Newspaper Clips

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HT Kolkata

IIT-Kgp to offer MBBS course in three years

DREAM PROJECT Construction of 400-bed super specialty hospital to start soon

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KOLKATA: The construction of the medical college at IIT-Kharagpur would be completed in the next two years and by the third year it would be ready to welcome its first batch of medical students.

IIT-Kharagpur has also signed an agreement with HSCC (India) Ltd. in this regard. This will enable the company to act as project management consultant for the design and construction of a 400-bed super specialty hospital on the Institute's Kharagpur campus in phase 1.

The government had already sanctioned ₹230 crore in 2012 for this purpose. Construction work will start soon and is expected to be completed within 26 months as informed by HSCC. The hospital in next phase would be upgraded to 750 beds.

The government had already sanctioned ₹230 crore in 2012 for the medical college. FILE PHOTO

"An architect will be appointed soon and as per agreement, the construction work should start in another two months and is expected to be completed in 26 months. Now, our primary aim is to get the design of the building ready," said professor SK Som, director (officiating) of IIT-KGP.

IIT-KGP, however, does not want to be just another MBBS degree offering institution. "Our MBBS course would be one-of-its kind in the world. It will bring two diverse disciplines of engineering and medical education together. In a nutshell, it will be technology driven medical education," said Prof Som.

The institute is working on the curriculum design of this unique course. "We have tied up with Johns Hopkins University in the United States. It is one of the best universities in the world when medical education is concerned. We will also tie up with Imperial College, London, to better our courses," he added.

The hospital will encourage biomedical, clinical and translational research. Drug design and delivery will be other key research areas which the hospital will cultivate. It will bring the two diverse disciplines of engineering and medicine together in education and research.

With an operational hospital, the institute will start medical education programme leading to MBBS, MD, MS and DM degrees with approval from MCI.

The institute will have a unique teaching college in medicine, the first-of-its kind in the country. Collaborations with Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA and Imperial College London, UK are going to be established for biomedical research and medical education to be imparted at the proposed BC Roy Institute of Medical Science and Research at IIT-Kharagpur.

Mint ND 23/05/2013 P-4

GLOBAL RATINGS

India to lobby foreign agencies for improving university rankings

Absence of Indian institutes from top 200 list an embarrassment, say HRD ministry, Planning Commission

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

India is set to lobby international ranking agencies and seek their expertise on improving the poor showing of the country's higher educational institutes in the global league tables.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry and the Planning Commission consider the absence of the country's best institutions from the top 200 an embarrassment, especially for a country that's supposed to be a knowledge economy.

As a first step, the HRD ministry and the plan panel will lobby London-based Times Higher Education (THE), which publishes the World University Ranking every year.

"You can call it a lobby or dialogue or engagement, but we want to engage with THE and other ranking agencies to improve our standing," said an HRD ministry official, who did not want to be named.

In the THE World University Ranking of 2012-13, there were only three Indian institutes in the top 400 and the best of them was the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Kharagpur, which was at 226-250. The other two were IIT Bombay and IIT Roorkee. In the Academic Ranking of World Universities conducted by China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University, only the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, figured in the top 500.

President Pranab Mukherjee lamented this state of affairs on 21 March. "This position is not at all acceptable," he said. "This calls for serious introspection."

"There is no point being dismissive about ranking. Instead we must understand why we are not there. While learning from them, we shall also present our case," another government official said, also requesting anonymity. "So, their view about our institutions must be based on complete information."

The dialogue with THE is not confined to HRD ministry controlled institutions alone, said Pawan Agarwal, higher education advisor to the plan panel. "We are taking along other departments from the ministry of health and agriculture," he said.

The HRD ministry says better ranking is essential to woo more research, faculty members and foreign students to Indian universities. Around 10,000 foreign students are pursuing higher education in India, including several hundreds who have come through various scholarship schemes, ministry data show. India is already engaged in seeking more students from Africa to pursue their doctoral research at institutions in the country.

"The number can be multiplied, if we can showcase our universities through a credible ranking agency," said the second official.

