Newspaper Clips
Sept. 6-7, 2015

Sept. 6

Times Of India ND 06/09/2015
P-22

Panel: Withdrawal option after 2nd round in IIT, NIT admissions

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In the joint seat allocation process for admissions to IITs and NITs next year, the authority may allow admission withdrawal option once at the end of the second round. If recommendations made to the Joint Admission Board (JAB) are accepted, the process will undergo a few changes in 2016.

Among others, the admission committee has also suggested that seats vacant in any course in IITs should be carried forward for admissions to the first year BTech programme the following year. This will mean, if three of the 110 seats are vacant in BTech computer science programme at IIT-Bombay this year for any reason, 113 seats will be made available for students in 2016. The recommendations were submitted in their final admission report submitted to the board last month.

An official said that the joint seat allocation process was quite successful this year for IITs as less than 50 seats were vacant at the end of it. "But if all seats need to be filled in IITs and NITs, then we need to hold more rounds. For this, we will have to start the process early," he said.

This year, IITs carried out three rounds of admissions, while NITs had four. The admission process, however, could start only on July 1 after the CBSE submitted the Class XII scores of over 45 higher secondary education boards. "If 4-5 rounds are conducted, there is a possibility that all seats will be full. We also need to give students at least 1 to 2 weeks between the last admission date and the joining date to ensure they get enough time to reach their respective campuses," said the official.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Hindu ND 06/09/2015
P-18

Pan-IIT virtual centre for bioenergy launched

P. Narasimhan

CHENNAI: To develop advanced technologies in the area of bio-fuels, paving the way for a sustainable solution to the energy crisis, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has launched — Pan-IIT Centre for Bioenergy — a virtual centre spread across five Indian Institutes of Technology — Bombay, Kharagpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur, and Roorkee.

The first virtual centre for collaborative research, to be coordinated by IIT Bombay, will focus on the thematic areas of research in advance bio-fuel technologies, according to a release.

The collaboration, initiated in January 2015 and engaged a research team from the five participating institutes, consisting of 32 investigators who have been working on bioenergy, will jointly undertake research activities in cyanobacterial bio-fuels, biofuels from micro-algae, ligno-cellulosic bio-mass to biofuels and techno-economic and life cycle analysis.

The release said though the first virtual centre, it is the fourth centre in bioenergy research set up by DBT in addition to the DBT-IOC Centre for Advanced Bioenergy Faridabad, DBT-ICT Centre for Energy Biosciences, Mumbai and DBT-ICGEB Centre for Advanced Bioenergy, New Delhi.

The centre also aims to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the bioenergy industry in India, the release said.

The Sad Case of IIM-Sambalpur: No Teachers, No Students, No Campus

http://www.thequint.com/india/2015/09/04/the-sad-case-of-iim-sambalpur-no-teachers-no-students-no-campus

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Odisha has not got off to an auspicious start. The land for the campus is yet to be acquired, the first batch will have a mere seven students and the faculty are unwilling to re-locate to Sambalpur, where the institution is to set up.

The inaugural batch of the newest branch of India's premier management institute has almost no takers. Of the 60 seats on offer, only 12 were filled. Now, five prospective students also want to drop out.

It's not just a lack of students that stands in the way of the university becoming a centre for academic excellence. Faculty from IIM-Indore, which is the 'mentor' institute for IIM-Sambalpur, are also unwilling to relocate to the Odisha town. According to a report in the *Odisha Sun Times*, 12 faculty members from IIM-Indore have expressed their unwillingness to teach at Sambalpur to the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development.

Lack of Preparation?

Sambalpur was settled on as the site for the new IIM after a tussle between the Central government and the government of Odisha. While Bhubaneshwar was the HRD ministry's initial choice, Sambalpur, located in the western part of the state was finally settled on in June 2015 after recommendations from the state government.

A site has been identified for the construction of a permanent 231-acre campus of the new university at Bastanpur, in Sambalpur district. The site is on government land, but reliable sources within the government have told us that the project is yet to kick off, and even planning for the proposed campus hasn't begun in any meaningful way.

Till the campus does come up, classes will be carried out from the Silicon Institute of Technology (SIT), a private engineering college with multiple branches. A government source who prefers to remain anonymous has said that SIT is being given Rs 60 lakh per annum for the use of their facilities.

