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TOI, Aug 6

'Can't call Singapore tech institute IIT'

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: While fully supporting the idea of setting up an international institute of technology in Singapore, HRD minister Kapil Sibal, however, has taken exception to the nomenclature. The minister maintained that it cannot be called an IIT even if the acronym stands for international institute of technology.

Talking about his meeting with Singapore foreign minister George Yeo on Wednesday, Sibal said, "I am in favour of such a collaboration between IITs and the Singapore government. But, we cannot mislead people by calling it IIT, Singapore.The model of the proposed institute will be different from our IITs. We will find a way out so that people are not mislead."

Sibal also told Yeo that if the Singapore provides land and attendant infrastructure, IITs would help in designing the course and curriculums.

Aug 7

Court frames charges against IIT-D student

Accused Of Killing Girl 9 Months Ago

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Nine months after a girl from north-east was murdered and burnt by a PhD student of IIT-Delhi in south Delhi, a sessions court has framed charges of murder and destruction of evidence against the accused.

Paving the way for the trial, additional sessions judge Dharmaesh Kumar Sharma said: ''I consider that prima facie charges under sections 302 and 201 of IPC are made out against the accused. Charges framed accordingly to which accused pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.''

The court has now put the matter for recording of prosecution evidence from November 1, 2010. As per the case, 34-year-old Pushpam Sinha, a PhD student of IIT-Delhi, had on October 24, last year allegedly murdered and burnt a teenager who was his neighbour in Munirka in south Delhi. The victim, Ramchanphy Hongray, who hailed from Manipur, was visiting her sister when the incident happened. The postmortem report had revealed that the 19-year-old girl was strangled to death and burnt.

Sinha, who hails from Patna, had graduated from an engineering college in Allahabad and completed his MSc from IISc in Bangalore. He was doing PhD in wave mechanics from IIT-Delhi on a monthly scholarship of Rs 14,000. Sinha reportedly told the cops he was the nextdoor neighbour of Hongray and she had been rejecting his advances over the past few days. On October 24, when she was alone at home, he entered the house and assaulted her. When she resisted, he allegedly strangled her and then set her body on fire in the kitchen to remove evidence.

IIT-D lines up series of events to celebrate 50 glorious years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IIT-Delhi will enter its 50th year on August 16 giving a kickstart to a variety of academic and industrial events in the coming months. IIT-D will also award 1,371 students this year of which 465 will be undergraduate students and 138 PhDs. IIT-D director, professor Surendra Prasad, said, ''It is an occasion of double joy for us. We will be in the golden jubilee

year of IIT-D's academic life and we also have our annual convocation coming up on the weekend.''

Prasad said the golden jubilee celebrations will begin with the visit of President Pratibha Patil on August 16. ''Besides, we are expecting large number of IIT-D alumni from even the first batch to join us on that day. We will also organize lectures by our industrious alumni,'' Prasad said while adding, ''In October, we will have a PAN IIT meet in Greater Noida. Then there will be an international education summit in January where vice-chancellors, head of departments, deans from all over the world are expected to participate.''

According to Prasad, the year gone by also witnessed a number of developments including the sanction of Rs 50 crore by the ministry of communication and information technology for putting up a nano-fabrication facility for non-silicon devices at IIT-D.

''It's a unique facility which is available only at two other places in India — at IITBombay and IISc Bangalore,'' Prasad said. IIT-D also received a total funding of Rs 85.25 crore for various research projects in 2009-10.

Meanwhile, IIT-D has also started work on a new sixstorey lecture theatre-cumlab complex which is expected to be functional in less than two years.

Thanks to OBC reservation, the average class-size has gone up drastically making it imperative for the institute to create more teaching space.

''The new complex will have rooms for class size of 50 as well as 500. We have got clearances from all agencies concerned and the work has already started. It will come up adjacent to the main building,'' Prasad said. The institute currently has 6,842 students enrolled in various programmes and nearly 100 classrooms to accommodate them.

NEXT STOP RESEARCH?

IIT-B becoming an assembly line of PhDs?

