Newspaper Clips
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Hindustan Times ND 14/10/2015 P-13

Institutions plan to produce solar energy

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), National Institute of Technology (NITs) and a number of other higher institutes across the country are all set to go green. The human resource development (HRD) ministry is planning to set up rooftop panels on some buildings to generate solar energy.

A senior HRD official said 316 centrally or state funded institutions have been identified for this purpose and they are likely to generate up to 783 MW of clean energy. An average large sized mall consumes 5 MW and 177 such malls can function using 783 MW.

"We are participating in the solar mission of the government. Campuses of a number of key institutes such as IITs, IIM have been roped in for this purpose. Our aim is to ensure that institutes start using solar energy and youngsters are made more aware of clean energy by seeing it being produced in their own campus," said a senior HRD official.

Students at IIT Delhi

Sources said the project will cost around ₹5,000 crore and will be rolled out soon.

"A number of institutes have provided details to us including the place available for placing solar photovoltaic panels in their buildings, the annual electricity consumption of the institutes and the average expenditure in terms of the electricity bills. The data is now being analysed and solar panels will be put up accordingly," added the official.

India has a solar generation capacity of around 2,900MW, the government had revised an earlier target of 20,000MW capacity by 2022 to 100,000MW unveiling the world's most ambitious solar power generation programme.

Hindustan Times
ND 14/10/2015 P-13

New entrance test for IITs planned to lure foreign students

Brajesh Kumar

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NEW DELHI: With a view to attract more foreign students to the IITs, the human resource development (HRD) ministry plans to devise a new examination system, different from existing two-stage JEE main and JEE advance.

Sources said IIT Mumbai has been asked to come with a new pattern of examination that would be a simpler version of the existing one.

The move is part of government's 'Study in India Programme' under which it wants to increase the inflow of foreign students in the country.

Out of the total 10,000 students in IITs, 700 are foreign students, mostly from Central Asia and Africa.

And the total number of foreign students studying under various programme in different institutions stands at 30,000. In comparison China has been able to attract close to 4 lakh foreign students.

Pioneer ND 14/10/2015   P-05

NBB Director urges HRD to relieve her

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

After the Directors of IIT Delhi and NCERT besides several others institutional heads, it's now the National Bal Bhawan (NBB) Director who has sought the HRD Ministry's 'permission' to be relieved so that she could go back to her parent cadre Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Sources in the HRD Ministry said the NBB Director Usha Kumari MC, whose appointment itself is embroiled in a controversy, has forwarded a Navodaya Vidyalaya letter to the ministry which asks her to return from her deputation.

NBB is an autonomous organisation under the HRD Ministry and the appointment of Usha Kumari is under litigation in the Delhi High Court. She has, however, not cited any reasons for being relieved from the NBB. Kumari's tenure ends

The issue of her "biased" appointment was raised in Parliament in the Budget Session this year. An HRD Ministry official said that the decision whether she would continue or not has to be taken by the NBB Chairman Shalu Jindal, wife of senior Congress leader Navin Jindal

in January 2016.

The issue of her "biased" appointment was raised in the Parliament in the Budget Session this year. An HRD Ministry official said that the decision whether she would continue or not has to be taken by the NBB Chairman Shalu Jindal, wife of senior Congress leader Navin Jindal.

Former HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju had ignored his Ministry's selection committee's recommendation for Rishi Kumar Vashisht for the NBB Director's post. Vashisht is at present Deputy Director at

Centre for Cultural Resource and Training (CCRT).

Kumari was apparently favoured as she is wife of former Private Secretary to former HRD Minister late Arjun Singh.

In the panel of names recommended by the selection committee list in December 2012, Vashisht was followed by Usha Kumari. The panel, headed by the then HRD Ministry's Additional Secretary Amarjit Singh, had indicated that if Vashisht was not preferred, then Usha was to be appointed. Having been ignored

Vashisht took legal course.

Usha Kumari earlier courted controversy when she gave a complete miss to last year's Teacher's Day event organized at the institution and proceeded for a vacation to Chennai. The HRD Ministry had issued standing instructions to all the schools and educational institutions to be part of the audience of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation to mark the Teacher's Day. It was mandatory for them to be present within the institutions' premises.

