Newspaper Clips
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Odissi now becomes part of IIT's BTech syllabus

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Bhubaneswar: In a novel move, IIT Bhubaneswar has inducted a course on Odissi in BTech syllabus, thereby becoming the first IIT in the country to introduce a dance form in its curriculum.

IIT Bhubaneswar director R V Rajakumar said on Friday the classical dance would be one of the 'breadth' courses of 12 credits in the four-year BTech programme. A breadth course is a general education course which all students at a university must take to give them exposure at the introductory level to a variety of fields, regardless of their core area of study.

FIRST MOVE

Explaining the rationale behind the move, Rajakumar said, "Dance can broaden the intellectual horizon of engineering students. It would also help them de-stress."

In the first year, students can learn Odissi as an extra-academic activity of one credit. They will have to choose any one activity from NSS, NCC, Yoga, badminton, volleyball, cricket and Odissi. "Ten girls have already chosen Odissi," the director said. A student will have to clear the extra-academic course chosen by him/ her to earn the BTech degree.

In the second and third years, students can opt for Odissi as an elective breadth course from a list of subjects, including financial management, international relations and entrepreneurship. Both the semesters of second and third years will have three credits for the breadth course. In the final year, the students can take Odissi as a purely optional subject or opt out of it. Any student learning it in the fourth year would get a diploma in dance along with the BTech degree certificate, the director said.

Hari Bhumi ND 12/09/2015 P-02

अक्टूबर से पढ़ाएंगे विदेशी शिक्षक!

एचआरडी ने इस बाबत आईआईटी खड़गपुर से की चर्चा

कविता जोशी. नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी-एनआईटी जैसे तकनीकी शिक्षा के देश के प्रतिष्ठित उच्च-शिक्षण संस्थानों में अगले महीने अक्टूबर के मध्य से विदेशी शिक्षकों के पढ़ाने का सिलसिला शुरू हो सकता है। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की ओर से इस बाबत आईआईटी खड़गपुर से चर्चा कर ली गई है। आईआईटी को कहा गया है कि वो 15 अक्टूबर तक सभी विकसित देशों के शिक्षकों की अंतिम सूची तैयार करे जिसके बाद अलग-अलग चरणों में पढ़ाने के लिए आनें वाले शिक्षकों के समूहों की नाम सहित घोषणा की जा सके। यहां बता दें कि आईआईटी खड़गपुर मंत्रालय द्वारा इस विषय पर तैयार की गई ग्लोबल इनीशिएटिव ऑफ अकेमिडक नेटवर्कस (ज्ञान) नामक योजना का केंद्रीय समन्वय संस्थान (नेशनल कोर्डिनेटर) है। जर्मन चांसलर के दौरे के वक्त पहली सूची में शॉर्टलिस्ट हुए करीब सात जर्मन शिक्षकों के नामों का ऐलान किए जा सकता है।

चीन से भी आएंगे शिक्षक

ज्ञान योजना के तहत छात्रों को पढ़ाने आने वाले विदेशियों में चीन के शिक्षक भी शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, जर्मनी, फ्रांस,ऑस्ट्रेलिया, रूस, इजराइल, द.कोरिया, जापान और कनाडा से भी शिक्षक आएंगे। शिक्षकों का विदेश से आना, यहां पढ़ाना और रूकना जैसे तमाम खर्च सरकार उठाएगी। विदेशी शिक्षकों को लाने के पीछे केंद्र की मंशा शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को मौजूदा दौर के हिसाब से उत्कृष्ट बनाने की है।

Business Line ND 12/09/2015
P-07

IIM-Bangalore to host 'Digital Summit' next week

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, September 11

Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore (IIM-B) will host its 'First Digital Summit' on September 19.

The summit is expected to bring key policy makers and practitioners from across digital world domains to share their insights on emerging digital trends that are instrumental in changing the future of digital India.

Prof Dinesh Kumar, Chairperson, Executive Post Graduate Programme, IIMB, recognised as one among the top 10 Most Prominent Analytics academicians in India, will inaugurate the summit and will speak on 'Demystifying Big Data and Analytics'.

