

## Newspaper Clips

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# IIT Delhi ups the fest game

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The fest season is on and IIT Delhi is frontlining it with an enviable line up that boasts of rustic style fair atmospheres, cash prizes worth ₹6.2 lakh and some more firsts for their annual IIT Rendezvous.

With a footfall of 70,000 students from more than 700 colleges, a dedicated android app, competitive events, star presence and the biggest lineup of performances, the IITians in Delhi are now looking to make it bigger and

better this year. The students are introducing a concept that aims to attract a larger footfall and cater to even those who are not able to gain passes for the special pro-nites.

A Rendezvous village will be set up in the Nalanda lawns in the IIT Delhi campus right next to the Open Air theatre. The village will flaunt a 30ft x 10ft large screen that will screen all live performances from the Open Air Theatre so that no one misses out on the fun.

"The village will be like a rustic style fair and will have

bonfires, puppet shows, folk music, gaming sessions, food stalls, poker sessions and much more. It will open each day at 4pm and will go on till late night," says Sachit Tandon from the Rendezvous team. It sure feels like a Hobbiton-like atmosphere!

"This is our answer to the night-outs after the fest and an attempt to push our limits and make the fest even bigger," he adds.

And that's not all, the fest will also be giving away prizes worth ₹6.2 lakh in the competitive events this year

and will also be introducing the Rendezvous trophy, which will be awarded to the college that fares best in these events.

"The theme this year for the fest is medieval mélange and one would be able to witness a set-up with drapes, torches, armours, swords and shields too. We will have a 30ft tall shield and swords at our entrance. A lot of planning goes into creating such a huge fest and we really hope that the village receives a good response," says Sujay Choubey, another member from the team.



# IIT Entrance Exam to Get Less Testing for Students

Efforts on to take pressure off candidates, address student quality concerns

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**New Delhi:** The human resource development (HRD) ministry doesn't just want a single exam to determine admissions to the country's top engineering schools, the broader aim is to take some of the pressure off candidates and address concerns about the quality of student intake.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the companies that hire their graduates have long been complaining that the current system is selecting many who're being heavily tutored in cram schools and not necessarily the most talented.

**Committee Set up** ▶▶ 5

## Taking a New Stand

### What the Proposed New Single Exam Sets Out to do

**SINGLE** exam for NITs & IITs

**REDUCE** exam pressure without diluting test quality

**REDUCE** coaching dependence

**DECREASE** time between exam & result declaration from current 3 months



### Recent Moves to Take Load off Students

- Handholding of weaker students in IITs and NITs by senior students
- Grievance Redressal Cell at NIT Council level
- Guarantee of clean hostel, clean mess, clean water and hygienic & wholesome food across NITs, IITs and IISERs

## Committee Set up

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To take the ministry's strategy forward, a committee has been constituted following several rounds of deliberations earlier this month by the IIT Council and the NIT Council. The committee's terms of reference, which have been reviewed by ET, propose a single admission test and call for a reduction in exam stress levels and the dependence on coaching classes.

The aim is to "reduce exam pressure" and check "coaching dependence... without diluting testing quality", according to the terms of reference.

In line with this, the committee has been tasked with shortening the time the process takes from the current three months between the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and the declaration of results. It has also been asked to "reform counselling for IITs, NITs, IISERs (Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research)" with a single web site to ensure "least difficulty" for students. The HRD ministry had previously met with considerable resistance from the IITs when it initially sought single-format counselling for IITs and NITs.

At a recent meeting of the IIT and NIT councils, the HRD ministry sought to put the focus on students' interests. It also called for handholding of academically weaker students by mentors among seniors and a grievance redressal cell for students at the NIT Council level.

The IITs, NITs and IISERs are all centrally funded. The JEE currently consists of two parts for most aspirants — the Main and the Advanced.

Former HRD minister Kapil Sibal had persuaded the country's premier engineering schools to accord a 40% weight to Class 12 exams to try and relax the stranglehold of coaching centres and ensure that students pay attention to the school curriculum.

The committee, which is supposed to submit its report by November 1, will be headed by Ashok Mishra, chairperson of IIT-Roorkee. Other members are former IIT-Madras Director Prof Anant, Defence Research and Development Organisation scientist Tessy Thomas, IIT-Kharagpur Chairperson Pavan Goenka and Indian Institute of Information Technology Guwahati Mentor Director Gautam Barua.

