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आईआईटी दिल्ली का कल्चरल फेस्ट रैंडीवूज 16 से

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका ब्यूरो.
आईआईटी दिल्ली का सालाना कल्चरल फेस्ट रैंडीवूज 16 अक्टूबर से शुरू होगा। चार दिन तक चलने वाले इस इवेंट में बॉलीवुड कलाकार पीयूष मिश्रा, संगीतकार शंकर-अहसान-लॉय और कवि मुनव्वर राणा समेत कई हस्तियां शिरकत करेंगी। कार्यक्रम के आयोजक मंडल के सदस्य सचिन टंडन ने बताया कि इस बार रैंडीवूज की थीम 'अ मेडिवल मिलेंग' रखी गई है। उत्तर भारत में छात्रों के इस सबसे बड़े कार्यक्रम में 700 कॉलेजों के 70 हजार से अधिक छात्र-छात्राओं के पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। फेस्ट में सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने वाले कॉलेज को रैंडीवूज ट्रॉफी से नवाजा जाएगा। इसके अलावा व्यक्तिगत स्तर की स्पर्धाओं में विजेताओं को 6.2 लाख रुपए के इनाम भी दिए जाएंगे।

Veer Arjun ND 13/10/2015 P-02

क्षितिज आईआईटी खड़गपुर का वार्षिक प्रौद्योगिकी प्रबंध उत्सव 21 जनवरी से होगा

नई दिल्ली, (वीअ)। क्षितिज आईआईटी खड़गपुर का वार्षिक प्रौद्योगिक प्रबंधन उत्सव, अपनी अद्वितीय महिमा, बेजोड़ प्रतिभा और सर्वश्रेष्ठ ज्ञान से पूर्ण प्रतियोगिताओं के लिए लोकप्रिय है। इस साल यह 21 जनवरी से 24 जनवरी 2016 तक होगा। 2004 में स्थापित होने के बाद से ही क्षितिज निरंतर ऊंचाइयों को छूता जा रहा है और अभी एशिया का सबसे बड़ा प्रौद्योगिक प्रबंधन उत्सव है। क्षितिज का प्रभुत्व इसके यूनेस्को से प्राप्त संरक्षण से ही साबित होता है। क्षितिज सतत ही छात्रों को एक अच्छा अनुभव प्रदान करने एवं ऐसी प्रतियोगिताएं, अतिथि व्याख्यान कराने में प्रयासरत है जहां से छात्र बहुत कुछ सीखकर जाएं। इस उत्सव में संक्षेप में कहें तो प्रतियोगिताएं, अतिथि व्याख्यान, कार्यशालाएं और प्रदर्शनियां होती हैं। क्षितिज के पिछले संस्करणों पर नजर डालें तो इसकी प्रतियोगिताएं प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों द्वारा प्रमाणित होती है जैसे एएसएमई, आईएमईसीएचई, आईईईईई, एसीएम आदि। नौ शैलियों में फैली 40 से भी ज्यादा प्रतियोगिताएं छात्रों को प्रौद्योगिकी के अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों को अनुभव करने का अवसर प्रदान करती है। साथ ही ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिताएं भी होती हैं जो क्षितिज से काफी पहले शुरू हो जाती हैं। इनके साथ ही क्षितिज हर साल कई नामी हस्तियों को आमंत्रित करता है जोकि छात्रों के साथ अपनी उपलब्धियों और अनुभवों के बारे में बात करते हैं। पिछले सालों की ऐसी ही कुछ हस्तियां हैं—नवाजुद्दीन सिद्दीकी, पीयूष मिश्रा, अजय भट्ट, जिम्मी वेल्स, राकेश शर्मा, डाक्टर कृष्णस्वामी कस्तूरीरंगण। इसके अलावा मुफ्त कार्यशालाएं भी होती हैं जोकि बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियों द्वारा आयोजित कराई जाती हैं और प्रमाणित भी होती हैं। इन सबके साथ ही प्रदर्शनियां भी होती हैं जो छात्रों को दुनिया के नए खोजों और आविष्कारों से परिचित करती हैं।

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Towards making amends

NUMEROUS REFORMS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED TO RE-ENERGISE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, EVEN AS DISCONTENT RISES AMONG A GROUP OF TEACHERS IN THE DELHI UNIVERSITY SET-UP, WRITES **DEBAMEETA BHATTACHARYA**

There is a lot happening by way of changes in the educational landscape of the country. What with the rise in depression among students, an increasing neglect of vernacular languages and the controversy surrounding the Choice Based Credit System, the establishment, it seems, is finally doing a Rip Van Winkle, waking up from a state of prolonged slumber. From the top down, numerous policies are being put in place to try and reverse these rather disturbing trends.

