC," he argues.

According to him, the UGC did not have the manpower or system to inspect all colleges in the country and accord approval for technical courses. "The Union Government should have gone in appeal against the judgment or at least promulgated an ordinance restoring the powers of the AICTE, but it failed to do so. The Supreme Court has rightly rectified its erroneous verdict," he says. One of the reasons why the Union Government failed to act was because Human Resource Development Minister Pallam Raju was preoccupied with the Telangana agitation in his home State of Andhra Pradesh and he had stopped attending office for over six months, he adds.

UGC Chairman Ved Prakash is happy with the turn of events. "I think the Supreme Court is right. Professional courses run anywhere have to be under the purview of the council, which has been set up to regulate them," he told edex.

"It is good that we are back to the old system. The April 2013 order caused confusion. May be in the long term we can look at a different policy of granting single accreditation for management courses," says M J Xavier, former Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM Ranchi). "It is alright to treat MBA as part of technical education, as management and technology are interrelated. It is not as if MBA is rocket science," he opines. Otherwise, there will be too many regulatory bodies for each branch of education, which is not healthy, he says.

However, time is running out for the regulatory agency as the order has come late. The AICTE has the mammoth task of scrutinising thousands of applications from across the country and granting approval for courses in time for admissions.

“The Supreme Court has given time to the AICTE till June 10 for issuance of the handbook for approval process, failing which will amount to contempt of court,” says senior advocate K Radhakrishnan.

Shadman Ali, counsel for Orissa Technical Colleges Association, explains: “We approached the court seeking clarity on the admission process for the current academic year. We informed the court how its earlier order of issuing the admission approval process handbook within a stipulated period was not complied with.”

Nonetheless, AICTE Chairman S S Mantha is confident of completing the process within deadline. “We will conduct physical inspections only for the new colleges/courses. Approval for existing colleges/courses will be done on the basis of self-disclosure by the respective institutions,” he told edex.

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Hiring cos expect job growth to rise

Namrata Singh | TNN

Mumbai: After India gave a decisive mandate to Narendra Modi to form the next government, the hiring industry is hopeful that he will deliver his promise of creating more jobs for the youth by boosting the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors.

An important agenda of the BJP manifesto is skill development and employment generation. Every year, over 12 million youth enter the workforce in India, creating a need for an equal number of jobs.

"The manufacturing and infrastructure sectors are expected to create 30 to 40 million jobs over the next decade. Other sectors like healthcare, IT and BFSI (banking, financial services, insurance) are expected to continue to create large numbers of jobs on the back of economic growth," said Moorthy Uppaluri, CEO, Randstad India, a leading global HR service organization.

Following the euphoric optimism over the outcome of the election results, corporate India has its eyes peeled on how the new government delivers on revitalizing the economy. K Sudarshan, regional managing partner, Asia, EMA Partners International, a global executive search firm, said infrastructure, automobiles, hospitality, travel and real estate would see a spurt in hiring. "We will see a spurt in job growth in power,

STRESS ON SKILLS

roads and urban infrastructure sectors. Infrastructure will probably be the next big growth engine for jobs," said Sudarshan, who expects a boost in hiring in mining, where several new mines are to be developed by the private sector to support the burgeoning power sector.

As sectors like infrastructure and mining open up, commercial vehicles sales would be positively impacted, leading to utilization of existing capaci-

ties and creation of new capacities. This, said Sudarshan, would see a demand spurt at the entry and middle levels in the overall manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, a spurt in equity markets also bodes well for a slew of opportunities across broking, private banking, and investment banking.

That's not all. Experts feel that the BJP's manifesto on creation of 100 new cities would also aid in overall job creation. The employment scenario with respect to flexi staffing is also expected to clock big gains. "The flexi staffing players are positive to see a new leap in the employment work with at least a 15-18% growth in immediate months. The slowdown of last six months will be coming to an end," said Rituparna Chakraborty, president, Indian Staffing Federation.

Chakraborty said sectors like IT, infrastructure, solar, hospitality, FMCG, healthcare and auto are going to lead the market with at least 22-34%

more employment generation to be seen in the next quarter immediately.

However, job growth in insurance is linked to reforms and increase in FDI. Expectations are high for accelerated execution of reforms in sectors that can lead to more jobs. So in retail, with no approval in sight for FDI by the BJP government, the loss of job opportunity is to the tune of three to four direct jobs for every 1,000 square feet of retail space and multiples of indirect jobs.