Phil Baty, editor of the THE World University Ranking said that its engagement with India is three fold—increasing awareness about ranking, evaluations and global benchmarking; improving relationships with Indian universities; and helping institutes recognize their weaknesses besides assisting them in developing a strategy to overcome this.

"We are not coming here for a quick buck but for a long-term relationship," Baty said. "Over a period of time (we can move) to value relationship. As a knowledge economy, India is important for us."

Around a dozen institutes participate in the THE ranking, a number that Baty wants to raise to 30 in the next few years.

He said that the research and the visibility of such work done by Indian institutes were "patchy".

According to official data, India's research output accounted for a 2.78% share of global publications in 2006-10. In the same period, China's share was 12.75% while that of the US was 20.7%.

Ranking organizations see India as a potential market, more so as the country's education sector is opening up and a number of leading business houses are entering the space, said the first government official cited above.

More than 100 institutes, including IITs, have been invited to participate in the policy dialogue on Thursday.

"We have some interaction with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and we could explore more. Besides, we can engage with QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings authorities too," said the official. QS is a UK-based ranking agency.

Jacob P. Koshy contributed to this story.

INDRANIL BHOUMIK/MINT

Seeking upgrade: *In the THE World University Ranking of 2012-13, there were only three Indian institutes in the top 400 and the best of them was the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur which was at 226-250.*

Dainik Jagaran ND 23/05/2013 P-6

आइआइटी जेईई में असफल होने के बाद भी कई विकल्प

अभिनव उपाध्याय, नई दिल्ली

राहुल सोलंकी ने पिछले साल 12वीं पास की। उन्होंने इस साल इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम (आइआइटी जेईई) मुख्य परीक्षा के परिणाम में भी जगह बनाई है। आगे उन्हें जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा देनी है, जिसमें चयन के बाद ही उन्हें देश के इस प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान में दाखिला मिलेगा। राहुल इसके लिए खूब मेहनत कर रहे हैं, लेकिन साथ ही वह अन्य विकल्पों पर भी ध्यान लगाए बैठे हैं। उनका कहना है कि आइआइटी में पढ़ना हर इंजीनियरिंग करने वाले का सपना है, लेकिन यहां सीटें कम और प्रतिस्पर्धा ज्यादा है, इसलिए असफल होने की स्थिति में हमें हताश होने की बजाय अन्य विकल्पों पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। उनका कहना है कि वह दिल्ली से हैं, इसलिए प्रतिष्ठित दिल्ली टेक्नोलॉजिकल यूनिवर्सिटी में उनका दाखिला आसान है। यहां दिल्ली के छात्रों के लिए 85 फीसद आरक्षण है। जेईई एडवांस की परीक्षा 2 जून को है। राहुल की ही तरह इस साल जेईई में 12 लाख छात्र

शामिल हुए थे। इनमें 1.5 लाख छात्रों का चयन मुख्य परीक्षा में हुआ और अब आगे जेईई एडवांस की परीक्षा में 10 हजार सीटों पर दाखिले के लिए छात्रों का चयन होना है। मुकाबला कड़ा है और जाहिर है इसमें बड़ी संख्या में ऐसे छात्र होंगे जिनका चयन नहीं हो सकेगा। करियर काउंसलर मनीष कुमार बताते हैं कि आइआइटी जेईई की मुख्य परीक्षा पूर्व में आयोजित होने वाली ऑल इंडिया इंजीनियरिंग एंट्रेंस एक्जाम (एआईईईई) का विकल्प है। इसके आधार पर कई प्रतिष्ठित कॉलेजों में दाखिला मिलता है। पहले भी एआईईईई में अच्छे अंक पाने वाले छात्रों के लिए बहुत-से इंजीनियरिंग कालेज के दरवाजे खुले रहते थे। यही नहीं कुछ कॉलेजों में स्वतंत्र रूप से अपनी प्रवेश परीक्षा के आधार पर भी दाखिले की व्यवस्था है। एक अन्य करियर काउंसलर कहते हैं कि ऐसे भी कई छात्र होते हैं जो आकर्षण के कारण जेईई देते है। यदि वे असफल होते हैं तो उन्हें इंजीनियरिंग से इतर अन्य बेहतर पाठ्यक्रमों को भी विकल्प के तौर पर लेना चाहिए।

