Newspaper Clips September 7, 2016

IIS, IIT Delhi slip in QS rankings as 7 Indian univs make it to top 400

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/iis-iit-delhi-slip-in-qs-rankings-as-7-indian-univs-make-it-to-top-400/story-eLQufJEUHu5rtnzQzjYv0J.html

Seven Indian institutes have been listed in the top 400 educational institutions in the world by a UK survey, which saw Cambridge slipping out of the top three global universities for the first time.

According to QS World University Rankings 2016 survey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) holds on to the top spot, followed by two other American universities -- Stanford at second position and Harvard at third position.

Indian universities continue to lag behind in the global top 200, with Indian Institute of Science dropping five notches to 152 from 147 last year and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi at 185 from 179 in 2015, the survey said,

Other Indian universities that make the cut within the top 400 on the list are the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) -- Bombay (219), Madras (249), Kanpur (302), Kharagpur (313) and Roorkee (399).

"This year's rankings imply that levels of investment are determining who progresses and who regresses. Institutions in countries that provide high levels of targeted funding, whether from endowments or from the public purse, are rising," said Ben Sowter, head of research at QS.

Cambridge University has fallen out of the global top three for the first time in the latest university rankings released.

Cambridge, which was ranked a joint third with Harvard last year, slips to fourth with British competitor Oxford retaining its sixth rank.

Experts believe the exact post-Brexit impact on UK universities will become clearer next year as bulk of the research for this year's rankings was conducted before Britain voted to leave the European Union (EU) on June 23.

London's mayor Sadiq Khan said: "Boasting more of the globe's top universities and welcoming the most international students, London is the higher education capital of the world and I want to make sure it stays that way."

The rankings include 916 universities from 81 countries, with 33 countries featured in the Top 200.

The US dominate, with 48 institutions, ahead of the UK (30), Netherlands (12), Germany (11), Canada, Australia (9), Japan (8), China (7), France, Sweden and Hong Kong (5).

The 'QS World University Rankings' are based on four categories: research, teaching, employability and internationalisation.

The methodology consists of six indicators: academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), faculty student ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), international students (5%), and international faculty (5%).

How IIT-Madras broke into world's top 250

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/How-IIT-Madras-broke-into-worlds-top-250/articleshow/54040385.cms

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Madras) is the only Indian institution to have bettered its position in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) ranking for 2016-17 released on Tuesday. IIT-Madras moved up from the 254th position in 2015 to 249 this year, entering the global top 250 institutions.

The other eight Indian institutions that featured in the top 700 institutions in 2015 saw a dip in their ranking position this year. Ben Sowter, head of research at the QS intelligence unit, attributes the fall of Indian institutions to a number of factors. "One such factor is India's relatively low numbers of PhD-qualified researchers, which has a direct and deleterious impact on the research productivity and impact of India's universities. This problem is exacerbated by India hiring and attracting fewer PhD-qualified researchers from abroad.

IIT-Madras has been constantly improving its QS ranking in the last three years. It was at 322 in 2014 and has moved up 73 positions in three years a significant achievement for a university. Director of IIT-Madras Bhaskar Ramamurthi, said, "There is no significant improvement in the parameters as such. In fact, we are concerned about the temporary faculty shortage due to the increase of PhD students." However, he attributes the improvement in the ranking to the rising intake of PhD scholars. "Until three years ago, we were admitting 200-250 candidates every year, which has risen to 400-450 now. This will help improve our research output," said Ramamurthi.

However, IIT-Madras has slipped eight positions in the ranking of institutions based on research work. IIT-Madras was 93 in 2015 and has slipped to 101 this year. "We have to look into this and identify the reasons. But, in general if you see institutions with better research rankings, they have got more published research work in life sciences. For some niche engineering and technology streams it is tough to get into reputed international journals," said Ramamurthi.

When asked about the need for increasing intake of international students, Ramamurthi said that Union ministry of human resource and development (MHRD) is working on improving this parameter in public-funded institutions. "We are looking at conducting graduate aptitude test for engineering (GATE) in countries abroad. In the last two months, professors have visited some countries and have studied the possibilities," he said. The ministry is exploring options like Sri Lanka, Bangaladesh, Singapore, Afghanistan some countries in Africa and the Middle East.