Recently while chairing a meeting of the Council of National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research at NIT, New Delhi, Union minister for human resource development Smriti Irani voiced concern over several unfortunate trends and announced a slew of measures for mitigating the same. She introduced a new scheme for students who are prone to depression as a result of non-performance in studies. This scheme of "hand holding" students who are weak would be implemented in institutions, under which mentor students will be designated to take care of such candidates. These mentor students will be provided financial incentives that will be supported by the HRD ministry and the National Institutes of Technology concerned.

According to a press release issued by the National Institute of Technology, Warangal, the Council is the apex policy making body for 31 NITs, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, and the Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology in Shibpur. Asking such elite institutes of learning to adopt a "student-centric approach", Irani emphasised that student grievances should be addressed effectively and in a time-bound manner. She has constituted a grievance cell at the Council level that will monitor complaints and coordinate with directors of these institutions to effectively address grievances. The issue of seats remaining vacant in such institutes of national reckoning was also addressed, with Irani saying, "Common counselling not only reduces stress on students and parents but also minimises vacant seats. Less than two per cent seats remained vacant after five rounds of counselling leading to all-time high numbers of admission in these prestigious institutions." She also expressed the wish that institutes be made into islands of excellence by focusing more on innovation, design and research in specific areas along with a strategy for inter-collaboration.



From tackling depression among students to ensuring their grievances are settled in a "student-centric" approach, Union HRD minister Smriti Irani has announced a slew of policies.

In a related development, Irani also highlighted the need for a reorientation in Sanskrit research, urging scholars to take the lead in popularising and improving the standard of Sanskrit education. Speaking at the fifth convocation ceremony of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, a deemed-to-be university of which she is also the chancellor, the minister said that Sanskrit literature was a great repository of knowledge and its development would have a positive influence on the nation as a whole.

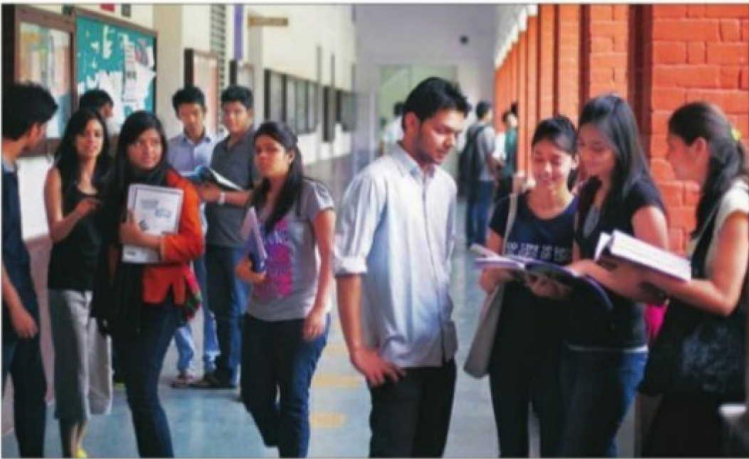
Calling for education in the ancient language to be reflective of India's present needs, emerging trends in science and technology, and global developments, Irani said a change needed to take place. She requested all Sanskrit scholars to take the lead in identifying and publishing hitherto unpublished manuscripts and works. "Contemporary works have to be translated into Sanskrit and, on the other hand, the valuable scientific and mathematical knowledge present in Sanskrit will have to be brought out and published." She also emphasised the fact that there must be an increased use of technology in the teaching of Sanskrit.

On the topic of vernacular languages, concerns about the dwindling number of students opting for Hindi in Delhi University had a section of teachers petition the HRD ministry to make the language compulsory again. The petition, floated by Ravi Sharma, an assistant professor who teaches Hindi at Sri Ram College of Commerce, has been signed by more than 100 teachers and has also been sent to the Prime Minister's Office and President Pranab Mukherjee. While studying the subject was compulsory in Delhi University col-

leges in the form of either a credit or a qualifying course, students have an option of not pursuing it after the CBCS was rolled out this session. Its implementation has offered students a choice between Modern Indian Languages, which includes Hindi and English, as part of the ability enhancement course.

