

Newspaper Clips

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Few Shortcuts to Quality Education

Five IITs feature in the top 400 list of the latest QS world ranking universities. That no other Indian university has found a place in the top 4% of the world's universities is shocking. India must build human capital to reap the demographic dividend and, more important, compete in a knowledge-intensive global economy. Radical steps are needed to improve the quality of our universities across disciplines and at all levels. The expansion of higher education calls for a massive increase in investment and raising the efficacy of public spending in education. More support is needed for state universities that operate on thin budgets. Industry too should offer generous grants and fund research in universities to expand access and ensure world-class production and delivery of products and services.



QS rankings show poor research citations for Indian faculty. Clearly, we need to integrate teaching and research. Poor remuneration turns away talent. Teachers must get better pay and research-active faculty should be offered functional autonomy as well. True, the cost of education would go up when private universities try to bridge the demand-supply gap. So, student loans must become cheaper. Letting the better class of foreign universities enter will help integration with the global knowledge system.

Unlike India, some universities in Asia have continued to move up in the rankings. The National University of Singapore, for example, has become the region's highest-ranked institution. Reforming education has to begin with schools, of course. They need teacher accountability and commitment, investment in facilities and better pedagogy. And all of them call for decentralisation of school administration and active involvement of local communities in school management.

Top Global Universities Rule Out Setting Up India Campuses for Now

RICHA BHATTACHARYYA
MUMBAI

Barely days after the government opened doors for foreign universities to set up campuses here, half-a-dozen top universities said they have no interest in the invitation from India.

ET spoke to top officials from Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge University and Duke University and all of them ruled out the possibility of opening campuses here. They are, however, keen to continue engaging with students, academia and industry through research, faculty exchange and executive education programmes.

"In light of the tremendous demand for educated talent in India, this policy move is a step in the right direction. That said, the Stanford Graduate School of Business does not have plans to build bricks-and-mortar facilities in India," says Garth Saloner, Philip H Knight Professor and Dean, Stanford Graduate School of Business. "That's not where we see the best use of our investment." Adds Claude Canizares, vice president, MIT: "...this policy does not change how we work...we prefer the partnership model, we do not establish branch campuses that would operate independently."

On Tuesday, the government allowed top foreign universities to set up campuses in India and award degrees, giving Indian students the opportunity to study in global institutions without leaving home. The proposed UGC (Establishment & Operation of Campuses of Foreign Educational Institutions) Rules require foreign education providers to set up the India campuses as not-for-profit companies. The move has

been welcomed by Indian institutes, academicians and industry leaders.

But, for the time being at least, the Ivy League institutes seem to have no plans to build campuses in India. "It is hard to get the top tier institutes to come out," says Pramath Sinha, former dean of the Indian School of Business. "Their prime focus is on driving premium in their own campus and not diluting it."

"We don't believe you can replicate the quality, structure and faculty of Cambridge anywhere else overseas," says a spokesman for the vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge. The university, though, has research and development collaborations with Indian universities like IIT Bombay, Delhi University, IISc Bangalore, among others.

Duke University, which has a growing number of educational activities and partnerships in India, also has no plans to establish a campus or university in the country. "MIT Sloan, at the moment, does not have any plans to open a campus in India. We collaborate and engage in institution building in India," says SP Kothari, deputy dean, MIT Sloan School of Management.

But that is not to say that this move by the government is a non-starter. Some tier 2 institutes from the US, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong, which figure among the top 400 universities globally, are likely to explore setting up a campus here.

Though Cardiff University has no plans to open a campus in India at present, Professor Colin Riordan, the university's president and vice-chancellor, says it is actively considering op-



tions. Cardiff has links with many Indian institutions that establish a framework for potential collaboration in research, staff exchange and training and exchange of academic materials.

Sources say Georgia Institute of Technology and Virginia Institute of Technology have some interest in an India campus.

Setting up a Greenfield campus is never easy. No one will do it without a very sound economic proposition of earning good revenue and sustaining cost without diluting brand value. "Finding land near metro areas in India is not easy. Also, it will require huge upfront investment in creating infrastructure," says Sinha. Last month, Stanford launched their first off campus 9-week certificate programme Stanford Ignite in Bangalore, where IT major Infosys is providing classroom facilities and Stanford is bringing in its senior faculty to teach through live video and audio streaming. That may be a more popular way forward.