The Quint spoke to Pranati Singh, a Development Officer at SIT who told us that while classes are scheduled to begin from September 23, the college hasn't received any requests from the government with regard to infrastructure or other material requirements.
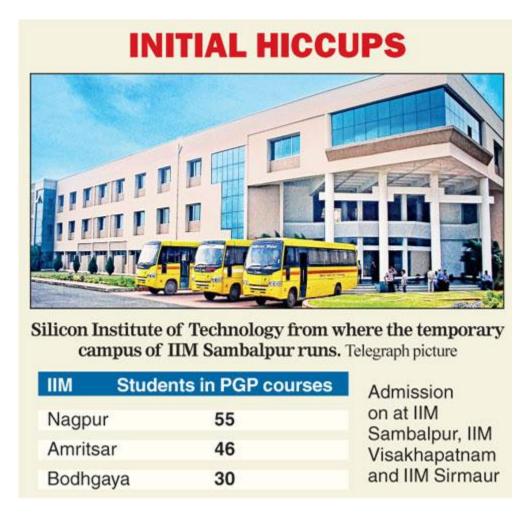
The committee meant to oversea the development of IIM-Sambalpur is set to meet on Sunday, September 6.

The question is, with seven students, no teachers and no campus, what will they discuss?

Vacant seats a big challenge for new IIMs

- Classes begin at Nagpur, Amritsar, Bodhgaya institutes, Sambalpur's turn from September end

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150906/jsp/frontpage/story_41042.jsp#.Ve0NsCulhWU

INITIAL HICCUPS

Silicon Institute of Technology from where the temporary campus of IIM Sambalpur runs. Telegraph picture

IIM	Students in PGP courses
Nagpur	55
Amritsar	46
Bodhgaya	30

Admission on at IIM Sambalpur, IIM Visakhapatnam and IIM Sirmaur

New Delhi, Sept. 5: The new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) started this year are struggling to fill up their seats, marking the beginning of their journey rather on a rough note.

The IIM Nagpur, the IIM Amritsar and the IIM Bodhgaya have started classes for the first batch of postgraduate programme (PGP) without being able to fill all the 60 seats. The institute in Bodhgaya could manage to fill just half the seats. The admission process is on in case of the IIMs in Sambalpur in Odisha, Visakhapatnam and Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh.

The older institutes are mentoring the new ones to help build the IIM culture in them. The IIM Indore is mentoring the IIM Sambalpur, which was supposed to start classes in September first week, but it has deferred the launch to fourth week in view of the low rate of acceptance of offers for admission, IIM Indore sources said.

The IIM Indore has decided to hold registration on September 23 when the students will submit fees, certificates for verification and enrol for the courses. The IIM Visakhapatnam and the IIM Sirmaur, which are mentored by the IIM Bangalore and the IIM Lucknow respectively, would hold registrations shortly.

An IIM Bangalore (IIMB) official said its faculty members have designed the academic programme for the IIM Visakhapatnam.

"They (IIMB faculty) will be available to the students of IIM Visakhapatnam for interaction and discussion," the official said.

The IIMB will leverage its industry connections to ensure that the IIM Visakhapatnam students enjoy as holistic and transformative a learning experience as their peers at the IIM Bangalore, the official said.

Though the budget for 2014-15 proposed to set up the six new IIMs, the Union cabinet on June 24 finally approved the proposals after locations for the campuses had been finalised. By the time the cabinet approved, the older IIMs had already completed admission and started their classes for this session.

Manish Kumar Thakur, a professor at IIM Calcutta, which is mentoring the IIM Bodhgaya, said the admission process for the new institution was to be carried in short span of time. The students, who have qualified in the common admission test, were offered admission. Depending on acceptance of the offers, the process continued for some time. "These are initial hiccups associated with any new institution," Thakur said.

However, former director of the IIM Kozhikode Debashis Chatterjee said the MBA or the PGP courses were no longer considered passports for jobs. Market is discriminating students in view of their institutions. The new IIMs have not established their credentials, hence they are not getting good response.

Chatterjee said the older IIMs should have played greater role in creating the new institutions. Ideally, the older IIMs should have incubated the new ones on their main campus for initial years, so that the ambiance and campus culture is created in the new institutions.

