

Newspaper Clips November 6, 2013

HRD Ministry okays IIT, IIM, 3 central univs for Seemandhra

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2013, 20:35 IST | Place: New Delhi | Agency: PTI, DNA

The HRD Ministry has given its nod for an IIT, an IIM and three central universities among other institutes for the Seemandhra region which has witnessed widespread resentment over the Centre's decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh.

The Ministry has conveyed its decision to the Home Ministry which had forwarded representations made by different stakeholders to it earlier in response to the GoM on Telangana inviting suggestions on bifurcation of the state.

The decision would be placed before the GoM for consideration, sources in the Ministry said.

The ministry has also cleared an IISER and an IIIT for the region.

The move is aimed at striking a balance between the two regions -- Telangana and Seemandhra -- as far as establishment of premier institutes are concerned, though the end objective is to ensure that students derive maximum benefit, they said.

Rough estimate suggests an investment in the range of Rs 6000 to Rs 7000 crore for establishment of the institutes in the Seemandhra region.

The ministry's decision assumes significance as the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh will leave the Seemandhra region without any of the elite higher educational institutes which are mostly concentrated in Hyderabad in the Telangana region.

HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju represents the Kakinanda constituency in Seemandhra.

In their representation, various stakeholders had suggested that all central institutions in Seemandhra should be backed by a bill and all national parties should sign it.

"Most of the highly developed educational institutions are going to the state of Telangana. The Centre should immediately grant the above said institutions and they should come into operation within a year," the representations said.

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Seemandhra to get IIT, IIM, 3 central univs

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Nod for IIT, IIM, 3 central varsities in Seemandhra

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"Most of the highly developed educational institutions are going to Telangana. The Centre should immediately grant the above said institutions and they should come into operation within a year," the representations said. In its October 19 meeting, the GoM had fixed November 5 as the last day for receiving suggestions on bifurcation of the State from public, including political parties and public representatives.

HRD Minister M.M. Pallam Raju represents the Kakinanda constituency in Seemandhra. - PTI

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Association of University Teachers sees red in UGC's move to seek amendments to its Act

TNN | Nov 6, 2013, 01:58 AM IST

TRICHY: The Association of University Teachers (AUT), Tamil Nadu has expressed apprehension about the motive of the University Grants Commission's proposal to amend the UGC Act, 1956 and questioned the very reason for the existence of the proposition.

UGC secretary Akhilesh Gupta issued a public notice on October 31, "to take a comprehensive look into the existing provision of the UGC Act, 1956 and suggest amendments." UGC has already constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of R P Agrawal, former secretary, higher education, ministry of human resource development and has invited the views and suggestions of stakeholders including "vice-chancellors, faculty and non-faculty members of the universities, colleges and other institutions of higher education, parents, and members of the general public."

Taking serious view of the public notice, AUT's vice-president K Pandiyan questioned why the department of higher education was specifically excluded in the list of stakeholders. Pandiyan alleged that it seemed to be a backdoor move to invite foreign institutions who might have tie-ups with colleges that would eventually be turned into degree-awarding colleges and finally state universities.

HT Mumbai

JEE (MAIN) 2014

The JEE (Main)-2014 will be conducted by the JEE apex board for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes in NITs, IITs, other centrally funded technical Institutions, participating state government institutions etc.

The admission to undergraduate engineering programs at NITs, IITs, other centrally funded technical institutions, institutions under several participating state governments, and several other institutions shall include the performance in the JEE (Main).

The states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha have joined JEE (Main) system. Therefore, the candidates seeking admission to the institutions in these states, which were earlier conducting admissions based on their state-level examination, are also advised to fill in the JEE (Main) - 2014 application form online. More details to be available on www.jeemain.nic.in by the second week of November 2014.

AUT urges UGC to be transparent

Author: Express News Service

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The Association of University Teachers (AUT) has asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to be transparent about the need for amendments to the UGC Act and the aspects on which the UGC expert committee requires views and suggestions from the public.

