Newspaper Clips
November 26, 2014

IIT Delhi to celebrate Alumni Day on Dec 28

New Delhi, Nov 26:

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/on-campus/iit-delhi-to-celebrate-alumni-day-on-dec-28/article6636022.ece

IIT Delhi is gearing up for its annual Alumni Day scheduled on 28th December. The event will be organised in collaboration with IIT Delhi Alumni Association (IITDAA). This year's theme of the event is 'Envision the Future Together'.

Alumni Day is celebrated by all IITDAA chapters across the world on the same day in sync with the main event held at IIT Delhi.

Alumni Day will comprise fun-filled events throughout the day, networking and serious discussions on how to strengthen the institute and make it one of the world's best altars of technology. More than 1000 alumni and faculty along with their family members are expected to participate in the event.

"After last year's success, we are sure that this mix of fun, fundas, food and friends will make it a day to cherish for alumni and their families," Ashok Kumar, President of IIT Delhi Alumni Association, said in a press statement. "We are thrilled to invite the entire alumni community from across the globe and wish to make this event a grand success."

Times of India ND 26/11/2014   P-23

Bring non-veg food back on IIT-D menu, Yechury tells Irani

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Sitaram Yechury, CPM functionary in Rajya Sabha, has written to HRD minister Smriti Zubin Irani asking her to intervene in IIT Delhi where, he said, "non-vegetarian food was taken off from the menu in all the hostels."

In a letter to Irani, Yechury said, "The government has no business to police the food habits of the IIT students." He pointed out that non-vegetarian food was taken off "after a letter was sent by the HRD ministry seeking the opinion of IITs regarding the demand for separate canteen/messes for vegetarian and non-vegetarian students. How is the ministry involved in determining the choice of food for students?" Yechury asked.

The CPM functionary told Irani, "If there is a need for a separate facility for vegetarian students, that can be understood, but it cannot be at the expense of depriving non-vegetarians of their choice. This is against the students rights." He asked Irani to ensure

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SITARAM YECHURY
CPM politician

that HRD ministry is not intervening to determine the food habits of students.

Govt has no right to 'police' food habit of students: Yechury

NEW DELHI: Expressing concern over reports of non-vegetarian food being taken off menu in IIT Delhi, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury on Tuesday said the government has no right to 'police' the food habit of students and sought HRD Minister Smriti Irani's intervention in the matter.

In a letter to Irani, Yechury referred to the communications received from IIT Delhi faculty about non-veg food being taken off menu in all the hostels and requested her to look into the issue.

He said it was 'unfortunate' to note that the decision was taken after a letter was sent by the ministry seeking opinions of IITs regarding the demand for separate canteen for vegetarian and non-vegetarian students.

'If there is a need for a separate facility for vegetarian students, that can be understood, but it cannot be at the expense of depriving non-vegetarians of their choice.

'This is against the students rights. The government has no business to police the food habits of IIT students,' he said in his letter.

Seeking Irani's intervention, he asked her to ensure that the government and her ministry 'is in no way, intervening to determine the food habits of students'.

Earlier in October, a communication was sent by the Ministry to IITs after it received a representation from Katni-based trader S K Jain, who demanded a separate eating space and mess for vegetarian students. PTI

CASE AGAINST DEEPAK PENTAL

Elated professor hopes for definite judgment to deter plagiarism

Shradha Chettri
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NEW DELHI: Delhi University environmental biology professor P. Pardha Saradhi wants to stop "plagiarism which is spreading like wildfire in the country". He is hoping that a definite judgment in his plagiarism case against former DU V-C Deepak Pental will help in that.

A Delhi court had on Tuesday sent Pental to judicial custody but the Delhi High Court later granted him bail.

"I was very happy when he was sent to jail. I am now hopeful that the court will give a definite judgment soon so that it can deter people who have been plagiarising works," Saradhi said.

He alleged that his student KVSK Prasad stole his research material on genetically modified Indian mustard plant from his laboratory in Jamia. He had worked on the research between 1995-1999. Saradhi was a professor at Jamia Millia Islamia before he joined DU in 2001.

According to Saradhi, the student then worked under Pental in South Campus when he was campus director between 2000 -2005.

"The boy worked under me and completed his PhD. He stole the plant material and began working with Pental. How can Pental claim that he didn't' know about my work when the two research works match word by word. It is impossible to get the same data and result," Saradhi said.

