

## Newspaper Clips Oct. 4-5, 2015

Oct. 4

**National Duniya ND 04/10/2015 P-3**

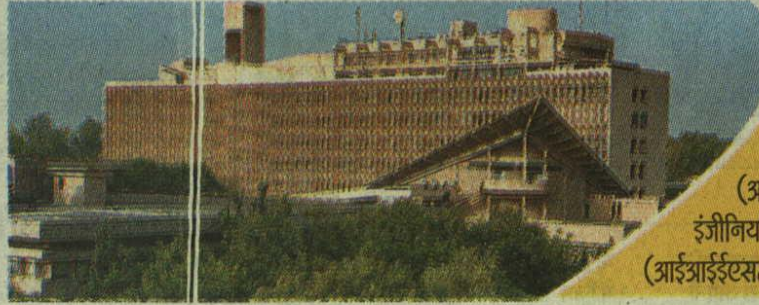
**बड़ा कदम**

इससे न सिर्फ छात्रों और अभिभावकों पर दबाव कम होगा, बल्कि खाली सीटें भी भरी जा सकेंगी

# केंद्रीय इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए होगी एकल परीक्षा!

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार आईआईटी, एनआईटी, आईआईएसईआर और आईआईएसटी में प्रवेश के लिए एक ही प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने पर मुहर लगाने जा रही है। माना जा रहा है कि इससे न सिर्फ छात्रों को अनावश्यक खर्च और परेशानियों से बचाया जा सकेगा बल्कि इन संस्थानों में खाली रह रही सीटों को भी भरने में मदद मिलेगी।

केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के अधीन 16 आईआईटी, 31 राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (एनआईटी), पांच भारतीय विज्ञान, शिक्षा और अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईआईएसईआर) और भारतीय इंजीनियरिंग, विज्ञान और तकनीकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) हैं। फिलहाल सभी संस्थानों के लिए छात्रों को अलग-अलग प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाओं से गुजरना पड़ता है। इससे न सिर्फ छात्रों को आर्थिक परेशानियों का



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सामना करना पड़ता है, बल्कि उनका समय भी जाया होता है। मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि सरकार अगले सत्र से एक ही प्रवेश परीक्षा का आयोजन करने जा रही है।

इंजीनियरिंग के प्रति छात्रों में कम हो रही रुचि के कारण सरकारी समेत निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में हजारों सीटें खाली रह जाती हैं। सरकार के लिए यह चिंता का विषय

बना हुआ है। हाल ही में हुई उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने कहा कि एकल परीक्षा व एनआईटी, आईआईटी, आईआईआईटी, आईआईएसटी और अन्य सरकार द्वारा सहायता प्राप्त प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (जीएफटीआई) के लिए समान काउंसलिंग को लागू करने से न सिर्फ छात्रों और अभिभावकों पर दबाव कम होगा,

बल्कि इससे खाली सीटों की संख्या को भी कम किया जा सकेगा। राष्ट्रीय महत्व के सभी संस्थानों में एक परीक्षा, एक रैंक, एक काउंसलिंग और बोर्ड परीक्षाओं के लिए 40 प्रतिशत महत्व के प्रस्ताव पर भी सरकार विचार-विमर्श कर रही है। इसके लिए एक प्रमुख समिति का गठन करने और उचित कार्रवाई करने का निर्णय लिया गया है।

**CAPSULE****CENTRE PLANNING TO RAISE IIT TUITION FEES**

**New Delhi:** The Centre is considering to hike the tuition fees of the IITs to "recover" the running expenses of the institutes which include laboratory facilities. According to an IIT Director, a crucial meeting of the IIT Council in this regard has been called on Tuesday at Mumbai to discuss the modalities and funding pattern including a hike in fee structure to make IITs self-reliant. The last hike was made in 2013 when the fee was increased from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 per annum.

P5

# IITs likely to hike tuition fees to become self-reliant

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI**

**N**udged by the Centre, the IITs could witness a hike in tuition fee for students after a two-year gap.

According to an IIT Director, a crucial meeting of the IIT council in this regard has been called on Tuesday in Mumbai to discuss the modalities and funding pattern including a hike in fee structure to make IITs self-reliant. And also, to "recover" the running expenses of the institutes which include laboratory facilities.

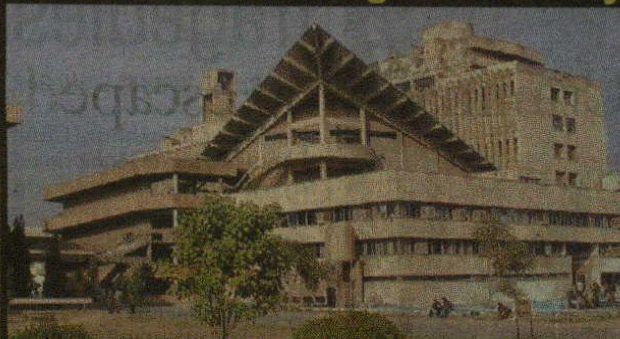
The last time IITs hiked the fee was in January 2013 when it was almost doubled — from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 annually.

The Council of IITs is a Government-nominated body of the 16 IITs vested with all executive powers.