The present mentoring system asking faculty from the mentor institute to visit the new institute may not be implemented properly, he feared.

However, Thakur said replication of admission and academic practices of mentoring could be effective means of creating academic culture. Incubating the new institution in the mentoring institution is not necessary.

The IIM Ahmedabad, which is mentoring the IIM Nagpur, has conducted admission process for almost a month and managed to fill 55 seats. The IIM Kozhokode is mentoring the IIM Amritsar, which has given admission to 46 students.

An IIM faculty said locational disadvantage was one of the factors discouraging students to join some of the new institutions.

IIM-I lowers cut-off for IIM-Sambalpur

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIM-I-lowers-cut-off-for-IIM-Sambalpur/articleshow/48838365.cms

INDORE: Mentor institute for Indian Institute of Management at Sambalpur in Odisha, IIM-Indore, has revised selection criteria for admission to the first batch this session. The decision, sources say, has come in wake of poor response from candidates to the Sambalpur institute.

Sources said IIM-Sambalpur's location and delayed admission process hit admission process and candidates who scored desired percentile have already opted for other reputed B-schools necessitating lowering of eligibility criteria.

IIM-I lowered overall CAT 2014 score for selection at IIM-Sambalpur from 96.3 percentile to 90 for general category students and from 78.98 percentile to 70 for Non-Creamy OBC candidates. Criteria for SC/ST and disabled candidates too

have been reduced further. While SC category students will now get admission at 55 percentile, ST and other reserved category students will be admitted at 45 percentile.

However, sectional cut-off received by candidates in CAT 2014 has been left unchanged. General category students who have got 80 percentile each in section 1 and 2 will be admitted. Final selection of candidates will be based on CAT 2014 score along with their past performance in board examination and under-graduate programme. Preference to candidates having work experience will be given during admission process said sources.

Public relation officer, IIM-I, Akhtar Parvez said, "Selection criteria for admission to IIM-Sambalpur has been revised. Candidates who have expressed inclination for Sambalpur institute have been sent emails seeking their expression of interest."

However, he did not give exact reason for lowering selection criteria. Maiden batch at the institute will start from September 23 and classes will be held in temporary campus located in the premises of Silicon Institute of Technology, Sambalpur.

As per MHRD approval, IIM-Sambalpur was permitted to admit a batch size of 60 students for its maiden batch.

This is the top salary offered at IIM Calcutta

In the batch of 50 students, a total of 54 offers were made to 44 candidates, out of which three joined their previous organisations while one opted out.

http://indianexpress.com/article/india/education/this-is-the-top-salary-offered-at-iim-calcutta/

The campus placement for IIM Calcutta's one-year residential programme for executives has witnessed a rise of 24.8 per cent in the top salary offered to the students, as compared to the last year.

The highest annual salary package has been offered at Rs 33.7 lakh per annum.

The average salary for the eighth batch of Post Graduate Programme for Executives (PGPEX) also saw an upward graph climbing 21.6 per cent from the last year to Rs 22.69 lakh per annum.

In the batch of 50 students, a total of 54 offers were made to 44 candidates, out of which three joined their previous organisations while one opted out.

A total of 55 companies, including Accenture, Amazon, Dell, Microsoft, Google, Ford Motors (IT), Snapdeal, Atos Consulting, Deloitte Touche, Oracle, CESC, Omni Active andMicromax, participated in the placement hiring process for mid-management to senior management-level jobs.

IT/consulting and IT products firms led hiring, with 12 and 10 offers each, followed by e-commerce companies that came up with eight offers. Other sectors that hired aggressively included Analytics, KPO, Power, BPO and real estate.

The roles offered to students ranged from mid-management to senior-management level with designations like Assistant General Manager, Solution Architect Director, Senior Principal Consultant, DGM–Finance among others.

"Corporates seem to increasingly value the rigorous and best-in-class education obtained after excellent track record of work experience," Chairperson, Career Development & Placement Office at IIM Prof Rajiv Kumar told PTI.

"As the placement statistics show, industry seems to increasingly prize such talented and committed people. The senior roles that the students of graduating batch have bagged convey the confidence industry has posed in the ability of PGPEX students of IIM Calcutta to contribute toward organizational growth," Kumar added.