In the last two council meetings, the ministry has emphasized on achieving 20% postgraduate students from abroad.

IIT-Madras also has a plan in place to improve its ranking, but, Ramamurthi said that most German technical institutions, including some most sought-after places for higher education, are also ranked around the IITs.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 07.09.2016 P-01



शोध नहीं कर रहे हैं हमारे संस्थान

🏖 किंग अकादिमक शोध और रेशिक्षकों की गुणवत्ता के आधार पर तय की गई है। ऐसे में भारत की शिक्षा व्यवस्था और उसकी गुणवत्ता पर सवाल उठ रहे है। शोध की कैटेगरी में टॉप 100 में भारत की चार युनिवर्सिटी हैं। आईआईटी मद्रास की रैकिंग शोध के मामले में आठ रैंकिंग खिसक

गई है। इस दफा यह इंस्टीट्यूट 101वें स्थान पर आया है। शोध के लिहाज से आईआईएससी बेंगलरु बेहतर माना गया है। उसे 11वां स्थान मिला है। क्युएस इंटेलीजेंस युनिट के शोध विभाग के प्रमुख बेन सवोत्रो कहते हैं कि भारत में शिक्षा का स्तर गिरने की वजह पीएचडी छात्रों की संख्या में कमी है।

Amar Ujala ND 07.09.2016 P-02

यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करेंगे

अवजलशोधक संयंत्रों का अध्ययन करने के लिए कमेटी गठित

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने यमुना नदी को प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए मंगलवार को एक कमेटी गठित कर दी। कमेटी बोर्ड के समस्त अवजल शोधक संयंत्रों का अध्ययन करके उनके संबंध में प्रगति रिपोर्ट देगी। दिल्ली सरकार के जल मंत्री किपल मिश्रा ने कमेटी को एक माह में रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड में मंगलवार को यमुना नदी को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की कार्ययोजना तैयार करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय बैठक हुई। इस बैठक में दिल्ली के सीवर सिस्टम और जल बोर्ड की कार्यप्रणाली को अधिक पारदर्शी करने के लिए कई बड़े निर्णय लिए गए। बैठक में जल मंत्री, जल बोर्ड के विरष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ-साथ यमुना जिए अभियान के मनोज मिश्रा, आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रो. गुसाईं, इंटेक के मनु भटनागर भी शामिल हुए। यहां किपल मिश्रा ने जल बोर्ड के सभी अवजल शोधक संयंत्रों की एक माह में

प्रगति रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के निर्देश दिए।

इसके लिए उन्होंने चार सदस्यीय कमेटी का गठन किया। कमेटी में मनोज मिश्रा व मनु भटनागर को भी शामिल किया गया। इसके अलावा जल बोर्ड के मुख्य अभियंता भी कमेटी में होंगे। मिश्रा ने यमुना नदी में गिर रहे सभी नालों के सर्वे करवाने का भी निर्णय लिया। इसके अलावा आईआईटी के साथ मिलकर एक सेप्टेज और स्लज मैनेजमेंट प्लान बनाने का फैसला



किया। इस बीच जल बोर्ड ने अपने सभी अवजल शोधक संयंत्रों की समस्त जानकारी एक सप्ताह में अपनी वेबसाइट के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक करने का निर्णय लिया। बैठक में कपिल मिश्रा ने जानकारी दी कि अवजल शोधक संयंत्रों में अच्छा काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों के लिए एक खास रिवार्ड योजना शुरू की जाएगी, इसके तहत कर्मचारियों को सम्मानित किया जाएगा।

