

# Newspaper Clips

## October 19, 2013

### Pallam Raju's absence delays NIT fee hike

Deccan Herald

**A final decision on the proposed hike in tuition fee for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) could not be taken as Human Resource Development Minister M M Pallam Raju skipped the council meeting here on Friday.**

The day-long meeting, however, continued in absence of the minister. Most of the NIT directors endorsed the proposal to increase the tuition fee for the BTech, MTech and MCA programmes up to Rs 70,000 per annum from next year.

“Most of the NIT directors endorsed a standing committee’s recommendation to hike the institutes’ tuition fee at the meeting. This, however, can not be construed as an endorsement by the council as it would require approval of the HRD minister to bring the proposed hike into effect,” sources told Deccan Herald.

The minister, who happens to be the chairperson of the council, is not participating in the ministry’s meetings after handing over his resignation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in protest against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

The NITs have been pitching for a fee hike for several years. A recommendation to increase the fee up to Rs 50,000 per annum for the BTech and MTech programmes for the academic year 2012-13 was made in 2011.

The proposal was, however, rejected by the council, headed by erstwhile HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, who is now the Telecom Minister.

Raju’s absence has cast shadow over the fate of the proposed hike.

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# 100% hike in NIT fees from next session

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Council of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) has approved an almost 100% fee hike from Rs 35,000 to Rs 70,000 per annum from the next academic session.

It needs to be pointed out that fees across 30 NITs is not uniform. In some of the NITs, annual fee is less than Rs 30,000 per annum. But with the fee hike, a uniformity has been brought. Fee hike was suggested by several committees. One of the recommendations has been that at least 50% of the faculty's salary should be generated from within the institutes. "This is being done to make NITs autonomous," a ministry source said.

The council also decided that 10% non-creamy layer OBC students would get a fee waiver of 50%. Fee-waiver would be entirely merit-based, one NIT director said.

The council agreed to get accredited by the National Board of Accreditation. IITs had opposed this proposal on the ground that their quality is superior. However, IITs have agreed to self-assess themselves and submit it to NBA. An NIT director



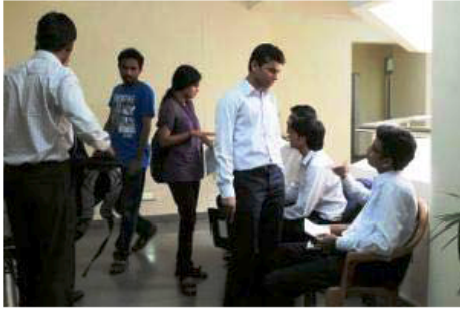
## FINANCIAL BURDEN

said, "Accreditation is always a good idea. It helps in correcting mistakes and improving quality. This is being done so that India can become a member of the Washington Accord."

In a bid to encourage transparency NITs have decided to start a separate portal on which students, parents and faculty would have the freedom to point out loopholes in the working of institutions as well as cases where rule book has not been followed. Malaviya NIT in Jaipur has already started a portal and appointed a nodal officer to monitor cases of corruption. A ministry official said, "Be it IITs or NITs we want these institutions to be role models of transparency. Institutes should not remain opaque to the outside world if it has to attract the best talent."

# IIT-Madras professors go on road shows to woo students

M Ramya, TNN | Oct 19, 2013, 04:18 AM IST



*Three or four faculty members from each department have been visiting other centrally-funded institutions like the National Institutes of Technology, state-funded institutions and private self-financing colleges and universities as well.*

CHENNAI: IIT-Madras faculty are going on road shows across the country to market the institute's research programmes. The initiative is being taken this year to woo the brightest minds in other leading higher educational institutions.

Three or four faculty members from each department have been visiting other centrally-funded institutions like the National Institutes of Technology, state-funded institutions and private self-financing colleges and universities as well. "We want to increase the quality and quantity of our PhD intake," said IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

The institutions are chosen based on student intake in the past. Around 10 visits were planned, and the interactions will end by October 20, before the PhD application deadline. The institute enrolls research scholars twice a year - once in June and another in November or December. Ramamurthi said that the faculty members may go on a similar round of visits to institutions next April, ahead of the June intake.

