

Newspaper Clips May 7, 2015

Pranab Mukherjee to Visit Russia on May 7

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Pranab-Mukherjee-to-Visit-Russia-on-May-7/2015/05/06/article2800652.ece>

NEW DELHI: President Pranab Mukherjee will embark on a five-day state visit to Russia on May 7, the external affairs ministry said on Wednesday.

On his first official visit as president, Mukherjee will participate in the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Victory Day (May 9) to commemorate Russia's victory in the Second World War, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar told media persons here.

On the occasion, a 75-member Indian Army contingent from the Grenadiers, an infantry regiment, will take part in a military parade in Moscow.

Mukherjee, who will be accompanied by union minister Manoj Sinha on this trip, will hold bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and will meet top officials of Russian universities along with a delegation of vice chancellors of important Indian universities, who will also be travelling with him.

During the presidential visit, India will conclude nine agreements with Russia in science and technology as well as higher education.

Jaishankar said the Department of Science and Technology will sign an agreement with the Russian Science Foundation, while eight more memorandums of understanding will be concluded between Russian universities and [Indian Institutes of Technology \(Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai\)](#), University of Delhi, The Institution of Engineers and the Indian Statistical Institute.

During Putin's state visit to India in December 2014, the two countries agreed on a vision to strengthen their partnership over the next decade.

Going forward, Jaishankar said India was currently undertaking bilateral engagements to translate that vision with Russia whose partnership was considered "special and privileged".

Mutual cooperation in defence, civil-nuclear energy, space science and economic trade constitute the core of the bilateral ties.

Mukherjee, who is visiting Russia at the invitation of Putin, will inaugurate the "Namaste Russia" cultural festival and will also be conferred an honorary doctorate by the Russian Diplomatic Academy. This will be Mukherjee's third such degree Honoris Causa after the ones awarded by the University of Dhaka and Calcutta University earlier.

Pranab Mukherjee's Russia visit starts today

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

President Pranab Mukherjee will embark on a five-day state visit to Russia on May 7, the external affairs ministry said on Wednesday. On his first official visit as President, Mukherjee will participate in the celebrations of Russian Victory Day. Mukherjee will also hold bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and will meet top officials of Russian universities along with vicechancellors of important Indian universities, who will also be travelling with him on the tour.

IISc Professor Now a Royal Society Fellow

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/IISc-Professor-Now-a-Royal-Society-Fellow/2015/05/07/article2801444.ece>

BENGALURU:A physics professor from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Ajay Sood, who has had a career spanning over four decades, was chosen for his work on nanotechnology and for initiating several contemporary researches and providing deep insights into some of physics' long-standing questions.

The Royal Society is the United Kingdom's national academy of science and includes several prominent scientists and engineers from the Commonwealth. So far, 42 Indians including Srinivasa Ramanujan, Sir C V Raman and C N R Rao have been elected Fellows of the Society.

This year, 47 new Fellows and 10 new foreign members were inducted. In its citation, the Royal Society has said "the originality, diversity and significance of Professor Sood's contributions are truly remarkable and noteworthy". It recognises him as "one of the important leaders of Indian science in general and physics in particular".

Reacting to the honour, Prof Sood told Express, "I feel happy, honoured and humbled. It is humbling because of the other people elected as Fellows."

He called this a recognition of Indian science. "I not only feel good for me, I feel good for my students, collaborators, department, the institute, and the country."

In 2003, Sood and his team at IISc generated electricity by allowing liquid and gas flow over carbon nanotubes, thereby unveiling a new kind of physics. The discovery, often called the 'Sood Effect', finds application in many areas, from medical appliances like pacemakers to gas pipelines.

Confusion over NIT seat sharing

Warangal: Indicating that all the chaos that surfaced post bifurcation was not over, the seat allocation criterion for the NIT-Warangal is creating ripples among the students in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. At the time of the JEE Main notification, it was apparent that students from both AP and TS are supposed to share seats in the NIT-W that are available under the 50 per cent of home quota.

This procedure was to be followed until a new NIT in AP is set up as per the State Reorganisation Act. However, with the AP government insisting on functioning of the NIT at Eluru in West Godavari district from this academic year itself, the debate of seat sharing has come into focus.



NIT Warangal

The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) which finalised the business rules for the joint seat allocation recently stated that under the home quota rule, only the students of a state where the NIT is located will get seats. Students belonging to States and Union Territories (UTs) – Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli - that don't have NITs will be eligible for home quota in Delhi, Puducherry and Goa NITs.

It may be mentioned here that AP was not listed under this. As the JoSAA didn't mention any separate counselling rules with regard to the NIT-W and the NIT-AP, it appears that students from Telangana will benefit and those from AP will be at loss. Home state quota is only for candidates whose home state, as determined by the State Code of Eligibility, is same as the state in which the institute is located," the rules stated.

