

# Newspaper Clips

November 6, 2012

Tribune Chandigarh 05-11-2012 P-8

## Long road ahead

### Towards self-reliance of IITs

**S**INCE the Human Resource Development Ministry has a new name at the helm of its affairs, plans in the education sector are afoot for yet another phase of modifications. During Kapil Sibal's reign as HRD Minister, a government-appointed panel had proposed a four-fold hike in the IITs' annual fee, from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh, so that the premier technology institutes could become self-dependent. The committee formed in 2009 was headed by a former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Anil Kakodkar, who had suggested that students from economically weaker sections could be given loans without collateral (security) and scholarships. The committee had justified this hike, saying that the fee should be increased to a level where the IITs would be able to manage their courses on their own (without government assistance).

Now, under the new leadership, India's premier technical institutions are once again considering a revision of the annual fee for undergraduate courses by 80 per cent, which would increase the fee from Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000. The agenda will come up for discussion at the upcoming meeting of the standing committee of the IIT Council at Mumbai on Nov 5. If implemented, this will be applied to all the 9618 seats of the 15 IITs from the next session.

Understandably, the endeavour of the IITs to achieve complete autonomy rests a lot on their financial independence from the government. Thus, the revision is overdue. As such, other top Central government institutions like IIMs have a fee structure that is three times higher than the IITs. Concerns of the economically weaker sections are already taken into consideration; IITs are working on modalities for a tripartite arrangement to provide loans to students who can repay these when they get jobs after their studies. While even second rung institutions have a higher fee structure, the prime technical institutions need more financial self-reliance for the constant upgradation of knowledge and cutting-edge technology that they deal with.

# IIT panel proposes 80% fee hike for undergrads

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

THE decks have been cleared for a substantive hike in tuition fee at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The 13 elite tech schools could increase their fee for undergraduate programmes by 80 per cent — ₹50,000 per annum to ₹90,000 per annum — from the next academic year if the IIT Council approves the standing committee's recommendation finalised on Monday.

The IIT Council is the final authority on this issue and is scheduled to meet on January 7. If approved, this proposed increase in the fee will not affect students from the Schedule Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC quota. It's only meant for the general category students.

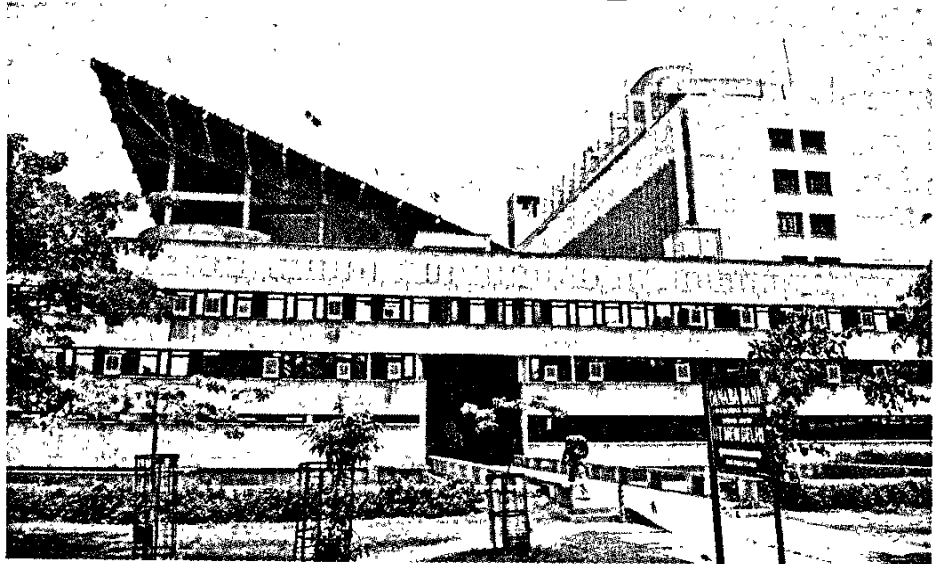
The suggestion seems well-timed as the HRD ministry has recently witnessed a change in leadership. It would be interesting to see if this recommendation can pass muster at the meeting of the IIT Council under the chairmanship of the new HRD minister M.M. Pallam Raju as his predecessor Kapil Sibal wasn't in favour of a fee hike. Last year, he along with all IIT directors had agreed "in principle" on an alternative by which all IIT graduates would have to reimburse their alma mater the expenditure incurred on them after having found a job.

According to members of the standing committee, the IITs cannot wait for Sibal's idea to materialise as its implementation hinges on political consensus. For the uninitiated the National Academic Depository Bill is still pending in the Parliament. The Bill enables a shift to "demat" degrees. "Once the Demat system is in place, then the degrees of the IIT graduates will reflect the obligation to pay back to the institute and money will come

**₹50,000 to ₹90,000**  
**Is the proposed increase**  
**in annual undergrad fee**

back via the employer," Sibal had told reporters immediately after the IIT Council meeting in September last year.

Although, HRD ministry officials insist that Sibal's proposal still stands, they agree that till



The elite tech schools may hike fee from next academic year if approved by IIT Council.

the idea is implemented there is a need for immediate fee hike as there has been none at least for the last three years. The suggested fee hike has been justified on the ground that the annual budget of the IITs has been consistently increasing (because of inflation) with no corresponding increase in their income.

"What we get from the government is quite less than our budget. And looking at the present fiscal situation, it's unlikely that they will increase our grants.

Increasing tuition is the only way for the IITs to make up for this huge deficit," an IIT director, a member of the standing committee, who did not wish to be identified, said.

"The proposed fee of ₹90,000 per annum is still way less than what good private institutes charge today. Moreover, many general category students are also covered under scholarship. So effectively, this hike will only affect 30 per cent of the total students," a ministry official said.