The JEE is considered one of the toughest admission tests with a high level of difficulty, forcing students to resort to intensive coaching modules.

"The problems of exam pressure and coaching influence on IIT admissions have been there for years now and there are no easy answers even when we know these have to be addressed," the person said on condition of anonymity.

## Nai Duniya ND

10.10.2015 P-14

### आईआईटी और एनआईटी में निचली रैंक वालों को भी प्रवेश

जालंधर (कुसुम अग्निहोत्री)। देशभर के 16 आईआईटी व 30 एनआईटी में दाखिला लेना हर इंजीनियर बनने वाले विद्यार्थी का सपना होता है, लेकिन इन संस्थानों में टॉप रैंकर ही दाखिला ले पाते हैं। बाकी के विद्यार्थियों को अन्य प्राइवेट इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में ही दाखिला लेने को मजबूर होना पड़ता है। बीते कई साल से तीन काउंसलिंग के बाद भी आईआईटी व एनआईटी में सीटें खाली रह जाती हैं। इस साल भी इन संस्थानों में कई सीटें खाली रह गई हैं। इसके चलते जैब (ज्वाइंट एडमिशन बोर्ड) ने बैठक कर यह फैसला लिया है कि अब जो सीटें खाली रह जाएंगी उनमें नीचे की रैंक वालों को दाखिला दिया जाएगा। आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए आयोजित ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस टेस्ट (जेईई) एडवांस्ड 22 मई, 2016 को होगा। बैठक में आईआईटी, एनआईटी और ट्रिपल आईटी की खाली सीटों को लेकर भी चर्चा हुई। 2016 में इन संस्थानों में दाखिले की काउंसलिंग तीन से ज्यादा बार कराई जाएंगी। यह सिलसिला सीटें फुल होने तक चलता रहेगा।

## ISSUES RESOLVED

# Govt set to table IIM bill in winter session

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

The government on Friday ironed out almost all differences with the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) over the controversial IIM bill, paving the way for its introduction in the winter session of Parliament.

Senior officials in the human resource development (HRD) ministry, including higher education secretary Vinay S. Oberoi, met the directors of all IIMs and discussed the bill clause by clause for more than four hours on Friday.

The meeting has led to the ministry understanding key reservations of IIMs over the proposed legislation and cleared the way for the next course of action on the bill, two government officials and two IIM directors said. All of them declined to be named.

The next course of action means redrafting the bill after another round of meetings with HRD minister Smriti Irani, who was not present at the meeting on Friday as she was travelling in Bihar. *Mint* first reported in June that the IIM bill will be redrafted following sharp criticism from the older lot of IIMs and industry.

There sections—3(k), 35 and 36—will be modified because IIMs have serious concerns over the provisions that seek to vest powers in the ministry to take decisions related to the appointment and tenure of directors, and dilute the autonomy of the elite B-schools. Overall, these sections empower the Union government to set the rules for IIMs.

Section 35 reads: "Regulations mean regulations made by the board with the approval of the central government"; section 36 states: "The board may, with the approval of the central government, by notification, make regulations not inconsistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the provisions of this Act".

The ministry's retreat on the bill, which has been surrounded by controversy since being put in the public domain in the second week of June, signals a victory for IIMs. The draft drew sharp criticism from IIMs and the industry, which had claimed that the bill in its current form will turn the premier B-schools into mere "operating centres" with all major decisions being taken by the Union government.

"The ministry was very cooperative and listened to us fully. They told us that some words are a necessity while framing a bill and should not be construed as interference. They did concede many of the points raised by the IIMs related to appointments and financial autonomy," said one of the IIM directors cited above.

"But we will wait for the final draft before saying whether all issues have been sorted or not".

The director said the ministry had called Friday's meeting after holding three regional meetings in the last couple of months and is "now more open to our ideas and concerns".

"We are hopeful to take everybody along," said one of the two government officials cited above, adding that the government "hoped to introduce" the bill in the winter session. "That won't be a problem," he said.

# HRD's bid for consensus on draft IIM Bill

VIJAY C ROY  
New Delhi, 9 October

The human resource development ministry plans to introduce the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill in the winter session of Parliament, as it hopes a consensus could be reached on the legislation before it is introduced.

The ministry held a consultative meeting with IIM directors here, chaired by the secretary.