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: Even as India grapples with how to increase the number of researchers, IIT-Bombay recorded a slight drop in the number of PhDs this year. The Powai institute had contributed the highest number of 200 PhDs to India last year. This time the number was 179. Like previous years, this year too most of the PhD holders were from the chemical engineering department.

The positive sign is that the Powai institute is working towards developing into a ''top technical university driven by research''. Once this is achieved, the PhD numbers are likely to increase in the coming years. IIT-B director Devang Khakhar said the institute had seen more-than-100% increase in the number of PhDs on its rolls in the last eight years — from 771 to 1,681 this year. And the number of those graduating annually has risen from 73 in 2001 to 2010's 179 awarded at IIT-B's 48th convocation ceremony on Friday.

''An interesting aspect of our PhD output observed in the recent years is that around 65% of them are in the engineering disciplines,'' said Khakhar. This year, the convocation is spread over two days when 1,691 degrees will be awarded. Of these 196 are five-year BTech-MTech dual degrees, 706 MTech, 83 master's in management, 45 master's in design and 508 BTech degrees. While the PhDs were awarded on Friday, the graduates will get them on Sunday.

''We can soon expect a substantial increase in the number of PhDs graduating from convocations like these,'' said Anil Kakodkar, chairman of IITB's board of governors. This needs to be backed by comprehensive development of the R&D infrastructure.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, head of Biocon, who was chief guest for the convocation, urged IITians to be job creators and not job seekers. ''India needs capable young men and women like you to take a responsible stance for inclusive growth of the nation. Look at what we have done with the Commonwealth Games. We need to hang our heads in shame. Instead of showcasing our talent and technological prowess, there has been complete chaos and failure of trying to deliver a world class product.''

Presenting the institute's plans, Khakhar said a national centre for aerospace innovation and research, along with the department of science and technology and Boeing, is in the wings.

Aug 9

Making a connection

India's youth need a leader and an institution to guide and inspire them

Rwitwika Bhattacharya

Besides the sparks of violence in Kashmir, there is a fire raging throughout India. The violence in Kashmir is connected to the violence in Telangana and that is connected to the Maoist violence in West Bengal. These are symptoms of an incredible problem: the failure to involve youth in social and political processes in India.

The Indian Youth Congress was expected to be the vehicle to mobilise the energies of young people for a brighter Indian future. Instead, it has become a family legacy controlled by the few Gandhis, Pilots and Abdullahs who continue to dominate key positions in the Youth Congress.

Bright and passionate Indian students often steer clear of participating in college-level politics, recognising the thick bureaucracy that plagues the political machine. For example, several of my classmates at Harvard Kennedy School who had completed their undergraduate course in India complained that even though they were interested in participating in youth elections, they had limited access to the "resources" needed to become active members of the Youth Congress.

Rahul Gandhi, though, had wisely recognised the issues of the increasing disconnect with the youth and, to combat this issue, his 'team' launched a campaign to revitalise the Youth Congress by increasing enrolment. But what good would that do? His plan focused primarily on enrolling youth. Young people today want a say in the political process and to not just be a part of an arcane institution. If the decisions continue to be taken only by a chosen few, then the disgruntlement amongst young people will continue to grow.

What political impact can the young man or woman make if they have no political history, and limited financial resources? The extremists are taking to the streets and making their statement through violence. Examples are there in everyday news. The moderates are using social media like Facebook, Twitter and Myspace to organise. The inundation of political commentary on blogs proves so. And the activists are directly participating in the political process. The IIT students who had decided to run in the 2009 elections confirm this assumption.

The recent growth of India's vibrant civil society is also a consequence of this movement. Fresh graduates are willing to work for NGOs and media for lower salaries but a higher sense of purpose. There has also been a growing movement amongst Indians living abroad. For instance, last year, a group of three Harvard Business School students worked to develop the Political Society of India, an organisation working to provide interns to MPs in India. Unfortunately, the complexities of getting to MPs led to a temporary suspension of the organisation.

What, then, is the future course if young people in India and abroad continue to remain deprived of direct political participation? While most young people are expressing their interest in political participation through healthy means, this might not always be the case. Young people in Kashmir are screaming out against atrocities in the Valley, Telangana's young want their own identity and Maoists feel that the government has been unfair to them. Before long, 'moderate' young men and women will also be joining their screams if there isn't a strong leader and an institution to guide them.