# IIT panel for 80% fee hike

## If okayed, it will be Rs.90,000

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Undergraduate students at the premier Indian Institutes of Technology could see their annual tuition fees hiked to Rs. 90,000 next year, after a committee of IIT directors recommended the 80 per cent increase. Students currently pay a hugely subsidised Rs. 50,000 a year.

A final decision will be taken by the full IIT Council — the institutes' top decision-making body which includes government representatives — on January 7.

The standing committee of the Council, which includes directors of the seven older IITs, met in Mumbai on Monday to discuss the proposal to revise the tuition fees that has been pending for over a year.

The panel also discussed last year's recommendation by the Anil Kakodkar Committee for a much steeper fee hike to more than Rs. 2 lakh a year, in a bid to give the IITs more financial independence from the government. Given that an empowered task force is now working out the details to implement the Kakodkar

Committee report, Monday's recommendations were described as an "interim" measure.

Sources at the meeting indicated that their recommendation of a Rs. 40,000 fee hike may not be applicable to students from the socially and economically weaker sections.

### Loan scheme

The IIT Council has already given in-principle approval to the Kakodkar Committee's recommendations to be implemented from 2013.

A special loan scheme is being worked out so that students who cannot afford the increased fees have the option of paying back the extra burden after they finish their course, and find employment.

The IIT fee structure is not only much lower than that of top private universities but also less than the amount charged by other premier Central government institutions of professional education such as the Indian Institutes of Management.

# IIT Panel for 80% Hike in Tuition Fee for UG Course

OUR BUREAU  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Standing Committee of the IIT Council, the supreme decision-making body of IITs, at its meeting on Monday, recommended an 80% hike, or ₹40,000, in annual tuition fees for the IIT undergraduate programme. The annual fees would now rise to ₹90,000 once the IIT Council accepts the recommendation.

Official sources said the IIT Council, headed by the human resource development minister, will take up the matter when it meets on January 7. The Standing Committee is an executive sub-group of the IIT Council, comprising the directors of all IITs, and it advises the ministry and the Council on matters of common interest to all the institutions in the system.

Sources said that while it has recommended an 80% increase in fees, the Standing Committee decided that students from the weaker sections — scheduled castes and tribes and OBCs — would not be required to pay the higher fee.

The recommendation comes even as an empowered task force is considering ways to implement the Kakodkar Committee's suggestion of a four to five-fold increase in tuition fees, from ₹50,000 to ₹2-2.5 lakh per year. A move that was necessary, according to the 12-member committee headed by IIT Bombay chairman and former

## Extra Burden?

The annual fees would rise to ₹90,000 once the IIT Council accepts the recommendation

The Committee also decided that students from weaker sections would not be required to pay the higher fee

Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar, for IITs to achieve financial autonomy. Sources close to the developments described Monday's decision, which was taken even as empowered committee was deliberating option, as an "interim measure".

Experts suggest that the decision by the Standing Committee is an attempt to counter the possibility of implementing the higher hike suggested by the Kakodkar committee. In January last year, Kapil Sibal, who as the human resource development minister was also the chairman of the IIT Council, had expressed misgivings about the four to five-fold fee hike suggested by the Kakodkar Committee. In its final submission in May last year, the Committee had reiterated the need for a substantial hike. Sibal then agreed to larger discussion within the Council.

In the meantime, the Council gave an in-principle approval to implement the recommendation from 2013, with the then HRD minister stating that the extra burden would be "paid back" by students once they are employed.

The Kakodkar Committee had argued that ₹2 to ₹2.5 lakh per year represented the operational cost, or 30%, of total current cost of an IIT education. It had suggested a hassle-free bank loan scheme, one drawn up especially for IIT students, to ensure that fees don't become a barrier to entry. It also suggested that the government should continue with current practice of providing full cover for fees and living expenses for undergraduate from weaker sections. All students, whose parents earn less than ₹4.5 lakh per year, would be eligible for scholarships covering 100% fees, and a monthly stipend.



# IIT panel recommends 80 pc hike in tuition fee

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5

**T**HE Standing Committee of IIT Council which met in Mumbai on Monday decided to hike the annual tuition fee by 80 per cent from Rs 50,000 a year to Rs 90,000 from the new academic session in 2013. However, the SC/ST category students will be exempted from the tuition fee as before.

The decision is subject to final approval by the IIT Council headed by the Union Human Resource Development Minister and is set to meet on January 7.

The decision follows the recommendations of the Kakodkar Committee that calls for a series of administrative reforms and changes in the fee structure to create a self-sustainable and autonomous structure at IITs. The Kakodkar committee had recommended a fee hike of Rs 2-2.5 lakh a year to help IITs gain financial autonomy. An empowered task force is currently examining the finer details of this four-fold hike proposal even as this 'interim' hike in tuition fee has been mooted.

It is estimated that the per

student cost of study at IIT is around Rs 4 lakh a year. IITs have also been feeling financial pressures with the well-intended block grants scheme failing to work in practical terms and the Ministry of Finance also advising against usage on non-plan grants to run the institutes.

The Kakodkar committee's recommendation was backed by then HRD minister Kapil Sibal who suggested that the increased tuition fee be treated as a deferred loan so that students are not financially overburdened. Some of the IIT directors have not been comfortable with the idea of such a steep hike. The alternative approach has been to introduce staggered hikes.

The Kakodkar committee had also suggested ways to foster research at IITs and had called for enhancing the support structure to PhD students. The Standing Committee is learnt to have favoured these recommendations as well, sources said.

That apart, a proposal mooted by the NIT council to allow its B Tech students to pursue PhD in IITs has also been looked upon favourably. NITs are facing a 40 per cent faculty shortage.

