

Newspaper Clips
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आइआइटी में 1880 छात्रों को आज मिलेगी डिग्री

जागरण संवाददाता, दक्षिणी दिल्ली : भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी) दिल्ली में 46वें दीक्षांत समारोह की तैयारी पूरी कर ली गई है। इस बार समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के गवर्नर रघुराम राजन होंगे। स्नातक, स्नातकोत्तर व पीएचडी के कुल 1880 छात्रों को डिग्री दी जाएगी। इसमें 221 लोगों को पीएचडी की डिग्री दी जाएगी। संस्थान एक साल में पहली बार इतनी बड़ी संख्या में पीएचडी की डिग्री देने जा रहा है। वहीं, पिछले वर्ष कुल 178 छात्रों ने पीएचडी की डिग्री हासिल की थी। आइआइटी दिल्ली के कार्यकारी निदेशक डॉ.क्षितिज गुप्ता ने बताया कि देश में आइआइटी व एनआइटी समेत सरकारी व निजी क्षेत्र के प्रौद्योगिकी के उच्चस्तर के नए संस्थान व विश्वविद्यालय खुल रहे हैं। भविष्य में बड़े पैमाने पर ऐसे लोगों की जरूरत होगी जो इन संस्थानों में शिक्षण कार्य कर सकें। वह दीक्षांत समारोह

♦ संस्थान के 46वें दीक्षांत समारोह में रघुराम राजन होंगे मुख्य अतिथि

की पूर्व संध्या पर प्रेसवार्ता में बोल रहे थे।

गुप्ता ने संकेत दिए कि आगे शोध कार्यों पर और फोकस किया जाएगा और यह संख्या 300 से अधिक की जाएगी। इस वर्ष 770 छात्रों को स्नातक की डिग्री दी जाएगी, जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह संख्या 714 थी। वहीं, 889 लोगों को पीजी की डिग्री दी जाएगी। संस्थान ने एक दशक बाद अपने पीजी पाठ्यक्रम में भी कुछ बदलाव किए हैं। इसमें कई इलेक्टिव विषय जोड़े गए हैं। डीन, एकेडमिक्स अनुराग शर्मा ने बताया कि आइआइटी दिल्ली का मास्टर प्लान अप्रूव हो गया है। संस्थान में जल्द लड़के व लड़कियों के लिए एक-एक नए हॉस्टल, एक स्टेडियम, दो नए एकेडमिक ब्लॉक बनवाए जाएंगे।

IIT Delhi shelves plans for IIT-like institution in Mauritius

S.M. Ishtiaque, who was appointed by IIT Delhi as the executive director of IIT-RA, has returned to the Delhi campus

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/3c39Go3q0Qop8mMTnciZzH/IIT-Delhi-shelves-plans-for-IITlike-institution-in-Mauritiu.html>

New Delhi: After a prolonged controversy during which its previous director lost his job, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, on Friday said its plan to set up an IIT-like institution in Mauritius has been shelved.

The International Institution of Technology Research Academy (IIT-RA), commonly referred to as IIT Mauritius, has been put in cold storage. “Nothing is happening now,” said Kshitij Gupta, officiating director of IIT-Delhi.

IIT-Delhi has also pulled out all its resources from institutions in Mauritius.

S.M. Ishtiaque, who was appointed by IIT-Delhi as the executive director of IIT-RA, has returned to the Delhi campus, Gupta said, and no students are being admitted to those institutions via IIT-Delhi.

IIT-Delhi, which broke into the top 200 QS global universities ranking this year along with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has since 2012 touted the project as one that will make it a global player. But in 2014, after the change of government, it ran into rough weather as the new dispensation at the human resource development ministry found fault with the venture.

Then IIT-Delhi director R.K. Shevgaonkar said in May 2012 that IITs wanted to make their presence felt overseas. “We now have the expertise and know-how to set up an IIT-like institute. It will have a huge impact on our brand image,” Shevgaonkar said.

Shevgaonkar resigned from his post in December 2014 after a run-in with the human resource development ministry over the issue.