जलभराव को लेकर हाईकोर्ट गंभीर

नई दिल्ली। हाईकोर्ट ने राजधानी में पिछले सप्ताह हुई जबरदस्त बारिश से जलभराव के मामले को गंभीरता से लिया है। अदालत ने इस मामले में दायर जनिहत याचिका पर केंद्र, दिल्ली सरकार, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण, सभी सिविक एजेंसियों व दिल्ली पुलिस को नोटिस जारी कर जवाब तलब किया है। मुख्य न्यायाधीश जी.रोहिणी व न्यायमूर्ति सुदर्शन कुमार मिश्रा की खंडपीठ ने यह नोटिस जोगिंदर सुखीजा द्वारा दायर जनिहत याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान दी। याचिका में आरोप लगाया है कि इस बारिश में दिल्ली में बाढ़ जैसे हालात हो गए और सभी संबंधित विभाग इस स्थिति से निपटने में पूरी तरह से असफल रहे हैं। कोर्ट ने मामले की सुनवाई 19 नवंबर तय की है। ब्यूरो

Veer Arjun ND 07.09.2016 P-03

सेंटर फॉर साइट ने सभी को नेत्रदान करने का संकल्प लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया

वीर अर्जुन संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय नेनदान पखनाडे के मौके पर देश में आखों के अस्पतालों की अप्रणी श्रृंखला सेटर फॉर आई और पेसेफिक मॉल ने मिल कर एक ठब्लाइड गॉकठ का आयोजन किया। इसका उद्देष्य लोगों को नेत्रदान के प्रति आपरूक करना था नाकि कॉर्निया से होने वाले अधेपन को भारत में पूरी तरह समाप्त किया जा सके राष्ट्रीय नेनदान पखनाडा हर वर्ष 25 अगस्त से 8 सितम्बर तक मनाया जाता है और इसका उद्देष्य लोगों को कॉर्निया के अधेपन से बचाने के लिए जागरूक करना और नेत्रदान जैसे परोपकार के लिए प्रेरित करना है।

विकासपील देपों में नेत्रहीनता जनस्वास्थ्य से जडी बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के अनुसार दनिया भर में 285 मिलियन लोगों की नजरें कमजोर है। इनमें से 90.5 मिलियन यानी करीब साढे नौ करोड दक्षिण पूर्वी एषिया क्षेत्र से है। दुनिया के अनुमानित 39 मिलियन नेवहीन लोगों में से 90 प्रतिवत विकासवील देवों में है और 22 प्रतिषत अकेले भारत में है। ऐसे में नेत्रहीनता का ज्यादातर भार विकासपील देपों पर है जहां दनिया के दस में से नौ नेत्रहीन रहते है। लगभग आधी वताब्दी से इससे बचाव के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन नेवहीनता की वैध्विक समस्या कम होने के बजाए



बढती जा रही है। इसका कारण जनसंख्या बृद्धि और लोगों की आय बढ़ना है। यदि अभी कछ नहीं किया गया और तत्काल अतिरिक्त संसाधन नहीं लगाए गए तो अनुमान है कि 2020 तक नेत्रहीनता का वैष्विक भार-मौजदा से दोगुना हो जाएगा।कार्निया आखों के आगे की एक साफ झिल्ली है। यदि कॉर्निया किसी बोमारी, चोट. संतमण या कपोशण का विकार हो जाता है तो नजर कमजोर हो जाती है या परी तरह से खत्म हो सकती है। खराब कॉर्निया को किसी अन्य व्यक्ति से मिले स्वरूप कॉर्निया से बदल दिया जाए तो कॉर्निया से होने वाला अंधापन खत्म किया जा सकता है। किसी मानव का कॉर्निया सिर्फ नेत्रदान से ही मिल संकता है। कॉर्निया का अंधापन मुख्य रूप से

बच्चों और यवाओं को प्रभावित करता है, जिनके सामने उनकी परी जिंदगी होती है।हालांकि कॉर्नियां प्रत्यारोपण के लिए हमारे पास प्रविक्षित और उच्च योग्यता वाले सर्जन व अस्पताल सविधाएं है, लेकिन इस सर्जरी को करने के लिए पर्याप्त संख्या में कॉर्निया. नहीं है। एक अनुमान के अनुसार हमारे देष के 11 लाख लोग कॉर्निया प्रत्यारोपण का इंतजार कर रहे है और हर वर्ष 25 हजार नए केस इसमें और जड जाते है। एक नेत्रदान दो लोगों को आखीं की रोपनी दे सकता है नित्रदान पखवाडे के तहत हुए ठलाइटए लाइफट इवेट में बच्चों, वयस्कों, ब्लॉगर्स, आइसेक दिल्ली आईआईटी के लोगों सहित सभी वर्गों ने भाग लिया था और