Sources said the meeting could also discuss a proposal to increase the quota of students appearing for JEE Advance in the 2016-2017 academic session from the existing 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh. At present, after the first stage, JEE (Main), 1.5 lakh students are selected for the second stage of the selection process in JEE Advance.

Sources in the HRD Ministry said the IIT council has been advised to deliberate on adopting a funding mechanism

## IIT council meeting on Tuesday



**The last time IITs hiked the fee was in January 2013 when it was almost doubled — from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 annually**

where the Government will appreciably enhance investments in capital assets, labs etc but the bulk of the running expenses would be met by the students.

According to sources, this could potentially raise the tuition fee, though the increase would be met by 100 per cent interest free student loan. The model has already been accepted by the NITs. These institute charge ₹70,000 annually and with the implementation of the funding mechanism, the fee could double, said an IIT director.

On the agenda would be increasing the number of students appearing for JEE Advance from 1.5 lakh to 2

lakh from 2016 onwards. "The number of seats available at the IITs has increased considerably as new IITs have also come into existence.

"But, over the past three years, only 1.5 lakh students could make it to the IIT-JEE (advanced) examination. We wanted to ensure that more students could take the competitive examination as seats have remained vacant even this year," said an IIT Director. IITs, on the other hand, are mulling holding a single entrance test by reverting back to the old format as the existing format is proving to be "cumbersome" and "time consuming".

# IIT Ropar missing campus, faculty

**KOMAL AMIT GERA**

Chandigarh, 3 October

Among the eight new IITs established in 2008, the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar topped its peers in Scopus Data with an average citation of 4.93 and an h-index of 23.

The institute, set up to facilitate research in the region, has since not been able to achieve its potential due to a shortage of faculty and infrastructure. Operating out of a transit campus on 25 acres in Punjab's Roopnagar district, 50 km from Chandigarh, the institute has been keeping a low profile.

Construction of the new campus is delayed by two years. IIT Ropar is the slowest among its peers in this respect. Against an allocation of ₹760 crore for the first phase of construction, the institute used only ₹294 crore till March 2015. This includes ₹90 crore of advance payments to meet the deadline for fund use.

Despite support from the Union ministry of human resources development and the Punjab government, construction is delayed because of a lax local administration. S K Das, director, IIT Ropar, says the teething problems are over. Construction has resumed and the new building will be ready by March 2017.

A teaching faculty of 65, against the sanctioned strength of 90, has also plugged the scope for research. Industry in Punjab is grappling with obsolete technology and synergies with a premier technology institute are necessary to face global competition. Agriculture, the lifeline of Punjab, is also waiting for customised technologies. "We will hold interviews in

December to hire faculty. A delegation from IIT Ropar will travel to the UK, the US and Canada next summer to recruit post-doctorates," Das adds.

The institute faces the ignominy of not being able to find jobs for all its graduates. The director attributes this to the tedious journey from Chandigarh that dampens the spirit of corporates. "The computer stream has 100 per cent placement, but the other two engineering branches offered here, mechanical and electrical, have a lower placement ratio. We have formed a centre for career development to mentor students for campus interviews," says Das.

Around 480 undergraduates and 100 postgraduate students are preparing for the placement season that begins in October. Their lack of soft skills has been identified as an issue, says a faculty member, and it is being addressed.

New courses will be added in phases. Civil engineering will be introduced in the April 2016 session and new postgraduate courses a session later. "It is not possible to excel in every field so we will not replicate the old IITs. We have identified agriculture engineering, bio-medical science, additive manufacturing (3D printing) and energy as areas for research," says Das.

IIT Ropar set up an entrepreneurship cell in 2010 and a business incubator in 2014 but its own students are yet to begin their startup journey. Limited funds and a small pool of mentors are barriers to the startup wave that has swept the established IITs in the last few years.

## Waterless Toilet by IIT-B Professor Hopes to Put an End to

<http://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/waterless-toilet-by-iit-b-professor-hopes-to-put-an-end-to-open-defecation-in-rural-india-slums-1225856>

Mumbai: The Dry San Hygienic Rural Toilet is a waterless system where waste doesn't have to be flushed. Prof Dr Kishore Munshi, senior professor and former dean of the Industrial Design Center at IIT-B, has developed the Dry San to reduce open defecation, improve hygiene, and help vulnerable sections including women and children.

"The project has been developed for rural India, targetting mainly the farming community with the basic premise that there is dearth of water in most rural areas. Thus, the flush toilet cannot be part of the solution.

Therefore, an autonomous solution based on water-less or minimal water usage was invented," said Prof Munshi. The Dry San has been developed after garnering financial support from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, along with CTech, an IIT-B incubated designed company. It comes in various dimensions, along with an easy manual.

While work on the project started in 2011, the final product was ready by 2014. For starters, a design was put in place, which is not only easy to build but maintain too. "In the conventional water-based sanitation system, there is heavy use of water to maintain the water-trap and for flushing requirements.

Flush-toilets and sewerage systems not only involve huge infrastructure and high maintenance costs, they also cannot ensure a clean environment. In case of failure, they pose a far greater risk to public health and environment, which is more likely to happen in rural, semi-urban situations," said Prof Munshi.

The Dry-San converts waste material, which otherwise pollutes land and water bodies, into a resource (fertiliser from urine and manure from solid waste) for the farmer. The conversion is done by non-chemical and natural aerobic decomposition, facilitated by a patented design.