Amid the euphoria, FDI in retail is being overlooked by the industry at least for now. "The past few years have been a drift in the industrial scenario and thereon the employment opportunities and the forming of the new government would spur a growth on all fronts. The immediate upside would be the positive sentiment that would be a huge boost for the micro and macro factors," said Ashok Reddy, managing director & co-founder, TeamLease Services.

Hindustan Times ND 19/05/2014 P-8

JOB WATCH

MBA's remain a favourite with employers, says global survey

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Despite the economic challenges, more companies plan to hire MBAs and other business school graduates in 2014, according to a just released global survey of employers. Some 80% of business school recruiters plan to hire MBAs in 2014, up seven percentage points from last year and 30% higher than 2009, in the heart of the economic crisis, when just half of employers hired MBAs.

The 13th annual Corporate

Recruiters Survey of 565 employers from 44 countries was conducted in February and March by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), which administers the GMAT exam on behalf of business and management programs worldwide. The survey, including 32 of the top 100 companies in the FT 500 and 36 of the Fortune 100, was conducted in partnership with EFMD and the MBA Career Services and Employer Association.

"More companies in all sectors and across the world plan

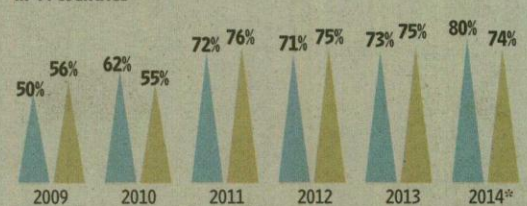
to hire B-school graduates, with projected hiring rates the highest for all degree types since the Great Recession started in 2009," said Sangeet Chowla, GMAC CEO and president.

"The survey paints a very positive picture for the business education sector and shows how companies and recruiters value the whole portfolio of business degrees. The message from the market is that B-schools are providing the talented, bright individuals that companies need," said Prof. Eric Cornuel, CEO & director general of EFMD.

PREFERRED CHOICE

Percentage of companies hiring fresh graduates by degree types

The survey of 565 employers in 44 countries



*Projected; source: GMAC 2014 corporate recruiter's survey

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Edinburgh univ to celebrate India Day

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh is planning to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday as 'India Day' on campus.

Timothy O Shea, who is the principal and vice-chancellor of the university, said that October 2 — the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi — will be celebrated as the India Day on campus from this year onwards.

The announcement came after the university awarded an honorary degree to former Indian president A P J Abdul Kalam in recognition of "his outstanding contribution to science and technology and his focus on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020".

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

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Measles vaccine wipes out woman's cancer cells

Washington: US doctors claim to have wiped out a woman's advanced blood cancer with a massive dose of the measles vaccine, enough to inoculate 10 million people.

The woman was part of a clinical trial at the Mayo Clinic demonstrating that cancer cells can be killed with injections of a genetically-engineered virus through a process known as virotherapy.

Two patients in the study received a single intravenous dose of an engineered measles virus (MV-NIS) that is selectively toxic to myeloma plasma cells. Stacy Erholtz, 49, from Minnesota, was one of the two patients in the study who received the dose last year, and after ten years with multiple myeloma, she has been clear of the disease for over six months now.

"It was the easiest treatment by far with very few side effects. I hope it's the future of treating cancer infusion," Erholtz said. Multiple myeloma is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow, which also causes skeletal or soft tissue tumours. This cancer usually responds to immune system stimulating drugs, but eventually overcomes them and is rarely cured.

"We have known for some time viruses act like a vaccine. If you inject a virus into a tumour you can provoke the immune system to destroy that cancer and other cancers," said Steven Russell, a Mayo Clinic hematologist, who spearheaded the study.

"This is different. It puts the virus into the bloodstream, it infects and destroys the cancer, debulks it, and then the immune system can come and mop up the residue," Russell said.

Two multiple myeloma patients were chosen because they are immune-compromised; and can't fight off the measles before it has time to attack cancer. Both had limited previous exposure to measles, and therefore fewer antibodies to fight the virus, and had no remaining treatment options. Of the two subjects in the study, only Stacy reached full remission. AGENCIES