A senior official, on condition of anonymity, said, "This was a step forward in resolving certain issues. We listened to the directors and they have listened to us. We found some solution to the problems. It was very fruitful meeting, which will be followed by deliberations in near future. We may meet again after three weeks to take stock of the recommendations. We expect that in the near future, some consensus will be reached on the issues."

However, he refused to give details of the proceedings. "It's too early to comment on the proceedings, as it will take time. We hope to resolve the issues and will try to table it in the winter session," he added. Earlier, ministry officials had organised a consultative meeting with the institutes to resolve their issues pertaining to autonomy. IIMs, especially the older ones, wanted to retain their

**IIMs, especially the older ones, wanted to retain their autonomy, which has been threatened by the draft Bill**

autonomy, threatened by the draft Bill.

The ministry appears to be having a rethink on certain contentious clauses. One of these is Section 35, which empowers the

Union government to "make rules for carrying out the provisions of this (IIM) Act". The other is subsection (1) of Section 36 that states the "IIM Board may, with the approval of the central government, by notification, make regulations not inconsistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the provisions of this Act".

**SACKING VISVA BHARATI V-C****HRD ministry sends file back to President**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

IN WHAT could seal the fate of Visva Bharati Vice-Chancellor Sushanta Dattagupta, the HRD Ministry Friday resent the file favouring his dismissal to the President's office, along with legal opinion backing the recommendation.

The latest development shows that the government is in no mood to offer Dattagupta an easy way out by accepting his resignation. The ministry had found the V-C guilty of gross financial and administrative irregularities.

Last week, Dattagupta emailed his resignation to President Pranab Mukherjee, a few days after the government made damning observations about his conduct as the head of the institute. He was appointed the Visva Bharati's V-C in 2011 by the UPA-II government and still

had a year left in his tenure.

Though the existing laws relating to central universities do not provide for sacking of a vice-chancellor, the President can invoke section 16 of the General Clauses Act, 1987, to remove him. The Act empowers the appointing authority to suspend or dismiss any person appointed under a central act or regulation.

Meanwhile, the President on Friday turned down the appointment of former ISRO Chief K Kasturirangan to the search panel for a new vice-chancellor for Delhi University, which has been asked to send a nomination to replace him.

The directive comes after the ministry sent a file to the President requesting him to send the varsity's current V-C, Dinesh Singh, on "compulsory leave" as he had "deliberately" appointed Kasturirangan, an honorary DU professor, to the panel to select his successor, causing a conflict of interest.

## IoT Lab in the Works at IIT-M

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/IoT-Lab-in-the-Works-at-IIT-M/2015/10/10/article3071394.ece>

CHENNAI: The Centre and the IT industry are working towards setting up Internet of Things (IoT) labs at the Indian Institute of Technology — Madras and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said a senior industry representative. The Government of India is in the process of sanctioning the project to set up these labs at IIT-Madras and IISc, said K Purushothaman, regional head of the industry association NASSCOM. He was speaking at the conclave on Internet of Things, organised at the VIT Chennai campus on Friday.

Under the proposal, the facility at IIT would be more geared towards the manufacturing side of IoT while IISc would be focussing more on research on IoT applications, Purushothaman added.

Speaking at the conclave, State IT secretary T K Ramachandran pointed out that Smart Cities, the hottest topic in urban design and development, need not be a complex concept as it is now. "It can be small technologies making information accessible to all, making a difference," said Ramachandran. "The concept of Social Media Analytics and Cloud (SMAC) is building more on the concept of IoT and enabling new possibilities. Mobile revolution, democratisation of social media and growing connectivity are the reasons for such a disruption."

The official also touched upon the various fundamental needs for IoT before moving to policy related issues to note that there is no policy to govern Internet of Things which enables communication before everything.

While private parties have been in the forefront of almost all IT related developments thus far, the next decade will see the government emerging as the largest partner in IoT related stuff, said Anurag Batra, chairman, Business World. "Most need to have the focus on the execution part of strategising on IoT Related technologies. We need to indulge in some creative destruction of technology that is currently around," he added.

## Academia vs Industry: Prof CNR Rao responds to Narayana Murthy

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/academia-vs-industry-prof-cnr-rao-responds-to-narayana-murthy/articleshow/49287322.cms>

The fine balance between academia and industry was disturbed last week when Narayana Murthy's statement at IISc's convocation prompted one of the country's leading scientists Prof CNR Rao to respond to it.