Another highlight that sets this design apart from others is that, while in septic tanks, there are chances of poisonous gases leading to explosions, there are no gases formed in Dry San's underground pit. Water is seeped into the soil and only solid waste remains, which eventually decomposes.

"If a family of five uses this toilet every day, they can open the pit once in eight or 10 years to clean the decomposed waste, which can easily be used as fertilizer," added Prof Munshi. While there have been various sanitation projects introduced by the government, most have lacked maintenance.

"During an all-India survey, we found out that most public toilets use ceramic tiles, which eventually give away and make the toilet unusable. Instead, our design uses stainless steel - easy to use and maintain," he said. Building one Dry San toilet from scratch can cost up to Rs. 70,000, including labour cost. This cost can be reduced if they are built in bulk.

One of the first such units was placed at a labour camp next to the IIT-B campus, where labourers have been using it. "The workers decided that this particular cubicle will be used only by women and children. After a year, it's still functioning well. BMC authorities have also touched base with us to place such toilets in slums that are not accessible to the main drainage system of the city," he said.

# Smriti Irani's obsession with ranking is unhealthy for India's education system

*It distracts from real debates and controversies on the ground.*

<http://www.dailyo.in/politics/smriti-irani-education-ugc-nac-hrd-ranking-system-knowledge-globalisation/story/1/6600.html>

Globalisation is often a seductive game inviting people into unnecessary comparisons and unreal clubs.

One creates a system where one wants to rank everything from the most developed nations, the finest cars, the most beautiful women, often without wondering who the rankers are and what constitutes the basis of rankings. When it is the ten most beautiful women in the world, there is a voyeuristic enjoyment as long as one does not ask what beauty is or whether there is a racist element to it. Globalisation creates unwelcome clubs and comparisons which often destroy an otherwise welcome diversity.

Sadly, politicians too get into the business because they find it a handy tool. When you worry about rankings you convey your apparent concern for the whole without revealing any understanding for ground level realities.

When our president echoed his concern for education, he remarked that there was not a single institution in India which ranked in the first 200 in the world. A concern is then articulated about the number of institutions China has in the first 100, with the added wonder that Singapore and Hong Kong also managed to qualify.

## Education

This ranking game has had a more individualistic bias. Earlier we used to worry about the number of nobel prizes a country received and wonder why India hardly made the grade. Analysts failed to understand that rankings reduced the educational universe to a flat land, a uniform terrain where diversity and difference were ignored. What one did for economic indicators one did for education with even more devastating consequence.

There was a literal economisation within the ranking game. In fact, rankings turned education into a dismal science. Recently Smriti Irani, our HRD minister, went one up on the president by unveiling an indigenous ranking system free of international bias. The model of course is China which created a similar two-set model prior to going global.

Irani's comments are revealing. She claims employability is the central concern confronting the 23 lakh applicants, including PhDs, applying for 368 posts of peon in Uttar Pradesh. This raises two questions. Do degrees have to be connected to jobs? Can't there be other forms of learning? Secondly, what sense does it make if a man with a PhD has to apply for a peon's job? Thirdly, why is employability, the sense of play, creativity not as critical as employability? The fact that students do not get jobs might have to do with a skewed economy. In fact, few ask how many livelihoods, especially crafts, and ways of life industry and economy destroy.

The ranking game creates a set of ancillary industries very reminiscent of tutorial colleges created in the first wave of university organisation. The tutorial college is how an informal core which surrounds the university, training one for admissions and also compensating one for lack of access. In fact, the admission industry virtually destroyed education by reducing knowledge to shortcuts, techniques and guess questions. Cities like Kota in Rajasthan prospered in creating the admission and examination industry. Students felt that without this guarantee or insurance of techniques they would never make it to the bureaucracy or industry.

The corruption involved in evaluation and accreditation is frightening. The National Advisory Council (NAC) is today more powerful than the University Grants Commission (UGC). The latter had an advisory function. The NAC determines the life chances of an institute and, since its inception, is among the most corrupt organisations. What we need is not a system of rankings but an index of corruption in education.

### **Corruption**

Take the NAC list of professors as evaluators and see if you can identify well-known academics. The NAC evaluators are among the new zamindars of knowledge, dalals of certification. This is a process that needs examination while colleges are wasting huge man-hours preparing reports only a kabadilwala would be interested in.

There is an innumeracy to rankings that we must challenge. It is not just the evaluating criteria but the fetishisation of number. This equation of rankings to excellence is a reminder of the earlier disaster where IQ was related to intelligence. The idea of IQ has two flaws. Firstly, in fetiched number and secondly, it hid an ethnocentricity as racial or cultural bias. IQ was used to beat black people into accepting an invidious classification as a mentally deficient people.

### **Controversies**

Rankings also ignore tacit assumptions and traditions. When we rank an institution, we do so within a set of assumptions about cultures of knowledge. Ranking as a process is silent about the tacit understanding of excellence. Rankings freeze quality. In the same way one needs to ask how representational is a ranking. Does it do justice to the definition of knowledge in different cultures?

The obsession with rankings also distracts from real debates and controversies on the ground. Ranking as a form of accounting is confused with accountability. The enthusiasm for rankings has drowned the debate on the fate of liberal arts, or what the role of scientific research in a university exactly is.

