

Newspaper Clips

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Seven top IITs will get a free hand to fix fee structures

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NEW DELHI: Seven top Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will be allowed to fix their own fee structure without consulting the apex council that governs these premier institutes for technical education in the country.

The move to grant them fee autonomy is part of a larger project called Vishwajeet, which is aimed at assisting the IITs to improve their global university rankings. None of the IITs are in the top 200 of the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Ranking for 2016-17, in which IIT Bombay is the lone entry in the 351-400 rankings.

“The decision to fix the fee of students would be delegated to the board of governors (BoG) of these institutions,” a source said.

At present, the fee structure is determined by the IIT council, the top decision-making body, which is chaired by the Union human resource development minister and includes IIT directors and board of governors of

THE MOVE TO GRANT THE IITs FEE AUTONOMY IS PART OF A LARGER PROJECT TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

each institute.

Each IIT charges ₹2 lakh from BTech students, though these institutes spend almost ₹6 lakh a year on each student.

The IIT council approved project Vishwajeet on August 24. The plan is to assist the IITs, especially the top seven — Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati — to make it to the top 100 global university rank

To be part of the project the IITs will have to ensure corpus fund of ₹500 crore by April 2018 and ₹1,000 crore by April 2021.

“This would require systematic efforts for attracting alumni contributions, corporate donations and corporate social responsibility funds,” the source said. **CONTINUED ON PAGE**

Seven top IITs to get free hand on fee structure

Each IIT will select five of its core areas of strength under the project, which will ensure specific interventions, including building new laboratories, hostels for international students, filling vacant faculty positions, and hiring foreign faculty.

Vishwajeet is likely to help IITs solve their funds constraints, though the government is yet to allocate money required to go ahead with the plan.

Institutes such as IIT Delhi have been collecting and spending funds from its alumni network and other sources for infrastructure development.

The Delhi institute requires Rs 1,000 crore to construct additional laboratories and hostels, but hasn't made much headway in funding. The scenario is similar at IIT Bombay. Construction of hostels and plans to buy research equipment are on hold because of funds crunch.

“The project is required as our funding is not sufficient to construct new labs or buildings. As far as fixing the fee structure is concerned, we haven't discussed it yet,” said an IIT director who didn't wish to be named.

The seven IITs will have to make a presentation on October 20, after which the fee structure aspect would be taken up, another director said.

With inputs from Rozelle Laha

Hari Bhumi ND 14.10.2016 P-11

आईआईटी में आसानी से पढ़ा सकेगी विदेशी फैकेल्टी

कविता जोशी, नई दिल्ली

इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में देश के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों की सूची में शुमार भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में अब विदेशी फैकेल्टी आसानी से पढ़ा सकेगी। क्योंकि केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एचआरडी) ने इसके लिए नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने की कवायद शुरू कर दी है। पहले नियुक्ति की जटिल प्रक्रिया होने की वजह से विदेशी फैकेल्टी का आईआईटी संस्थानों की ओर जल्द आगमन नहीं हो पा रहा था। विदेशी फैकेल्टी के आईआईटी में पढ़ाने से यह प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी। बाद में इसका उच्च-शिक्षा के अन्य संस्थानों में भी विस्तार किया जाएगा।

आईआईटी में पढ़ाने से यह प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी। बाद में इसका उच्च-शिक्षा के अन्य संस्थानों में भी विस्तार किया जाएगा।

एचआरडी मंत्रालय के उच्चपदस्थ सूत्रों ने हरिभूमि को बताया कि इस मामले को लेकर



मंत्रालय में बीते कुछ समय से गंभीरता से विचार किया जा रहा था। हाल ही में मंत्रालय में इसे लेकर एक उच्चस्तरीय बैठक का भी आयोजन किया गया। इसमें एचआरडी मंत्रालय के अलावा विदेश और गृह मंत्रालय के आला अधिकारी भी शामिल हुए। इस बैठक में विदेशी फैकेल्टी की नियुक्ति की

प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाने के मुद्दे से जुड़े लगभग सभी पहलुओं पर व्यापक चर्चा की गई और नियमों को आसान बनाने पर सहमति बनी।