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आरक्षित वर्ग की फीस सरकार से वसूल करेंगे आईआईटी

● बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। देश के सभी आईआईटी संस्थानों को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बनने के भारी दबाव के बावजूद सरकार व संस्थानों की मंशा तत्काल फीस बढ़ाने की नहीं है। आईआईटी के कई निदेशकों ने सुझाव दिया है कि आरक्षित वर्ग के छात्रों की फीस सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय तथा अन्य सरकारी विभागों द्वारा ऐसे छात्रों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाओं से हासिल की जाए।

वर्तमान में सरकार की नीति के चलते आईआईटी में पढ़ रहे लगभग 50 फीसदी छात्र फीस नहीं अदा करते हैं। इनमें अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति तथा पिछड़ा वर्ग से संबंधित छात्र प्रमुख रूप से शामिल हैं। यद्यपि सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय द्वारा ऐसे छात्रों की ओर से फीस भुगतान की नीति है, लेकिन इसके लिए आईआईटी संस्थानों की ओर से कोई आवेदन नहीं किया जाता है। आरक्षित वर्ग के छात्रों की फीस हासिल करने की सरकारी प्रक्रिया काफी पेचीदा है। यद्यपि आईआईएम जैसे संस्थान आरक्षित छात्रों की फीस सरकारी योजनाओं के तहत क्लेम करके हासिल कर रहे हैं। आईआईटी काँसिल की स्थायी समिति ने सभी संस्थानों को



● तत्काल फीस नहीं बढ़ाने पर सहमत हैं संस्थान और सरकार

आरक्षित छात्रों के लिए चल रही योजनाओं से फीस हासिल करने का सुझाव दिया है।

काकोदकर कमेटी के सुझावों के तहत आईआईटी को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के कुछ अन्य महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव भी दिए गए हैं। इसके तहत आईआईटी मद्रास की तर्ज पर सभी संस्थानों को रिसर्च पार्क स्थापित करने पर जोर देने को कहा गया है। केंद्र की ओर से स्वीकृत योजनागत तथा गैर योजनागत फंडों को जल्द से जल्द जारी कराने पर भी जोर दिया गया है। जानकारी के अनुसार योजना आयोग तथा वित्त मंत्रालय ने भी आईआईटी संस्थानों में फीस से होने वाली आय को बहुत कम बताते हुए इसे बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया है।

HT Mumbai

IIT-B, Saudi firm to fund 12 Phd students

Apoorva Puranik

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MUMBAI: The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay's (IIT-B) Monash Research Academy and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), one of Saudi Arabia's largest companies, have tied up to fund 12 PhD students for their four-year research programme.

SABIC is the first west-Asian company to collaborate with the academy, which has previously tied up with industry heavy-weights such as Infosys, Reliance Industries, Jindal Steel Works and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in India, and others in Australia.

“Such partnerships and exposure to industry are a key component of this PhD program. Research projects in areas of interest to SABIC — including novel chemicals, plastics, and metals — will be included in the next intake of PhD scholars later this year,” said Mohan Krishnamoorthy, CEO of the academy.

The first batch of the academy, established in 2008, graduated in April this year, with research projects on topics such as carbon dioxide sequestration to developing a corrosion-resistant coating for aeronautical applications.

“There are more than 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals and two patents associated with the academy,”

THE ACADEMY

- The Monash Research Academy was established in 2008
- The first batch of the academy graduated in April this year with research projects such as carbon dioxide sequestration to developing a corrosion-resistant coating for aeronautical applications
- There are currently 130 PhD scholars at the academy and this number is expected to grow to 300
- Though Monash has tied up with heavy-weights such as Infosys, Jindal Steel Works, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries in India and some in Australia, the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation is the first company from the Middle East to tie up with the academy.

Krishnamoorthy said.

The academy currently has 130 PhD scholars, which is expected to grow to 300. Around 120 faculty members from Monash are involved in projects in the academy, and an exclusive building for it is coming up at the campus.

HT Chandigarh

Now, 'weak' students at NIT can complete BTech in eight years

Neha Arora

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JALANDHAR: The Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) has introduced a "slow pace programme", wherein; academically backward students will be allowed to complete bachelor in technology course in eight years instead of current duration of six years.

The engineering programme will be further extended on two-year time limit for helping students, who fail to clear their supplementary exams in time.

NIT director, SK Das, said the programme would identify academically poor students based on their performance in exams in first two years.