था। आईसेक आईआईटी के से जुड़े 20 सदस्य रविवार की दोपहर आए और परे के साध कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया ।ठलाइटए लाइफठ एक ऐसी वॉक धी जिसके जरिए सामान्य लोग कंछ समय के लिए दृष्टिबाधितों की दनिया से ज़ड़ पाए और उन्हें यह अहसास हुआ कि हम अपनी जिन आखों को कुछ नहीं समझते, कुछ लोगों के लिए उनकी क्या अहमियत है। यदि कोई यह नही जानता कि वह कहां जा रहा है तो उसका अगला कदम भय और अनिष्यितता से भरा होगा इस वॉक का नेतृत्व सेटर फॉर साइट ग्रंप ऑफ आई हॉस्पिटल्स के अध्यक्ष व मेडिकल डायरेक्टर डॉ महिपाल सिंह सचदेव ने किया था और सेटर फॉर साइट की टीम, आफीक

आईआईटी दिल्ली इसमें उनके सहयोगं थे।यह वॉक पेसेफिक मॉल के प्रवेष द्वा-से षरू हुआ और संकल्प बुध पर समाप्त हुआ जहां नेत्रदान के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त को जा सकती थी और नेत्रदान के लिए संकल्पपत्र भी भरा उ सकता था। डॉ. सचेदव ने सबसे पहा संबल्प लिया और उनके बाद सेंटर फॉ साइट व पेसेफिक मॉल से जुड़े डॉक्टरों तथा कर्मचारियों ने संकल्प लिया ।इस वॉक के प्रतिभागियों की आंखों पर पर बांध दी गई थी और उन्हें मॉल का एक चक्कर लगाने की कहा गया था। उन माइक के जरिए निर्देषित किया गय और पुरूआत में कुछ लडखडाने वे बाद सभी ने आसानी से वॉक पूरी कर ली। जब उनसे उनका अनुभव पूछा गया तो उन्हें इस बात पर हैरानी थी कि जिनकी आंखें नहीं होती, वे कैसे अपन रोजमर्रा का काम आसानी से निपट लेते है। ज्यादातर लोगों का कहना धा कि अगला कदम उठाना ही बहुत हरावना और अनिष्यितता भरा लग रह था, क्योंकि हमें पता हो नही था कि हम कहां जा रहे है।इस मौके पर अपन संकल्प लेते हए डॉ सचदेव ने दृष्टि बाधित लोगों को सराहना करते हर नेत्रदान के महत्व पर जोर दिया। उनक कहना था कि ठ हम लोग जिनकी नजर सही है और जो इनका महत्व नहीं समझते, उनके लिए यह बॉक बहुत

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Chasing the IIT dream, across the Palk Bay

With foreign nationals becoming eligible to compete for the IITs, Sri Lanka's high school students are aiming high

MEERA SRINIVASAN

colombo: After completing her AS levels — equivalent of class II — at a Colombo school, Sasmithaa Manickam is exploring her options in higher education.

If her dream materialises, she may be, in a couple of years, studying at a premier institution in India, learning the fundamentals of computer science engineering. She has set her sights on the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Visit by IIT professors

"I got to know about the IITs while reading about top techies in places like Google. I also have heard a lot about the institutes from my friends and relatives living in India," she said, after an interactive session with visiting academics from the IITs on Monday. A team of six IIT professors is in Sri Lanka to orient students to the admissions system at the



REACH OF THE IITS: Students take part in an outreach event organised by the Indian High Commission in Colombo earlier in the week. — PHOTO: MEERA SRINIVASAN

Earlier this year, the IITs had announced plans to hold entrance examinations abroad — in Singapore, the UAE, Ethiopia and SAARC nations. Following that, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, has begun its outreach.