# IIT UG fee may go up to ₹90K/yr

New Delhi, Nov. 5: An IIT panel on Monday recommended raising tuition fee of undergraduate programme from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 per annum.

The standing committee of the IIT council, which met in Mumbai, however, decided not to burden students from the weaker sections like STs and OBCs with the fee hike, sources said.

IIT council, the highest decision making body of these institutes, will take a

**The standing committee, which met in Mumbai, decided not to burden ST and OBC students with a fee hike**

final call on the recommendations at its meet on January 7, they said.

The development comes

as an empowered task force is still considering the details for implementation of the Kakodkar Committee which had recommended in 2011 a steep hike of Rs 2-2.5 lakh per annum from the existing Rs 50,000.

As the task force is in the process of deliberation, sources said raising the fee by Rs 40,000 per annum would be an "interim measure".

The Kakodkar Committee constituted by the Council of IITs had suggested the

four-fold increase in tuition fee to help IITs attain financial independence.

The IIT Council had given in principle approval to the recommendation to be implemented from 2013, with the then HRD minister stating that the extra burden would be "paid back" by students once they are employed.

A group of directors of IITs, in the meantime, at a meeting in February considered the proposal for tuition fee hike. — PTI

## Business Line ND 06/11/2012 P-4

### IIT panel for hiking fee of undergraduate programme

New Delhi, Nov. 5

An IIT panel today recommended raising tuition fee of undergraduate programme from Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000 per annum. The standing committee of the IIT council, which met in Mumbai, however, decided not to burden students from the weaker sections like STs and OBCs with the fee hike, sources said. IIT council, the highest decision making body of these institutes, will take a final call on the recommendations at its meet on January 7, they said. The development comes as an empowered task force is still considering the details for implementation of the Kakodkar Committee which had recommended last year a steep hike of Rs 2-2.5 lakh per annum from the existing Rs 50,000. — PTI

# आईआईटी की पढ़ाई हो सकती है महंगी

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी समिति ने स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में ट्यूशन फीस 50 हजार से बढ़ाकर 90 हजार रुपए करने की सिफारिश की है। पिछले दिनों मुंबई में हुई बैठक में तय किया गया कि फिलहाल एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी वर्ग के छात्रों पर यह भार नहीं डाला जाएगा।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, इन संस्थानों के बारे में निर्णय करने वाली यह शीर्ष संस्था सात जनवरी को अपनी बैठक में

इन सिफारिशों पर अंतिम निर्णय करेगी। यह प्रस्ताव ऐसे समय सामने आया है जब अधिकार सम्पन्न निकाय काकोदकर समिति की सिफारिशों पर विचार कर रहा है। समिति ने अपनी सिफारिशों में पिछले वर्ष फीस को वर्तमान 50 हजार रुपए प्रति वर्ष से बढ़ाकर 2 से 2.50 लाख रुपए करने की सिफारिश की थी।

शेष पेज | 4

## आईआईटी की...

कार्यबल के विचार विमर्श की प्रक्रिया जारी रखने के बीच सूत्रों ने कहा कि प्रति वर्ष फीस में 40 हजार की वृद्धि करना अंतरिम उपाय होगा। आईआईटी परिषद की ओर से गठित काकोदकर समिति ने ट्यूशन फीस में चार गुना वृद्धि करने का सुझाव दिया था ताकि आईआईटी वित्तीय स्वायत्ता हासिल कर सके। आईआईटी परिषद ने इन सिफारिशों पर 2013 से सिद्धांत रूप से अमल करने को मंजूरी प्रदान की थी।

# IIT-JEE registration

**Pallavi Smart** @ MUMBAI

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Only qualifying to appear for the IIT-JEE (advanced) is not enough, after clearing JEE (main) paper. All the 1,50,000 short-listed candidates have to reapply for the JEE (advanced) paper to be able to appear for it, for admission to IITs. Registration for the IIT-JEE (Main) begins from Thursday, November 8.

All candidates who want to appear for the JEE (advanced) will have to appear for the JEE (main).



# IIT-Kharagpur's 'Team Kshitij' in UP to rope in institutes

## HT Correspondent

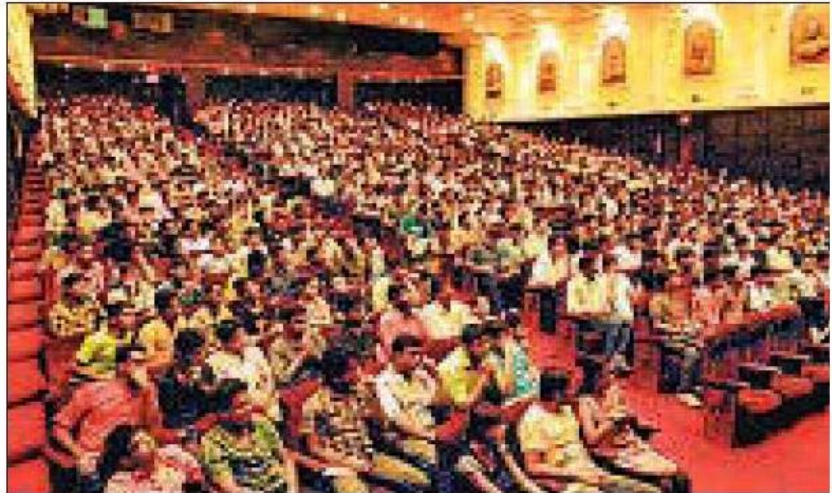
■ lkoreportersdesk@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** Volunteers from IIT Kharagpur have already started roping in educational institutions in the state for their participation in Kshitij 2013, the annual techno-management symposium of the institute that would be held between February 1 and 4, 2013.