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) has asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to be transparent about the need for amendments to the UGC Act and the aspects on which the UGC expert committee requires views and suggestions from the public.

"Stakeholders of higher education are shocked to see the public notice issued by the UGC by which the expert committee under R P Agrawal, former secretary, Higher Education, MHRD, seeks the stakeholders and larger public to have a comprehensive look into the UGC Act, 1956 and suggest amendments to the said Act on or before November 15," K Pandiyan, vice president of the Association of University Teachers said in a release.

"This public notice has no reference to the source and purpose for this cause of action by the UGC. Stakeholders of higher education are perplexed over the 'compulsions' for the UGC to seek amendments to the existing UGC Act, 1956," he said. "... The areas and aspects on which the committee expects views and suggestions were not explicitly spelt out." He suggested that a draft proposal for amendments be circulated by the UGC.

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NBT New Delhi

डीयू में प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड लर्निंग पर खास फोकस



फोर इंयर डिग्री स्कीम में फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज पर काफी ध्यान भूपेंद्र, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में फोर इंयर डिग्री कोर्स की स्कीम में फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज पर खास ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। वाइस चांसलर और उनकी टीम के मेंबर्स हर हफ्ते फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज को लेकर टीचर्स से भी बात कर रहे हैं। हाल ही में डीयू ने इन कोर्सेज को पढ़ाने वाले टीचर्स को फीडबैक फॉर्म दिया था। इस सर्वे के आधार पर एक रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई है।

वाइस चांसलर प्रो. दिनेश सिंह का कहना है कि इस रिपोर्ट से साफ होता है कि अब टीचिंग के पुराने ढर्रे को बदलने का वक़्त आ गया है। केवल ब्लैकबोर्ड के जरिए टीचिंग नहीं हो सकती, बल्कि प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड लर्निंग का समय है। फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज में प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड एजुकेशन पर खास फोकस है और फोर इंयर कोर्सेज को बेहतर बनाने के लिए लगातार रिव्यू किया जाएगा।

वीसी के मुताबिक प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड लर्निंग को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा और कोर्सेज के रिविजन में भी इस स्कीम पर खास फोकस रहेगा। डीयू ने फर्स्ट इंयर के सभी स्टूडेंट्स को लैपटॉप दिए हैं और साथ ही सभी कॉलेजों में अब बेहतर इंटरनेट फ़ैसिलिटी भी है।

फीडबैक फॉर्म में टीचर्स से करीब 11 सवाल पूछे गए थे। एक अहम सवाल टेक्स्ट बुक्स को लेकर था। टीचर्स से पूछा गया था कि क्या फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज ने टेक्स्ट बुक्स की बाउंड्री को तोड़ा है और अब स्टूडेंट्स टेक्स्ट

95 पर्सेंट टीचर्स ने माना कि स्टूडेंट क्रिएटिव थिंकिंग पर दे रहे हैं ध्यान

बुक्स से बाहर की भी सोच रहे हैं। इस सवाल के जवाब में 97 पर्सेंट ने हां कहा। यानी करीब 97 पर्सेंट टीचर्स मानते हैं कि फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज से स्टूडेंट्स अब क्रिएटिव थिंकिंग पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं और रटने की आदत से छुटकारा मिल रहा है।