The initiative enables, for the first time, foreign nationals to compete for IIT seats. Up to now, the entrance exams were conducted only to admit Indians living abroad.

"The IITs have made it to top slots in some international ranking lists. However, admitting more foreign students will put the IITs at an even higher level globally," said Santosh J. Gharpure, associate professor, IIT-Bombay, at a discussion organised by the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Foreign nationals will be admitted to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the IITs from the year 2017-18. They could appear for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) in Sri Lanka, on the same day and time, like aspirants in India. The IITs will add seats to their existing pool, opening up new space where foreign nationals compete with each other, without any change to

the admission process.
Sri Lanka has, for long, been setting an example in the region with its highly-regarded public school and university system. However, the last few years have witnessed a stronger push for private education here. Moreover, many high school

students, particularly those from Colombo, are increasingly considering higher education abroad — even at the undergraduate level targeting colleges in the U.S.,

the U.K. and Australia.
Soon, students who aspire to pursue an engineering degree can consider colleges right across the Palk Bay now that the IITs have opened their gates to them.

opened their gates to them.
"To start with, it is so close
by. The courses also tend to
be more affordable than in
the West," said Kavishna Sekar, who wants to study
chemical engineering.
The IITs have so far had

international students mostly as part of exchange programmes. "This sort of diversity will be great for Indian students. So it's an advantage not just to the foreign students, but a great value addition to the experience of our students in India as well. It's a win-win situation," said U.K. Anandavardhanan, associate professor at IT-Bombay. The professors said they would hold a similar session in Jaffna.

IISc to conduct exams

Speaking on this, Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director at IIT-Madras, said that it had not yet been decided if the foreign students would only appear for the JEE (Advanced) or the JEE (Main) too.

or the JEE (Main) too.
He said the exams would be conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and the foreign aspirants would take the exam on the same date, same time as students in India.

Each institute can decide on the number of students it wants to admit, he added.

"The number of seats for Indian students would not be reduced in any of the branches even if foreign students are admitted," he explained, adding, "A student will get admitted to a programme by virtue of having qualified in the entrance evan"."

(With inputs from R. Suiatha in Chennai.)

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IITs turn to core sector firms for palcements after start-up fiasco

VINAY IIMARII

Ahmedabad, 6 September

blacklisting around 31 start-ups, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are now encouraging students to go for core sector companies and public sector undertakings (PSUs) this placement season. The IITs are scrutinising other start-ups closely, as thev begin inviting recruiters for pre-placement talks from September.

"We are hopeful that PSUs will come a bit early this year. It will be a win-win situation for all. This time, we are requesting them to come a bit early. PSUs hire in good numbers usually and it is almost a dream job for students," said K Mohanty, placement chairperson at IIT-Guwahati.

Other IITs, too, are set to follow suit as they look to tap the core manufacturing sector along with PSUs. As many as 31 firms were blacklisted by IITs because they revoked offers and deferred joining dates, among others.

Recently, firms such as PepperTap, Portea Medical, Hopscotch, Grofers, Stayzilla, Roadrunnr and Zomato, among others, were barred from participating in placements for a year.

"The message that we are trying to bring home is that only those start-ups which are serious about recruiting should come to IIT campuses. The message that we are sending through blacklisting should be a sufficient deterrent. Moreover, companies where feedback is not good from the alumni with whom the students are in touch, automatically get moved further down in day- growth in interest in PSUs,



To further ensure employability of students, IITs are encouraging students to positively accept more number of pre-placement offers and not wait till final placement season

slotting," V Babu, advisor for training and placements at IIT-Madras, had told Business Standard earlier.

Hiring through PSUs got a boost last year after the Madras High Court ruled in favour of allowing them to pick students from campuses, Also, except for those in the computer science stream, students have shown a steady

especially in the oil and gas and heavy machinery sectors.

To further ensure the employability of students, the IITs are encouraging them to accept more pre-placement offers and not wait till the final placement season. "The market situation is not so good. Things may improve going ahead. But, we have asked students to take up pre-placement offers unless it pays a very low salary," Mohanty said.