Requirements of knowledge, pedagogy, creativity get lost in a standardisation process, where education as a protean process becomes a procrustean format. The academic quota of productivity and papers becomes a part of other quota games. With rankings we are destroying a university as a vibrant culture and bureaucratising it. It is just the latest fashion, but such fashions will prove costly to the academe.

## 'Inter-IIT Student Exchange Programme' unpopular among students

<http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/inter-iit-student-exchange-programme-unpopular-among-student-36226072>

The inter-IIT Student Exchange Programme is a programme wherein IIT students spend a semester in other IIT campuses and study different courses. This programme is regulated by the MHRD and through the mutual understanding between the partnering IITs. No formal documentation or MoU is required for this, unlike with foreign institutes. Despite such efforts, it has been noted that very few students opt for inter-IIT exchange and would rather go to foreign institutes for a semester.

IIT students can choose to go for a semester, either to another IIT or to a foreign institute for an exchange programme. Prof T.A. Gonsalves, Director of IIT-Mandi, feels, "Foreign institutes give a better cultural exposure to students, but going to other IITs for a semester is academically better. Students find it easier, as compared to foreign institutes, to fit in in sister institutes and spend more time focusing on academics." Prof Ramamurthy K. from IIT Madras says, "Many of the newer IITs send their students to our institute since they may lack the infrastructure to provide certain specializations like design semantics, architecture, marine biology, etc." Some of the newer IITs are located in areas miles away from cities. They function out of a transit campuses with lesser facilities as compared to older IITs. In fact, going to other IITs is in several ways similar to foreign exchange programmes. First, students get to learn subjects not available in their maiden institutes and second, they don't need to retake the same semester once they return home from the host IIT.

There is also a Credit Transfer Policy in IITs wherein credits earned in the host IIT during the semester can be transferred to the student's home institute. According to Prof Gonsalves, "If students meet the credit distribution requirement (number of credits required to pass different sections) then they need not retake similar subjects in their home IIT." Besides, students can also choose the subjects to pursue in the host IIT, irrespective of whether they are a part of that discipline or not. Prof Vinod Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT-Roorkee says, "There is a subject mapping procedure wherein we compare courses in both colleges and depending on the flexibility of curriculum in that discipline, the student is allowed to take up courses in other specializations as well."

On the other hand, there are some IIT professors who don't find any benefit in such programmes and consider foreign exchange programmes more beneficial for students. Prof Anurag Sharma, Academic Affairs Dean IIT Delhi says, "Going to other IITs does not add much value to students at the undergraduate level. The teaching techniques and curricula are more or else similar throughout all IITs. It is advisable at the PhD or Masters level, to send students to IITs with better laboratory facilities." Raj Mohan, an exchange student to IIT Madras feels, "IIT Madras has better facilities to pursue the same curriculum. However, I would have preferred to have gone to a foreign institute instead because there isn't much difference in learning throughout all the IITs."

The Inter-IIT Student Exchange Programme is pretty unpopular among IIT students despite flexibility in procedures for the same. Professors and students feel that the NKN (National Knowledge Network) and e-resources shared between IITs have made inter-IIT learning more flexible. Hence, students would prefer to go to foreign institutes which give them an international learning perspective. As a result, every year only 3 to 4 students choose other IITs for exchange programmes. In the last 2 years, IIT Mandi has sent only 4 students to IIT Madras.

## Digital India's brand ambassadors selected: 17-year-old IIT-JEE topper amongst the selected 4

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/digital-india/1/489427.html>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Digital India' campaign, finally has 4 brand ambassadors, who will be spreading awareness regarding the campaign.

Launched on July 1, 2015 by Prime Minister Modi, it is an initiative of the Indian government to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing internet connectivity.

On Tuesday, the names of the selected 4 were released, which included the self-proclaimed ethical hacker, **Ankit Fadia**, All India IIT-JEE topper, **Satwat Jagwani**, All India IIT-JEE-Advanced Girl Topper - **Krati Tiwari** and **Pranav Mistry** - Computer Scientist at Samsung USA.

As per newspaper reports, Satwat Jagwani is a 17 year old, who hails from Satna district of Madhya Pradesh and has topped the IIT-JEE advanced 2015 exams this year with 496 marks out of 504.

His parents are in the medical profession and he has studied at the Bansal classes in Kota for his IIT-JEE preparation.

Kruti Tiwari is a native of Indore and has attained 47th rank in JEE Advanced 2015 and was personally picked up by the president.

Pranav Mistry is 34 year old computer scientist and inventor. At present, he is the Global Vice President of Research at Samsung and the head of Think Tank Team. He is best known for his work on SixthSense.

The government released a press release declaring the appointment of four Digital India Brand Ambassadors is as follows:

Shri Satwat Jagwani, All India IIT-JEE - Advanced Topper -2015 (Student)

Ms. Krati Tiwari, All India IIT-JEE - Advanced Girl Topper -2015 (Student)

Mr Ankit Fadia, Author & Ethical Hacker

Shri Pranav Mistry, Samsung USA (Computer Scientist/ Author of 6th Sense)



Oct. 5

Statesman ND 05/10/2015 P-04

# Green initiatives galore at IIT Delhi

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, 4 October

IIT-Delhi is all fired up about its various 'green initiatives', ranging from organic waste management, paper recycling, car-pooling and wildlife conservation.