PGPEX with dual accreditation of AACSB and AMBA, has an international dimension in the form of a two weeks immersion in Europe/US to understand international economies, network and visit to notable companies, he said.

AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) based in Tampa, Florida, with an Asia office in Singapore) and AMBA (Association of MBAs) based in London are the influential business school accreditation associations.

Sept. 7

Amar Ujala ND 07/09/2015   P-9

आईआईटी रुड़की के दो वैज्ञानिक गिरफ्तार

रुड़की (ब्यूरो)। कीर्तिनगर पुलिस रविवार की रात आईआईटी के सिविल इंजीनियर विभाग के दो वैज्ञानिकों को गिरफ्तार कर अपने साथ ले गई। गिरफ्तार वैज्ञानिकों को टिहरी सीजीएम कोर्ट में पेश किया जाएगा। दरअसल, 2012 में कीर्तिनगर में गिरे निर्माणाधीन चौरास पुल का डिजाइन आईआईटी के वैज्ञानिकों ने तैयार किया था, इसमें आठ लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। मामले में दोनों वैज्ञानिकों पर गैर इरादतन हत्या का मुकदमा दर्ज है।

आईआईटी रुड़की के सिविल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के वैज्ञानिकों की ओर से तैयार किए गए डिजाइन पर श्रीनगर गढ़वाल के समीप कीर्तिनगर में बनाया जा रहा चौरास पुल वर्ष 2012 में गिर गया था। जिसमें सात मजदूर और एक

> रुड़की में चौरास पुल गिरने से वर्ष 2012 में हुई थी आठ लोगों की मौत

> आईआईटी वैज्ञानिकों ने तैयार किया था इस निर्माणाधीन पुल का डिजाइन

इंजीनियर की मौत हुई थी। मामले में आईआईटी रुड़की के सिविल विभाग के वैज्ञानिक डॉ. विपुल प्रकाश और डॉ. विजय कुमार गुप्ता पर भी गैर इरादतन हत्या का मामला दर्ज हुआ था। बताया गया है कि कोर्ट की ओर से दोनों वैज्ञानिकों के खिलाफ गैर जमानती वारंट जारी किए गए थे। रविवार की रात कीर्तिनगर की पांच सदस्यीय पुलिस टीम कोतवाली पुलिस को साथ लेकर आईआईटी पहुंची और दोनों वैज्ञानिकों को हिरासत में लेकर कोतवाली ले आई।

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Student-starved private engineering colleges may teach plumbing, carpentry

HT SPECIAL

Sanjib Kr Baruah

■ sanjib.baruah@hindustantimes.com

> With a number of engineering seats lying vacant, there has been gross underutilisation of capacities. Hence, many of these institutes have approached us to introduce vocational courses.

A TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

NEW DELHI: With demand for engineering courses in the country plummeting and a whopping 13,27,598 seats in engineering colleges going vacant in the last three years, the government is actively considering utilisation of capacities in such institutes by introducing skill development and entrepreneurial courses. This would help enhance skill development capacity with minimum investment and an optimal utilisation of resources.

These institutes include both government and private institutes and comprise IITs, NITs, and renowned engineering colleges.

"With a huge number of engineering seats not filling up, there has been a gross underutilisation of capacities in engineering institutes across the country. As a result, many of these institutes have approached us to introduce skilling and vocational courses like plumbing, carpentry, etc, so that the existing infrastructure and capacity is put to good use," a top government official told HT.

Engineering institutes in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar have been hit the hardest.

But there is a hitch. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) forbids using the facilities in engineering colleges for any other reason other than teaching the approved engineering courses.

The AICTE, under the HRD ministry, is responsible for proper planning and coordinated development of technical education in India.

An official document accessed by HT says: "Many of the polytechnics and engineering institutions have been requesting for reduction of seats, closure of courses, even closure of institutes, because AICTE does not allow non-AICTE approved courses in these buildings even though on an average only 50% of the capacity is utilised in AICTE-approved courses."

"These institutions have been established with financial assistance from banks and less than the capacity enrolment will limit the capacity of the stakeholders to pay back the installments," it goes on to say.

Accordingly, the skill development ministry has already written to the HRD ministry to remove the condition of exclusivity by AICTE. "The response from HRD ministry and the AICTE has been quite positive and we hope to launch such skill development courses in these colleges soon enough, paving the way for convergence and co-existence with AICTE-approved courses," the official said.