Pental, a professor of genetics, went on to become the DU V-C from 2005 to 2010. Saradhi has filed a case against both Pental and Prasad, who is now in the US.

Delhi University had in 2009 constituted a committee to look into the plagiarism allegation. But Saradhi concluded that Pental was the V-C of the university then, every committee gave him a clean chit. "Since he assumed power, he kept looking for opportunities to harass me and forced students to file complaints against me," he alleged.

Saradhi was also suspended between 2008-2010 on grounds of administrative failure. His suspension was later revoked by the high court.

Ex-V-C of DU jailed in plagiarism row, gets bail

COMPLAINT Professor P Pardha Saradhi has accused him and a student of copying from his paper on biotech, publishing it as his own

Soibam Rocky Singh
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NEW DELHI: Acting on a complaint of plagiarism, cheating and forgery, a Delhi court on Wednesday placed under former Delhi University vice chancellor Deepak Pental under judicial custody.

However, Pental's stay in jail was cut short by a Delhi High Court order, which directed his "immediate release" within hours of the Delhi court order. Justice S Murlidhar also suspended the order of the trial court.

The Delhi court had been hearing the complaint of Professor P Pardha Saradhi, who has accused him and his student of plagiarising his paper on biotechnology and publishing it as his own.

During the hearing in high court, senior advocate Arvind Nigam appearing for Pental told the court that the matter was urgent as his client was being sent straight to Tihar Jail though as the bail application was listed for hearing before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate later in the day.

▪ Pental's stay in jail was cut short by a high court ordering his 'immediate release' within hours of the local court's ruling.

Nigam told HT that 63-year-old Pental had never skipped any hearing at the trial court even as there was a standing order from the high court, giving him relief from such appearances.

In his complaint filed in the trial court, Saradhi had alleged that one Prasad, who used to be a PhD student under him, helped Pental copy the findings of his 1999 research project on 'Production and characterisation of osmotic stress-tolerant transformants of Brassica juncea with bacterial code A gene'.

A professor of environment biology at DU, Saradhi said he had allowed Prasad to use the findings of the result obtained in his PhD thesis.

He alleged that Pental had subsequently engaged Prasad and started working on the same plant — Brassica (which belongs to the mustard family) — but using a different technique. Later Pental got a project sanctioned on a similar project.

Saradhi contended that the detailed progress report submitted by Pental on the project had "copied verbatim" a major part of summary and conclusion of Prasad's PhD thesis.

On the other hand, Pental — who was also the vice-chancellor of Delhi University in 2005-2010 — has argued that an expert committee constituted to examine the complaint of plagiarism lodged by Saradhi had exonerated him on the issue in 2009.

The high court has issued a notice to Saradhi on Pental's petition and posted the matter for further hearing on December 15.

Education regulator Bill pulled from Rajya Sabha

PTI ■ New Delhi

The central government on Tuesday withdrew a Bill from the Rajya Sabha that aimed to create a higher-education body that would absorb regulators. The Centre thus scrapped a move by its

predecessor United Progressive Alliance government. Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani pulled the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011.

Dainik Jagran ND 26/11/2014
P-15

विदेशी छात्रों के लिए हिंदी अनिवार्य

रुड़की : अब आइआइटी रुड़की में पढ़ने वाले विदेशी छात्र-छात्राएं क, ख, ग भी पढ़ेंगे। दरअसल आइआइटी की हिंदी कार्यान्वयन समिति ने विदेशी छात्रों के लिए हिंदी सीखना अनिवार्य कर दिया है। यहां अधिकतर जर्मनी, इंडोनेशिया, केन्या, श्रीलंका, भूटान, तंजानिया, इराक, मलेशिया आदि देशों से छात्र पढ़ने के लिए आते हैं।

University of Hyderabad VC Ramaswamy resigns

TNN | Nov 25, 2014, 02.37AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/University-of-Hyderabad-VC-Ramaswamy-resigns/articleshow/45265448.cms

HYDERABAD: In a decision that took the University of Hyderabad's (UoH)'s academic circles by surprise, Prof Ramakrishna Ramaswamy on Monday announced his decision to step down as vice-chancellor of the varsity, 18 months before he completes his term. Ramaswamy would be the first UoH VC to leave office ahead of his tenure.