"Our team 'Sustainable IIT-D' has carried out a range of eco-friendly initiatives on the campus. We have reduced our hostel mess wastage up to 50 per cent. A bird audit was conducted and we maintain an online portal detailing the biodiversity here.

"We are currently working on a car pooling project and planning to launch it formally next month," Archit Raj, Project Lead, Sustainable IIT-D told PTI.

Planning to take the 'green message' forward, the IIT Delhi students have refused to hand over the waste generated on the campus to the usual garbage pickers.

"Usually the waste generated here is dumped at the Okhla landfill. But we have decided to treat the waste here itself. We, with the help of NGO Green Bandhu, convert the waste into organic waste, which

is later used as manure," he said.

The 'Sustainable IIT-D' initiative has also forayed into paper and plastic recycling. While students are offered discounts if they bring back their eco-friendly cups, PET bottles are being converted into 'eco-designs'.

"We ran the 'Take you cup campaign', wherein the students who recycle their cups, are given 'green incentives'. You have to take your eco-friendly cups to the nearest food outlet on the campus to get your discount," Siddharth Rajan, project coordinator said.

"We are also working extensively on paper recycling. Students collect posters from the campus and use the non-used side of it. The idea is to minimize wastage. In another interesting initiative, we are converting used PET bottles into a renewable source of energy. The bottles are converted into bulbs, providing 750 W of power. These have been installed in the slum areas," he said. As part of the 'eco-design' or sustainable architecture, Rajan said the PET bottles are also converted into PET bottle chairs. "We have installed such chairs at many places on the campus," he said.

**Planning to take the 'green message' forward, the IIT Delhi students have refused to hand over the waste generated on the campus to the usual garbage pickers**

Veer Arjun ND 05/10/2015 P-05

## आईआईटी दिल्ली में हरित पहल, अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, जैव विविधता संरक्षण शामिल

नई दिल्ली, (बीए)। आईआईटी-दिल्ली अपने विभिन्न हरित पहलों से एक उदाहरण स्थापित कर रहा है। इन पहलों में जैविक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, पेपर रिसाइकिलिंग, कार पूलिंग और वन्यजीव संरक्षण शामिल है। पहलों से जुड़े 'सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी' के परियोजना अध्यक्ष अर्चित राज ने कहा, हमारी टीम 'सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी' ने परिसर में कई पर्यावरण अनुकूल पहल किए गए हैं। हमने अपने होस्टल के कचरे को 50 प्रतिशत तक कम कर दिया है। पक्षियों के संबंध में एक सर्वेक्षण कराया गया और हमने यहां जैव विविधता के ब्यौरे देने वाला एक 'ऑनलाइन पोर्टल' बनाया है। उन्होंने कहा, हम इस समय कार पूलिंग

कार साझा करना: परियोजना पर काम कर रहे हैं और हमारी अगले साल औपचारिक रूप से इसे शुरू करने की योजना है। हरित पहल के तहत संस्थान में पैदा होने वाला कचरे का परिशोधन परिसर में ही किया जा रहा है। अर्चित ने कहा, ग्रीन बंधु एनजीओ की मदद से हम कचरे को जैव अपशिष्ट में बदल देते हैं जिसका बाद में खाद के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।

परियोजना के तहत पेट :प्लास्टिक: बोतलों को 'पेट बोतल कुर्सियों' और साथ ही ऊर्जा के अक्षय स्रोत में बदला जा रहा है। बोतलों को बल्ब में बदला जा रहा है और झुग्गी बस्ती इलाकों में लगाया जा रहा है। जबकि पेट बोतल कुर्सियां परिसर में कई जगहों पर लगाई गई

है। अर्चित ने कहा कि संस्थान में समृद्ध जैव विविधता है और पक्षियों से जुड़ा सर्वेक्षण करने पर हमने यहां पक्षियों को 56 प्रजातियों का पता लगाया। यहां कई प्रवासी पक्षी भी देखे गए। उन्होंने कहा कि जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय :जेएनयू: के स्कूल ऑफ लाइफ साइंसेज के प्रोफेसर सूर्य प्रकाश जैव विविधता पहल का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं। इस पहल का उद्देश्य छात्रों को विविधता पूर्ण वन्यजीव प्रजातियों और उनके घटते वास को लेकर जागरूक करना है।

परियोजना अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि वह केवल एक संदेश फैलाना चाहते हैं और वह यह है कि 'चाहे यह कितना भी छोटा क्यों ना हो, आप उस हरित बदलाव को अंजाम दें जो आप खुद देखना चाहते हैं।