Nitin Bawankule, Director, E-commerce, Google, will deliver the keynote address. This will be followed by a talk by Srivatsa Krishna, Secretary, E-Governance, Government of Karnataka, on 'E-Governance and Vision of Digital India'.

Panel discussion

In the context of the e-commerce industry being projected to be a $15-billion industry with over 100 million online users by 2016 in India, the summit will feature a panel discussion on 'Future of technology and the e-commerce revolution in India'.

The panellists, Saurabh Chandra, Head of Apps at Flipkart and Ranjan Kant, Director of Strategy at Snapdeal, will deliberate suggestions that will prepare India to face technological challenges in the e-commerce space.

CNR takes battle with NRN to science mag

http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/CNR-takes-battle-with-NRN-to-science-mag/articleshow/48920266.cms

Rao targeted Infosys's Murthy in an article in Current Science over the latter's statements during the July 15 IISc convocation questioning the contributions made by IISc, IITs towards society. Murthy gives strong reply

Almost two months after Infosys chief mentor NR Narayana Murthy questioned what premier scientific institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Indian institutes of technology (IITs) had contributed to society, head of the scientific advisory council to the prime minister Prof CNR Rao, in a challenge, has asked "Narayana Murthy and others" (the industry) to step forward and contribute financially to boost science so that these institutions can contribute to society.

"It would be wonderful if Narayana Murthy and others collect a few billion dollars so that we can set up a university like Stanford. I would be delighted to work full-time to build such an institution without any remuneration," Bharat Ratna awardee Prof Rao wrote in an article titled 'Let us not damn it all!', published in the September 10 issue of Current Science.

This is the first in a series of articles by senior scientists and technologists in this journal of the Indian Academy of Sciences on "how relevant, affordable, innovative and excellent" the scientific and technological researches in the Indian institutions of higher learning are.

While taking a potshot at Murthy's utterances on the poor contribution made by IISc and IITs towards society at the IISc convocation held on July 15, Prof Rao said, "It would not be entirely fair of me to ask Murthy as to what industry has done for society other than making products and profit." He said funding in scientific institutions has been "pathetic". "All funding comes from the government, and the industry has contributed little. The government has not increased its spending on education above two per cent of the GDP (gross domestic product); for science, it is less than one per cent of the GDP. It is high time they are six per cent and two per cent of the GDP, respectively," he said.

Prof Rao said, "Many of my friends from the West have felt that for the investment made, India has done pretty well [in science]. We should invest more in institutions to create better facilities, so that we can improve our performance in research and innovation."

He said that even under existing condition of poor funding, "we have to work harder. We have to make more effort on pressing problems of society like energy, water, environment, and so on. It is possible that this is what Murthy may have meant rather than implying that IISc and IITs have done nothing for society. [But] to take up such major challenges, we would require a different type of infrastructure and funding. I hope that our industry will start contributing to such efforts".

In an e-mail to BM, Murthy responded to Prof Rao's allegation that "industry has contributed little", saying: "The primary purpose of the software industry is to earn precious foreign exchange for the country; to create a large number of jobs with good salaries; pay all required taxes; and add value to society through some socially-relevant activities. I am very proud to say that this industry contributes about 20 per cent of the export revenues, has created more than three million jobs, and has paid its share of taxes and helped society."

Even on the scientific front, Murthy highlighted what Infosys had done: "Infosys has instituted several scholarships for PhD students in Computer Science, contributed to many worthy institutions of higher learning, including IISc, IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kanpur, Chennai Mathematical Institute, among many institutions of higher learning. In addition, Infosys has instituted the Infosys Prize each of `65 lakh in six categories of science given annually."

Prof Rao has never shied from expressing his anger over the youth taking to information technology in preference over basic scientific research and has blamed the trend on the "IT boom" for the ills plaguing science and research in the country.