It may be mentioned here that while the NIT-W has 740 seats in all branches, the NIT-AP is likely to have around 100 seats. Of the 100, the AP students will vie for just 50 seats under home quota rule as against 340 seats in NIT-W. However, due to the

Presidential Order prevailing in the region, a whole lot of non-local students who have studied four consecutive years in Telangana preceding Intermediate should be treated as local candidate.

The business rules of the JoSAA also refer that students who studied Intermediate or Class XII are eligible under the home quota rule in the institute of that state. It also clarifies that 'State Code of Eligibility' is nothing to do with the native place or residence place of the candidate. "All this confusion would be sorted out hopefully when the joint seat allocation will commence through a common web portal from June 25, 2015," a senior Professor in the NIT-W said, preferring anonymity.

Govt formed National Policy on Skill Development: Smriti Irani

http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/govt-formed-national-policy-on-skill-development-smriti-irani_1590871.html

New Delhi: Government has formulated the National Policy on Skill Development which gives the broad framework for [skill development](#) in the country, [Lok Sabha](#) was informed on Wednesday.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani said through this policy, the government has put in place an institutional structure for skill development.

Irani said this structure includes Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development Agency and the National Skill Development Corporation.

"Further, government has created a separate Ministry namely Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for better coordination and planning of skill development in the country," she said.

Irani said the HRD Ministry has notified a national Vocational Education Qualification Framework, which was a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill framework.

The framework would provide multiple pathways both within vocational education and between general and vocational education to link one level of learning to another higher level and enable learners to progress to higher levels from any starting points in the education or skill system, she said.

It allows cross mobility of students and their seamless integration into higher learning that enables them to acquire formal degrees and higher skills so that they perform higher level jobs in industry, she said.

Classes at new campus of IIT in Odisha capital from Jul 22

<http://odishasuntimes.com/126361/classes-at-new-campus-of-iit-in-odisha-capital-from-jul-22/>

While the process of shifting of the IIT-Bhubaneswar to its new campus at Aragul in the Odisha capital has already begun, regular classes would start at its new campus from July 22 this year, sources in the institute said.

The institute was set up in Bhubaneswar on July 22, 2008 with the mentorship of IIT, Kharagpur.

According to sources, some departments of the second and third year batch students would be shifted to the new campus by June-end while about 400 students, staying at other temporary campuses, would be shifted to the hostel in the new campus.

Regular classes of the students enrolled in the current academic session would begin at the new campus from July 22. The new students would stay in the new campus.

Meanwhile, chief secretary GC Pati, at a recent review meeting, has asked the concerned departments to complete the pending work of the new campus before May 15.

A senior official of the IIT-Bhubaneswar said students had to be put up at seven temporary campuses in the city as the new campus was not completed. The studies of the students were badly hampered in the absence of a permanent campus.

“In fact, we had started the process of shifting to the new campus since long. But as some major infrastructure works like construction of roads and supply of water to the institute were not complete, we could not move to the new campus earlier. However, with the assurance by the Public Health Department (PHD) and the Public Works Department (PWD), we have now decided to shift to the new campus on July 22,” he said.

The review meeting, presided over by the chief secretary, decided that a bore well would be set up inside the IIT campus for supply of water to the institute since water supply to the campus from Naraj on PPP mode would not be possible before 2018-19. Besides, there would be emergency provision for supply of drinking water through water tankers.

While the construction of the bore well would be completed by June 30, the boundary wall of the institute would be completed before May 15, sources said.

It has been decided to set up a police outpost inside the campus very soon for which the IIT-Bhubaneswar authorities would provide necessary infrastructure.

Apart from this, the state government has also decided to engage retired policemen and private security guards for the safety of the students, teachers and the staff of the institute.

The IIT authorities would submit a list of 10 private security agencies to the police commissioner after which the private security guards would be deployed inside the campus on the advice of the police commissioner.

Besides, installation of street lights from the IIT campus to NISER campus would be made very soon for which the Energy department has agreed to provide a one-time corpus fund.

The IIT-Bhubaneswar, which has adopted a village in Banki sub division in Cuttack district and is working for its overall development, has planned to adopt Aragul village under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, sources in the institute said.

It may be mentioned that the construction of IIT-Bhubaneswar campus had begun on 936 acres of land at Aragul on February 12, 2009.

Though the construction of the campus was scheduled for completion in four years, some of the works of the institute are still pending.

Palakkad IIT: Classes to begin in July

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/Palakkad-IIT-Classes-to-begin-in-July/articleshow/47181213.cms>

PALAKKAD: A high-level team of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Ahalia International Foundation authorities have signed an agreement here on Wednesday on handing over the temporary campus at Kozhipara near Walayar to start the first batch of classes in July this year. Ahalia Foundation will hand over the 55,703 sq feet academic block to the IIT authorities in June.