Moreover, team Kshitij will also be conducting workshops throughout the country, where participants will get to learn and enhance their skills in the field of robotics.

Talking about the event, Romanshu said, "Since its inception in 2004, there has been no looking back for Kshitij. Starting out with a humble participation of a few hundred in its nascent years, Kshitij has grown by leaps and bounds to become the behemoth it is today. The fest has witnessed some of the brightest minds of their time compete to create wonders and reach new pinnacles of excellence."

One of the events at the symposium, B-Plan, enables budding entrepreneurs to kick-start their dream venture. The event is conducted in two stages and partici-



FILE PHOTO OF KSHITIJ 2012

pants can form a team of five to participate in the event.

They are required to submit an executive summary about their idea that is checked by professors from IIMs, on basis of which, teams are shortlisted for second stage.

The second stage is conducted in two rounds, which are both closed room presentations.

The teams are then required to present their proposed idea to the panel of judges, which include professors from institutes like IIMs and XLRI, venture capitalists and angel investors.

Notably, the last date for submissions is December 16, 2012. To participate in the fest, students can register on

the website, [www.ktij.in](http://www.ktij.in), which happens to be India's largest student-run website, having recorded a whopping 8 million hits last year.

Apart from such diverse events, Kshitij organises enlightening guest lectures, featuring eminent personalities from all over the world.

In the past, dignitaries like Nobel laureate Sir James Mirrlees, co-founder of Wikipedia Jimmy Wales, inventor of the USB Ajay Bhatt as well as eminent actor Nasseruddin Shah have addressed audiences at Kshitij.

Last year, Kshitij saw participation of over 50,000 guests and an amount of Rs60 lakh was offered as prize money.

# Quality of our graduates poor, bring in foreign universities: Tharoor

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Minister of State for Human Resources Development (HRD) Shashi Tharoor on Monday made out a strong case for allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in the country, arguing that the Indian university system was not producing "well-educated" graduates to meet the requirements of industry.

"The major problem remains that our national education policy in the past has remained out of step with the times. Whereas countries in the Middle-East and China are

going out of their way to woo foreign universities to set up campuses in their countries, India turned away many academic suitors, who have come calling in recent years," he said.

There will be no need for Indian students to go abroad if good higher education institutes were set up here, he said.

The minister, however, reiterated government's commitment towards reforming the country's education system. "We will also work towards putting our reform agenda back on track," he said.

Tharoor was addressing a two-day higher education summit which began here on Monday. The event was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci). The HRD Ministry has drafted a bill that seeks to formulate regulations for allowing entry and operation of foreign institutions in India. The minister noted that "companies are entering the higher education space in the guise of training."

Referring to a higher education survey conducted by the

University Grants Commission, the minister underlined 73 per cent of the colleges and 68 per cent of the universities are found to be of medium or low quality.

Even though India with 621 universities and 33,500 colleges has one of the largest network of higher education institutes across the world and stands second in terms of student enrolment, country's gross enrolment ratio of 18.8 per cent in 2011 was still less than the world average of 26 per cent.

► **Tharoor, Page 8**

Indian Express, ND 6/11/2012 P-2

**RE-EDUCATE** NEW MINISTER OF STATE SAYS NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY HAS BEEN OUT OF STEP WITH THE TIMES

## Univ system not producing well-educated graduates: Tharoor

NAVEED IQBAL

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5

UNION Minister of State for Higher Education Shashi Tharoor on Monday said the country's university system was not producing "well-educated" graduates to meet the needs of corporate houses.

This, he said, was forcing companies to "re-educate" the students before they can be assigned any work. This way, the companies were entering the higher education space "in the guise of training", he said.

Speaking at a two-day FICCI higher education summit, Tharoor said: "Companies are entering the higher education space in the guise of training. Our university system

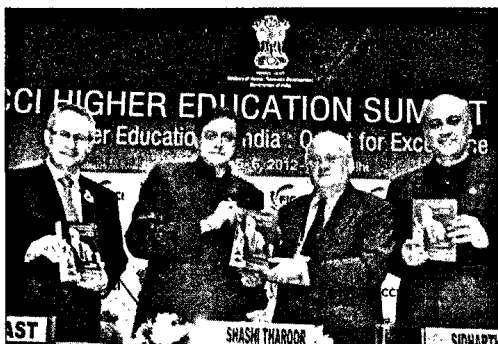
simply is not producing well-educated graduates to meet the needs of Indian companies."

Citing a UGC survey of 1,471 colleges and 111 universities, he said 73 per cent of the colleges and 68 per cent of the universities are found to be of medium or low quality.

He said a FICCI survey has revealed in 2009 that 64 per cent employers are "somewhat satisfied" with the quality of new graduates coming out of engineering institutes.

He said the "key area" for the future is the involvement of the corporate sector in higher education.

"The corporate sector is a key stakeholder in higher education. They can play an important role in improving India's current higher



Shashi Tharoor releases a book during the FICCI higher education summit on Monday.

education system as well as meeting future aspirations."

He said there would be no need for Indian students to go abroad to study if good higher education institutes were set up in the country. "We will also work towards putting our reforms agenda back on track," the minister said.

Tharoor said there is a proposal to set up 50 centres for research in frontier areas of science in different universities, the IITs and other technical institutions.

The minister said the national education policy has been out of step with the times.

"Whereas countries in the Middle-East and China are going out of their way to woo foreign universi-

ties to set up campuses in their countries, India turned away many academic suitors who have come calling in recent years," he said.

Tharoor favoured setting up of the National Mission for Teachers and recommendations of the Narayana Murthy Committee and the Kakodkar Committee, besides increasing government spending of two per cent on research.