"Currently, if a student fails to get 25 out of 46 credits in first year, he or she is promoted to second year. If the student again fails to get 75 credits (including those obtained by clearing supplementary exams) at the end of the sec-

THE PROGRAMME WILL IDENTIFY ACADEMICALLY BACKWARD STUDENTS BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN EXAMS AND WILL GIVE THEM TWO YEARS MORE TO FINISH THE COURSE

SK DAS, director, NIT

ond year, they are not being promoted to fifth semester," he said, adding that the students were currently entitled to clear their supplementary exams within six years of their admission.

AS Ghosh, dean faculty, said under this programme, students would be allowed to enter the next semester as they would cover the supplementary exams in summer's vacations

and they would continue to be upgraded to next level despite their failure to fetch requisite credits.

"From fifth to eighth semester, students will be allowed to choose two theory subjects from the available subjects for every semester. This will lessen their academic burden too. Rest of the subjects can be taken up and cleared later," Das said.

Ghosh said that the students would cover two subjects in summer vacations and one in winter vacations.

On the detailed marks cards of such students, the year in which they have cleared the course would be mentioned to differentiate the same from the regular course.

NIT, Hamirpur's pattern has been followed in this regard while a few IITs are already running such programmes.

NIT authorities hope that this initiative will uplift the level of confidence among those who generally fall short while completing the course in fixed time.

MHRD moots amendments to UGC, AICTE Acts

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Even as a bill to check malpractices in higher education sector remains pending before Parliament, the HRD ministry has moved amendments to the laws governing UGC and the AICTE, allowing them to firmly deal with such cases.

The draft amendment under preparation will stipulate provisions for "severe" penal action and slapping of "hefty" fine in cases where higher educational institutions are found to be indulging in "unfair practices".

At present, the UGC has powers to impose a maximum of Rs 1000 fine on higher educational institutions in cases of violation of rules and norms prescribed by it.

"We are now going to increase this fine. We will propose slapping of a maximum fine of Rs one crore for violation of the rules and norms prescribed by both the UGC and AICTE," official sources in the Ministry told Deccan Herald.

The amendment in the laws governing the two higher education regulatory bodies, to be proposed, will also specify jail-term for a "certain period" for authorities indulging in "unfair practices" in higher educational institutions, sources added.

The Ministry's move to bring amendments to the UGC and AICTE Acts is an effort to incorporate some of the key provisions of the long-pending Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Higher Educational Institutions, which too stipulates slapping a maximum fine of Rs one crore and imprisonment.

रुड़की आईआईटी को नोटिस

रुड़की। रुड़की आईआईटी में पिछले दिनों विषाक्त भोजन खाने से बीमार पड़े छात्रों के मामले को गंभीरता से लेते हुए खाद्य सुरक्षा विभाग ने आईआईटी प्रबंधन को एक नोटिस जारी किया है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि घटना के प्रकाश में आने के बाद हरिद्वार के जिलाधिकारी के निर्देश पर खाद्य सुरक्षा विभाग ने आईआईटी की मेस में जाकर खाने के सामान की जांच पड़ताल की और उनके नमूने लेकर प्रयोगशाला में भेजे। निरीक्षण के दौरान अधिकारियों को खाराब मसाले और खाद्यान्न मिले वहीं कीड़े लगी मूंगफली और चने का भंडारण भी मिला और वहां चूहे घूमते मिले। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस संबंध में आईआईटी प्रबंधन को एक नोटिस जारी कर उनसे जबाब मांगा गया है। गत सोमवार को सुबह का नाश्ता और दोपहर का खाना खाने के बाद करीब 100 छात्रों की तबियत बिगड़ गई बाद उन्हें अस्पताल में भर्ती कराना पड़ा था।

Times of India ND 13-Sep-13 P-19

'Food poisoning' drives IIT-Roorkee students home

Mumbai: Several first-year students from IIT-Roorkee, including some from Mumbai, have returned to their hometowns after complaints of alleged food poisoning early this week. While stu-

dents claim over 150 of them fell ill after eating breakfast in their hostel messon Thursday claimed it is 'exam phobia' which is increasing the 'patients'.