Skill development is a top priority sector for the ruling BJP-led NDA government.

Making the business case for diversity & inclusion

Having a diversity-friendly setup helps enhance the productivity of not only individual employees but also the entire organisation

SURAJIT MITRA

With factors such as rise of private enterprise, broadening of the reach of education, melting of age-old social barriers and the emergence of the IT revolution, workplaces are no longer homogeneous spaces. Shrinking of space means more and more people overcoming the barriers of distance and travelling to non-native places to work; it also means more people from diverse backgrounds making it to hitherto unheard of professions.

At a recent conclave of business leaders and entrepreneurs at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the question of inclusion and diversity in business and workplaces came up as a recurrent theme. Do India's workplaces represent the diverse composition of its population? Are women, people from smaller towns, cultural, religious and caste diversities adequately represented in the corporate world? More importantly, do people from diverse backgrounds feel 'at home' in alien social conditions?

This brings us to the all-important theme of inclusion at workplaces, something that is being discussed and debated with fervour across the world. It is pertinent to note that the world has, in recent years, become more porous and heterogeneous with migration of talent and increasingly diverse populations, making inclusion an important aspect of workplace policy.

Twenty years ago when India was yet to embrace the concept of startups, entrepreneurship was not for everyone and businesses adhered to traditional ways of working, diversity and inclusion were not among the key issues facing business managers. However, for business and human resource managers of today, it pays to have a workplace that honours and values diversity, and ensures that heterogeneity of backgrounds and sensibilities doesn't impede team-work. Ensuring this is what inclusion is all about.

In a world of free flow of people and brain, no work community can be a monolith, and without doubt diversity that people of multiple origins bring to an organisation is immensely enriching. Not just race, colour, gender, caste or sexual preferences, even individual personality traits add to the diversity of an organisation. Some employees may be more adventurous in their attitude and advocate risk-taking, while others may believe more in playing safe. Some may be brilliant in ideation, others may be finer executors. Some may be mavericks in their approach, others may be conformists. Effectively, it is a combination of all kinds of people that lends strength to an organisation.

On a macro level, when considered for a country like India, adequate representation and assimilation of all groups and subgroups in the economy will ensure better streamlining of the country's potential and would boost innovation and free thinking.

The moral responsibility of an organisation is to make sure the workplace has a fine balance of multiple and diverse people, and that none is discriminated against because of their origins. An organisation's work culture should be cultivated to ensure complete assimilation and acceptance. For example, in a north Indian organisation of 100 people, even if there are three non-Hindi speakers, it is imperative for the managers to ensure that all communication is delivered to them

> In a north Indian organisation of 100 people, even if there are three non-Hindi speakers, managers must ensure that all communication is delivered to them sincerely. Women employees should not feel sidelined because men occupy decision-making powers. A homosexual employee should not be discriminated or ridiculed for being different

with sincerity and that they do not feel out-of-place because of their linguistic difference. Women employees should not feel sidelined because men occupy all decision-making powers. Similarly, an organisational culture should ensure that a homosexual employee is not differentiated, discriminated or ridiculed for being different. It is the moral responsibility of an organisation is to make sure each individual is respected for his or her abilities and not discriminated against for any reason.

Inclusive organisations are those that cultivate cultures which encourage engagement, respect diversity, induce higher productivity and innovation, as well as retention. An environment of greater involvement, respect and connection among peers helps generate greater sense of belonging among employees and ensures higher rates of success for a business.

Richness of backgrounds and ethnicities bring with it richness of ideas, perspectives and abilities which together creates higher business values. The organisations of the 21st century need inclusive diversity to succeed.

On a global level too, the question of diversity is a case in point. The US, which has traditionally been a heterogeneous society, finds it relatively easier to ensure inclusion of diversity as compared to the more homogeneous European nations. In fact, in recent years, several European countries—such as France, Greece and Italy, which have witnessed an influx of migrants—have witnessed tensions over the question of assimilation.
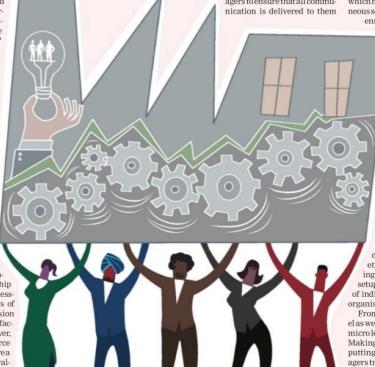
While India is not new to diversity, yet often our behaviour displays undesirable, even xenophobic tendencies. The experiences of people from Northeast India in Delhi as well as those from African nations reflects our problem with assimilation.