कम्यूनिकेशन स्किल से जुड़े सवाल पर करीब 95 पर्सेंट टीचर्स का मानना है कि जो स्टूडेंट्स क्लासरूम में बिल्कुल चुप रहते थे, वे भी अब सवाल पूछ रहे हैं और जवाब दे रहे हैं। लैपटॉप दिए जाने पर भी स्टूडेंट्स को फायदा हुआ है। 98 पर्सेंट टीचर्स की राय है कि इससे प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड लर्निंग के मकसद को पूरा किया जा सकेगा। प्रोजेक्ट बेस्ड लर्निंग, स्टूडेंट्स थिंकिंग का सवाल भी था और 95 पर्सेंट से ज्यादा टीचर्स का मानना है कि निश्चित तौर पर इससे क्लासरूम टीचिंग की तस्वीर बदलेगी। यूनिवर्सिटी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज से चेंज की शुरुआत हुई है और आगे मेन कोर्सेज में भी यह बदलाव जारी रहेगा। पहली बार डीयू ने क्वेश्चन बैंक तैयार किए हैं। अभी तो फाउंडेशन कोर्सेज के क्वेश्चन बैंक बने हैं और अगले सेमेस्टर में मेन कोर्सेज के क्वेश्चन की भी तैयारी की जा रही है।

IE New Delhi

Focus on engineering, NMEICT ignoring Humanities

Anubhuti Vishnoi Posted online: Wed Nov 06 2013, 05:20 hrs

New Delhi : The National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT), which was initiated nearly five years ago with an aim to use technology to provide quality education to students in higher education sector across the country, seems to be providing the bulk of its funds to IITs and the engineering sector, ignoring crucial Humanities courses.

The disproportionate focus on engineering education has already been noticed by the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry.

While almost Rs 600 crore has been given away under NMEICT towards engineering education since 2009, less than Rs 100 crore has been shared by other disciplines.

According to data from the All India Higher Education Survey 2012, of the total number of students enrolled in higher education courses in India, 47 per cent are enrolled in Arts, compared with 16 per cent in engineering and technology, 13 per cent in the Commerce stream and 11 per cent in Science courses.

Incidentally, the NMEICT is largely shaped and implemented by those with an IIT/engineering background. Engineering is traditionally considered a strong suit as far as Indians are concerned.

In the engineering stream, about Rs 100 crore went to the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning, about Rs 200 crore to the Virtual Labs project and Rs 200 crore to IIT Bombay's 'Talk to a Teacher' programme, under which 10,000 engineering college teachers have been trained so far. Another Rs 22 crore is headed to set up a Virtual Technical University which IIT Madras is likely to work on.

Compare this with the funding for non-engineering courses. While about Rs 84 crore is routed through the University Grants Commission for all other non-engineering courses, another Rs 12 crore has gone to the UGC's Centre for Educational Communication.

Sources in the HRD ministry said that while no one questions the use of funds towards engineering education, there is not a commensurate interest or focus on non-engineering courses, which actually enrol a massive number of students. Incidentally, the HRD ministry has over the past few years talked extensively about the need to encourage liberal arts and humanities and set up dedicated liberal arts varsities.

A top government official associated closely with NMEICT, however, said there is no bias towards engineering. "The NMEICT funding is open to all disciplines. It may be true that so far, funding has gone to several engineering and science projects, but that is also because there was ongoing work already in these disciplines and so those projects took off quickly. If experts in humanities and other disciplines come together for similar projects, they will also get funding. It entirely depends on project proposals that come to the mission", the official said.

HT Mumbai

80 SCULPTORS TO BRING DANDI MARCH BACK TO LIFE AT IIT-B

Riddhi Doshi

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MUMBAI: Eighty sculptors from around the world, including India, the US, UK, Japan, Austria, Burma, Sri Lanka and Bulgaria, will begin attending a series of workshops at IIT-Bombay on Thursday, as they set about creating life-size clay sculptures of the 80 participants in the historic Dandi March organised by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930.

IIT-B is organising the workshops after it was commissioned to participate in the Dandi Salt Satyagraha Memorial Project, initiated by the Union ministry of culture. The project envisions a memorial on the banks of the Dandi river in Gujarat.

IIT-B was chosen as the design coordination and implementation agency for the project in 2011, said Kirti Trivedi, a professor at the institute and head of the project. "For two years, we have been researching the 80 marchers who walked all the way with Gandhi," said Trivedi.

The IIT team has drawn on the images of the participants from a film shot during the march, and from photographs taken then and in later years.