जटिल प्रक्रिया से होती थी परेशानी

पूर्व में विदेशी फैकेल्टी की नियुक्ति की

प्रक्रिया बेहद जटिल थी। किसी भी प्रोफेसर द्वारा आईआईटी की फैकेल्टी के लिए आवेदन किए जाने के बाद एचआरडी मंत्रालय की ओर से विदेश और गृह मंत्रालय की मंजूरी के लिए एक फाइल भेजी जाती थी। वहां से तमाम पेचीदगियों के हल हो जाने के बाद अंतिम निर्णय आते-आते लंबा समय लग जाता था। इसकी वजह से विदेशी फैकेल्टी की रूचि में भी गिरावट देखने को मिल रही थी। लेकिन अब इस समस्या से निजात पाने के लिए मंत्रालय नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाने में लगा हुआ है। नियुक्ति के समय पांच साल का कंट्रैक्ट होगा जिसके तहत ये लोग आईआईटी में पढ़ाने के लिए भारत आ सकेंगे।

इंडियन फैकेल्टी के बराबर सैलरी

मंत्रालय का कहना है कि जो भी व्यक्ति फैकेल्टी के रूप में यहां आईआईटी में

पढ़ाने के लिए आएंगे। उन्हें संस्थानों में पहले से पढ़ा रही भारतीय फैकेल्टी के बराबर ही वेतन दिया जाएगा। भारत एक बड़ी आबादी वाला देश है। इसलिए यहां आकर पढ़ाने से विदेशी फैकेल्टी का बाकी देशों में प्रचार और प्रभाव बढ़ेगा। साथ ही विदेशी फैकेल्टी के पढ़ाने से इन संस्थानों की विश्वस्तरीय रैंकिंग में सुधार आएगा।

23 आईआईटी संस्थानों को लाभ

मंत्रालय के इस निर्णय से सीधे तौर पर देश में स्थित कुल 23 आईआईटी संस्थानों को सीधा लाभ होगा। इसमें आईआईटी भिलाई, इंदौर, रोपड़, दिल्ली, गांधीनगर, रुड़की, मंडी, वाराणसी, गोवा, जम्मू, धारवाड़, तिरुपति, पालघाट, पटना, जोधपुर, हैदराबाद, मद्रास, बॉम्बे, कानपुर, खड़गपुर, गोवाहाटी, भुवनेश्वर, धनबाद शामिल हैं।

Economic Times P-1

Banned Startups Still Plan to Hire IITians

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New Delhi: Startups across sectors are reporting interest from students in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), suggesting that the year-long ban imposed by the IITs' placement committee on startups at campus recruitment drives has not affected their plans to hire top talent.

In August, 30 companies, mostly startups, were blacklisted by the All IIT Placement Committee (AIPC) and barred from taking part in the campus placement process for renegeing on job offers and delaying joining dates, among other changes.

While the final year students at these institutes could not be reached for comment, founders of startups that ET spoke with, including NowFloats, Babajobs, ConsultLane, Mera Hunar, CashCare and Portea Medical, Medd (now part of Img Technologies) and Runnr, claimed that startups have not fallen off the radar for IIT students. "It was unfair to ban us without issuing any warning. This ban will not prevent us from taking top talent from the IITs," Jasminder Singh Gulati, chief executive of NowFloats, told ET. Gulati's company is planning to hire at least half a dozen engineers from the IITs. "Startups like ours need premier engineering talent to thrive in the competition and even the IIT students are looking forward to join startups like ours."

Vinay Dalal, director of Mera Hunar, said, "Students from the IITs are reaching out to us in any case despite the official ban." Dalal said bigger startups were given a chance to explain, unlike smaller ones.

ConsultLane too has been getting a good response from students, said its founder Dinesh Sharma.

The company is also looking at making lateral engineering hires, besides making fresh recruitment from the IITs. "We are looking at lateral hires too this year apart from getting talent from the engineering colleges," said Sharma.

Vir Kashyap, chief operating officer at Ba-

bajobs, said, "This year, we are looking at lateral hires as we have a few positions open that need experience too."

Healthcare startup Portea Medical, which has the backing of International Finance Corporation, Accel, Qualcomm Ventures and Ventureast, is planning to take in six engineers this year. The company is looking at hiring premium talent.