A workplace is in some ways a microscopic representation of a nation where good assimilation policies automatically translate into a better society and ensure a sense of belongingness. Having a diversity-friendly setup helps enhance the productivity of individual employees and the entire organisation.

From there, the world on a macro level as well as business organisations on a micro level will only grow more diverse. Making diversity acceptable and putting it into practice is what managers trained in inclusion need to do.

The author is director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM

Only regular varsity professors can guide PhD scholars: UGC

http://www.hindustantimes.com/patiala/only-regular-varsity-professors-can-guide-phd-scholars-ugc/article1-1388093.aspx

University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities to not engage retired teachers of universities and postgraduate colleges, visiting and guest faculty members for supervising MPhil and PhD scholars. UGC has clarified that the PhD supervisors must be regular faculty members of the universities.

The apex higher education body has sent a missive to the universities, directing them to assign students of PhD and MPhil courses only to regular professors. The letter was sent by UGC secretary Jaspal Singh Sandhu and says, "It has come to the notice of the UGC that some universities are hiring services of supervisors who do not happen to be regular faculty members of the university or its affiliated postgraduate colleges."

The practice violates UGC's Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil/PhD Regulations, issued in 2009. UGC has further clarified that the universities also cannot utilise the services of adjunct faculty members as supervisors. "In case of any violation of the prescribed rules by the university, action against the university will be taken as per the UGC Act, 1956 and the name of the university will be put in the defaulters list on the UGC website," Sandhu warns in the letter.

The clarification further reads, "The universities shall allocate the supervisor from amongst the regular faculty members in a department or its affiliated PG colleges/institutes, depending on the number of students per faculty member, the available specialisation among the faculty supervisors and the research interests of the students."

The directive has put the universities in a tight spot as many retired teachers are guiding PhD candidates. Regular faculty members of universities were already opposing the practice as they argued that a retired person, who has no accountability towards the university, cannot do justice and the regular faculty is talented enough to guide PhD and MPhil scholars.

Research scholars in universities are already facing a shortage of PhD guides. UGC's 2009 guidelines say that only UGC-NET qualified candidates or those who have done PhD under the 2009 guidelines will be eligible for the post of assistant professors. Under the new norms, only those who have done PhD after clearing the PhD entrance test, along with six-month long course work and subsequent research work are eligible for recruitment as assistant professors.

Punjabi University registrar Devinder Singh could not be contacted even after repeated attempts.

However, on the other hand, students who have cleared the PhD entrance test said there is already a shortage of guides. Faculty members have a fixed quota of the number of students they can supervise. The university should add more teachers from PG colleges on its list to guide PhD scholars," said Rajinder Singh, a student.

Niti Aayog tasked to devise rules for foreign universities

http://www.hindustantimes.com/higherstudies/niti-aayog-tasked-to-devise-rules-for-foreign-universities/article1-1388154.aspx

Ivy League schools like Harvard and Yale could set up campuses in India soon with the government asking its policy think tank, Niti Aayog, to prepare a framework for opening doors to foreign universities.

The initiative, part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" campaign that seeks to draw foreign investment, can potentially fetch millions of dollars and revolutionise the country's higher education sector.

Sources say the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti) Aayog will hold consultations with various stakeholders, including the ministry of human resource development (HRD) and state governments, on new regulations like leaving foreign institutes out of higher education regulator University Grants Commission (UGC)'s purview.

"We are working on different models for the government to adopt. Very soon we will submit a report to the Prime Minister's office," a senior Niti Aayog official said.

This includes a draft bill that aims to provide transparent and single-window clearance for foreign education providers and a set of regulations to ensure their academic and administrative independence is not jeopardised.

Thousands of students from India head to institutes in the US, UK and Australia every year in search of quality education with the country on the cusp of a surge in its working-age population.

