

Newspaper Clips September 26, 2014

IIT's Mauritius campus to start from November

— By [PTI](#), September 25, 2014 03:08 pm

<http://freepressjournal.in/iits-mauritius-campus-to-start-from-november/>

Port Louis: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi will start its overseas campus in Mauritius from November.

IIT-Delhi is setting-up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in the island nation. The new institute is being established in collaboration with Mauritius Research Council.

“IITRA will start operation from November this year. It will provide full-time and part-time PhD degrees in disciplines like electrical, electronics and computer science,” IIT-D Professor S M Ishtiaque told PTI.

“The main objective of this institute is to set up IIT like technology education institute in Mauritius and encourage research culture in the island nation” he said.

IITRA would be looking to attract foreign researchers and students to Mauritius and build research infrastructure.

“We have already begun the recruitment process to hire faculty members and as many as 210 applications have been received.

“Besides, we have received 380 applications from students,” Ishtiaque said.

To begin with, the institute would be offering degrees in Master of Science and PhD. Later, after about five years, plans are on the anvil to start undergraduate programmes as well.

When asked whether IIT is planning to establish similar institute in any other country, Ishtiaque said:” We have got offers from Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, New York and Qatar... “.

Times of India ND
26/09/2014

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Just 2% in Isro from IITs, NITs



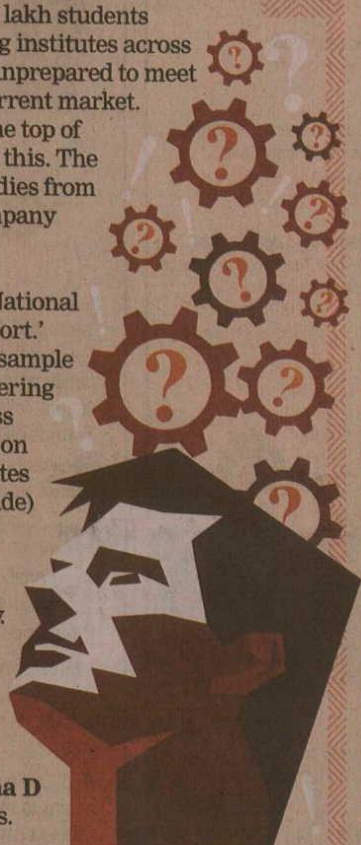
CLOSE-UP SHOT: One of the first images of the Martian surface taken by MOM. Isro presented a set of the images to PM Narendra Modi

Isro may be making great strides in space, but when it comes to attracting graduates from premier institutes like IIT, it has a long way to go. Information through an RTI query shows only 2% employees of Isro are IIT or NIT graduates. With satellite launches and interplanetary exploration increasingly becoming as commercial as scientific, Isro will need products of premier institutes. TNN

Most Engg Grads Fall Short on Skills

A major chunk of the over-6 lakh students graduating from engineering institutes across the country every year are unprepared to meet skill requirements in the current market. Even the IITs and NITs, at the top of the heap, are not immune to this. The latest in the line of such studies from employability solutions company Co-Cubes highlights this phenomenon through 'The Engineering Graduates — National Employability Analysis Report.'

The report was based on a sample of more than 100,000 engineering students from colleges across India. The analysis is based on the performance of candidates on cognitive skills (or aptitude) assessments used by most employers to predict job performance based on learnability and trainability. These skills include English language and communication skills, analytical reasoning skills and quantitative or numerical ability. **Sreeradha D Basu** gets you the highlights.