"After carefully studying all these images, we have defined the likeness of the participants," said Trivedi. The 80 participating sculptors were shortlisted from 250, who applied online to be a part of the project.

At the IIT workshops, 80 terracotta sculptures will be created for reference. These will be defined as terracotta casts, then fibre-glass sculptures to act as models and eventually stone sculptures for the actual memorial. The final sculptures are expected to be complete by May 2014.

Alongside the workshops at IIT, films about Gandhi and lectures on his life and philosophy will be screened for the sculptors at the institute.



Guards keep a tight vigil inside the control station before the launch of PSLV-C25, carrying the Mars orbiter, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Tuesday.

REUTERS PHOTO

China tracks launch with grudging admiration

SUCCESS Underlines need for joint efforts to ensure peace in space

Sutirtho Patranobis

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BEIJING: China on Tuesday closely followed the successful launch of India's maiden Mars mission, Mangalyaan, calling for "joint efforts" to ensure peace in outer space.

The launch is expected to hasten the space race between the two emerging players on the world stage. China has already sent manned missions to space — two in 2012 and 2013 — and plans to build its own space station and send a manned craft to the moon by 2020.

India's Mars mission is being looked upon as a coup in terms of ambition and home-grown technology. "Outer space is shared by the entire mankind. Every country has the right to make peaceful exploration and use of outer space," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regular press briefing on Tuesday.

Hong added that the international community should make "joint efforts to ensure enduring peace and sustainable development of outer space".

He, however, brushed aside questions on the space race between the two neighbours. "Political mutual trust between

our two countries has increased and mutual cooperation has expanded."

The Chinese state media covered the launch minute-by-minute with state-run Xinhua news agency releasing frequent dispatches on the development at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

The nationalistic newspaper Global Times's opinion piece was one of grudging admiration.

"India has an ambitious goal of leading Asia in this area, especially having an advantage over China," it said in an editorial titled "India's space ambition offers clue to China".

"So far, only the US, Russia and EU have succeeded in Mars exploration. Other attempts to reach Mars, including China's Yinghuo-1 mission and Japan's Nozomi mission, have failed.

As poor as India is, New Delhi managed to carry out its Mars exploration program with a budget of only \$73 million, much less than the spending of China and Japan," it said.

National broadcaster, China Central Television (CCTV), led its prime time evening news bulletin with the launch news. It described what the mission is expected to achieve and explained how it works with a graphic.

GOOD JOB, SAYS UK

Prasun Sonwalkar

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LONDON: The scientific community of UK gave an unequivocal thumbs up to India's Mars mission on Tuesday, saying the venture has put the country firmly on the map of international space exploration.

"It is good news for international space science that India is demonstrating this sort of capability. Perhaps in future, India will be able to offer launch capability for other missions," said John Bridges, expert in Mars research from the University of Leicester.

"I think this mission really brings India to the table of international space exploration," Andrew Coates from the UK's Mullard Space Science Laboratory told BBC.

Destination Mars: India begins long march in style

First Phase Of Mission Successful

Arun Ram, Srinivas Laxman & Chethan Kumar | TNN

Sriharikota: A day after the last Diwali rockets were fired in this part of the country, 'the big one' blasted off from the first launch pad in Sriharikota on Tuesday afternoon, firing the ambition of a nation, and the imagination of many others. About 44 minutes later, when PSLV-C25 had injected the Mars orbiter

FULL COVERAGE: P8,14 & 17
► Edit: Mission To Mars, P 14

spacecraft into an Earth orbit, the first phase of India's first Mars mission was pronounced a success.

"I am happy to announce that the Mars orbiter mission



Budget for Mars mission
₹460cr

Cost of single Dreamliner aircraft
₹1,300cr

PSLV-C25 carrying the Mars Orbiter lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

first phase is a success," said Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) chairman K Radhakrishnan.

About 90 minutes after a drizzle raised minor concerns

AT ₹460CR, WELL WORTH THE RIDE?