The faculty in groups of three or four have been giving presentations on the teaching and research capabilities of the various departments, and talking about the kind of expertise IIT-Madras has to offer, funding patterns and other opportunities for higher education.

IIT-Madras has come up with several initiatives to draw more research applications with better quality this year. Research scholars have been given the option of undertaking inter-disciplinary research spanning more than one department. The initiatives are taken to increase the number of PhDs pass out from the IITs from the current 3,000 to 10,000 a year, as per the Kakodkar Committee's recommendations.

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## IIT-B, US univ join hands for biz interface

**Mumbai:** The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) and Washington University in St Louis (WUSTL) will launch the IIT B-WUSTL-Corporate Network, which intends to bring together academia and industry to encourage research in disciplines relevant to industry, government and society and to train employees and leaders. The network will be launched on Saturday, when the IIT B-Washington University Corporate Leaders Conclave to be held in St Louis, US, starts. "Networks of innovative scientists and professionals like this corporate alliance are the foundation for this collaborative, global approach," said Mark Wrighton, chancellor, WUSTL.

Leaders from IIT-B and WUSTL and other major international corporations will be participating in the conclave, which is aimed at strengthening the US-India connection around innovation and education, particularly in the areas of global concern.

"In a globalized economy, it is important for us to understand the emerging requirements of the industry and get together with them to address their concerns and to provide the right kind of trained manpower to them," said IITB director Devang Khakhar. **TNN**

HT Kolkata

# Decks cleared: ISM teachers to receive IIT-standard salary

**Sharad Chandra**

■ htjharkhand@hindustantimes.com

**DHANBAD:** Decks have been cleared for Indian School of Mines (ISM) faculty members getting salary similar to that of their IIT counterparts.

The ISM governing body had sent proposal in this connection to the Union human resource and development (HRD) ministry, which has reportedly given a go-ahead. Implementation of the new pay scale is likely to be announced in the ISM executive board meeting to be held in New Delhi on October 28.

ISM registrar Col (retd.) MK Singh said, "The Union HRD ministry has agreed to pay us IIT-standard salary. It will be in practice from October, as the notification in this regard was issued on September 6."

At present, two pay scales are in practice at ISM. Faculty members appointed before 2008 get IIT-standard salary. But those who joined after 2008 draw sal-

ary based on the pay scale of University Grant Commission (UGC).

The newly appointed teachers had been demanding uniformity in the pay scales, as their job profiles and other terms and conditions of service were similar.

The HRD ministry decision has not only made the teachers happy but also made ISM students upbeat.

"We are pleased to know that our all faculty members will get salary according to IIT pay scale. Now, it seems that we are close to the IIT tag," said Shashank Shekhar, a final-year student of the Dhanbad institution. Students of ISM had launched a protest on August 27 at Randhir Verma Chauk, demanding the coveted IIT tag. The waves of protest reached Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Students also met MPs, ministers and All India Congress Committee vice-president Rahul Gandhi to press for their demand.

## IIMs to include dyslexia under differently abled category

Staff Reporter



The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will now expand the definition of persons with disabilities to include dyslexia under it.

This comes a day after *The Hindu* reported that candidates like Sohan Sinha (name changed), a dyslexic, were being denied reservation under the differently-abled category for appearing for the Common Admission Test (CAT) and for admission to MBA course.

Had not the IIMs decided to include dyslexia under the differently abled category, people like Sohan Sinha would not have been able to appear for the CAT under the differently abled category.

Despite the Delhi High Court's 2010 Order to consider dyslexia under mental retardation, the IIMs had initially refused to allow dyslexic candidates to register under the persons with disability category citing that 'The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995' had not been amended.

CAT 2013 convener Rohit Kapoor told *The Hindu* that the IIMs had arrived at a consensus to include dyslexia under the differently abled category after a meeting on Friday.