डीटीयू की राह

दिल्ली टेक्नोलॉजिकल यूनिवर्सिटी की बीटेक एडमिशन चेयरमैन प्रो. ओपी वर्मा का कहना है कि डीटीयू में प्रवेश का आधार सिर्फ जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा का अंक नहीं है। सीबीएसई द्वारा 7 जुलाई को जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा के 60 फीसद अंक और 12वीं के अंकों का 40 फीसद जोड़कर एक सूची निकाली जाएगी। डीटीयू में दाखिले के लिए यही मेरिट सूची आधार बनेगी। डीटीयू में दिल्ली के छात्रों को 85 फीसद आरक्षण प्राप्त है। वहीं, सीबीएसई 12वीं की परीक्षा में सामान्य वर्ग के छात्रों को 60 फीसद, ओबीसी छात्रों को 55 फीसद और एससी-एसटी छात्रों को 50 फीसद अंक लाना अनिवार्य है।

और भी हैं राहें

राजधानी के एक अन्य प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोष इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एनएसआइटी) के एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. आरसी ठाकुर ने बताया कि जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा में असफल छात्र दिल्ली में एनएसआइटी में प्रवेश ले सकते हैं। यहां दिल्ली के छात्रों के लिए 85 फीसद सीटें आरक्षित हैं। इसके अलावा छात्र जेईई के जरिए नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट आफ टेक्नोलॉजी, इंद्रप्रस्थ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी जैसे संस्थानों में भी प्रवेश पा सकते हैं। वहीं, आइपी यूनिवर्सिटी भी इंजीनियरिंग के छात्रों को प्रवेश देती है, लेकिन यहां स्वतंत्र प्रवेश परीक्षा की व्यवस्था है।

HT Kolkata

A leap into space research

Kanika Garg, who trained in hands-on training in space research and engineering at Manipal Institute of Technology, is leading a 40-member team who has built a nanosatellite which is likely to be launched by ISRO next year

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What is your project Parikshit about?
Parikshit Team is a group of 40 students from seven disciplines of engineering and we aim to build a nanosatellite that weighs 2.3 kg. Parikshit will carry two payloads. The primary payload is the thermal imaging of the Indian-subcontinent for applications such as ocean surface temperature monitoring, urban heat monitoring and cloud cover monitoring. The secondary payload is an experimental payload which helps in de-orbiting of the satellite after its mission life is over. The project started in October 2010 and is scheduled to finish by May 2014. I finished my degree in May 2012 and after that I have stayed back for one year as a research assistant in Manipal to complete a major part of the project. The nanosatellite is likely to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) next year.

How was your team set up? What made you choose this project?
Before the project officially started in October 2010, I formulated a core team comprising students from my batch. We did initial research on several existing student satellites for a few months. We designed the various subsystems of the satellite and the tasks that we'll have to perform over the years. After that, we introduced the project to our faculty and got it approved. A written exam was held for all branches of engineering through which the first 40 students of our team were selected. I was interning at IIT Bombay during the summer of 2010 and I got an opportunity to attend a workshop on satellite ground stations. It was conducted by their satellite team students. This inspired me to initiate a student satellite project in my college too.

How did you manage the funding?
It was difficult in the beginning to approach the industry or even our college's administration and convince them to fund our satellite since we were undergraduates and we did not have experience in making them. But we proved the concept feasibility of our project to our university and since then they have funded all our project expenses.

Why is this project important and what major impact it will have on society?
The space research in India is concentrated within ISRO only. Through such projects, we can try bringing innovative ideas to the way satellites are made. The concept of a nanosatellite is not that old, and if there is growth in this field, then it could replace some of the bigger satellites and the cost that is involved in making them.

Elaborate on your current areas of work in space engineering.
I have worked on satellite attitude determination and control systems, satellite system engineering and project management. Currently, my interest lies in system engineering and launch vehicles.

Highlight some of your and your team's achievements at the national and international levels.
Our team has presented various papers at the national and international levels including two papers at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in 2011; one paper at IAC 2012 and one paper at COSPAR (The Committe on Space Research) 2012.