The campus has also readied 120 rooms which can accommodate 240 students. A guest house will also be placed under the disposal of the IIT authorities to accommodate their guests and visiting faculty, said the district collector P Marykutty, after the talks with the IIT high level team led by chief engineer Raveendra Gattu and the officials of Ahalia Foundation.

The IIT Madras is supervising the setting up of the Palakkad IIT ensuring best quality of education, said IIT Palakkad director in charge P B Sunilkumar.

Tribune ND 7.05.2015 p-8

Quality in education

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The OPED article, "Why is it the end of the road for UGC" (May 5) has argued for change in nomenclature for the University Grants Commission (UGC) to 'University Excellence Commission'. All parameters towards excellence as suggested by the author are exactly the same as presently prevalent. At a time when there is rapid deterioration in the quality of education, it is very necessary that on the analogy of the corporate world, the concept of 'total quality management (TQM)' should also be introduced in the university set up. The concept has been very successfully applied in many prestigious universities of the world. TQM embraces in its ambit all the ingredients of quality education like selection of the Vice-Chancellor, faculty and supporting staff. It also includes the excellence in curriculum, laboratories, libraries and other infrastructural components. At this juncture when in the past three decades, the quantifications of universities in India has eroded and diluted the quality, only revolutionary measures can restore the dignified image of Indian universities.

DR VK ANAND, Patiala

Tribune ND 7.05.2015 p-8

Decline of higher education

Apropos the OPED article, "Faculty crunch affects higher education" (April 29), writers AK Sarkar and SK Choudhary depict the gloomy picture of higher education in Punjab. The higher education is passing through its abysmal period ever since Independence. More than 80 per cent of regular posts are vacant in government-aided colleges. Since 1996, no regular teacher has been appointed while the Punjab Government has imposed a ban to fill regular teachers in aided colleges since 2004. The Chadha Committee, duly constituted by the UGC, had recommended higher pay scales for college teachers to attract eminent and excellent persons in the higher education. This formula does not implement in Punjab. The judiciary cannot be exonerated for the deplorable condition of higher education in Punjab. Whenever the government advertises to fill these vacant posts, woefully by one or other way, the case reaches the High Court and never comes back. Moreover, it provides logical excuse to the government. Due to the lacklustre approach of the government, teachers have also been divided among numerous cate-

gories such as guest faculty, part time, ad hoc, regular, permanent and most deplorably, there is a huge gap among pay and perks of these teachers.

PROF SARDOOL SINGH, Hoshiarpur

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Ericsson to fund two projects by IIT students

NAVADHA PANDEY

New Delhi, May 6

Technology major Ericsson will fund two projects developed by IIT students to encourage the culture of innovation within the IITs and support talent to develop innovative solutions for the benefit of the industry.

"A total of 67 projects were submitted by students from selected seven IITs. The jury has chosen the top 10 which were financially supported to develop the Proof of Concept. We will be announcing two winners from the 10 shortlisted projects on May 12," Chris Houghton, Head of Region India, Ericsson, told *Business-Line*, in an email interaction.

The winners will receive a funding of ₹10 lakh each for incubation of the project over a two-year period at any approved Technology Business Incubator. Also, the intellectual property for the project

will remain with the students, Houghton added. Last year, Ericsson announced the Innovation Awards in association with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Trans-

fer. On whether this is a one-time or annual exercise, he said, "We will grow this programme in terms of scale and scope, going forward."

Many ideas that were received from students were on themes such as recognition of facial speech gestures using electromyography,

location-wise traffic analysis based on social network data and a human security device for alerting in distress.

Projects were invited in areas such as web design, cloud computing, storage and networking, human-machine interface, embedded and hardware system design, software-defined networking, open source, signal processing, graphics and visualisation, as well as research.



Chris Houghton, Head of Region, Ericsson India

QS ranks DU 17th for development studies

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

Want to do a unique specialisation? The QS World University Rankings by Subject will definitely help you.

For India the news was good as its institutes were mentioned in 107 places across the 36 subject tables, including the six new disciplines for 2015: architecture, arts and design, business studies, dentistry, development studies and veterinary science.

Of those places, 37 have moved downwards compared to 2014, 44 have maintained the same position, seven have gone up and 19 are new entries. University of Delhi achieves the highest rank of all the 20 Indian universities featured in the rankings, placing 17th in the world for the new development studies table, while nine Indian institutions are listed in the top 100 within nine disciplines.

IIT Bombay appeared in the top 100 for eight subjects: statistics and operational research; material science; mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing engineering; electrical and electronic engineering; civil and structural engineering; chemical engineering; computer science and information system; art and design. IIT Delhi appears in the top 100 for civil and structural engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical aeronautical and manufacturing engineering and computer science and information system.