IITs are set to meet again in October or November, closer to the final placement process that begins in December 1. According to placement officials, the meeting is likely to see further steps being taken in ensuring place-

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पीएसयू को आईआईटी दे रहे तवज्जो

विनय उमरजी

अहमदाबाद, 6 सितंबर

तकनीकी शिक्षा मुहैया कराने वाले देश के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान आईआईटी अब प्लेसमेंट के लिए कोर सेक्टर की कंपनियां और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (पीएसयू) पर जोर दे रहे हैं। इसके पहले संस्थान द्वारा 31 कंपनियों को काली सूची में डाला जा चुका है। इन 31 कंपनियों में स्टार्टअप्स की संख्या अधिक है। अब संस्थान न केवल केंपस में आने वाले स्टार्टअप्स की स्थिति की पूरी छानबीन कर रहा है बल्कि छात्रों को भी पीएसयू और कोर कंपनियों में जाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रहा है।

सितंबर आते ही संस्थान ने इन कंपनियों और पीएसयू के साथ प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया पर बातचीत शुरू कर दी है।

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी के प्लेसमेंट चैयरपर्सन के

मोहंती ने कहा, 'हमें उम्मीद है कि इस वर्ष पीएसयू कैंपस में बीते सालों के मुकाबले जल्दी आएंगे। इस बार हमनें भी इन कंपिनयों से जल्दी आने का अनुरोध किया है। आमतौर पर पीएसयू अच्छी संख्या में लोगों को चुनते हैं और यह छात्रों का भी ड्रीम जॉब होता है। 'गुवाहाटी के अलावा अन्य आईआईटी भी जल्द ही इस ओर कदम उठा सकते हैं क्योंकि संस्थान विनिर्माण क्षेत्र समेत पीएसयू में मिलने वाले मौकों को भुनाने पर जोर दे रही है।

हाल में आईआईटी द्वारा जिन कंपनियों को काली सूची में डाला गया है उसमें पैपरटेप, पोर्टिया मेडिकल, हॉपस्कॉच, ग्रोफर्स, स्टेजिला, रोडरनर, जोमेटो, नाउफ्लोट्स, कंसल्टलेन, जिम्पली, बाबाजॉब्स, पीएसके, स्मार्टट्रैक सोलर सिस्टम्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, क्रेयोन डेटा इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्लो होम्स टेक्नोलॉजी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, टेस्करा सॉफ्टवेयर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, टेनोवा इंडिया आदि शामिल हैं।

Aspirants' future at stake as MHRD dilly dallying on filling up thousands of vacant seats in IIT/NITs

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/Aspirants-future-at-stake-as-MHRD-dilly-dallying-on-filling-up-thousands-of-vacant-seats-in-IIT/NITs/articleshow/54035420.cms

MANGALURU: Though nearly 4,000 to 5,000 seats are lying vacant in IIT/NIT and IIITs across the country even after six rounds of counselling of the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA), the MHRD is yet to take call on conducting 'Spot round' to fill up these seats with deserving students, who have cleared competitive exams.

Many candidates and parents from across the nation have demanded Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and they have alleged that minister Prakash Javadekar and officials concerned are not responding to their pleas. Non-filling thousands seats at these top technical institutes will not only affect the future of aspiring students but also will kill the hopes of many students.

Spot Round was conducted till the year 2014. In 2015 JoSAA was drafted. JoSAA rules for 2015 did clearly mention that there would be no 'Spot Round'. So the MHRD instructed CSAB 2015 to find a 'feasible' way to fill up the 3000 plus vacant seats. So Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB)conducted the Special Round, last year.

This year, though JoSAA website shows that vacant seats in IIT/IIIT and NITs at around 2,332 across country, in reality it's three-fold according to sources. "JoSAA hasn't released the updated list of final vacant seats. They have just released the list of vacant seats after round six acceptances. But the admission process completed only after physical reporting. Many students didn't go for physical reporting and have not taken admission. Also many withdrew from colleges even after taking admission once NEET results were out," says Abhinav Basu, from Kolkata. He has passed JEE (Main) as well IIT-JEE.