"We are seeing interest from talent across the board, including from the IITs. For new engineering graduates, we will be looking for placement in the coming year, as the season hasn't commenced as yet for them," said Meena Ganesh, managing director of Portea, adding, "We do not have a specific number that we wish to recruit from IITs as such."

Mera Hunar's Dalal said the IITs are biased towards bigger startups as they were given time to explain the delays.

CashCare's founder Vikas Sekhri said, "Student interest has not died down as the reality is everyone needs a job." His company requires about 10 engineers (freshers) this year.

Medd is still getting invitations from IITs for placements. The company was acquired by Img in July this year. "We still cannot figure out the real issue for the ban despite the fact that we actually selected and absorbed two students in the last placement," said Arpit Kothari, cofounder of erstwhile Medd.

ET also reached out to other blacklisted companies, including Grofers, Click-labs, Grabhouse, Stayzilla, Zettata, Hopscotch and Lexinnova Technologies, but could not elicit a response.

The AIPC is unlikely to revoke the ban. "We are just protecting students' welfare. Companies have no right behaving unprofessionally with students," said a spokesperson for AIPC, requesting not to be named. The spokesperson said one of the startups barred has written to one of the IITs asking for a day 1 slot. "But there are a few well behaved startups, like Flipkart, that have kept us in the loop about the deferred placements from the very beginning," he said.

Why Indian universities score dismally low in global rankings

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/why-indian-universities-score-dismally-low-in-global-rankings/articleshow/54829616.cms>

NEW DELHI: Indian educational institutions have again had a poor run in global ratings with none, including the prestigious IITs, making it to the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings. And experts are now rooting for a complete overhaul of the education system in a country that is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's population.

Only two institutions could make it to the top 200 universities of the QS Rankings -- the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru at 152, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi at 185. While there were four more IITs ranked among the 400 top universities, the other jewel in the crown of India's higher education system, the University of Delhi, didn't figure even among the top 500.

Experts attribute several reasons for such poor showing, from lack of competent teachers to shortage of funds. But for some, the reasons do not solely concern the quality of the institutions per se.

"Two of the factors on which educational institutes are ranked are the number of foreign faculty and foreign students. We score zero on these two," Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi, told IANS.

He said ranking agencies were of the view that "if you are globally-reputed then why don't students and teachers flock to your places? And then you get marked down on the criterion of 'perception' as well".

Rao said enrolling international students at the cost of domestic students was always a concern.

"But owing to the rankings pressure, from this year we are starting a special fee structure for foreign students, and JEE (Joint Entrance Exam) will be conducted in five different countries from next year. We are looking forward to hiring foreign faculty on contract basis as well, but the question remains who will stay on at our salary standards," asked IIT-Delhi Director.

Jamia Milia Islamia Vice Chancellor Talat Ahmed also underlined the same points even as he discredited the world university ranking system as prone to rigging and unsuitable for Indian educational institutes.

"The criteria laid down by them (ranking agencies) are favourable to Western universities. America hunts its faculty from around the world, and scoops away the most brilliant of minds. Moreover, good students who don't get accommodated here leave for Western countries. Both these work in their favour," Ahmed told IANS.

"We have ended up creating a few 'islands of excellence' in the country. That's all. But we are trying to change that. National Institutional Rankings Framework (NIRF) is a step in that direction," he said, referring to the internal assessment methodology of the Ministry of Human Resource Development adopted last year.

However, the assessment system is not in itself a panacea for all ills.

As C. Raj kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University, said, global rankings cannot be ignored because "that will only reinforce our inability to focus on improving the quality of our higher education institutions.

"The last decade has witnessed enormous progress in universities across Asia such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore,

South Korea, Taipei and, of course, Japan. Unfortunately, India has not seen this improvement."

Raj Kumar also emphasised on the need to make our universities "completely autonomous and independent", and make provision for at least 10 per cent of foreign teachers and students.

He welcomed the government's recent proposal of empowering 10 public and 10 private universities and making them world class.

Raj Kumar also suggested creating Special Education Zones (SEZ)-- on the lines of Special Economic Zones -- for building world-class universities in India.

But several shortcomings of the Indian higher education system are not merely infrastructural but attitudinal as well, said Yugank Goyal, Associate Professor of Economics at O.P. Jindal Global University.

He said he had found Indian students reluctant to be academicians "because the job of teaching is not financially rewarding (and) the most talented pool of individuals gets scared away from this profession".