The young Gandhi, Pilot or Abdullah no longer inspires the young. The Indian Youth Congress is inept in capturing the energies of young people. There is a need for a leader and an institution that will effectively channel these positive energies. Perhaps the burning ashes in the Valley will give birth to such a leader…

The writer is working at the World Bank.

IBM, IIT-B tie up

NEW DELHI: Technology giant IBM on Wednesday said it has partnered with IIT, Bombay, to conduct research on developing new userfriendly designs for mobile device interfaces. The collaboration aims to develop simple, inexpensive mobile phone interfaces that will help users interact with their phones easily regardless of their geography or education level, IBM said in a statement.

Aug 6

IISc munches Apple to treat cancer

Peerzada Abrar

RESEARCHERS at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore have developed new imaging methods to diagnose cancers affecting breast, lung, ovary and skin. The findings released this week is the result of a collaborative project with technology major Apple to develop a near infrared imaging solution for fast and flexible cancer diagnosis and prognosis. "Near infrared light is a promising way to assess the physiology of tumours in tissue, and to monitor responses to treatment," says Dr Phaneendra Yalavarthy, assistant professor of Supercomputer Education and Research Centre, IISc, who led the research.

Typically, imaging data available at present can identify a tumour, but cannot reveal its physiology. Equipment used now is too unwieldy and ionising for monitoring the patient in the clinic has side effects. IISc hopes to change that picture along with Apple.

"The big breakthrough is a three-dimensional image reconstruction. We aim to develop computational algorithms so that three-dimensional near infrared images can be reconstructed realtime in the doctor's clinic. Our solution is ideal for viewing, processing and segmenting large datasets of medical images, to help us achieve that aim," said Dr Yalavarthy.

When people are being treated with chemotherapy and other therapies, it is almost impossible for them to report accurately on the effects on their bodies. Three-dimensional near infrared imaging can help assess those effects as well. The innovation, which uses core component from Apple, also includes OsiriX, an open source medical image processing software.

This technology can also be used to monitor other changing conditions such as arthritis and brain diseases. Dr Yalavarthy, who has stored over one million images on an 8 terabyte server, said that they are looking to develop a solution that will automatically scan millions of images and detect not only different cancers but other diseases such as diabetes as well.

Aug 7

MNCs spawn new technologies from Indian campuses

Peerzada Abrar BANGALORE

GLOBAL tech majors such as IBM, Microsoft and Yahoo! have tied up with Indian campuses to lead the innovation race. Earlier this week, IBM, the world's largest computer-services company, announced a partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay to develop a mobile application that can be used by semi-literate or illiterate people. This is part of the strategy to tap opportunities in emerging economies as future growth for the computing major is expected to be driven by these markets. A similar open collaborative research project (OCR) between the Indian and IBM Tokyo Lab, National Institute of Design and Japanese Universities will create more intuitive mobile interfaces for Japan's ageing population.

IBM has given its India Research Lab $100 million in hand and five years to build the technology. More such innovation will

come from the OCR mode where IBM Labs will work with social scientists, designers and academicians within leading universities. "We also have more futuristic work, such as the spoken web on the mobile phone and telephone network, which will take some years. We have done some pilots of this with farmers in India," said Dr Manish Gupta, director, IBM research India and chief technologist, South Asia.

IBM's first OCR project in India with Indian School of Business (ISB) is developing a new academic discipline "services science" that will prepare talent for the computer services business. This project has been expanded to a full-fledged research "collaboratory", where IBM researchers are housed within a university, government, or commercial partners' premise to share skills, assets and resources.

"Such partnerships, which are based on models such as setting up laboratories in universities, transfer of knowledge from academia to employees, consulting, sponsored and open research, are also helping MNCs to hire good talent," says Harish Singh, director for global Consulting at management consulting company Zinnov.

For the institutes, industry-collaborations helps bring in funding and tools to develop new technologies and to commercialise them. "We are doing another project with phone maker Nokia, where based on intuition, consumers will be able to communicate in their mother tongue", said Anirudha Joshi, associate professor, IIT Bombay.