Ramaswamy reportedly announced his resignation at an executive committee meeting held on the university campus. He is expected to remain on leave till the Union ministry for human resource development (MHRD) accepts his resignation, sources said. According to the sources, Ramaswamy cited personal reasons and ill-health of a family member as the reason to quit the varsity's lead administrative position midway.

Who would get to take up the in-charge vice-chancellorship is still not known. While the university rule book says that the senior most professor on campus should take charge till a permanent VC is appointed, those in the know of things said Pro-VC Prof E Haribabu from the department of sociology could be given the charge.

The sources claimed that repeated reprimands from the MHRD over several controversies surrounding him forced Ramaswamy to step down. The vice-chancellor had come under fire for a variety of alleged administrative lapses in the past three years, including allegations of excessive expenditure on telephone bills and construction of a palatial official residence. Apart from these, the faculty and student members of UoH had pointed out alleged irregularities in the appointment of officials in certain administrative posts during his term. Two student suicides on the UoH campus were also, to a certain extent, blamed on the callousness and discrimination on caste lines by the administration headed by Ramaswamy.

The most recent incident, due to which the university was put on the backfoot, was a protest against moral policing held by students that was disrupted by Bharatiya Janata Yuv Morcha (BJYM) activists. The BJYM had also filed a police complaint against the university senior officials for allowing students to kiss and hug in public.

Sources alleged that the vice-chancellor has been facing trouble ever since the BJP-led NDA government took charge at the Centre. "The VC's alleged association with the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was raked by higher-ups in the MHRD and they made it clear that he cannot continue as VC," a source alleged. Ramaswamy was not available for comment.

Ramaswamy, a physicist from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), was appointed VC of UoH in June 2011. He was earlier a faculty of the School of Physical Sciences as well as the Centre for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics in the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences in JNU, New Delhi, since 1986. He had also worked at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena as a post-doctoral fellow. Ramaswamy holds a PhD in chemistry from Princeton University.

Smriti Irani introduces IIIT bill in LS to set up 4 new national institutions of learning

New Delhi: A bill to bring four institutes of information technology under the ambit of a single authority was taken up on Tuesday in Lok Sabha, a move that was welcomed by members from across the political spectrum.

Moving the Indian Institutes of Information and Technology (IIIT) Bill, 2014, for consideration, HRD Minister Smriti Irani said its passage would help realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of 'Digital India'.

The declaration of the IIITs as institutions of national importance was being initiated with a view to providing manpower of global standards for the information technology industry, the bill said.

The four institutes are IIIT-Allahabad, IIIT-Gwalior, IIIT Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur and IIIT Design and Manufacturing Kancheepuram.

Representational Image. Reuters

These institutes, which receive grants-in-aid from the government, were sanctioned Rs 649.86 crore during the 11th plan period to meet their recurring and non-recurring expenditure. These institutes are fully funded by the central government but do not enjoy statutory status.

The bill, once passed, will give these institutions independent status with uniform policy framework. It will allow their students to get degrees.

Citing a report, Irani said electronics import bill is likely to exceed the oil import bill by 2020 and hence there was a need to declare these four institutes as institutes of national importance.

These institutes will help in creating manpower by educating people, Irani said.

The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in the previous session in August. It was originally introduced in 2013, but lapsed with the 15th Lok Sabha as it could not be passed by the previous government.

Initiating discussion on the bill, Jagdambika Pal (BJP) said these institutions should be strengthened on the lines of IITs to help create world class institutes of global standards.

"They should be brought under one umbrella act and more such institutes should be set up in other states so that they become institutes of human development," Pal said.

Praising the Bill, Rabindra Kumar Jena (BJD) demanded that one such institute be set up in Odisha.

BJP member S S Ahluwalia said the bill will help transform "jana sankhya" (population) to "jana shakti" (people's strength).

Opposition AIADMK, [Telangana](#) Rashtriya Samiti (TSR) and Indian National Lok Dal supported the bill.

"We fully support the bill, but we should have furturistic approach. We should not let the quality of the education to go down. We should create few institutes and let few scientists come out of it. But they should be such that would make India proud," TRS MP K Kavitha said.

She also cautioned migration of scientists from these institutes.

Among those who participated in the debate were BJP MPs Rama Devi, Hukum Singh, Ajay Mishra, INLD MP Dushyant Chautala, Sikkim Democratic Front member P D Rai. The discussion remained inconclusive.