"We are committed to pursuing these objectives and will take them forward during the 12th Five Year Plan," he said.

Many other reforms were required in the country's higher education system, the newly-inducted minister said.

# Higher edu scenario bleak, says report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Painting a bleak picture of the higher education scenario in India, an industry report pointed out that its gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 16% was much below the world average of 27%, while 90% of colleges were average or below average in 2010, on the basis of their NAAC accreditation.

The higher education sector is plagued with various challenges, such as low GER and lack of quality research and education, said the report "Higher Education in India: Twelfth five year plan and beyond" by Planning Commission-FICCI-Ernst & Young.

This situation is compounded by an 11% increase in student enrolment in high-



**MoS for HRD Shashi Tharoor** said that the university system was not producing "well-educated" graduates to meet needs of Indian companies, giving an opportunity to firms to enter the sector in the "guise" of training

er education and a 9% growth in institutions during the last decade, it added.

Speaking on the issue, minister of state (MoS) for human resource development Shashi Tharoor said that the university system was not producing "well-educated" graduates to meet needs of Indian companies, giving an opportunity to the firms to enter the sector in

the "guise" of training.

He also said that the national education policy in the past has been out of step with the times.

"The major problem remains that our national education policy in the past has remained out of step with the time. Whereas countries in the Middle-East and China are going out of their way to woo foreign universities to

set up campuses in their countries, India turned away many academic suitors who have come calling in recent years," he said.

Speaking at a two-day higher education summit, Tharoor said, "Companies are entering the higher education space in the guise of training. Our university system simply is not producing well-educated graduates to meet the needs of Indian companies today."

The HRD minister said there will be no need for many Indian students to go abroad to study if good higher education institutes were set up in the country. "We will also work towards putting our reform agenda back on track," he added.

Tharoor said there is a proposal to establish 50 cen-

tres for research in frontier areas of science, design innovation centres, innovation centres in different universities and also research parts of the IITs and other technical institutions.

"If finally established, it would transform the research environment in our country," he said.

The government has proposed several initiatives in the 12th Plan (2012-17) in the areas of expansion, excellence and funding.

It intends to achieve enrolment of 35.9 million students in higher education institutions, with a GER of 25.2%, by the end of the 12th Plan period through the co-existence of multiple types of institutions, including research-centric, teaching and vocation-focused ones.

# आईआईटी-आईआईएम में शोध पार्क होंगे स्थापित'

नई दिल्ली (ए)। सरकार शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में शोध एवं अनुसंधान कार्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बरहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में प्रसिद्ध भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) एवं भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम) में रिसर्च पार्क तथा देश में 50 विशेष अनुसंधान केंद्र स्थापित करेगी।

केन्द्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री शशि थरूर ने सोमवार को यहां फिक्की के 8वें ग्लोबल शिक्षा सम्मेलन में यह बात कही। दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और योजना आयोग मिलकर किया है। श्री थरूर ने कहा कि शिक्षा में अभी तक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार नहीं हो पाए हैं, क्योंकि संसद में कई विधेयक अभी लंबित पड़े हैं। देश को अगर अपनी विकास दर बढ़ानी है और प्रतिस्पर्धा को तेज करना है तो उसे उच्च शिक्षा को

विश्व स्तरीय बनाना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि उद्योग जगत तथा उच्च शिक्षा के बीच समन्वय कायम करने के लिए एक परिषद के गठन पर सरकार विचार करेगी। सम्मेलन के मुख्य अतिथि कनाडा के अन्तरराष्ट्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री एड फास्ट ने कहा कि कनाडा और भारत उनका शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भागीदारी करेंगे। योजना आयोग के सलाहकार पवन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में उच्च शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा और प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में इस वर्ष के अंत में राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद की बैठक में अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना को मंजूरी दी जाएगी।

फिक्की के उपाध्यक्ष सिद्धार्थ कुमार विडला ने कहा कि अच्छी शिक्षा के अभाव में उद्योग जगत को योग्य आदमी समय पर नहीं मिल पाते।

# हायर एजुकेशन में निवेश बढ़ाना होगा

बिजनेस भास्कर

भारत में 24 साल तक उम्र वाले लोगों की जनसंख्या में हिस्सेदारी आधे से भी ज्यादा है लेकिन अगर उच्च शिक्षा की बात करें तो देश के केवल 12.5 फीसदी छात्रों को ही उच्च शिक्षा मिल पा रही है। जानकारों का कहना है कि अगर 2020 तक 30 फीसदी लोगों को उच्च शिक्षा देनी है तो इसके लिए देश में कम से कम 800 नए विश्वविद्यालयों और 35 हजार नए कॉलेजों की जरूरत होगी। देश में केवल विश्वविद्यालय और कॉलेज ही नहीं बल्कि चोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग सेंटर्स खोलने की भी जरूरत है। लोगों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए उन्हें प्रशिक्षित करने की जरूरत भी है।

## लाइसेंस राज से मुक्ति जरूरी

ये बात सही है कि देश में शिक्षा का स्तर बहुत खराब है और इसके लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाएं भी नहीं हैं। लेकिन शिक्षा के इस हाल का खास कारण यह है कि इसमें निवेश नहीं हो रहा है। निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में निवेश न करने का एक बड़ा कारण यह है कि इस क्षेत्र में किसी न किसी रूप में आज भी लाइसेंस राज चल रहा है। जानकारों का कहना है कि देश के जिन क्षेत्रों में आज भी लालफीताशाही और लाइसेंस राज चल रहा है शिक्षा उनमें से एक है। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में जो सुधार किए गए हैं वह न केवल