HOW THE COLLEGES STACK UP

Employability of IITs is the highest, followed by NITs and then other colleges



IITs stand out on all skill sets. The difference between NITs and other colleges is predominantly due to quantitative ability levels

70% candidates are employable from IITs (55% readily and 15% more after some training)

About **35%** of candidates are employable from NITs (22% readily, 13% more after some training)

Only **27%** from other colleges are employable (11% readily, 16% more after some training)

GOVERNMENT COLLEGES HAVE THE EDGE

Government colleges (including IITs/NITs) have much better employability as compared to private colleges

Readily employable students



41% from government colleges



11% from private colleges

GENDER PLAY

Excluding the Top 50 premier colleges, only about 14% male students are readily employable compared to 11% of female students



Pre-employment training drastically increases the employability numbers. In fact, it more than doubles the employability ratio to 32% (for male students) and 29% (for female students)



Analysis of scores on gender does not include data from Top 50 premier colleges

Note: 'Readily employable' refers to those likely to be shortlisted by 100% of the employers. 'Employable after some training' refers to those likely to be shortlisted by about 60% of employers without any training and by up to 100% of employers after some training

True to his word

Poor quality of technical education could derail Modi's make in India plans

EVERYONE knew the prime minister could do it and he did not disappoint on Thursday. As a first step towards turning an Independence Day slogan into a reality, he invited national and global business leaders to come and invest in India. Addressing a meeting of about 1,000 chief executive officers (CEOs) of Indian and foreign companies in New Delhi, Narendra Modi sought their assistance and asserted his administration's resolve to do everything to get them clear of the shackles of red-tape and to assist them in their endeavour to open and expand their businesses in India. He promised to achieve this objective by a wise blending of effective governance with easy governance. Asking CEOs to 'trust' his administration, Modi informed them that the government had revamped an invest India unit which would now act as the 'first reference point' for guiding investors on all aspects of regulatory issues. Also, a website, www.Makeinindia.com, had been created for companies to seek policy clarifications within 72 hours. The government also was focused on upgrading infrastructure facilities to ensure that local and overseas businesses were encouraged to produce what they wanted in India -- cars to software, satellites to submarines, pharmaceuticals to ports and paper to power. The commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman reassured potential investors that the business environment would be made cleaner and competitive through 'delicensing, decentralisation, and radical changes'. Both Modi and Sitharaman sounded credible and sincere. But the myriad problems that confront India cannot be resolved in one quick shot. Take, for instance, the acute and persistent problem of skilled manpower. State-funded industrial training institutes (ITIs) are few and far in between. Private industrial training institutes are money-spinning sweat shops. Millions of educated boys and girls have no access to on-job training (a system that helped Germany and Japan recover from their dire financial straits), because much of Indian industry is not open to the idea. In the given situation, most first time employment-seekers tend to hone out their skills on what is popularly known as 'jugaad' or make shift skill acquisition. Quality technical education is a serious issue. Many state and private technical and engineering colleges limit themselves to merely imparting theoretical knowledge to their pupils. Little wonder that many reputed companies grumble that only 25 per cent of engineers and technician pass outs are employable. And it is not just shortage of skilled personnel that may hamper Modi's dream of turning India into a pivot of global manufacturing. It is also the atrocious quality of skills imparted, which ultimately impact the quality of goods and services. All this calls for elevating co-ordination and interface between Indian industry, state governments and technical institutions. India Inc could take it as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) to set up training institutes. In addition, regulatory systems need to be put in place to ensure that private industrial training institutions provide the services they charge their students for. All these things need to be done and done fast. Otherwise, whatever the prime minister may do to ease the process of doing business in India, foreign investors will not find this country attractive enough. Modi was right in saying that FDI means two things for him: first develop India and foreign direct investment. So, as the first part of the tactic, he should co-ordinate and liaise with all stakeholders to mount a strategic thrust towards skill development in 2014-15.

IIM-B to Throw Aspiring Entrepreneurs from Top B-Schools into 'Shark Tank'

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Mumbai: IIM Bangalore (IIM-B) is organising a business plan contest for budding entrepreneurs from top business schools and engineering institutes across the country, where angel investors will be funding aspiring student entrepreneurs.

IIM-B's entrepreneurship and incubation centre, NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), which is supporting the contest, is for the first time organising a 'Shark Tank' for aspiring entrepreneurs, where they are inviting angel investors to fund student business plans, says G Sabarinathan, chairperson, NSRCEL. The business contest is a platform for identifying and nurturing serious entrepreneurial teams and helping them to start up, he says.