Usha Kumari was also in the thick of controversy when the London-based Nekchand Foundation took umbrage to the disrespect shown to Padamshri Nekchand's artefacts which were found trashed as garbage in Bal Bhawan. Late Nekchand had personally created them within the Bal Bhawan in the 1980s.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 14/10/2015   P-08

आईआईटी के लिए भिलाई पसंद नहीं आया, नया रायपुर भाया

केंद्रीय निरीक्षण टीम ने भिलाई में एयर कनेक्टिविटी, अस्पताल न होने और प्रदूषण ज्यादा होने का दिया तर्क

पत्रिका एक्सक्लूसिव

▶ सरकार ने कहा, भिलाई में ही खोलना होगा

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छत्तीसगढ़ में इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) स्थापित करने की कवायद कर रही केंद्रीय निरीक्षण टीम को भिलाई और उसके आसपास की आबोहवा रास नहीं आ रही है। उसने अब इसके लिए नया रायपुर में जगह मांगी है, जो उनके खुद के लिए मुसीबत बन गई है, क्योंकि यहां आईआईटी भिलाई के रूप में ही मंजूरी मिली है। निरीक्षण टीम को कुटेलाभाठा (धमधा रोड), नेवई (उतई) और सांकरा (पाटन) में जमीनें दिखाई गईं, लेकिन एयर कनेक्टिविटी, अस्पताल सहित अन्य सुविधाएं नहीं होने पर इन जगहों को खारिज कर दिया है। हालांकि अब तक टीम की आधिकारिक रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है।

दो बार निरीक्षण

निरीक्षण टीम पहली बार 10 जनवरी को छत्तीसगढ़ आई थी और उन्हें भिलाई के नेवई में करीब 325 एकड़ जमीन दिखाई गई थी। अमलेश्वर-पाटन रोड पर सांकरा में 200 एकड़ जमीन भी बताया गया था। दूसरी बार 25 सितंबर को टीम ने दुर्ग-धमधा रोड पर कुटेलाभाठा में 325 एकड़ जमीन का निरीक्षण किया था, लेकिन कई सुविधाओं की कमी बताते हुए इसे भी खारिज कर दिया। अब 500 एकड़ की जमीन मांग रखी है।

प्रदूषण भी वजह

राज्य सरकार भिलाई के नेवई क्षेत्र में आईआईटी खोले जाने पर जोर दे रही है। वहीं, नेवई से 5-7 किमी की दूरी पर पुरैना में थर्मल पावर प्लांट और जेपी सीमेंट का प्लांट है। भिलाई स्टील प्लांट के अलावा इन दोनों प्लांट की वजह से क्षेत्र में प्रदूषण का स्तर सामान्य से कहीं अधिक है। इसे लेकर भी आईआईटी की टीम ने आपत्ति जताई है।

भिलाई के लिए ही है आईआईटी

आईआईटी के लिए जमीन का निरीक्षण करने आई कमेटी को कुटेलाभाठा, नेवई व सांकरा में जमीन दिखाई गई, उन्होंने सभी जगह एयर कनेक्टिविटी नहीं होने की बात कहकर रिजेक्ट कर दिया। वे नया रायपुर में जमीन की मांग कर रहे हैं। उन्हें जवाब बनाकर दिया जा रहा है कि राज्य सरकार ने भिलाई के लिए ही आईआईटी का प्रस्ताव दिया था।

प्रेमप्रकाश पांडेय,
मंत्री, तकनीकी एवं उच्च शिक्षा

Hindustan Times ND 14/10/2015   P-04

Ex-UPSC chief to join DU V-C selection panel

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Delhi University has nominated former UPSC chairman DP Agarwal to the search panel for the new vice-chancellor.

Agarwal's name was proposed after scientist K Kasturirangan's name was dropped from the panel following allegations of conflict of interest.

DU convened an emergency meeting of the Executive Council (EC) on Tuesday in which Agarwal's name was approved following a directive from President Pranab Mukherjee to suggest a replacement for Kasturirangan.

"Former UPSC chairman DP Agarwal was nominated as a replacement for Kasturirangan," an EC member said.

Agarwal's name was passed amid dissent from three members, who alleged that the agenda circulated for the meeting did not mention about the proposal of suggesting a new name for the

■ DP Agarwal

search committee.

"The V-C has again misused his position as the chairperson of the EC to bring serious matters requiring time for reflection and scrutiny on the table for instant decision," said Abha Dev Habib, an EC member.

Habib also said that demand of EC members to suggest a panel of names for the search committee was not allowed. "The V-C did not allow a group of names to be proposed and discussed prior to decision making. We could have discussed more names but there was no time given," she said.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development had last week objected to the nomination of former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan to the selection panel as he is an honorary professor in the university which could lead to conflict of interest.

Another EC member JL Gupta raised objections to the nomination of UGC chairperson Ved Prakash as the chairperson of the search committee. "Since Ved Prakash is functioning under the direct control and supervision of HRD Ministry, this involves conflict of interest," said Gupta.