**Hari Bhumi ND 05/10/2015**

**P-12**

## हमने 50 फीसदी कचरा कम किया : अर्चित राज

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी-दिल्ली अपने विभिन्न हरित पहलों से एक उदाहरण स्थापित कर रहा है। इन पहलों में जैविक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, पेपर रिसाइकिलिंग, कार पूलिंग और वन्यजीव संरक्षण शामिल हैं। पहलों से जुड़े 'सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी' के परियोजना अध्यक्ष अर्चित राज ने कहा कि हमारी टीम 'सस्टेनेबल आईआईटी-डी' ने परिसर में कई पर्यावरण अनुकूल पहल किए गए हैं। हमने अपने होस्टल के कचरे को 50 प्रतिशत तक कम कर दिया है। पक्षियों के संबंध में एक सर्वेक्षण कराया गया और हमने यहां जैव विविधता के ब्यौरे देने वाला एक ऑनलाइन पोर्टल बनाया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हम इस समय कार पूलिंग (कार साझा करना) परियोजना पर काम कर रहे हैं और हमारी अगले साल औपचारिक रूप से इसे शुरू करने की योजना है। हरित पहल के तहत संस्थान में पैदा होने वाला कचरे का परिशोधन परिसर में ही किया जा रहा है। ग्रीन बंधु एनजीओ की मदद से हम कचरे को जैव अपशिष्ट में बदल देते हैं जिसका बाद में खाद के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।

# Green initiatives galore at IIT-Delhi

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi is all fired up about its various 'green initiatives', ranging from organic waste management, paper recycling, car-pooling and wildlife conservation.

"Our team 'Sustainable IIT-D' has carried out a range of eco-friendly initiatives on campus. We have reduced our hostel mess wastage up to 50 per cent. A bird audit was conducted and we maintain an online portal detailing the biodiversity here. We are currently



working on a car-pooling project and planning to launch it formally next month," said Archit Raj, Project Lead, Sustainable IIT-D.

Planning to take the 'green

message' forward, the IIT-Delhi students have refused to hand over the waste generated on campus to the usual garbage pickers. "Usually the waste generated here is dumped at

the Okhla landfill. But we have decided to treat the waste here itself. We, with the help of NGO Green Bandhu, convert the waste into organic waste, which is later used as manure," he said.

The 'Sustainable IIT-D' initiative has also forayed into paper and plastic recycling. While students are offered discounts if they bring back their eco-friendly cups, PET bottles are being converted into 'eco-designs'.

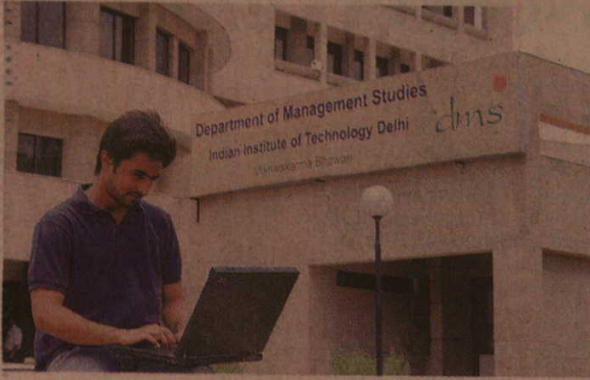
"We ran the 'Take you cup campaign', wherein the students who recycle their cups, are given 'green incentives'. You

have to take your eco-friendly cups to the nearest food outlet on campus to get your discount," said Siddharth Rajan, project coordinator.

"We are also working extensively on paper recycling. Students collect posters from the campus and use the non-used side of it. The idea is to minimize wastage. In another interesting initiative, we are converting used PET bottles into a renewable source of energy. The bottles are converted into bulbs, providing 750 W of power. These have been installed in the slum areas," he said.

# IITs to push for more financial autonomy

Council to bat for better financing pattern and a likely fee increase at its meeting tomorrow



## SEEKING A BETTER FINANCIAL MODEL

- 22%** of IIT students come from the SC/ST categories and get a waiver of 90% on their tuition fee
- 25%** of IIT students come from financially weak families and get a waiver of 90% on their tuition fee
- The remaining **53%** students pay their full tuition fee
- IITs had last raised their fees in January 2013 by 80%, up from **₹50,000 to ₹90,000 a year**
- Before that, the IITs had doubled their annual fees in 2008 — from **₹25,000 to ₹50,000**

**KALPANA PATHAK**  
Mumbai, 4 October

Days after the National Institutes of Technology increased their fees by 300 per cent, the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) could also be considering a fee increase.

The IIT Council, which is slated to meet in Mumbai on Tuesday, is likely to discuss a proposal to increase tuition fee. At the root of the proposal is an agenda point that says the IITs could manage their recurring expenditure from their earnings.

"The agenda mentions discussions on the pattern of financing for IITs. It also mentions that the older IITs will have to manage their recurring expenditure from their earnings. To increase our earnings, the council will have to approve a fee increase," said the director of an IIT who did not wish to be named.

Though he did not comment on the extent of fee increase, another director said the increase should be to the extent of covering the per-student cost for the

IITs to be in a stable financial condition.

"Increasing the fee is within the purview of the IITs. We are spending around ₹3.5 lakh per student per year, against the fee of ₹90,000 per year that we charge. But one needs to see what kind of a fee increase the council agrees to, as not all students can afford to pay higher fees," said the director of another IIT.

IITs waive 90 per cent of their tuition fees for about 22 per cent of their students who come from scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) categories. The remaining 10 per cent fees (including examination fee and other miscellaneous charges) are paid by the students. Besides, another 25 per cent of IIT students who come from financially weak families (where parents' annual income is less than ₹4.5 lakh) get a waiver of 90 per cent on their tuition fees. The remaining 53 per cent of students pay their tuition fees in full.