Industry has to play a role, agrees shaw

"We need to promote science. We need a virtuous cycle of funding to stimulate ideas economy that leverages

science. The industry including the private sector needs to play its role in terms of stimulating education, research, innovation, and job creation. The collaborative efforts of academia, industry and government can certainly enhance the quality of higher education and research institutions, which in turn will lead to a win-win situation where great minds can come together to solve intractable challenges, accelerate technological breakthroughs, and increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of bringing innovative products and services to market. Biocon has initiated various collaborative research programs to accelerate its innovation pathway. We have also set up Biocon Academy that has brought international quality advanced learning in Biosciences for talented young biotechnologists in India."

IISER Planning Incubation Centre

http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/IISER-Planning-Incubation-Centre/2015/09/12/article3023150.ece

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)-Thiruvananthapuram plans to start an incubation centre at Technopark. IISER-T'Puram Director V Ramakrishnan says, "We will be the first IISER in India to have an incubation centre. IISER-T'Puram Board has approved the plan. The state government has agreed to the suggestion in principle."

The incubation centre will serve as a bridge between the industry and the basic sciences researchers. M P Rajan, Associate Dean (R&D Consultant), IISER-Thiruvananthapuram says, "This will be a platform for the researchers, faculty or technical staff here to contact the industry, should they come up with an industrial solution. The industry can, in turn, contact us through the centre, if they seek a solution to a problem. The centre will serve as a unit to monitor the industry as well as the research happening here."

The centre will help the students here start their own ventures. "A seed money will be provided. Once they gain confidence, and can be on their own, they will have to return the money," says Ramakrishnan. Policy decisions regarding the number of start-ups it can support at a time and other nitty-gritties are yet to be finalised.

There are times when companies directly approach the institute for solutions. Rajan, who has studied volatility estimation in Indian stock market, gets requests to prepare financial models.

After word got around about a low-cost lithium-ion battery developed here, a company has shown interest in the product. Such opportunities will only increase with an incubation centre, according to the faculty.

"This is an institute of national importance, where teaching and research will be taken to the highest level. There has to be deliverables. There has to be a platform to ensure those deliverables. This is that platform," says Ramakrishnan.

The incubation centre might not always deal with industries themselves, says Anil Shaji, Associate Dean (Planning and Development). "Not all applications may have mass relevance. It could just be an apparatus which is of value only to the researchers. It could deal with the research wing of industries," he adds.

However, not all research at the institute leads to industrial applications. It is not supposed to. "In case there are those with entrepreneurial ambitions here, the incubation centre will be a semi-protected environment for them to take forward," Anil says.

Isro may give N-boost to Chandrayaan-2

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Isro-may-give-N-boost-to-Chandrayaan-2/articleshow/48928966.cms

MUMBAI: Isro is mulling use of nuclear technology to increase the life span of its second moon mission Chandrayaan-2, which is slated for lift-off in 2017.

Significantly, the technology, which will use a very small amount of nuclear energy, will have no fission. Simply put, this system will ensure complete safety. It is believed Chandrayaan-2 will have a life span of one year.

The spacecraft will be carried by the indigenously developed 3-stage Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mark 2), which — riding on a string of recent successes — has transformed from being Isro's "naughty boy" to the agency's "most adored boy".

BARC director Sekhar Basu told TOI that his organization has already initiated studies regarding the use of nuclear technology in this mission.

"We have to start from the scratch as the required nuclear material is not available and nobody will give it to us. We have to develop them on our own in our reactorsand produce them artificially," he said.

Basu, while acknowledging that the process could take time, said some aspects of the mission are still being worked out. The use of nuclear technology for this mission assumes significance as Chandrayaan-1's life span was cut short by nearly two months due to a technical problem. It was launched on October 22, 2008, with a 1-year mission life. However, it stopped communicating on August 29, 2009.

The mission profile for Chandrayaan-2 includes an orbiter, lander and a rover, which will study the mineralogy of the lunar surface.

On August 7, 2009, former Isro chief Madhavan Nair had told the media at IIT-B: "We are thinking of powering some parts of Chandrayaan-2 with nuclear power." However, in the past six years this plan had remained on paper following widespread apprehensions about use of nuclear technology in space missions. The plan has now been revived.

According to nuclear experts, the advantage of a nuclear power system in a spacecraft is that it functions independently of sunlight, which is necessary for deep space exploration.

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