In 2010, then HRD minister Kapil Sibal and Mauritius’s minister of tertiary education, science, research and technology, Rajesh Jeetah, had expressed the willingness to open an institute similar to the IIT in the island nation.

Gupta said the situation was at a “standstill” but did not mention the HRD ministry as the reason for shelving of the IIT-RA. “There is a change in the government in Mauritius and we did not get the kind of cooperation we were looking for. May be they are not ready yet,” Gupta said.

He added that it would not be fair to say that IIT-RA is dead. “In a few months a clear picture will emerge,” Gupta said.

A government official said that the HRD ministry had no role to play beyond telling IIT-Delhi that it won’t be able to award degrees to IIT-RA students as per the IIT Act.

IIT-RA was supposed to admit post-graduate and research students and some 40 IIT-Delhi faculty members were to be involved. Degrees were to be given by IIT-Delhi.

IIT-RA was aimed at attracting foreign researchers and students, mainly from Africa and Asia.

IIT Delhi to Hold Mega Science Festival

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/IIT-Delhi-to-Hold-Mega-Science-Festival/2015/10/30/article3105553.ece>

NEW DELHI: IIT Delhi is gearing up for a mega science festival on its campus in December organised in association with Vijnana Bharati, formerly known as a swadeshi science movement working towards implementation of modern technology and ancient sciences in the country.

Close to 3000-4000 people are expected to descend on the campus from December 4 to 8 for the event, expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Christened as the 'India International Science Festival', the Department of Science and Technology is the other major partner. Vijnana Bharati is incidentally being headed by Vijay Bhatkar who is the chairman of IIT Delhi's Board of Governors.

Informing about the grand event, officiating director of IIT Delhi Kshitij Gupta told reporters the sessions would comprise interaction with eminent scientists, expo award function, science film festival to showcasing of innovative models and young scientists meet. Vijnana Bharati was initiated by RSS minded scientists of Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and is considered one of the largest science promotion bodies in the country conducting its activities through 22 independent units functioning in various parts of the country.

One of the theme of the event is innovative agricultural practices and livestock management. Earlier in January this year, participating at a programme under the Unnat Bharat initiative, yoga guru Baba Ramdev had discussed the importance of cows in addressing rural issues. Inviting Ramdev and an RSS affiliate for deliberations had itself raised eyebrows and triggered a controversy.

Asked the justification of collaboration with right wing outfits, Gupta asserted that "there should be no objections associating with any group as long as the objective is addressing issues through interventions of science and technology". Highlighting steps taken in the campus during the year including overhauling the PG courses, Gupta reacted with caution to the controversy surrounding the proposed research centre in Mauritius supported by IIT Delhi.

While the present dispensation has questioned the legal standing of the campus there, Gupta refused to comment about its fate but blamed the new government there for the uncertain future of the yet to start venture. Asked about his reaction to a proposal to collect the running expenses of IITs through student tuition fee, he appeared to suggest that any hike should be considered two to three years from now.

Union HRD ministry issues a clarification on IIT story, TOI reporter responds

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Union-HRD-ministry-issues-a-clarification-on-IIT-story-TOI-reporter-responds/articleshow/49583930.cms?>

NEW DELHI: With regard to the news report "[3 IIT Deans threaten to quit over HRD interference](#)", the HRD ministry has said that forwarding a grievance petition for consideration at the level of the board of governors is normal action as in all grievance petitions and the standard operating procedure.

"It is up to the BOG to accept it or reject the petition," the ministry has said. The ministry has said that it had acted as per the Act and statutes and principles and practice of good governance. The ministry has regretted that its action has been termed as interference and said it was working with IITs for building them into robust institutions with adequate

financial and administrative autonomy.

Tug of War between MHRD & Institutes heats up

<http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/tug-of-war-between-mhrd-institutes-heats-up-36823658>

On Tuesday, [we discussed](#) how the MHRD was finding it difficult to intervene in a tussle between NIT Rourkela's Director and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

Over the last few days, reports of the MHRD interfering with IITs and NITs have been pouring out. First, [it was an article in the Telegraph](#) that mentioned the MHRD setting up a committee to create a model syllabus, common for all NITs. This is a move towards complete uniformity, which runs against the autonomy the NITs enjoy at present.