If IITs agree to a fee increase from next academic year, this will be a hike after three years. Earlier,

the IITs had increased their fee in January 2013, by 80 per cent — from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 a year. Before that, the premier institution had in 2008 doubled its fee for undergraduate courses from ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 a year.

In contrast, the per-student fee at private engineering institutes like SRM University, VIT University Vellore and Manipal Institute of Technology is far higher.

At SRM University, the fee for the four-year Bachelor of Technology (BTech) programme is between ₹7.4 lakh and ₹13.4 lakh, depending on the course taken. VIT Vellore charges ₹6.52 lakh for its BTech courses, while Manipal Institute of Technology charges between ₹10.50 lakh and ₹11.61 lakh, depending on the course.

According to the IITs, with salaries and staff cost being fixed, they have to budget for other expenditures as well. The small amount left is then used for developmental activities on the campus.

IITs' annual expenditure ranges between ₹150 crore and ₹350 crore.

Turn to Page 6 ▶

## IITs to push...

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According to the IITs, with salaries and staff cost being fixed, they have to budget for other expenditures as well. The small amount left is then used for developmental activities on the campus. IITs' annual expenditure ranges between ₹150 crore and ₹350 crore. Around 80 per cent of the operational expenses are funded by the government. While 10-15 per cent is taken care of by earnings from tuition fees for various programmes, the rest is managed with returns on endowments and investments. Donations

from alumni stand at about 3-5 per cent of the operating revenues for older IITs, compared with 10-50 per cent for top American universities.

However, not all directors agree to the fee increase, as many IIT students come from economically weak families. If the government puts a financial model in place to support needy students, the fee increase could happen, said an IIT director.

A 2011 report by the Anil Kakodkar committee, appointed by MHRD, then under Kapil Sibal, to recommend autonomy measures to facilitate IITs' scaling greater heights, had proposed: "Fee charged by the IITs should cover the full operational cost of education, which works out to roughly 30 per cent of the total current cost of education."

Amar Ujala ND 05/10/2015 P-06

# बायो गैस से चलेंगे वाहन

प्रोजेक्ट पर काम कर रहा है आईआईटी दिल्ली, एक साल में पूरा होने की उम्मीद

संतोष कुमार

**नई दिल्ली।** आईआईटी दिल्ली पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतों के उतार-चढ़ाव से निकलने का रास्ता खोज रही है। इसके लिए संस्थान में एक प्रोजेक्ट पर काम चल रहा है। कोशिश सफल रहने पर कैंपस के सभी वाहन बायो गैस फ्यूल से चलेंगे। प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़े वैज्ञानिकों का दावा है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली एक साल के भीतर देश का पहला ग्रीन एनर्जी का इस्तेमाल करने वाला कैंपस बनेगा।

विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक, देशभर में सभी स्रोतों से निकलने वाले जैविक कचरे से रोजाना 50000 मिलियन मीट्रिक क्यूबिक मीटर बायो गैस निकल सकती है। इससे पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की खपत में करीब 86 फीसदी तक की कमी



लाई जा सकती है। बायो गैस ईंधन सीएनजी से भी सस्ता होगा। हालांकि इसमें बड़ी दिक्कत अभी यही है कि बायो गैस के ग्रामीण स्तर पर छोटे-छोटे प्लांट लगे हैं। यहां से पैदा होने वाली बायो गैस का कमर्शियल स्तर पर इस्तेमाल करना आसान नहीं है।

इस अड़चन से बचने के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली ने एक मोबाइल

## तैयार होगा ईंधन

बायो गैस में 55-65 फीसदी मीथेन व 35-45 फीसदी तक कार्बन डाई ऑक्साइड होती है। इसके अलावा इसमें मामूली रूप से हाइड्रोजन सल्फाइड व नमी होती है। आईआईटी दिल्ली ने मीथेन निकालने के लिए वाटर स्क्रीबिंग टेक्नोलॉजी पर काम किया। इसके तहत बने प्लांट के निचले हिस्से से बायो गैस भेजी जाती है, जबकि ऊपर से पानी की बौछार होती है। इससे सिर्फ मीथेन बचती है। रिफिल सेंटर से इसका इस्तेमाल वाहनों में हो सकता है।

वैन तैयार की है। इसमें स्थानीय स्तर पर बायो गैस को इकट्ठा कर किसी रिफिल सेंटर तक पहुंचाया जा सकता है।

वहीं, कैंपस के भीतर से भी निकलने वाले जैविक कचरे का आकलन किया जा रहा है। प्रोजेक्ट के एक साल के भीतर पूरा होने की उम्मीद है।

प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़े आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर वीके विजय के

मुताबिक, फिलहाल हम इस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं। हमारी कोशिश कैंपस की जरूरतों व यहां से निकले वाले जैविक कचरे की मात्रा का पता लगाने की है।

वहीं, कैंपस के बाहर के छोटे-छोटे प्लांटों से बायो गैस एकत्र करने के लिए एक मोबाइल वैन भी बनाई गई है। उम्मीद है एक साल के भीतर कैंपस की सारे वाहन बायो गैस फ्यूल से चलने लगेंगे।

# UGC asks univs to churn out graduates 'ready for industry'

Chethan.Kumar  
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**Bengaluru:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all registered varsities to set up 'University-Industry Inter Linkage Centres' (UILCs) in order to launch integrated initiatives that allow colleges to produce "well-groomed, tailor-made" graduates for industry.