Some foreign schools run programmes in India through local partners but are yet to build bricks-and-mortar facilities here, objecting to being governed by the UGC.

Officials said the proposed legislation will provide a central policy guideline for such institutes and will be a mix of seven models available across the world.

"We will also delve into whether for-profit education institutions can be allowed entry or not," an official said.

According to the HRD ministry's data, 631 foreign education providers were operating in India in 2010. Of them, 440 were functioning from their home campuses and 137 had collaboration with Indian institutes. The number of foreign education providers in India saw a fivefold increase between 2000 and 2010. Around 75% of the courses offered by these schools were of business and hotel management.

Modi held a meeting with officials from the Niti Aayog, HRD ministry, UGC and commerce ministry in early June on the possibility of transforming India into an Asian higher education hub with several foreign universities expressing interest in setting up campuses here.

Foreign universities can bring an investment of $11 million in the first year, the commerce ministry has estimated. The UPA government twice tried to allow such institutes to open campuses with minimal government regulation.

In UPA-1, there was a major push to allow foreign universities in India and a bill was also drafted on recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission headed by Sam Pitroda, who served as an advisor to the PM. But the initiative did not see the light of day because of opposition by Left parties that were part of the ruling coalition.

After the UPA returned to power, HRD minister Kapil Sibal introduced the Foreign Education Providers Bill in the Lok Sabha allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in partnership with domestic education providers.

Only foreign universities of excellence from across the globe were to be permitted to open independent campuses as per the bill. However, the term "excellence" was not defined. The legislation amended on the basis of recommendations from a parliamentary standing committee in 2013 could not be introduced because of continued logjam in both Houses over the coal and 2G spectrum scams. Sibal's successor, MM Pallam Raju, also felt the bill might not be passed because of the Left's continued opposition and the government issued an executive order to pave the way for foreign education providers. But it could not come up with a long-term policy.

Sources say the NDA government believes getting the bill ratified in Parliament is possible as the Congress is in principle agreeable to the idea of allowing "reputed" foreign universities to set up campuses in India. This would boost the PM's flagship "Make in India" campaign in higher education and ensure competition between high-cost private education providers and quality foreign universities.

Faculty posers in ISM upgrade

- panel sets stiff preconditions for IIT tag

Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad

SPADEWORK

Before allowing ISM upgrade, experts want

- Each faculty member to be evaluated by the same yardstick as established in IITs
- Evaluation to be conducted by committee of experts drawn from IITs, IISc
- Faculty falling short of the yardstick to be sent to IITs or IISc for training
- Younger faculty without PhDs to upgrade themselves at IITs, IISc or any reputed institution abroad
- Faculty members who are at an advanced age and found lacking in capabilities to be offered voluntary retirement or transferred
- Departments without critical faculty to shut down some academic programmes
- ISM to avoid appointing its own PhDs in faculty

PERKS

ISM believes IIT upgrade will ensure

- Better campus placement opportunities as more recruiters are likely to come
- More research funds from department of science & tech, atomic energy; HR ministry, CSIR
- Better opportunities for international collaborations
- More industrial consultancy offers from private firms
- Institute gets better ranked students, hence better results
- Change in perception that ISM is more than a mining cradle, offering courses in various other engineering disciplines

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Dhanbad's stellar mining cradle's ambition of being upgraded to an IIT looks that much more daunting with an experts' panel casting aspersions on the standard of its faculty, pointing out "serious lacunae" in their qualifications and setting out a number of preconditions for Indian School of Mines (ISM) to adhere to.

The panel headed by former IIT-Bombay chairman Ashok Mishra has said that while ISM-Dhanbad was good for mining and petroleum engineering, earth sciences, etc, departments like computer science, electrical, mechanical, and chemical engineering weren't on a par with IITs in terms of quality of faculty, research output, industry-linkage and international exposure.

The panel, which had initially given an adverse report highlighting shortcomings at ISM but was again asked to suggest ways to upgrade the nearly 90-year-old institute to an IIT, has now come out with a report specifying conditions for faculty upgrade.

For instance, the report, which has been accessed by **The Telegraph**, said that every faculty member at ISM should be evaluated by the same yardstick prevalent in IITs. A committee of experts for each department, drawn from IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), should conduct performance evaluations similar to selection committees for IIT faculties.