Yogita Rao

Times of India ND 13-Sep-13 P-10

Reason to oust me from UGC against rules: Yadav

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a strongly-worded eight-page reply to the HRD ministry's show-cause notice, political scientist Yogendra Yadav has told minister M M Pallam Raju it would not be a good idea for the government to go ahead with the proposed action of "retiring" him from the UGC. In a way daring the minis-

try to oust him from the membership of the UGC, Yadav said he refuses to be "put in the dock". "I have done no wrong, concealed nothing, nor violated any of the norms and values I uphold. I see no reason why I should offer anyone an explanation," he told Raju. The deadline of show-cause ended on Wednesday. Yadav told the minister that though he does not care

much about the ministry's decision, he asked the minister not to let "short-term bureaucratic expediency or political partisanship to erode institutions that have a life beyond you and me". Yadav said removing him from the UGC would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the law, rules and



Yogendra Yadav

regulations and the code of conduct that govern the membership of the commission. He said the UGC Act does not bar membership of a political party or participation in politics for a member of the UGC. He pointed out there are only three grounds for possible disqualification —

unsound mind, undischarged solvent or undue absence from any four consecutive meetings — none of which have been invoked against him. Even the conflict of interest policy of the UGC does not mention membership of a political organization or participation in a political activity as conflict of interest. In fact, he reminded Raju of a time when Jawaharlal Nehru

had persuaded Acharya Narendra Dev of the Socialist Party to become vice-chancellor of two universities. Yadav said it is his and others opposition to the Academic Performance Index — setting up of Inter-University Centre in Raju's constituency — and other decisions that have upset the ministry. For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Times of India ND 13-Sep-13 P-1

PG medical seats auctioned for ₹4cr

Seethalakshmi S | TNN

Bangalore: A group of parents sitting in a private medical college auditorium, facing a management team, appears to be attending an orientation session. A closer look reveals they are bidding for postgraduate medical seats. A parent stands up and announces he is ready to pay Rs 1 crore for an MD (radiology) seat. Another parent ups

► **'Thousands vie', P 15**

the bid by Rs 25 lakh. At the end of the two-hour session, the coveted seat goes to the ward of the highest bidder.

So highly contested have been the auctions for PG medical seats this year that the going rate for an MD (radiology) seat touched Rs 4 crore at a prominent private Chennai college. It hovered between Rs 3 crore and Rs 3.5 crore for the same course in Bangalore colleges. Success-

HOW THEY BID

MD (radiology) | ₹4cr
in Chennai

MD (radiology) in Bangalore
₹3-3.5cr

MD (paediatrics) | ₹1.6cr

MD (ortho) and
MD (dermatology)
₹1-1.5cr

ful bids for orthopaedics and dermatology seats varied between Rs 1 crore and Rs 1.5 crore. An MD (paediatrics) seat costs Rs 1.6 crore.

There are a just handful of seats for lakhs of students who aspire to specialize in radiology every year. "The gap between demand and supply is enormous. Hence, private colleges go for the kill and auction the seats," a source told TOI.

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Scientists develop 200 GM crops, await govt nod for trials

VishwaMohan | TNN

New Delhi: Do you think only 'Monsanto' (or any multinational seed company) has the capacity to develop transgenic crops? The answer is a clear 'no'. Indian scientists, working with public sector research institutions and universities, too have developed many genetically engineered varieties which, in fact, could not move beyond labor 'restricted' trials.

The list accessed by TOI shows that Indian scientists have over the years developed more than 200 genetically modified (GM) varieties of as many as 15 crops including cotton, brinjal, castor, groundnut, mustard, papaya, potato, rice, rubber, sugarcane, wheat and tomato.

These varieties, developed by scientists in different Indian universities and

ENGINEERING GROWTH

▶ Indian scientists have **developed** many genetically engineered varieties, including cotton, brinjal, castor, groundnut, which, in fact, could not move beyond lab or restricted trials

▶ These varieties are **resistant** to insect, fungal, drought and virus and that may bring them in the league of Bt cotton

▶ Scientists have **dismissed apprehensions** that transgenic crops can affect human



health. But they agree that giving a nod to commercial production can lead to monopolistic control of seed business by MNCs

research institutions, have all the traits — resistance to insect, fungal, drought and virus — which may bring them in the league of Bt cotton by increasing productivity and export earnings.

Indigenous transgenic varieties include a high salt-tolerant rice which can grow

in salty water near coast. This variety is developed using genes of mangrove. Similarly, Indian scientists have developed a tomato variety having shelf life of over 50 days. The farmers will, however, reap the benefit of these findings only when government allows the sci-

entists to go for extensive field trials and eventually for commercial production.