'Shark Tank' is a five-minute

rapid-fire Q&A where questions will be posed by potential investors and contestants will have to survive that.

Earlier this year, the institute had invited business pitches from students from top institutions such as Indian School of Business - Hyderabad, MDI - Gurgaon, Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Delhi College of Engineering, Institute of Rural Management - Anand, Xavier Institute Of Management - Bhubaneswar, among others.

The top ten pitches will get funding from the 'Shark Tank' investors while the top two teams will additionally get funded by Indian Angels Network and Mumbai Angels, who are supporting the contest, and will get rent free incubation support from NSRCEL for one year.

The business plan contest, Bzzwings, will be a part of the institute's annual business fest, Vista to be held on Sunday.

In the shark tank, two investors

WHAT'S A SHARK TANK?

Investors will fire quick questions at budding entrepreneurs. Top 10 pitches will get funding

(Ubhaya - a social development fund represented by Sreejith, VP, business development, and VGN Prakash) will offer seed funding to one for profit venture and one social venture each.

"The 'shark tank' is also a means to providing seed funding to deserving ideas. The right to spot the deserving ideas rests with the investors... Such a 'shark tank' is being done for the first time in IIM-B and so the excitement is fairly high," says a spokesperson from IIM-B. It is also perhaps one of the few of its kind in Bangalore, she adds.

The investors in the "shark tank" will be free to select from the Top 8 teams that are not necessarily the winners of the contest. The 'Shark Tank' will be followed by an Entrepreneurship Conclave. "NSRCEL is impressed by the mature enthusiasm of the students who are managing Bzzwings... It is also consistent with the NSRCEL philosophy of encouraging the creation of high-potential start ups," says Sabarinathan.

The top 8 teams have been chosen from about 120 entries from across the country. The process of identifying the eight teams was managed by the students and NSRCEL and included four rounds of screening, progressing from 120 to 64 to 32 and the final eight.

NSRCEL and the student teams also organised a workshop for the Top 8 to help them prepare for the finals. Multiple online mentoring sessions was provided by NSRCEL's panel of mentors to budding entrepreneurs across the country.

Mail Today ND 26/09/2014P-5

SC ruling puts deemed univs on doomed list

By **Harish V. Nair** in New Delhi

AROUND THREE lakh students enrolled in 34 deemed universities across the country were dealt a severe setback on Thursday when the Supreme Court ruled that these institutions cannot be allowed to operate without fresh physical verification of their infrastructure and teaching faculty.

The court questioned how 34 of the 41 universities found deficient in 2009 by the University Grants Commission were recently given clean chits without further verification after perusing certain documents.

A report prepared by UGC Vice Chairman H. Devaraj and submitted to the court, said only seven to eight varsities out of the 41 that were blacklisted were found inadequate and the HRD ministry would serve them a show-cause notice before their de-notification.

But the court rejected the UGC's plea to allow

The varsities had moved the SC

other universities to function and asked: "What is the hurry? The universities cannot be allowed to operate without physical verification of their infrastructure and the strength of the teaching faculty. How can you make such a request?"

The court postponed the matter for September 26 to get a fresh view on the 41 deemed universities after proper checks. The aggrieved universities had approached the Supreme Court, opposing the HRD ministry's decision to de-recognise them.

The ministry's decision was based on the recom-

The 34 varsities, according to the SC, cannot be allowed to operate without fresh verifications.

BLACKLISTED

Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem; Academy of Maritime Education & Training, Karathur; Bharath Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai; Ponnalyah Ramajayam Institute of Technology & Science, Thanjavur (all from Tamil Nadu); Maharshi Markandeshwar University, Mullana-Ambala; and Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad. Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Sardarshah; Is the lone Institute from Rajasthan.

mendations of a committee headed by eminent scholar N. Tandon.

In its review of a total of 126 deemed universities, the Tandon committee found only 38 in group A category fit to qualify, while 44 in group B were found deficient in some parameters that needed to be rectified. Another 44, placed in group C, were found totally unfit.