नाकाफी हैं बल्कि संतोषजनक स्थिति से भी कोसों दूर है। देश में सेकेंडरी और उच्च शिक्षा स्कूलों पर आज भी बहुत ज्यादा सरकारी नियंत्रण है। सरकार के नियमों में स्पष्ट लिखा गया है कि स्कूल केवल गैर लाभकारी संस्था के रूप में किसी सोसायटी या ट्रस्ट के माध्यम से ही चलाए जा सकते हैं। हालांकि हरियाणा और महाराष्ट्र जैसे कुछ राज्यों में स्कूल को एक लाभकारी संस्था के तौर पर भी चलाया जा सकता है लेकिन इसके लिए राज्य के शिक्षा बोर्ड से अनुमति लेना अपने आप में बहुत कठिन होता है।

## बदलाव के अतिरिक्त विकल्प नहीं

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि जिन भी क्षेत्रों में हद से ज्यादा नियंत्रण है उन क्षेत्रों में भ्रष्टाचार भी ज्यादा है और शिक्षा क्षेत्र भी इसका अपवाद नहीं है। इसलिए अगर शिक्षा में तरक्की करनी है तो इसकी वर्तमान व्यवस्था में बदलाव करने के अतिरिक्त कोई दूसरा विकल्प नहीं है। शिक्षा क्षेत्र से जुड़े कुछ लोगों का मानना है कि देश की उच्च शिक्षा पर अभी भी पूरी तरह से नेताओं का कब्जा बना हुआ है। ज्यादातर नेता बिना निवेश किए ही बड़े-बड़े कॉलेज खड़े कर लेते हैं। ये लोग सरकार से मुफ्त में जमीन ले लेते हैं और बिल्डर बिना पैसा लिए इनके लिए बिल्डिंग खड़ी कर देते हैं। और इस तरह

## कठिन रास्ता

देश में केवल 12.5 फीसदी छात्र उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त

भविष्य में पड़ेगी ज्यादा विश्वविद्यालयों की जरूरत

शिक्षा में हद से ज्यादा नियंत्रण से बढ़ रहा है भ्रष्टाचार

एजुकेशन सेक्टर में निजी क्षेत्र ले रहा है दिलचस्पी

से कॉलेज चल जाता है लेकिन इसकी गुणवत्ता पर कोई ध्यान नहीं देता है। साथ ही ये दूसरे लोगों को इस क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने से भी हतोत्साहित करते हैं।

ये बात सही है कि शिक्षा क्षेत्र में बहुत सारी कमियां हैं और इन्हें दूर करने के लिए काफी कुछ करने की जरूरत है लेकिन अब स्थिति में कुछ सुधार हो रहा है। निजी क्षेत्र भी अब आगे आ रहा है और निवेश कर रहे हैं। इससे कुछ उम्मीद बंधी है कि आने वाले समय में शिक्षा की सेहत सुधरेगी और बच्चों को अच्छी गुणवत्तायुक्त शिक्षा मिलेगी। हालांकि ये बात सच है कि अभी भी बहुत काम करने की जरूरत है।

# T Tech colleges lag behind in industry collaboration

## Our Bureau

New Delhi, Nov 5

Industry-academia collaboration, or the lack thereof, has been a topic of debate for long.

Working towards getting a factual position in this regard, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) conducted a survey of industry-linked engineering institutes.

The study has revealed that the country's technical institutes are not doing very well in terms of joining hands with the industry, with the average score at the national level standing

at 30.9, with minimum and maximum scores at 4.4 and 75.7, respectively.

S.S. Mantha, Chairman of AICTE, said that the Council has been trying to improve the quality within the system, which requires stronger linkages with the industry.

He added that given that there are 2.2 million seats at the entry level of technical education, the scale already exists, but now the focus has to be on quality.

"We need to ensure that what happens in education is relevant to the industry and vice-versa, said P. Rajendran, Chairman of

CII National Committee on Higher Education and Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of NIIT Ltd.

He added that it is the "selfish need" of the industry to join forces with the academia, so that they can get the best people into the job market.

The voluntary survey was open to accredited engineering institutes, which have been functional for 10 years and offer at least three streams out of six — chemical; civil; computer and IT; electrical; electronics & communication; and mechanical engineering.

However, out of the 1,070 institutes that have completed 10 years only 156 participated in the survey.

The institutes were evaluated on seven parameters — governance, curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, services, placements and entrepreneurship development.

## APPROVAL PROCESS

Mantha said that the approval process of AICTE has stringent requirements for industry collaborations. Despite this, Indian institutions appear to be doing poorly in this field.

Almost 18 per cent of the institutions mapped fall in the 'low' category in terms of industry collaborations, while a massive 63 per cent are in the moderate category.

Mantha said that to ensure high-quality education, there is a need to ensure that teachers have some exposure to the industry.

He said that it is important to figure out how many teachers are actively involved with the industry in research, have patents, or have filed for intellectual property rights.

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# Counselling: Problems aplenty for students

There is need to evolve a student-friendly, economical counselling procedure for admission to UG programmes in engineering

**PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH**

A large number of entrance examinations are conducted all over the country. In general, admission to undergraduate (UG) programmes in engineering is based on merit in entrance examination(s). Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and New Delhi have been following the merit of the AIEEE for the purpose of screening students for admissions to the UG programme, in engineering. A few other states have also adopted a similar procedure. The approach is student friendly, so as to relieve them from the state-conducted entrance examination.