NIT to engineer course curriculum on IIT model

TNN | Nov 25, 2014, 03.29 PM IST

SURAT: The course curriculum of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will soon be made similar to that of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Both these groups of institutes of national importance have been asked to work in close collaboration by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India for knowledge sharing and to provide better exposure to students in technical education, academicians informed.

"We are working in collaboration with IIT Bombay. The current curriculum in NITs is almost at par with IIT but efforts are on to make it a notch better. NITs across India are working in collaboration with the IITs for the benefit of students," said P D Porey, director, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT).

"The NITs have been asked to take the level of their course curriculum to that of the IITs. We have already begun working on it. The NIT faculty is currently busy developing the course module to be introduced. It will help the students and the institutes to excel academically," said G J Joshi, dean academics, SVNIT.

The collaborative measures were discussed at the recently held meeting of MHRD and the joint council of IIT and NIT. A knowledge pool will be created between the institutes so that they can share technology, sources informed.

At present, there are 30 NITs located across the country. They will work with the IITs located closest to them. The IITs have always been the first choice of engineering aspirants. If they failed to get admission in one of the IITs, the students' next choice was a NIT. Academicians working with the NITs claim that they are happy on getting an opportunity to work with the IIT faculty.

"So far there was an informal tie between the NITs and the IITs. However, now the relationship will get a formal structure and more clarity. This would benefit the students. The plans would be discussed in the future meetings of the NIT council," Porey added. SVNIT has been holding IIT Bombay's Techfest for the past few years in Surat. Engineering students from across the state have been taking part in this and also in workshops and lecture series that are held in collaboration by the two institutes. The strengthening of the ties between the institutes mean they can work as partner institutes someday, sources claimed.

IIT-Madras shows the way in low-cost housing

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/IIT-Madras-shows-the-way-in-low-cost-housing/articleshow/45253121.cms

CHENNAI: With real estate prices and cost of construction on the rise, owning a house in cities remains a dream for the middle class. But it might soon be a thing of the past, courtesy IIT Madras and its efforts to popularize the cost-effective, rapid and eco-friendly method of construction using Glass Fiber Reinforced Gypsum (GFRG) panels.

After the successful construction of a two-storey building at the IIT campus in June this year using GFRG panels, experts from the civil engineering department of the institute are close to an agreement with Tata Housing Development Corporation Ltd to build a housing project at Boisar, a suburb in Mumbai, for low-income groups.

The GFRG building method essentially uses glass fibres and specially calcined gypsum plaster to make the regular panel stronger and water resistant.

According to Shinto Paul, structural design engineer for the GFRG building at IIT-M and PhD scholar at the civil engineering department, the foundation for the building is laid in the regular manner and GFRG panels are used for erecting the remaining superstructure with minimum concrete usage except at the joints and cavities of the panel. Once the foundation is constructed and the panels are erected, the main structure can be built in a few days.

However, while using GFRG panels, all floors should ideally have the same floor plan. Curved structures and domes are best avoided or concrete can be used for such areas.

"The rapid low-cost housing project is headed in the right direction and we are in talks with Tata Housing to use the technology for mass housing projects. We are also collaborating with various state governments and housing structures are already being built in Kerala using this technique." said Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras.

A senior official with Tata Housing confirmed the development and said the pilot project discussions were under way. The pilot module of the Boisar project consists of nine buildings, each with five floors and eight apartments on each floor. After the construction of the pilot module, the project may be scaled up with more buildings. It is estimated that the total cost of construction will be limited to less than 1,200 per sqft.

"We have been getting numerous enquiries about the project after the completion of the demo building at our campus," said A Meher Prasad, head of the department of civil engineering, IIT Madras. The 1,981sqft two-storeyed building at the IIT campus, with two one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments, was completed in just a month at a cost of 24 lakh.

"We are constructing a 54-unit housing building for Kerala government at Chottanikara at a cost of 1,000 per sqft. The idea is to bring down the cost of constructing the structure and the customer can choose the remaining accessories and fittings," said Shinto Paul.

As of now, the GFRG panels are being manufactured at FACT-RCF Building Products Ltd (FRBL) in Kochi, a joint venture between The Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers, Mumbai. Proposals have been mooted to the Union government and more manufacturing units for GFRG panels are expected to be set up across the country to further scale down the transportation cost of the panels.