CRITICS SAY

- No new technology involved in Mars mission
- ₹460cr fund should've been used for gen-next launch system, GSLV, to enhance Isro's commercial worth
- Orbiter would be too far from Mars to carry out any meaningful tests
- Aim to look for methane overlaps with Nasa's Curiosity. Previous missions inconclusive

ISRO CHIEF SAYS

- Mission not in conflict with GSLV plans. Both projects are on
- Mission 85% tech demonstration, 15% scientific quest. It'll boost Isro's credibility, attract business
- Orbiter would get close enough to Mars for on-board instruments to detect methane
- Critics blasted Chandrayaan-1, but it alone found moisture in moon's polar region

“Some say why spend ₹460cr... Such simple economics don't work here. You never know if we may find something that's worth much more

K RADHAKRISHNAN | ISRO CHAIRMAN



RED LETTER DAY | TOI goes behind the scenes at Sriharikota to bring you the in-depth story behind the successful launch of Mangalyaan and what the mission hopes to achieve | **P 8**

about weather among lay people, the 44.4m PSLV-C25 carrying in its head India's first Mars orbiter, lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 2.38pm. Drowning the

cheers at the mission control, about 7km away, the rocket rose to the sky with a roar, spewing fire and smoke.

► **'Bigger challenges', P 12**

HT New Delhi

Shiv Nadar to invest ₹3,000 cr in edu institutes

NEW DELHI: J Shiv Nadar, one of India's leading technology tycoons, divulged plans to invest ₹3,000 crore over the next five years in an effort to ramp up his existing educational ventures that include an engineering college, schools and a private university. This investment would be made through Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is the private philanthropic initiative of Nadar. The foundation had already invested ₹1,800 crore till March this year and has earmarked another ₹1,220 crore investments till the end of fiscal year 2013-14. **HTC**

5 November 2013 Last updated at 16:01 GMT

Can US universities learn from India's 'pressure cookers'?

By Anu Anand
BBC, New Delhi

By the year 2020 the US is expected to have 1.4 million computing-related jobs, but will only have the capacity to fill a third of them. Should schools in the United States be looking to Asia for tips on how to get more students to study science and maths?

From a young age, children at India's top schools have it drilled into them that they must excel in maths and science.

Their goal is to win a coveted place at one of the 16 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and a fast track to a high-flying job.

The IITs enjoy no international ranking but they have been recognised by the US Congress and Microsoft founder Bill Gates for their contribution to US innovation.

Graduates have gone on to be leading high-tech innovators - for example the creator of Google news Krishna Bharat, and the co-founders of online poker site PartyGaming studied at the IITs.

'Academic Mount Everest'

Each year about one million Indian students sit the entrance exam hoping for this kind of success, but just 10,000 people, or 1% of them make it.

There are nine times more people applying for each place than there are applying to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the highest-ranking universities in the world.

One student who made the grade is 21 year old Utkarsh Malhotra. He is now in his final year but says passing the entrance exam was like scaling an academic Mount Everest.

"I know people who changed their diets, who changed their sleeping patterns, who changed everything for this examination," he says. "IITs are like a pressure cooker situation so I don't know if this prepares us for future life well or not."

Eighteen year-old Twinkle Aurora is hoping to follow in Malhotra's footsteps. She attends a private coaching institute and spends 13 hours a day, six days a week studying to pass the exam.

"It's very tough because you can't stay in touch with social media like Facebook and WhatsApp - they take a lot of your time, so you have to sacrifice lots of friendships... but after one year when you've slogged your way through the year you get something that's big," she says.

But once the students are in, the pressure remains. I met Malhotra on a Friday afternoon but instead of winding down for the weekend, he was working hard.

"I don't know [if any other] institutes in India have exams on a weekend but this one does. The pressure is immense and you grow

to live with it," he says.

The best of the best

So what makes the IITs so successful? "We get the best students in the country," says Suneet Tuli, the dean of research and development at the Delhi campus.