Times of India ND 26/09/2014 P-15

SC to UGC: Carry out physical verification of deemed univs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday smelt a rat in University Grants Commission's decision to submit to the Centre a report on 41 deemed universities facing de-recognition, after taking stock of their infrastructure and teaching faculty strength through video presentation.

A bench of Justices Dipak Misra and Vikramjit Sen had a few questions for additional solicitor general Maninder Singh, who appeared for UGC. "Why should you avoid physical inspection? These days, photographs can be dangerous... You do not purchase a house by seeing its photograph.

"Are you trying to tell us that you will analyse these institutions using photographs? We are not accepting

Why should you avoid physical inspection? These days, photographs can be dangerous... You do not purchase a house by seeing its photograph. We are not accepting inspection through video or photographs

SC BENCH

this concept of inspection through video or photographs. Do not expect us to digest that there is no difference between 2009 inspection and 2014 inspection."

The bench became suspicious after it was informed by one of the 41 institutions that UGC's expert committee had called for video presentations and did not conduct

on-the-spot inspection as mandated by clause 4.16 of the UGC Regulations 2010.

Bharath Institute for Higher Education and Research, through senior advocate Harish Salve, said it was willing for a fresh physical inspection. The bench ordered UGC to inspect the institution and wondered why a uniform order could not be passed for all 41 institutions.

UGC had last inspected the 41 deemed universities in November 2009 following the P N Tandon Committee report classifying them as "unfit" to be declared deemed universities.

Maninder Singh informed the court that UGC

decided to evaluate the merit of each institution as it had to submit its report to the Centre by September 30.

The bench told UGC that in all its earlier orders, the commission had claimed no objection for fresh physical inspection. Singh said UGC even now had no objection to fresh physical verification of the deemed universities blacklisted by the Tandon panel.

Some of the institutions objected to fresh physical inspection and asked the court to restrict its order to institutions desirous of re-inspection. "Why should you feel shy of physical verification," said the bench on Friday.

Pioneer ND 26/09/2014

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Varsities set their own papers to pass UGC test!

ABRAHAM THOMAS ■
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has come under severe criticism from the Supreme Court for shoddy handling of the task of verifying the genuineness of the 41 deemed universities facing de-recognition.

The UGC chose to go by video presentations submitted by the universities about the existence of necessary facilities and infrastructure without undertaking any physical inspection to verify the claims.

Taking a strong note of it, the Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday gave a day's time to the Centre and the UGC for

their views on conducting fresh inspections.

Clause 4.16 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations 2010 requires UGC to conduct fresh inspection of each deemed university, every five years. The last inspection in case of these 41 institutions was done in November 2009, almost a month after the Professor PN Tandon Committee had categorized them as "unfit" to continue owing to poor infrastructure and academic standards.

When this fact was brought to the notice of the SC by Bharath Institute for Higher Education and Research, one of the 41 institutions, the Bench smelt a rat in the hurry shown

SC raps University Grants Commission for shoddy handling of the task of verifying the genuineness of the 41 deemed universities facing de-recognition. The UGC chose to go by video presentations submitted by the universities about the existence of necessary facilities without undertaking any physical inspection to verify the claims



by the UGC to skip fresh inspection.

The Bench of Justices Dipak Misra and Vikramjit Sen said:

"Are you (UGC) trying to tell us that you will analyze these institutions using photographs? We do not accept this concept of

inspection through videos or photographs."

Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh who appeared for the UGC informed the SC that the hurry was on account of the fast-approaching deadline of September 30 when the report had to be submitted to the Centre. He further informed the Bench that pursuant to the decision taken by the Commission's 503rd meeting, a sub-committee under the UGC had considered a video presentation of all 41 institutions and submitted a report to the Central Government on September 22.

The Bench pointed out that in all its earlier orders the UGC had claimed no objection

for fresh physical inspection. Even the UGC's minutes of the March 26, 2014 meeting had said: "At this stage, it is not possible to ascertain the current status of these institutions, more so in respect of their available physical and academic infrastructure as also in respect of their academic performance and research output. This would require that all the 41 institutions deemed to be universities are visited afresh by expert committees."