From setting up industry-academia clusters, live-work-play campuses and career-oriented courses to launching startups, entrepreneurship development centres and joint research, UGC has mooted a series of initiatives that UILCs will implement. Incentives like land and tax benefits

## ON THE ANVIL

**Policy Initiative** | Startup and innovation policy, student entrepreneurship policy; policy to address role of academia in cluster development

**Research and Training** | Provide for IPR in universities; faculty orientation programmes; guidelines for consultancy projects, joint research

**Infrastructure & Planning** | Set up science & tech entrepreneurs' parks, tech business incubators, startup enterprises/villages/centres, industry-academia clusters

“ Learning does not begin and end with what industry needs. Of course, there needs to be practical learning, and new systems must replace old ones, but to turn all colleges into some kind of finishing schools is not the solution.

**MS Thimmappa** |  
FORMER BANGALORE  
UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR

will be part of the scheme. An elaborate plan on what universities can offer the world of industry has been discussed in the guidelines

for UILCs. It will include teacher training, faculty orientation and joint research programmes.

While the industry has

long complained about the problem of employability, some experts point out that turning higher education institutions into finishing schools is not a solution.

Former Bangalore University VC M S Thimmappa welcomed the move, but cautioned, "We must be wary. Turning our institutions into finishing schools will be disastrous." "Not everything can happen through control. Industry-academia interaction is welcome but there must be a limit to the government's role," International Institute of Information Technology's Bengaluru director S Sadagopan said.

*For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)*

## Credits from online courses to be made mandatory: AICTE chairman

<http://www.nyoooz.com/mangalore/218592/credits-from-online-courses-to-be-made-mandatory58-aicte-chairman>

Summary: The AICTE has been encouraging students take up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered by foreign universities. Manjunath Securing marks through online courses in a semester in the undergraduate engineering course will be made mandatory once enough online courses are available, said Anil D.

Sahasrabudhe, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education. He said this has not been made mandatory as there were not much online courses presently available. He said they need to consider having two syllabi – one for those wanting to work in the industry after their technical courses and other for those who want to continue their study. (From right) Swapan Bhattacharya, director of NITK; Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman of AICTE, New Delhi; Gopal Mugeraya, director of NIT, Agartala and K.P.

(From right) Swapan Bhattacharya, director of NITK; Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman of AICTE, New Delhi; Gopal Mugeraya, director of NIT, Agartala and K.P. Issac, Vice-Chancellor, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University at a workshop in Mangaluru on Saturday.— Photo: H.S. Manjunath Securing marks through online courses in a semester in the undergraduate engineering course will be made mandatory once enough online courses are available, said Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education. Talking to presspersons here on Saturday on the sidelines of a workshop on ‘Make In India’ organised by NITK, Surathkal, Mr. Sahasrabudhe said that currently the AICTE prescribed that five credits, which is about 10 per cent of marks in a semester, may be earned by the student from online courses. He said this has not been made mandatory as there were not much online courses presently available. “Once it is available it will be made mandatory,” he said. The AICTE has been encouraging students take up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered by foreign universities. Within India, a platform named “Swayam” was being developed wherein professors from IITs and National Institutes of Technology will be offering courses in the form of MOOCs. . The platform will be operational in the next few weeks. Mr. Sahasrabudhe said that MOOCs will address the problem of lack of quality professors. He said MOOCs would provide the theory content, while the colleges need to have laboratories to give hands on experience for students about the course. He said they need to consider having two syllabi – one for those wanting to work in the industry after their technical courses and other for those who want to continue their study.



## The dark side of Nobel Prize-winning research

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

STOCKHOLM: Think of the Nobel Prizes and you think of groundbreaking research bettering mankind, but the awards have also honoured some unhumanitarian inventions such as chemical weapons, DDT and lobotomies.

Numerous Nobel Prize controversies have erupted over the years: authors who were overlooked, scientists who claimed their discovery came first, or peace prizes that divided public opinion. But some of the prizes appear in hindsight to be embarrassing choices.

When the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize went to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, it was perhaps a way of making up for the Nobel “war prize” it awarded to German chemist Fritz Haber in 1918.

Haber was honoured with the chemistry prize for his work on the synthesis of ammonia, which was crucial for developing fertilizers for food production. But Haber, known as the “father of chemical warfare”, also developed poisonous gases used in trench warfare in World War 1.

After Germany’s defeat in the war, “he didn’t expect to win a prize. He was more afraid of a court martial,” Swedish chemist Inger Ingmanson, who wrote a book about Haber’s prize, said.



The 1918 controversy might have encouraged the Stockholm jury to think carefully about the laureates they choose after a conflict. Yet in November 1945, months after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nobel chemistry prize honoured the discovery of nuclear fission, Otto Hahn, whose 1938 discovery was crucial to the development of atomic bombs. However, Hahn never worked on the military applications of his discovery and upon learning, while in captivity as a prisoner-of-war in England, that a nuclear bomb had been dropped, he told his fellow captives: “I am thankful we (Germany) didn’t succeed” in building the bomb.