"As a result, we have to create an army of ad-hoc teachers in colleges. We are not sincere about education in India."

DNA ND 14.10.2016 P-17

IIT alumni network to train underprivileged youth

Getting a push with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Skill India programme, the foundation is looking at expanding past their current work with the states of Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu

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After successfully training over 80,000 youth and getting them placed in various sectors in the skill industry, the alumni network of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is looking to open skill training centres across the country to help close the rising skill-gap in the country.

The alumni network of the premier institution has been running a PanIIT Alumni Reach for India Foundation (PARFI), which they call Gurukul.

Young men and women from underprivileged families receive training in various technical skills like construction, medical services, logistics, electrical and others in these Gurukuls and get assured placements.

Getting a push with Prime Min-

LET'S EDUCATE

PARFI is a demand-led training model by which the members of the foundation train students according to the demands of the industry. Even before the students are admitted in Gurukul, the members of the association conduct their research in the industry and train students accordingly in the required skills.

The infrastructure support is provided by the government and teachers and training is provided by the institute, which runs on a loan-based model for students. The students get loans from NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), which they have to repay after they get a job.



Alumni of Construction Gurukul

ister Narendra Modi's Skill India programme, the foundation is looking at expanding in a bigger way now. PARFI had so far been actively working with Jharkhand government and Tamil Nadu government. After their success, the foundation is now in talks with other state governments too and is looking to explore possibilities in Agriculture sector in states like Punjab, UP and Haryana.

"We want to expand our centres as there is tremendous scope in a lot of fields like Agriculture in various parts of India. New technology is coming in the field

The industry needs skilled people who are well-equipped to handle new technology.

— **Ashank Desai**,
Co-Chairman, PARFI

which people are not aware about and the industry needs skilled people who are well-equipped with the new technology. This is where we can come in and train the youth to be employable," said Ashank Desai, Co-Chairman PARFI.

"Our idea is to meet the demand for skilled youth, for which we need to train them in the way industry wants. The industry is changing and there is more use of technology in each sector now," he adds.

The foundation has started a pre-construction training centre where certain parts of a building are built at the centre and then assembled at the construction site. This training will be imparted by trainers at PARFI and is one of the ways in which the foundation is keeping pace with the rising demands of skill industry.

Asian Age ND 14.10.2016 P-2

Jammu to get IIM, with out-campus in Kashmir

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development package for Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Cabinet gave its approval on Thursday for setting up the country's 20th Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Jammu from the current academic session. It would further be expanded to an out-campus in Kashmir region.

Union HRD minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters that the Cabinet approved the modernisation of infrastructure in NIT-Srinagar campus will now begin as funding of ₹100 crore has been approved for the purpose besides a ₹50-crore project for seven hostels for girl students — three in Jammu region, three in the Valley and one in Leh.

The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister approved the establishment and operationalisation of IIM at Jammu in a temporary campus at Old Government College of Engineering and Technology from the Academic Year 2016-17.

"I am happy that the 20th IIM has been approved by

OMAR CALLS NOD TO INSTITUTE 'BLATANT PARTISAN POLITICS'

Srinagar, Oct. 13: Opposition National Conference (NC) working president Omar Abdullah on Thursday termed as "blatant partisan politics" the Centre's decision to set up an IIM in Jammu region and hit out at Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, saying she had sold her soul to remain in power.

"Jammu gets the IIT & gets the IIM also. Where have all those voices that called for balanced regional development in J-K disappeared?" the former J-K chief minister tweeted.

He was reacting to the Union Cabinet's nod to



Omar Abdullah

establish an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Jammu region.

Earlier, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was also approved for the Jammu region.

The decision to approve the IIM for Jammu is just blatant partisan politics, Omar said. —PTI

the Cabinet today. We have already started the academic session because the announcement for its operationalisation from 2016-17 session was made in the budget itself," Mr Javadekar said. "In around 67 years of independence, 13 IIMs were set up while seven new IIMs have been set up in the past two years only," he said.

The project will involve a cost of ₹61.90 crore in temporary campus for the initial four years from 2016 to 2020.

The student strength intake for this year in the post-graduate diploma programme (PGDP) in management is 54 which will progressively go up to a cumulative student strength of 120 in the fourth year.