Yesterday, [Times of India ran a front page story](#) of how the MHRD was interfering in the operation of IIT Delhi, with the deans threatening to quit. This comes after last year's fracas, when the IIT-D Director, Prof. R K Shevgaonkar, resigned in protest against the interference he faced. The [Times ran a follow-up story today](#) as well, mentioning that Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Bombay had resigned in March this year after disagreement with the MHRD.

But it is not always that an MHRD intervention results in allegations of intrusion and disagreement. [Yesterday, NDTV reported](#) that the MHRD has instructed all state boards to declare the Class 12 results by May 31 next year. This comes in response to this year's delay in starting the Joint Seat Allocation process, which could not start in time, because some boards had not released their results in time for CBSE to tabulate the results and generate the JEE (Main) ranks. If the intervention succeeds, this will be a very welcome move.

IIT-D TO HOST 'INDIGENOUS SCIENCE' FEST FROM DEC 5

Heena Kausar

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi will host a science festival on its campus in association with Vijnana Bharati, a swadeshi science movement working towards interlinking traditional and modern sciences with natural and spiritual sciences.

The 'India International Science Festival' will be held from December 4 to 8 and is expected to be attended by nearly 3,000 people. IIT-D officials said that the event was being organised by the ministry of science and technology and ministry of earth sciences.

Vijnana Bharati is headed by Vijay Bhatkar, who is the chairman of IIT Delhi's board of governors.

The science festival will have many themes, including 'Indigenous Science and Technology', and 'Innovative Agricultural Practices and Livestock Management'.

"The sessions will comprise interaction with eminent scientists, expo award function, science film festival to showcase innovative models, and meeting of young scientists. It is being organised by Vijnana Bharati and the department of science and technology. We are providing the venue," said officiating director of IIT Delhi Kshitij Gupta.

Vijnana Bharati was established by KI Basu and other scientists at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, with an aim to adapt modern sciences to national needs.

Vijnana Bharati conducts its activities through 22 independent units functioning in various parts of the country.

Asked about IIT-D collaborating with outfits considered to be right wing, Gupta said, "There should be no objections associating with any group as long as the objective is addressing issues through interventions of science and technology."

This year, IIT-D will award 221 PhD degrees, a 22% jump compared to the average over last two years. In 2014, it had awarded 178 PhD degrees.

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DU, JNU teachers join protest against UGC

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NEW DELHI: Teachers from Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University joined the protest by students against the move of UGC to do away with non-NET fellowship. Students in many universities across the country held protest against UGC's move on Friday.

JNU professor Janaki Nair held a class at the venue of the Occupy UGC movement and addressed the students.

"She spoke on the topic 'What is Endangering Higher Education. We were also joined by DU professor Nandini Sundar. Students from International Hindi University, Wardha also came to express their solidarity and support to the movement," said AISA national president Sucheta De said. De said that students in many universities across the country are protesting against UGC's move.

Follow Norms, HRD, Don't Turn Ad-Hoc

The ministry of human resource development (HRD) is wrong to ask the University Grants Commission to bend the rules to permit Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, a publicly funded deemed university, to affiliate colleges and set up off-campus centres, in effect, function like a full-fledged university that it is not. Institutions that the UGC finds fit to be given autonomy to set courses and syllabus are given the deemed university status. Unlike universities, the deemed universities cannot affiliate colleges or set up off-campus centres, as Symbiosis of Pune found out when its application was turned down. Deemed universities should be allowed to graduate to

full-fledged universities, of course. But it must be on the basis of clearly laid out criteria that institutions have to meet.



If the HRD ministry is of the view that the existing norms are faulty, it must bring in better regulations. But in seeking an exemption, the ministry bats for ad hocism and patronage, both inimical to promoting innovation and excellence, besides to the Modi administration's stated intention of ensuring a level playing field, fairness, and transparency in its dealings. This same lack of transparency and adherence to norms is evident in many of its appointments to key posts in research and educational institutions. Every administration reserves the right to appoint people who share their vision of the future. However, such appointees must have basic competence and be chosen in a transparent manner.