"And for a country of 1.2 billion, the best is really the best."

"The second thing - this is part of our culture, [education is] based a lot on mathematics, so that gives them good analytical skills."

Some think the US could learn from the way India approaches science and maths, including Susan Wojcicki, senior vice president of advertising and commerce at Google.

She thinks there should be much more emphasis on computer science in US schools.

"Nine out of 10 schools right now are not teaching computer science. If you think about the future and you think about how important computer science is going to be it's a problem - we're going to need a lot more kids to be able to have those skills," she says.

"I would really like it to be like reading and math and science and spelling - they are requirements - everybody takes it, everybody learns it, and that's the way I think we need to think about computer science and coding in the future."

There has been some criticism of the methods the Indian education system uses with its reliance on rote learning, and whether this really prepares the IIT students for the wider world.

Creative thinking

Steve Stepanian, head of Indian operations for the management consultancy Bain & Company, has some reservations.

"At the more junior levels they are very quantitatively sound, they are very responsible, no problem. The issue becomes [when] they're given an open-ended question - that is where there seems to be more of a struggle," he says.

For example, they would get the basic figures spot on, but when he asks what advice they would give to a chief executive - "that is where you draw a real blank," he says.

In his experience, the number crunching by US students may not be as accurate, but "when I come to that question of what the CEO should do, they are much more capable of synthesising that and pulling together a much more cohesive answer and make a recommendation".

But for Wojcicki it is about the balance between learning the basics and thinking creatively: "I look at Silicon Valley and we have so many great engineers that have come from India," she says.

"American schools are really good [when it comes to] thinking about the creative component but we also need kids to learn the basics."

Anu Anand's report featured on Newshour on the BBC World Service.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 6, 2013; Section: International; Page: 19;

2bn Earth-like planets dot our Milky Way: Nasa

They've Water On Surface, Orbit Stars In Habitable Zone

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: On the historic day when India launched its first rocket to Mars to look for the presence of methane, an indicator of life, Nasa has for the first time come to the conclusion that as many as two billion planets in our galaxy may be suitable for life. The nearest, according to astronomers, could be a mere 12 light years away.

Nasa's Kepler spacecraft, now crippled and its four-year mission at an end, has provided enough data to complete its mission objective: to determine potentially habitable planets in our galaxy, the Milky Way. The findings say our galaxy probably contains at least two billion planets that, like Earth, have liquid water on their surfaces and orbit around their parent stars in the "habitable zone" for life.

Based on a statistical analysis of all the Kepler observations, astronomers from the University of California and University of Hawaii estimate that one in five stars like the sun have planets about the size of Earth and a surface temperature conducive to life.

"What this means is, when you look up at the thousands of stars in the night sky, the nearest sun-like star with an Earth-size planet in its habitable zone is probably only 12 light years away and can be seen with the naked eye. That is amazing," said Erik Petigura from UC



ANYONE OUT THERE? An artist's impression of the Kepler 62 system, which consists of five worlds circling a yellowish star slightly smaller and dimmer than our Sun

Berkeley. However, just because a planet is the size of earth may not mean it is habitable.

"For Nasa, this number — that every fifth star has a planet somewhat like Earth — is really important, because successor missions to Kepler will try to take an actual picture of a planet, and the size of the telescope they have to build depends on how close the nearest Earth-size planets are," said Andrew Howard from the faculty of the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii.

Howard said: "An abundance of planets orbiting nearby stars simplifies such follow-up missions."

Some may have thick atmospheres, making it so hot at the surface that DNA-like molecules would not survive.

Others may have rocky surfaces that could harbor liquid water suitable for living organisms. Last week, however, Howard and their colleagues provided hope that many such planets actually are rocky. They reported that one Earth-size planet discovered by Kepler — albeit, a planet with a likely temperature of 2,000 Kelvin, which is far too hot for life as we know it — is the same density as Earth and most likely composed of rock and iron, like Earth.