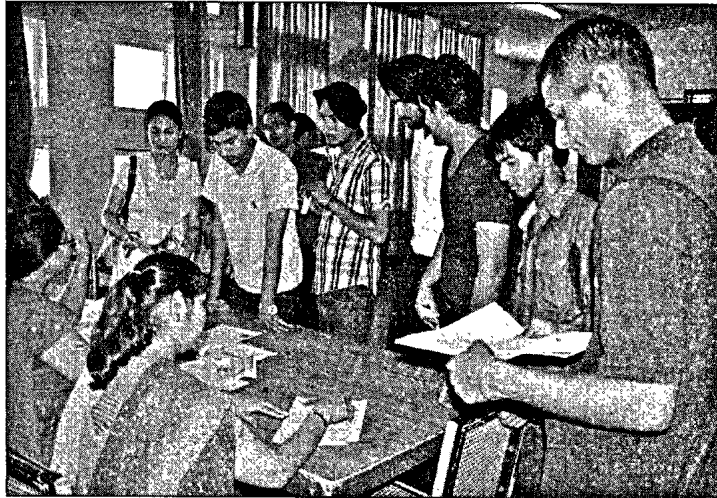
After the declaration of result of entrance examination, the procedure for admission in most of the institutions involves a few seemingly common steps called counselling. There has been a practice of separate counselling conducted by (a) IITs for 16 IITs and ISM-Dhanbad based on merit in IIT-JEE, (b) Central Counseling Board for 30 NITs, 5 IIITs, 13 central/state government-funded institutions, and 21 self-financed universities/institutions, etc., based on merit in AIEEE, and (c) different states/state technical universities, based on merit in state-conducted entrance examination (d) several universities/institutions, based on merit in independently conducted entrance examination.

Although a few technical universities and states such as Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and New Delhi have abolished separate entrance examinations and adopted AIEEE merit for admission, they conduct counselling separately. Even within these states, dozens of universities/institutions that have been following the AIEEE merit-based admission procedure conduct their own counselling. In general, students have to register with several agencies for participation in the counselling process. Thus, the counselling becomes very uneconomical and harassing for students.

There are serious anomalies in the registration fee charged from students across various counselling agencies. Presently, the registration fee charged by various states/universities/institutions in general varies in the range Rs 500 to Rs 3,000. In some cases, it may go even beyond. It is surprising that when a few states and institutions can manage the counselling in just Rs 500 conveniently, others charge hefty amounts. This issue needs serious attention and appropriate regulation to rationalise the registration fee.

Many universities/institutions charge the registration fee by selling their information brochure-cum-application form even before the declaration of AIEEE results. Thus, several thousand candidates shell out their parents' hard-earned money in the hope of securing a seat, despite an uncertainty regarding their merit in the entrance test.

The situation gets further worsened, when thousands of candidates who do not get a seat allotted in first round of counselling are declared probable candidates, and are further directed to deposit a hefty amount as earnest money to maintain their candidature for consideration in subsequent rounds in counselling for only a few hundred seats. The earnest money is in general refundable or adjustable in admission fees. It is refundable only in the case when the candidate is not at all allotted a seat. If the candidate is allotted a seat, but he fails to take admission for any reason, the earnest money gets forfeited. These practices seem to be arbitrary, unhealthy and unreasonable from the stu-



Several thousand candidates shell out their parents' hard-earned money in the hope of securing a seat, despite the uncertainty regarding their merit in the entrance test.

dents' viewpoint, and need serious attention and appropriate regulation to stop them.

A large number of students remain busy for a few months attending multiple rounds of counselling conducted by various agencies to secure admission as per their choice. In general, the opportunity for admission keeps on changing round after round during the course of counselling. Sometimes students have to secure a seat for them in an institution by paying requisite admission fees, while exploring further possibilities for a better choice. Later on when they get a better chance, they switch over to the next. Although the admission fee deposited is refunded in such cases in accordance with the rules laid down by regulatory bodies, in doing so the money deposited at one institution gets sometimes blocked for months together (because of delayed processing of refund), and sometimes except for the refundable component, all the amount gets forfeited for not filling of the vacated seat.

Students who participate in the counselling conducted by several agencies have to keep monitoring the seat allotment by each of them round after round. They may take admission at one place when offered, but when get a better opportunity, withdraw the admission and further take admission against the better opportunity. In the process they feel harassed, while a few seats remain vacant in institutions for a longer period or even forever. Some technical universities/institutions keep continuing the admission process for a longer period. Late closure of the admission process causes delay in commencement of the academic session. In some institutions, the academic session commences in time, but the admission process keeps continuing. As a result, the late admitted students suffer academically.

All these issues cause mental agony to students. To avoid this, the practice of multiplicity of counselling needs to be rationalised. It will be better if all the universities/institutions in a state participate

in the counselling conducted either by the state or technical university of some other counselling board functioning at the national level. Also, for smaller states, like Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, it will be better to have zonal counselling, where the universities/institutions of all the states/union territories in a zone (e.g., North Zone) participate in a common counselling. A proper mechanism can be evolved for such a collaborative counselling scheme. If this concept is adopted, it will result in several benefits such as reduced physical and mental harassment to students, reduced expenditure towards counselling fee, reduced chances of deduction and forfeiture of the admission fee in case of switch over, possibility of reduced number of rounds of counselling to complete the admission process resulting in an earlier completion of the admission process, possibility of timely commencement of course, i.e. reduced academic loss to students for delayed admission, reduced additional workload on universities/institutions for the refund of deposited admission fees, etc.

Recently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development announced a modification in the two main entrance examinations — the IIT-JEE and the AIEEE — from the year 2013 onwards. The AIEEE will now be replaced by the JEE (main), essentially meant for admission to 47 Centrally-funded technical institutions. State technical universities and other institutions shall be free to adopt the JEE (main)-based merit for admission. It is expected that several state technical universities and other institutions will adopt the merit based on the newly proposed entrance examination. However, the counselling problems will still remain unattended and thus, need to be given a serious thought.