The EC also censured the chancellor's nominee Javid Chaudhury for allegedly spreading rumours about Kasturirangan. Chaudhury had in a letter to V-C claimed that Kasturirangan was also on the committee which had selected Dinesh Singh to the post. However, Chaudhury on Tuesday said that the name's inclusion was a typographical error.

Economic Times ND 14/10/2015   P-04

NO TIME ADVANTAGE Gyan Drashan I had been on air for 14 years

4 Education Channels to be Back on Air Soon

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New Delhi: Off air for more than a year now, four education channels that catered to lakhs of distance learning students are likely to get a fresh lease of life soon.

HRD minister Smriti Irani is learnt to have written to I&B minister Arun Jaitley, seeking his intervention to get the channels up and running, once again, and the process to do so has been initiated.

Four education channels — Gyan Darshan I and II run by the Indira Gandhi National Open University and another two run by IIT Delhi and the Consortium for Educational Communication-University Grants Commission (Vyas channel) — were pulled off air in June 2014.

The oldest of channels, Gyan Drashan I, had been on air for 14 years before its run was cut short. The reason was that INSAT-3C, the satellite which serviced the chan-

KM SHARMA

BABU HURDLES

The proposed shift of these 4 channels to new satellite had run into red tape

nels, was being used for other strategic services and the channels were required to be shifted to another satellite. The proposed shift, however, ran into a bureaucratic tangle with questions raised about licensing and carriage fee for the free to air education channels.

First off the block will be the two IGNOU channels.

Times Of India ND
14/10/2015 P-25

India bags No. 3 spot in world's startup ecosystem

ROCKETING AWAY

NUMBER OF STARTUPS	
US	47,000-48,000
UK	4,500-5,000
India	4,200-4,400
Israel	3,900-4,100
China	3,300-3,500

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Fuelled by $100 million flowing into the country's startups every week, the number of startups founded in the country has grown by 40% in 2015 over the previous year, said Nasscom's latest report on the Indian startup ecosystem.

India is the third biggest startup ecosystem with more than 4,200 founded and it is expected that the country will receive $6.5 billion in funding in 2015. The largest startup ecosystems are the US (47,000-48,000 startups) and UK (4,500-5,000). Israel and China follow India.

India saw 1,200 startups being born in 2015. Currently, three-four startups are born each day. The number of startups is projected to grow to around 12,000 by 2020. The startups now employ around 85,000 people directly.

The report, launched in partnership with consulting firm Zinnov and Google, finds that 72% of the founders are less than 35 years old. The number of female entrepreneurs still constitutes only 9% of the entrepreneurs in the country, but the absolute number grew by 50% over the past year.

R Chandrashekhar, president, Nasscom, said, "The emergence of unicorns (startups with a valuation of $1 billion or more) and the big exits have created a lot of confidence in the ecosystem. Startups are now creating innovative technology solutions that are addressing social problems."

Rural audience yet to optimise IIT education portal NPTEL

http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/rural-audience-yet-to-optimise-iit-education-portal-nptel-36442111

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), a project funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), is in the last few weeks of the third and final phase. Though amongst the 'Most Viewed Educational Channel' on YouTube, the rural populace seems to be far from making the best use of it, resulting in it being beneficial only for the urban crowd. Then how is NPTEL attempting to reach out to students from the rural areas, that too in its final few weeks?

NPTEL courses and lectures are available for free download even on mobile phones, but for students with no access to internet the solution seems to be DVDs. "We have a DVD format which the students can make use of, and it is supplied to interior areas by our distributors. Also, we conduct various awareness programmes for the students in the colleges to popularise this programme so they can make the best use of the content," said Deepa V, who spoke on behalf of NPTEL. She adds that colleges from tier-2 and 3 cities also approach the NPTEL, to access the videos and educate students with quality learning material. This is provided by NPTEL on hard disks.

"The difficulty lies not in distributing the material, but in creating a 'demand' for the course content in the rural areas. We are equipped to deliver the material but the demand for the video content in DVD format is hardly 1% of the total users." says Balaraju Kondaveeti, CEO and Co-founder of BodhBridge, the distributors of NPTEL DVDs. He added there has been a slight improvement in the approach and acceptance to the online lectures across the country, especially in the urban cities. However, the rural public is yet get to the same level of acceptance.