How did you prepare for the entrance?
While I was preparing for my Class 12 Board exams, I had simultaneously started studying for various engineering entrance examinations. All of it was self-study.

Mint ND 23/05/2013 P-4

SOFT INFLUENCE

India plans to boost Africa ties through education, technology

By Jacob P. Koshy & Elizabeth Roche

NEW DELHI

In a bid to influence research methods in Africa and open new markets for technology developed in India, the department of science and technology (DST) has planned a series of road shows to several African countries over the year.

Additionally, it has sanctioned the largest number of fellowships, 135, in a single year for researchers and students from African countries to pursue their doctoral research at Indian institutions. Officials associated with the exercise said that the technology investment was part of India's attempts to wield "soft influence" over the continent.

In 2011, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led a delegation to the India-Africa summit in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa that saw 15 African nations chosen by the African Union (AU) to represent the continent. Singh pledged a $700 million contribution to education and skill development in the continent, of which $35 million would come specifically from India's science and technology department, said Arabinda Mitra, who heads international relations at DST.

According to a research note by Standard Chartered Bank, India is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner behind the European Union, China and the US, and a significant investor across the continent.

India accounts for 5.8% of Africa' trade. While still small compared with Africa's traditional partners—Europe's trade with it exceeded $300 billion in 2011—the pace of growth in Africa-India trade and investment over the past decade is rivalled only by China-Africa trade

Teams from the ministry have visited Rwanda, Senegal and another delegation is expected to visit Mozambique later this month, said Mitra, to showcase "proven and low-cost" Indian technologies.

"We have a basket of technologies that span agriculture implements, agri-processes, internet and communication technologies and mobile-based health applications," said Mitra. "Nothing high-end but well tested and scalable in India."

He added that several grassroots innovations promoted by the Ahmedabad-based National Innovation Foundation, which scours villages for indigenously developed applications, would be a key part of the repertoire showcased to Africa.

The inter-ministerial engagement led by DST will be followed by visits by Indian industries to sign technology transfer deals. "The DST is only a facilitator," said Mitra. "Ultimately, it will be organizations such as Ficci (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), with whom we are partnering for this initiative, that will play a key role."

DST is also working on getting more African students to come to India for research. The CV Raman International Fellowship, now in it's fourth year, funds African students to pursue part of their doctoral research at Indian institutions. These are specific to mathematics and statistics, engineering sciences and medical sciences.

"There are ongoing programmes but this one's unique for the sciences." said Mitra. "Through this we can expose them to our research experience in agriculture, water management, waste disposal etc."

Key initiatives include getting African nations to engage with Indian academia, said Ravi Bangar, joint secretary, East and South Africa, external affairs ministry. "Such engagement has been on for many years, but science and technology development are emerging as a key thrust area," Bangar said. "It would be great if more countries like Lesotho or Seychelles availed of such scholarships."

Separately, India's foreign ministry on Wednesday announced that Indian vice-president Hamid Ansari will be representing India at the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity which has now been renamed African Union in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 25 May.

Ansari will address the gathering along with the leaders of Brazil, China, France, European Union, Russia and the United Nations, said Bangar.

The decision to invite India has been taken by the African Union "I am sure they see some uniqueness in this (India-Africa) partnership. India's engagement with Africa is not predicated with Africa's relations with any other country," Bangar said.

Starting out as a staunch supporter of the anti-colonial struggle in many African countries soon after India's independence, India however found its influence on the continent waning in the 1990s as New Delhi turned its attention to re-scripting its ties with the US and other countries after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Of late, the Indian government has made ties with Africa, described as the world's newest growth pole, a priority with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hosting two India-Africa summits—in 2008 and 2011.

Bilateral trade between India and Africa is currently $70 billion up from less than $1 billion in 1991. India's investments in Africa since 2005 total $50 billion and lines of credit to African countries total $8 billion.