Education is the route to progress, prosperity and benign coherence. Advancing education is a key responsibility of any government. To eschew transparency and clear norms in favour of ad hocism and patronage is to abdicate that responsibility, jeopardising the country's future.

AICTE Plans Stringent Norms for Approval

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/AICTE-Plans-Stringent-Norms-for-Approval/2015/10/31/article3105958.ece

COIMBATORE: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) may come up with stringent norms for granting approval to technical education institutions in the country. The council is also likely to finalise an 'Approval Process Handbook' for the 2016-17 academic year, in the third week of November.

According to sources in the AICTE, a key change being considered by the council is to make National Board of Accreditation (NBA) approval mandatory for institutions existing for more than eight years.

Only last year the AICTE decided to allow increase in intake and additional course to those institutions having valid NBA accredited courses.

“The council is also likely to have a re-look into its present system of granting approval based on information and documents submitted by the institutions by way of online applications. With a number of complaints against colleges not having adequate infrastructure and facility, the council could consider going for an onsite inspection before granting approval,” sources added.

Apart from this, the apex body for technical education is also mulling to reduce or cancel the processing fee for closure of an existing institution. The AICTE has already announced its plan to reduce BE/BTech seats by 40 per cent to maintain the quality of technical education imparted.

“Presently, if an institution wants to close down, a processing fee of ` 1.5 to 2 lakh has to be paid. Therefore, the AICTE is considering options like reducing or fully cancelling the processing fee to encourage institutions that failed to attract adequate students to close down,” sources added.

The AICTE recently conducted meetings of stakeholders in places like Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Delhi to finalise the Approval Process Handbook for 2016-17.

When contacted, AICTE Chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe said, “These are still in the discussion stage and nothing concrete has emerged. Moreover, changes need the approval of the council. We can discuss these only thereafter.”

Those wanting to set up new technical education institutions in the country have to get prior approval from the AICTE, a government body for technical education in the country.

In the case of existing institutions, they have to renew their approval every year.

Apart from this, existing institutions have to get an approval from the council for starting new branches of study or increasing their intake.

Court upholds UGC norms for VC posting

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/court-upholds-ugc-norms-for-vc-posting/article7825736.ece>

The Kerala High Court on Friday upheld a government order issued at the instance of a search committee headed by the Chancellor prescribing University Grants Commission (UGC) qualifications for candidates applying to the post of Calicut University Vice Chancellor.

Justice K. Vinod Chandran while dismissing a writ petition challenging the order observed that the government had the power to prescribe UGC qualifications for the post of Vice Chancellor.

Petitioner's contention

The petition was filed by P. Alassankutty, a college teacher in Malappuram.

He argued that the university Acts or laws did not provide for qualification as prescribed in the notification. It was beyond the power of the search committee.

Opposing the petition, the government, in an affidavit, said that the search committee constituted by the Chancellor had the power to prescribe UGC qualifications for selection of Vice Chancellors.

The notification prescribing the qualifications was issued because the University Act was silent on the mode of procedure to be adopted by the search committee for selection of Vice Chancellors.

The notification invited nominations from candidates with the qualification of minimum 10 years of experience as professors in the university system or 10 years experience in equivalent position in a reputed research and academic administrative organisations and with qualification prescribed by the UGC.

The government had said that it had received several complaints in the past that persons who had been appointed as Vice Chancellors of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kannur University, and the Cochin University of Science and Technology had never held the post of professor and did not have the UGC-prescribed qualifications.

UGC letter

The government had also received a letter from the UGC requesting it to ensure that all the appointments to Vice Chancellors' posts were made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Regulations of UGC as the appointments of Vice Chancellors had become a subject of widespread criticism.

It was within the powers of the search committee to adopt the UGC regulations, the letter said.

The affidavit said that, in fact, the Calicut University Act had vested the search committee with the powers to decide the mode of appointment of Vice Chancellor in the university.