*The writer is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Longowal.*

# DTU told to reinstate heads of departments

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

**New Delhi:** Delhi Technological University has been asked by the LG to reinstate the heads of departments removed recently. The DTU administration had replaced the HoDs with two new faculty members, who are still on probation. In his letter, lieutenant governor Tejendra Khanna has asked the institute to reinstate the HoDs in the interest of academics.

Senior professors R K Sinha and G L Verma were removed from their posts in August. These two teachers, along with other deans, had apparently questioned the change in academic calendar. The teachers also wrote to the Delhi government, calling into question the recruitments made in March-April 2012.

The LG asks why only two out of the 12 HoDs were removed and then substituted with teachers who were still on probation. "I, therefore, under Section 53 of DTU amendment Act 2010 direct the vice-chancellor of DTU to withdraw the order of removal of professors G L Verma and R K Sinha from the post of HoD, and reinstate them in the interest of academic functioning of the university."

## **LETTER FROM LG**

The university, in its reply to the October 23 letter of the LG, clarified that the department of technical education, Delhi government, presented incorrect information. Vice-chancellor P B Sharma said, "Yes, a letter was received from the LG office for reinstatement of the two HoDs. However, it was noted that the chancellor (the LG is also the chancellor of the university) was not presented with correct facts. Accordingly, the position has been communicated on October 30. The change of HoDs is as per our policy of rotation of headship among the professors of the department. Verma has been HOD for 13 years and Sinha has also completed three years."

The teachers' association, consisting mostly of teachers from the erstwhile DCE, alleged that the VC had already been served with a show-cause notice and a government inquiry was due on the recruitment process. Sharma, however, said: "All the recruitments were done as per the statutes of the university and after getting the due approvals, and through public advertisements. There is no inquiry in progress on recruitments, and in academic institutions there is no rule which debars a new teacher from heading a department."



# Work starts on 4-year degrees

## DU Taskforce Discusses Viability Of Proposals, Role Of Colleges

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

**New Delhi:** No concrete decisions were made at the first meeting of the 61-member DU taskforce — set up to formulate a plan for the four-year undergraduate courses — on Monday. But the “vision”, apparently, is clearer. The meeting was intended to create a “vision document” for a system that is set to replace the current one in a few months. Feasibility of proposals was discussed and some fears plaguing the teaching community were assuaged.

The contentious issue of exit points — allowing students to leave with an associate degree after two years, general after three — was discussed. “The teachers were concerned about the dilution of the honours courses,” said Virender

Bhardwaj, member of the academic council and the taskforce, “and university authorities have assured us that the honours courses will not be diluted”. He added that the group was considering a system in which, after the first year (two semesters), students would have the option of either continuing in a “traditional” honours

course or taking up a more “skill-based” one.

Apparently, a rumour was doing the rounds that in the new system, the curriculum will be so designed that teachers will have less to do and the number of teaching posts will shrink. “The administration has told us categorically that the number of posts will not de-

crease,” said Bhardwaj.

The role of colleges was discussed at length with many members suggesting that greater space be given to colleges. “Members proposed that if a college is strong in a particular discipline, it should be allowed to float a paper on that,” said a

panel member, seeking anonymity. He gave the example of animal

science, which includes papers on both parasites and immunology. “But if a college has faculty which has done research on the relationship between the two, the college can offer a paper on ‘parasitology and immunology’,” he said. The syllabus can be brought to the academic council, and once cleared, it can be offered as a

unique course. This is where the “meta” element kicks in. “We are exploring ways in which such a paper, taught in one college, can be taken up by students of other colleges,” he said. Bhardwaj added that the teaching staff as well as the students would have greater opportunity for research and, therefore, “the post of professorship can be introduced at the college-level. Till now, the highest designation is assistant-professorship”.

The meeting also discussed problems in the existing system — courses and their duration don’t square with the semester system; internal assessments pose problems. The administration shared the suggestions it had received at platforms such as the Academic Congress.

### THORNY ISSUES DISCUSSED

# Eye on Kumbh, Ganga panel term extended

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5

THE high-level panel constituted by the Prime Minister to review hydel projects on river Ganga has extended its term by three months in a bid to defer publication of its final report.

The panel under Planning Commission member B K Chaturvedi took the decision to avoid political backlash during the Maha Kumbh Mela to be held in January, 2013.

Panel members said their findings are likely to tick off a confluence of millions of Ganga devotees and Hindu religious groups and activists who arrive at the mela. It was

## Decision taken to avoid political backlash during the mela to be held in January 2013

clear from the latest meeting of the panel last week that the draft final report raises more differences within the panel and needs to be weeded out.

Apparently the draft doesn't address the issue of ensuring 'aviral dhara' (unobstructed flow) of the river and its tributaries, a key demand put forward by religious activists, in a way that would as-

suage their ire.

While an IIT Roorkee report pegs the minimum flow of the river after all hydel projects are implemented to 14 per cent, activists and non-official members in the panel want at least 72 per cent flow to make Ganga a Class A river. The committee report suggests a minimum 30 per cent flow. This is unacceptable to some members who say it would downgrade the river's status in the water pollution index. The IIT report also says that hydel projects in itself are not detrimental to the river's health.

The draft report avoids suggesting scraping of the 200-odd upcoming hydel projects

but stresses that the minimum distance between two dams or barrages should be about 5 km to give the river some breathing space.

The move to overlook demand to scrap projects has already fuelled politics along the upper reaches of the river. The BJP has turned the Hindu religiosity surrounding the river's conservation into a political plank.

Meanwhile, Ganga Mahasabha, one of the Hindu religious groups opposed to hydel projects, will now hold discussions with religious heads on enacting a National Ganga (conservation and management) Act, 2012, in Delhi later this month.