NPTEL which was started in 2003 as a joint collaboration of 7 IITs and IISc, is now in the final few weeks of the third phase. They are waiting for funding from the HRD ministry before December 2015 to carry forward any further activity which will enable them to reach out to a larger section of the rural areas. "If only we are funded from the MHRD, can we increase our efforts to ensure we get the required response from the students belonging to the rural areas." added Deepa. This funding seems to be uncertain, as they have no clue if that will happen or not.

NPTEL is believed to be largely beneficial for the students preparing GATE and other higher education programmes. But so far only 3 students from a rural background have made the best use of this facility. It remains to see if the HRD ministry will give NPTEL the required push to concentrate their focus on the students from rural background. Also what needs to be seen is that how the NPTEL will formulate their strategy, in order to focus on the students from the interior parts of the country.

Physically Challenged Students to Get Fees Waiver in IITs

http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/physically-challenged-students-to-get-fees-waiver-in-iits-1444737389-1

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) council has decided to waiver the fees of physically challenged students around the nation. The decision to waiver the fees were taken in a meeting of the IIT council that was headed by HRD Minister Smriti Irani. The meeting took place in Mumbai after which Irani confirmed by tweeting, "Happy to report that IIT Council has decided to waive off fees for our physically challenged students."

The proposal of the IITs to raise the tuition fees was deferred in the meeting and the government decided to set up a committee that would examine the matter regarding the requirement of such fees hike. It would also look after the matter related to student loans and increase in scholarships for those who are in need of them. The institutes raised the issue of tuition fee hike in regard of the new funding mechanism of these institutes which makes it necessary for them to run the institute through money received from students in the form of fees. If the implementation in fees takes place the fees of the courses offered in IITs would shot up immensely and a course that is at present at Rs. 90000 would end up into Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

In the council meeting that took place in Mumbai, it was also decided that the institute would admit foreign students and preference would be given to students coming from various SAARC and African countries. IIT council is the apex body that decides the policies that are to be included in the administration in various IITs and is headed by HRD Minister. In regard of the fee hike, the minister was not keen to divulge any opinion without examining the facts further.

PU V-C: Lack of communication between MHRD and UGC led to freezing of funds

Grover said MHRD explained that they had not directed the UGC to stop the release of funds.

http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/pu-v-c-lack-of-communication-between-mhrd-and-ugc-led-to-freezing-of-funds/

Panjab University vice-chancellor Arun Kumar Grover said lack of communication between the MHRD and UGC had led to the freezing of funds from the Centre to the university.

The comment came after he met the MHRD officials in New Delhi last week. He added that he had received a positive response form the MHRD and funds would be released soon.

"The MHRD has said the UGC cannot freeze funds to the varsity even if there is an investigation going on. The fact finding committee has no authority to reccomend the stoppage of grants to the university. The MHRD's view point is that the ministry cannot stop providing salaries to the employees of an educational institute."

Grover said MHRD explained that they had not directed the UGC to stop the release of funds. "The MHRD has told me that if the university does not get a positive response from the UGC in a week's time, I have to report to them and necessary action will then taken."

The UGC's fact finding committee, which has been investigating into a complaint regarding misappropriation of funds at the PU hostels, has not released the Centre's grants to the Panjab University since April this year. The lack of funds has led to a financial crisis at the varsity.

The real reason a Chinese university has beaten MIT in the engineering rankings

http://qz.com/522471/the-real-reason-chinese-universities-are-climbing-the-ranks-in-engineering-and-beat-out-mit/

Tsinghua University, arguably the most prestigious research institution in China, last week upset the normally staid world of university rankings. It grabbed the top spot in the engineering schools list compiled by US News, a position long held by MIT.

MIT is unambiguously the more prestigious and well known of the two, especially outside of China, so how could Tsinghua have overtaken it? The answer is quantity, not quality. And we're not talking student quality here, but research papers.

US News rankings by subject try to determine the best schools in a particular field, like engineering or economics. For the hard sciences, the subject ranking relies almost exclusively on a university's research output. It is based on *how much* research each university produces, measures of *how good* that research is, and the level of international cooperation. This is different from the US News ranking for schools overall, which include indicators like the number of conferences held, books published, and PhDs awarded.

Chinese schools are indeed climbing the engineering list. Tsinghua drew attention for besting MIT, and two other Chinese universities appeared in the top 10. But while these schools score big in the "how much" categories, they do poorly on the "how good" ones.