Sharma said, "It is not surprising at all that no first-year student has enrolled for Hindi classes at SRCC. Students of the Bachelor's programme studied Hindi for three years, while those enrolled in honours courses in commerce and humanities studied the language for at least one year." Few takers for the subject have also led to less work and a reduced requirement of Hindi teachers. "On one hand, the government observes Hindi week and, on the other, the condition of the subject in even prestigious colleges is abysmal. The study of Hindi, which is our national language, will become obsolete because no one will be opting for it," said Pragya, a Hindi professor at Kirori Mal College.

Another teacher at the college and an Academic Council member said, "Students have always shown little interest in Hindi. But the situation has become worse since the choice is now in their hands. It has resulted in many colleges saying goodbye to their Hindi teachers." The workload cut has left ad hoc teachers worried as they feel their jobs are under threat. "Many of us are worried. What kind of a government is this that screams about promoting indigenous languages but then treats Hindi this way?" said one teacher from an off-campus college.



Move for Common Entrance Test for IITs, NITs Hailed

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/Move-for-Common-Entrance-Test-for-IITs-NITs-Hailed/2015/10/13/article3077145.ece>

HYDERABAD: The proposal of the Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) for a single entrance test for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) has been welcomed by educational experts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

With a view to reducing the stress on students, a committee constituted by the MHRD has recently proposed that a single common entrance test be held for IITs and NITs. The committee has also recommended several other changes in the existing entrance examination process of IITs.

Though MHRD is yet to decide on implementing the recommendations, the move received a positive response from academic experts. Ramakrishna Rao, a former IIT professor from Hyderabad, said, “High pressure on students to clear the IIT entrance exam will not allow them to focus on their academics. Their learning is severely affected due to this competition for securing better ranks in the entrance tests. Since IITs and NITs are the most preferred institutes, they must have a single entrance test.”

There is also criticism of the selection process at IITs. Academicians and industry experts had said several times in the past that students of these prestigious institutes had been heavily tutored at the school level. The proposal of the MHRD committee to revise the entrance examination pattern intends to give equal opportunity to students of different backgrounds so that coaching will not be the deciding factor in clearing the test.

Another recommendation by the committee to reduce the time taken for admission process has also been welcomed by academicians. Currently, there is a gap of almost three months between the mains exam and the deceleration of results. Raja Rao, a faculty member of a Hyderabad-based engineering college, said, “Those who get seats in local colleges or NITs are cancelling their admission after they secure seats in any of the IITs.”

With Mandi and Ropar, how likely is to get an IIT in city?

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/With-Mandi-and-Ropar-how-likely-is-to-get-an-IIT-in-city/articleshow/49318241.cms>

CHANDIGARH: With the UT administration pushing for a centrally-funded status for PEC University of Technology, experts are wondering if that is a feasible proposition. With already two Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) in the region - IIT Ropar and IIT Mandi - PEC insiders also believe that it is more likely to get a National Institute of Technology (NIT) status.

"There is a less likelihood since IIT Mandi and IIT Ropar are already there. An IIT is yet to come up in Haryana, so Chandigarh is a distant possibility. It should not become NIT as there are too many of these institutes. An IIT or a central university would get better attention and autonomy," said former Haryana chief secretary and vice-president of IITK Alumni Association, Dharam Vir.

He added that though PEC deserves to be an IIT, which has not materialised, the best option was to convert it into Central University of Science and Technology, which should follow the IIT pattern. "With a central university, the director will have greater freedom and autonomy. A university has a different footing and it will have a different name and brand of its own. Since it's an engineering institute, a science and technology university can fit in," said Vir, who is also the co-chair for Pan IIT India.

"First of all, PEC should become an autonomous body. It is right now managed by the Chandigarh administration. Then, it should concentrate on science and technology. It should also adopt the IIT pattern of curriculum and education with core programmes of science and technology and teacher-centric education," he said.

"This should have been raised 7 years earlier when IIT Ropar and IIT Mandi were to be started in the region. With already two IITs in the region, granting one more IIT will definitely lead to dilution of IIT brand value on addition to burdening the exchequer," said Kunal Singh, an IIT-JEE trainer

He added that while PEC was one of the oldest and prestigious campuses in the region along with compatible infrastructure, it does not mean it will get an IIT status. "We must not forget that PEC has 50% Chandigarh quota that helps Chandigarh students get a good college easily in comparison to outside students," he said.

However, students and alumni still see the positive side of the proposal. "The increase in number of IITs means increase of quality education providers in the country. This would also mean placements will improve as better companies would come to the campus," said Pranjal Rawat, a 2015 batch alumnus.