Bt cotton is the only GM crop whose commercial production is allowed in India. Fate of others is caught in a petition filed in Supreme Court by activists who have sought a complete ban on GM technology. Activists say GM crops will not only affect human health but will also negatively impact biodiversity.

Indian scientists dismissed such apprehensions on a number of occasions. They, however, found themselves on the same page with at least a section among the activists who believe that a green signal to commercialize such crops will affect farmers due to monopolistic control of seed business by multinational companies.

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

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Exercise and socialising help students beat stress

Associated social encounters, along with exercise, lead to better mental health in students

According to a new study, college students, who exercise vigorously for 20 minutes – at least three days a week – were less likely to report poor mental health and perceived stress. Interestingly, part of the benefits of exercise may come from associated social encounters.

KEY POINTS OF THE RESEARCH

- >> The study defined socialising as having five or more friends or spending more than two hours a day with others.
- >> The research, done by a US university, surveyed more than 14,800 students and asked them about their exercise habits and their moods.
- >> Lead author of the study, Nicole A. VanKim, said socialising is an important aspect of engaging in vigorous physical activity, better mental health, and less perceived stress.
- >> The study also found that the students who were more physically active in adolescence were more likely to be physically active in adulthood. ANI

Two more AIIMS coming up at Rai Bareli, Raiganj

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: After adding six new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the union health minister on Thursday announced the launch of two more AIIMS in the country.

“Work on the 7th AIIMS is under way at Rae Bareli where the construction has already begun. We are planning another AIIMS at Raiganj in north Bengal and are in the process of acquiring land for it,” said health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, during the 41st convocation ceremony of AIIMS, New Delhi, on Thursday.

More than 500 undergraduates, post graduates and students from other specialties were awarded degrees during the convocation. Till date, the institute has produced 5,198 spe-

PEOPLE WHO WERE AWARDED DEGREES TODAY ARE INDIA'S INVESTMENT IN BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE.

GHULAM NABI AZAD, Union health minister

cialists that include MD, MS and other super-specialists.

The health minister, who is also president of the institute's governing body, urged doctors to serve in their own country.

“We have 81,000 Indian-origin doctors in the US and more than 70,000 doctors working in the UK at the moment. There has been 55% increase in UG seats and 75% in PG seats to tide over human resource shortage,” said Azad.

The undergraduate medical

seats in the country have gone up by almost 55%, while the number of post graduate seats has increased by almost 75%. Ninety-seven new medical colleges, including six new AIIMS, have been established raising the number of medical colleges in the country from 290 to 387, which is an all-time high, said the minister.

The Centre has approved funds for establishing 20 new standalone state cancer institutes, 23 new tertiary cancer centres and strengthening of existing 27 regional cancer care centres across the country.

“People who were awarded degrees today are India's investment in building a better future. Generic medicines and vaccines is India's contribution to the global medical world,” said Margaret Chan, director general, WHO.

HT Mumbai

A first: US scientists create plant-based egg

Agencies

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WASHINGTON: Food scientists at San-Francisco-start up Hampton Creek Foods have reportedly developed an egg substitute, made entirely from plants.

The company has successfully created faux mayonnaise and a variety of baked goods using the egg substitute.

CEO Josh Tetrick said that the egg products are made from simple but varied species of peas, sorghum and 11 plants in total, that are particularly amazing.

According to Fox News, Tetrick came with the idea of 'Just Mayo' and 'Beyond Egg' after spending seven years living in Sub-Saharan Africa working with impoverished communities and wanted to bring a change using his food business.

Tetrick said that 99% of the eggs come from dimly-lit, feces- and urine-smelling industrial warehouses, which is gross and also a food safety issue.

He enlisted the help of a contestant on the TV show 'Top Chef', Chris Jones and biochemist Joshua Klein to help him create what they call the most realistic egg-free egg product yet.

Tetrick said that investor Bill Gates and former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair couldn't tell the difference between the artificial egg product and a real one. However, experts believe that the egg and poultry industry is going to survive despite substitutes.

Hampton Creek Foods' website claims that its product is healthier and cost 19% less than eggs, the report added.

BLOBFISH VOTED THE UGLIEST ANIMAL

LONDON: The blobfish (*Psychrolutes microporosus*), a species that lives at great depths and is rarely seen but resembles a marine Jabba the Hut, has been voted the world's ugliest animal. More than 3,000 votes were cast in the online competition, with 795 for the blobfish.