On two occasions in the past, the SC had extended the time in order to facilitate fresh inspection by the UGC as ordered by the court on January 21 this year. Strangely, the UGC in its meeting held on

June 13 took a U-turn by constituting a sub-committee and asking all 41 institutes to appear before it along with a video presentation that showed improvements made since the last inspection.

The Bench asked the UGC: "Why should you avoid physical inspection? These days photographs can be dangerous... You will not purchase a house by seeing its photograph."

Some of the institutions in the category of 41 objected to a fresh inspection and asked the SC to restrict its order to such institutions that were desirous of re-inspection. "Why should you feel shy of physical verification?" asked the Bench, posting the matter for Friday.

Brazil releases 'good' mosquitoes to fight dengue

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London: Brazilian researchers in Rio de Janeiro have released thousands of mosquitoes infected with bacteria that suppress dengue fever. The hope is they will multiply, breed and become the majority of mosquitoes, thus reducing cases of the disease. The bacterium *Wolbachia* is found in 60% of insects and it acts like a vaccine for the mosquito which carries dengue,

Aedes aegypti, stopping the dengue virus multiplying in its body.

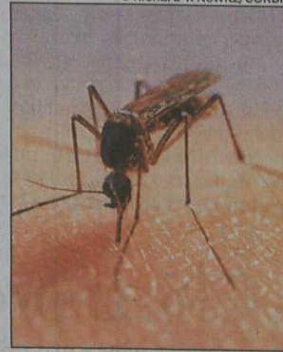
The British biotech firm Oxitec has altered the DNA of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito to prevent it from spreading the potentially deadly virus.

The Oxford-based biotech firm's new factory in the Brazilian city of Campinas, outside Sao Paulo, is the first in the world to launch production of genetically modified mosquitoes to target dengue.

The mosquitoes dubbed

OX513A have been bred to carry a sort of genetic self-destruct mechanism that causes their offspring to die before they reach sexual maturity, preventing them from reproducing. The Oxitec mosquito is a strain of the wild species that contains two additional genes. The males (which cannot bite) are released to seek out and mate with the wild females. Their offspring inherit the additional genes and die before becoming functional adults.

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SAFE BITE

They also inherit a marker that is visible under a special light, making monitoring in the field simple and helping ensure that dengue mosquito control programmes succeed. Brazil is the first country to allow the commercial release of the OX513A mosquitoes.

Hadyn Parry, CEO of Oxitec said the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* is the main vector of dengue, a virus that infects an estimated 390 million people per year worldwide.

Ministry likely to back UGC on denial to Symbiosis

RUHI TEWARI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE Human Resource Development Ministry is likely to endorse the University Grants Commission's decision to yet again deny permission to Pune-based Symbiosis University to set up an off-campus centre in Hyderabad. The UGC decision had come in the wake of Supreme Court's intervention in the matter.

The UGC, during a meeting Monday, decided to stick to its recommendation. An official communication to this effect was received by the ministry Wednesday, sources said. Sources said that even though

the final order hasn't come yet, the ministry has decided to endorse the decision.

Symbiosis University, after being denied permission by the UGC earlier this year, had challenged the decision in court. The UGC had claimed its decision was in view of the ministry's policy on deemed universities and their expansion. It had also considered reports by the UGC expert committee, the All India Council for Technical Education and the Bar Council of India (BCI). Last week, while hearing a petition by Symbiosis, the Supreme Court pulled up the UGC for allowing the HRD Ministry to be involved in the decision-

making process and asked the UGC to take a re-look into the university's proposal.

"The commission reconsidered the matter in the light of the directions issued by the Supreme Court, and keeping in view the deficiencies pointed out in the UGC's expert committee report and... resolved not to recommend the proposal of Symbiosis International Deemed to be University to set up an off-campus centre at Mamidpally, district Mahabubnagar," the minutes of the UGC meeting held on September 22 state.

Sources said the university has now challenged the UGC's latest decision in court as well.