The report pointed out that faculty members not meeting the criteria would have to upgrade their capabilities. Otherwise it would be "extremely detrimental" if the institute was upgraded without the faculty issue being addressed, it said.

Faculty members narrowly falling short of the yardstick should be sent for training to institutions like IITs or IISc so that they could be brought on a par with IIT faculty, while younger teachers, who did not have a PhD, should be asked to get one from IITs, IISc or any reputable institution abroad.

After training outside, faculty members, the report added, should again be evaluated to ascertain whether they had got the required knowledge, and any lacunae should be addressed. Some of the academic programmes should be closed temporarily in case departments did not have the critical faculty.

The report also specified that faculty members who were at an advanced age and found lacking in capabilities might be offered voluntary retirement. The institute, it added, could also explore transferring faculty to other centrally funded institutions like NITs.

In response to a decade-long campaign of students and alumni, this year's Union budget promised to upgrade ISM-Dhanbad to an IIT, following up on the assertion made by Narendra Modi at an election rally in Jharkhand's coal capital before he became Prime Minister.

ISM chairman Dhanush Dhari Mishra pleaded ignorance about the expert panel's report, but welcomed its suggestions.

"Upgrade of qualifications of faculty members is already in progress and most faculty members, particularly in older departments offering BTech courses, are on a par or even better than most IITs," he claimed.

"You might be aware that the pay scales and qualifications prescribed for ISM faculty members are already the same as IITs," he added.

ISM director D.C. Panigrahi clarified that ISM was already following IIT standards in faculty recruitment.

"We have good number of faculty in traditional branches like computer science and electrical engineering," he said, but took umbrage with the experts' suggestion that students who got PhDs from ISM should not be appointed as faculty in the institute.

"Students with our PhDs are recruited as faculty in IITs. The committee might have made such a suggestion to check inbreeding. It is not to run down our PhDs," he said.

Lastly, the report said that if ISM-Dhanbad was indeed converted to an IIT, its name should be changed to "IIT-Dhanbad" and that the new IIT should have a new director, preferably from the IIT system.

There should also be a new board of governors with persons having special knowledge of or practical experience in education and industry.

Madras high court says no to Tamil in IIT-JEE

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Madras-high-court-says-no-to-Tamil-in-IIT-JEE/articleshow/48849760.cms

CHENNAI: The Madras high court has declined to direct the Centre to hold IIT-Joint Engineering Examinations (JEE) in Tamil and other regional languages, saying the question falls within the domain of the government.

Citizens of India are not to be governed by the judges or judiciary, said the first bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice T S Sivagnanam, dismissing a four-year-old PIL filed by R Ovia. As of now, IIT-JEE examinations are conducted in Hindi and English.

Her counsel M Radhakrishnan had argued that the objective type questions designed to test the comprehensive reasoning and analytical ability of candidates, would compel non-Hindi speaking persons to opt for English.

Calling for multilingual question papers in various categories of the 32 recognised regional languages listed in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution, Radhakrishnan said UPSC, railway recruitment and other such national-level examinations are held in regional languages. As for IIT-JEE, students from rural background suffered a handicap as most of them do their Plus Two courses as Tamil medium, he said.

The Centre, however, said the competitive examinations referred to by Radhakrishnan were for employment and not for education. The medium of instruction at IIT is English, and this inadequacy in English language will cause a problem to candidates, it said.

To this, Radhakrishnan then said, that be the position, the examinations should not be conducted in Hindi.

This prompted the judges to wonder if the PIL was for inclusion of regional languages, or exclusion of Hindi in IIT-JEE. "It becomes obvious that more than the grievance of not holding examinations in regional languages, his plea is for giving the option to take the examination in Hindi," the bench said.

Citing a 1990 verdict of the Supreme Court, the judges said, observations of the apex court "leave little doubt whether the legal position in matters of this nature, citizens of India are not to be governed by the judges or judiciary. "The matter in question pertains to the policy of examinations qua admission which falls really within policy domain. Whether the entrance examination should be held in multiple languages or dual language or a single language has to be left open to the institutions conducting the examinations," the bench said.

Also, the bench pointed out that no aggrieved student has moved the court for remedy, which any case had become infructuous, as IIT-JEE examinations had been completed on April 8, 2015 itself.