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Hindustan Times ND 23/05/2013 P-7

JNU mulls courses for undergraduates

ON CARDS The courses will have a component of research and innovation, UGC to fund the proposal for first five years as per norms

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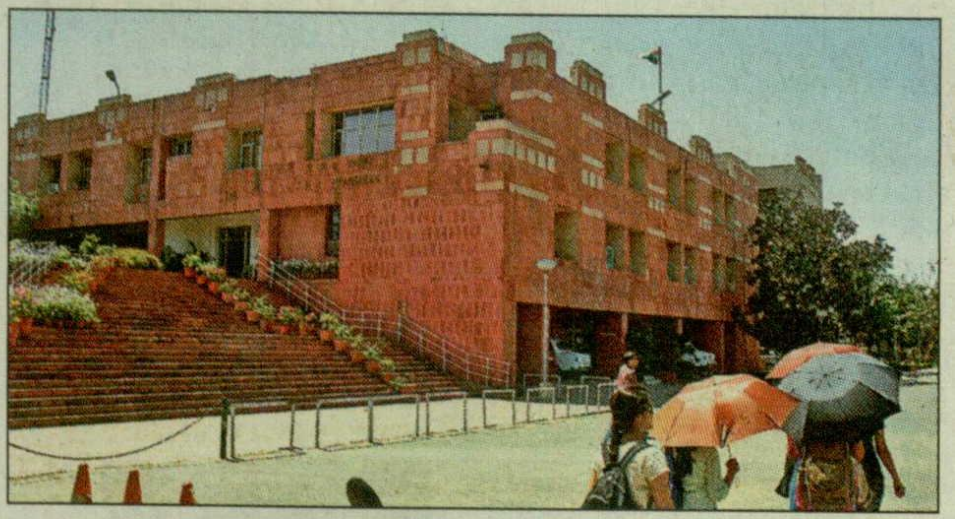

The proposal to start undergraduate courses is awaiting a nod from the University Grants Commission. HT FILE PHOTO

NEW DELHI: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), one of Indian highly prestigious and reputed varsities, may soon open a school of undergraduate studies.

The university has sent a proposal to the University Grants Commission to start undergraduate courses under the innovation universities scheme started by the commission to "identify institutions and support them to develop specialized courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in emerging areas and accommodate original ideas and innovative proposals to influence teaching, research, academic excellence and societal development of relevance."

According to SK Sopory, vice chancellor of JNU, the proposal has been sent to the UGC and they are currently waiting for a response from them.

"We are yet to decide on the exact courses that will be offered. If we get a positive response, we will start working on the courses and their structures. This will take some time," he said. However, what is certain is that the courses will have a component of research and innovation, as this is what the brief for innovative universities demands.

"The proposal is for starting a school of undergraduate studies that will have courses in sciences and humanities. These will be feeders for the postgraduate courses that we are running already," Sopory added.

If the proposal is accepted, the UGC will fund it completely for five years, after which the university will have to support it on its own. The grant will range between ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore.

The invitation letter that was sent to various universities stated that they can send entries for new types of degrees and courses, innovation in curricula including evaluation, pedagogic innovation, interdisciplinary and cross border research or creation of research facility that may be shared by a number of universities and research institutions.

Asian Age ND 23/05/2013 P-6

Behave at work

The exit of Phaneesh Murthy for the second time in his career in the wake of charges of sexual harassment might seem like action replay for him. But his company iGate's action in removing him unceremoniously should serve as a healthy warning to stereotypical testosterone-driven male behaviour at the workplace.

His career may have seemed inspirational as the IIT-IIM student rose to stardom in the world of information technology, first at Infosys where he was head of global operations during the great Indian IT explosion story, and then again as he rebuilt his career to end up with a major role at iGate. Few would, however, believe that someone with a track record like that could claim to have been done in by fortune-hunting women looking for a juicy out-of-court settlement.

The point is all behaviour at the workplace must hinge on making this world truly equal for women whose history at work began far later in what started out as a men-only world. The glory days of Indian IT making it big in dollar terms was when a greater number of women emerged in the country's work force, which is all the more reason why industry must seek the moral high ground in these matters.

That Mr Murthy's fall has been greeted positively within the industry is a sign of the growing maturity of the sector. Sexual misconduct has no place anywhere. Companies would be well advised to have a benevolent policy when their employees are truly felled by Cupid's arrow at the workplace.