The Infosys founder, in his IISc speech, had stated, "Folks, the reality is that there is no such contribution from India in the last 60 years. The only two ideas that have transformed the productivity of global corporations — The Global Delivery Model and The 24-hour workday — came from a company called Infosys." In reply, Prof Rao wrote in the Current Science journal that while premier institutions like IISc and IITs needed to improve the quality of education at all levels, there was a lack of adequate funds. "It would not be entirely fair of me to ask Narayana Murthy as to what the industry has done for the society other than making products and profit. It would be wonderful if Narayana Murthy and others collect a few billion dollars so that we can set up a university such as Stanford. I would be delighted to work full time to build such an institution without any remuneration."

Post this, we got in touch with Prof CNR Rao to check whether he has received a response from Infosys, its founder or the industry at large? Rao said, "I have not heard from the industry regarding support for science and higher education. There has been positive reaction from a number of academics."

## **IIM director selection won't have GD now**

Hindustan Times (Patna)

The HRD ministry has junked the controversial group discussion (GD) from the process of selection of IIM directors. The candidates appearing for the position of director IIM-Ranchi on Thursday did not have to undergo group discussion. The addition of GD in the selection process, first reported by HT, had invited criticism from academics.

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# डीयू ने चतुर्वेदी पर जताया भरोसा, आज राष्ट्रपति के साथ जाएंगे विदेश

**अभिनव उपाध्याय >> नई दिल्ली**

राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी के साथ विदेश दौरे के लिए दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. दिनेश सिंह के नाम पर आपत्ति आने के बाद अब डीयू के क्लस्टर इनोवेशन सेंटर के प्रमुख प्रो. एमएम चतुर्वेदी शनिवार को राष्ट्रपति के साथ इजरायल और जॉर्डन के दौरे पर जाएंगे।

मंत्रालय द्वारा नाम मांगे जाने पर डीयू के कई वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने जाने से मना कर दिया। माना जा रहा है कि ऐसे में विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. दिनेश सिंह ने प्रो. मदन मोहन चतुर्वेदी पर भरोसा जताया। प्रो. चतुर्वेदी डीयू के क्लस्टर इनोवेशन सेंटर के तहत कई प्रयोगवादी काम कर रहे हैं, जिसका उपयोग सामाजिक जीवन में लोग कर सकते हैं।

यहां के शोध के कई पेटेंट हुए हैं। सूत्रों से प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार प्रो. चतुर्वेदी के नाम पर सहमति के बाद कई लोग दबी जुबान में आलोचना भी कर रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि कुलपति ने कई वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसरों को नजरंदाज करके प्रो. चतुर्वेदी पर भरोसा जताया है।

प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय सहित जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया और जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय और आईआईटी खड़गपुर के प्रतिनिधि भी राष्ट्रपति के

साथ जा रहे हैं और ये चारों संस्थान इजरायल और जॉर्डन में विभिन्न शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से कुल 23 समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे। सब कुछ ठीक रहा तो इसमें शिक्षा के कोर्स, फैकल्टी, शिक्षक और छात्रों का एक-दूसरे के बीच आदान-प्रदान का कार्य भी आगे होगा।

डीयू के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि डीयू पांच शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर करेगा। इसमें एक इजरायल के तीन संस्थान और जॉर्डन के दो संस्थान हैं। डीयू इजरायल के हिब्रू यूनिवर्सिटी, बेनगोरियन यूनिवर्सिटी और इंटर डिप्लोमिनरी मेंटर इंस्टीट्यूट के साथ जॉर्डन के यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ जॉर्डन तथा इसरा यूनिवर्सिटी के साथ समझौता करेगा, जबकि जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया जॉर्डन के पांच और फिलिस्तीन के तीन शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ समझौता करेगा।

जामिया के कुलपति प्रो. तलत अहमद का कहना है कि इजरायल से समझौता न करने की कोई खास वजह नहीं है। समय कम मिल पाया।

डीयू आईआईटी खड़गपुर का पहले से एमओयू है और वे आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं। हमें कई विश्वविद्यालयों के बारे में जानकारी नहीं है, लेकिन आने वाले दिनों में हम शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में काफी महत्वपूर्ण कार्य करने की योजना बना रहे हैं।