For example, the JoSAA official website shows that only 28 seats are vacant out of total 740 seats in NIT-K, Surathkal. "In reality, the numbers of vacant seats are around 80. We have written to MHRD to allow spot or final round to fill the

seats but not yet received any reply," reveals Kamlabh Kumar Singh, Assistant Registrar (Academic), NIT-K, Surathkal. Similarly sources claimed that in NIT Silchar where vacancy is 17, the real vacancy is 63 and in Trichy NIT the vacancy is 42 instead of 10. "This sums up that the real vacancies in NITs are almost three times the vacancies shown in the JoSAA website," sources add.

While another aspirant Priyam Shrivastava from Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh says since the NEET results have been announced, students enrolled in engineering colleges including NITs are expected to leave for admission in medical colleges.

Another senior faculty from NIT on condition of anonymity added that if government does not go for spot or special round this year, some of the NITs in north part India would soon have zero admissions since most the students are migrating to IIT/IIITs.

Year wasted

Thousands of students who have toiled nearly 2-3 years to crack JEE (main/advanced) have to waste a year and also appear for competitive exams again next year. Speaking to TOI, more than hundreds of worried aspirants said that wasting a year is not option as it will affect their entire career.

Bengaluru based Shruthi NV says "It's very risky to drop one more year even though we have chances to get into institutions. We have to re-study entire things. Above everything, there are around thousands seats left and are eligible to get them."

While another aspirant Vishal Choudhary from Andaman and Nicobar Islands expressed that as there are no coaching classes, he has sit at home and prepare for the exams.

MHRD mum

When this reporter contact MHRD office, the official concerned stated that based on the recommendations from JoSAA, the ministry has decided to not go for spot or special round. When asked what the recommendations are, officials failed to respond.

IITK scientists build sensor device that spots bacterial infection faster

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/iit-k-scientists-build-sensor-device-that-spots-bacterial-infection-faster/articleshow/54044085.cms

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) have built a new sensor that can detect bacterial infection in food and water in just 1520 minutes, much faster than traditional laboratory tests. "Pathogenic bacterial infection is one of the biggest causes of death, and a fast response time is much needed for timely detection and subsequent cure of bacterial infection," said Saurabh Mani Tripathi, a physicist at IITK. The device, developed with collaborators from the Photonics Research Centre at the University of Quebec in Outaouais works over wide temperature range to quickly and cost effectively identify the potentially deadly Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria. Found in the environment, food, and intestines of people and animals, most strains of E. coli are harmless. But some kinds of E. coli can cause diarrohea, while others cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia, and other illnesses, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. "Using currently available technologies, which are mostly based on amplification of the sample, it takes several hours to days to detect the presence of bacteria. A fast and accurate detection alternative is,

therefore, preferable over the existing technology," Tripathi noted. Faster tests for the bacteria could lead to faster treatment of patients, as well as to cheaper and easier environmental monitoring, he said. The new sensor uses bacteriophages viruses that can naturally latch onto and kill bacteria. The viruses are bonded to the surface of an optical fibre and will grab E.coli bacteria from a sample and keep them attached. When a beam of light strikes the surface, the presence of E.coli shifts the wavelength in a telltale sign of bacterial contamination. One of the challenges of using optical fibres for bacteria detection is that temperature changes can alter the optical properties of the materials. Sensors are therefore often designed to work at a particular temperature and give inaccurate readings if the sample gets much hotter or colder. Tripathi and his colleagues overcame this challenge by adding an additional optical component and in effect canceling out temperature induced shifts. Their device, in the journal Optics Letters, is temperature insensitive over an approximately 20degree Celsius, starting at room temperature and going up to 40degrees Celsius. The temperature insensitivity makes the sensor more practical for outdoor applications, like onsite monitoring of water reservoirs, Tripathi said. IITK scientists build sensor device that spots bacterial infection faster reservoirs, Tripathi said. He also noted that the food industry and pathology labs are other possible users of the new sensors. The researchers said that the sensor can be modified to detect other strains of bacteria by changing the bacteriophage. The research group is currently collaborating with Security and Protection International, a Canadian company, to explore commercialisation of their device.