Ranking	School, engineering	Country
#1	Tsinghua University	China
#2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	US
#3	University of California, Berkeley	US
#4	Zhejiang University	China
#5	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
#5 (tie)	National University of Singapore	Singapore
#7	Harbin Institute of Technology	China
#8	Stanford University	US
#9	Georgia Institute of Technology	US
#10	City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong

In the engineering category, Tsinghua was ranked #1 for "total publications," meaning its name was attached to more engineering papers than any other institution. But in "normalized citation impact"—a measure of citations

per paper that accounts for differences in publication year and research area—it ranked a paltry #186. On another qualitative category, "percentage of total publications among the 10% most cited," it came in at #167.

Tsinghua's "global research reputation," a measure based on surveys of researchers in a particular field, was #16 in the world, a respectable but not outstanding number. MIT remained #1 in that category, followed by UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Caltech.

The same pattern applies to the other Chinese universities in the engineering top 10. Zhejiang University, #4 on the final list, was third in total publications but #110 in global research reputation. Harbin Institute of Technology, the seventh-best engineering school according to US News, was #2 in total citations and #4 in total publications, but #130 and #157 in reputation and publications among the 10% most cited, respectively.

The quantity explanation shows that these universities still have a long way to go to match the prestige of their counterparts in the US. The US News data show, for example, that Chinese universities attract far fewer staff from abroad than American ones.

This is not to suggest the US News subject rankings don't have merits. Any such ranking is bound to have issues and trade-offs. And US News has taken measures to mitigate problems: In the explanation of its methodology, it says that it reduced the effect of "skewed" indicators, so that a crazy high score in one category couldn't on its own move the needle significantly. Tsinghua and other Chinese universities also had a high number—not percentage—of frequently cited papers, which helped them earn their score.

Still, the ranking could benefit from some measure of balance to avoid cases like Harbin, where the university scores very high in some categories, like raw number of papers, and very low in others, like the average number of citations per paper.

Until then, aspiring engineers should weigh picking Tsinghua over MIT carefully.

How Could India's IITs Do so Badly in a Global Ranking of Engineering Schools?

http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/10/13/how-could-indias-iits-do-so-badly-in-a-global-ranking-of-engineering-schools/

They have nurtured some of Silicon Valley's leading lights but Indian institutions feature just eight times among a recently-compiled list of the world's top 250 engineering schools.

The highest ranked, the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, came in at 103rd place on the U.S. News and World Report ranking published last week.

The league table put China's Tsinghua University top, ahead of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University.

The others from India — all IITs apart from the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and Jadvapur University in Kolkata – placed between 169th and 229th.

Universities were graded on 12 indicators, including the number of academic research papers produced, citations given and Ph.D.s awarded. This is the first year Indian schools have been included in the engineering-specific rankings.

The Indian engineering schools have produced some stellar engineering graduates. For instance, IIT Kharagpur, ranked 171, counts Google CEO Sundar Pichai among its metallurgical engineering graduates.

Satya Nadella, Microsoft CEO, earned his electrical engineering degree from Manipal Institute of Technology, which didn't make it into the rankings.

So why don't these schools do better internationally?

Experts attribute the low rankings to a lack of focus on research and the high student-to-faculty ratio among other things.

In the Quacquarelli Symonds' global university rankings, published in September, Indian schools gained ground this year — IIT Delhi climbed 56 spots to the 179th rank and the Indian Institute of Science ranked 147th—but they were the only ones to make it into the top 200.

University	2014 Rank	2015 Rank
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	N/A	147
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	235	179
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	222	202
Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai	321	254
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	300	271
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	324	286

Source: 2015 Quacquarelli Symonds rankings

Made with Datawrapper for The Wall Street Journal

Indian institutes also lose ground in rankings because they enroll only a small cohort of foreign students, mostly in post graduate and research programs, and also have very small international faculties.

In IIT Delhi, for instance, the size of international faculty was only about 1% of its total teaching staff of more than 400. At MIT, which led the QS ranking, international staff members made up more than 55% of the total faculty. At the National University of Singapore, the top-ranking Asian university on the QS list, more than 60% of the staff were international.

IIT Chennai, in south India, enrolled its first international student in an undergraduate program last year.

Despite these advances, some, including Narayan Murthy, founder of Infosys Ltd., one of India's largest outsourcing firms, remain skeptical of the quality of education at domestic institutions. Mr. Murthy is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur.

"Let us pause and ask what the contributions of Indian institutions of higher learning particularly IISc (Indian Institute of Science) and IITs, have been over the last 60-plus years to make our society and the world a better place," Mr. Murthy was reported as saying during a speech in July at the Indian Institute of Science.

"Is there one invention from India that has become a household name in the globe? Is there one technology that has transformed the productivity of global corporations?" he said. "Folks, the reality is that there is no such contribution from India in the last 60 years."