Other global technology firms are also working with Indian universities. Internet major Yahoo! is collaborating with IISc, Bangalore in the area of 'machine learning'. It is a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) in which a computer program analyses huge chunks of data and makes predictions about the future. "Applications include understanding the behaviour of the users, providing advertisements which have higher click probability and can filter pornographic images, determine fraudulent transactions and help investors make investment decisions', said Dr Rajeev Rastogi, VP and head, Yahoo! Labs, India.

Informatics for rural health management and disease prevention is another area where industry collaborations are taking place. SAP Research has collaborated with PES Institute of Technology (PESIT) to develop a software platform to predict cardio-vascular diseases, hypertension, Diabetes and Anemia. The system, which PESIT plans to commercialise in future, will soon be commissioned in remote rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. "We have developed a mobile application which can be used in remote rural schools. This system will be modified as a web based application and be accessible from a mobile device", said Dr A Srinivas, dean, research & consultancy and professor of computer science, PESIT. Software maker Microsoft, is also building collaboration between its research arm and Indian universities in a bid to tap into growth in emerging markets. "To access these markets it is very important to work with partners such as IISc, IITs, government, and NGOs", said Ed Cutrell, who manages the Technology for Emerging Markets (TEM) group at Microsoft, which aims to target people for whom access to computing remains largely out of reach.

Thiagarajar College of Engineering (TCE) and Honeywell, the maker of controls for planes and buildings have already joined hands to promote an innovation incubation centre as an industryinstitution initiative.TCE is developing imaging system in collaboration with Honeywell, that can see objects behind the wall.

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Prometric dumps NIIT, decides on new partners

Mahima Puri NEW DELHI

US agency Prometric has dumped tech company NIIT for two new partners to conduct the online Common Admission Test for admission to the Indian Institutes of Management this year, hoping to avoid a repeat of the calamitous event in 2009.

P r o m e t r i c , which came under fire for an event marred by crashing servers, missing options to questions or total incoherence of procedures, has tied up with Bangalorebased skills assessment company MeritTrac Services and Everonn Education Ltd, a VSAT education network company headquartered in Chennai.

GUEST COLUMN

Can India build first meta-univ?

DON TAPSCOTT (author of Wikinomics) and Anthony D Williams have an interesting idea on innovating the 21st century University. Building on Charles M Vest's vision of a "meta-university", they argue for a Global Network for Higher Learning, focusing on collaborative learning and collaborative knowledge production, operating on a web-based platform. This suggestion, of course, builds on ideas currently in practice such as Open Courseware, digital academic repositories and networks for higher learning. Globally, as universities ponder their future, many of them are considering this model—but India is eminently suited to take the first steps towards a global meta-university. Precisely because India's eminent knowledge institutions are part of a public system, and are now being brought together as a network.

The Network for Higher Learning is conceived as going through several stages: course-content exchange, coursecontent collaboration, course-content co-innovation, knowledge co-creation and collaborative learning. Tapscott and Williams also believe that "open access movement and its derivatives will provide much of the knowledge and information infrastructure". So in concept, students can enroll in a primary college and can be assigned a "knowledge creator" who works with students to customise a learning experience. It thereby disrupts the idea of the conventional classroom and moulds the teaching for each individual, thus maximising her learning potential.

In India, we have already pioneered a National Knowledge Network (NKN) catalysed by the National Knowledge Commission whose first phase is under implementation. NKN with multi gigabit capabilities will ultimately have about 200 points of presence connecting over 1,000 nodes linking all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, hospitals and agricultural institutions across the country. Leading agencies in the fields of nuclear and space technologies will also be connected. NKN has the potential to connect super computers, research facilities and databases through these institutions. It thus facilitates flow of information and creates a paradigm of collaboration between researchers, academic faculty and students from diverse backgrounds and geographies. To expand reach, the HRD Ministry will connect knowledge institutions below the level of universities to NKN. NKN has already connected 76 institutions which includes IISc, IITs, etc.

India's meta-university can ride on its NKN, and possibly transform the ways in which education is transacted. It could be possible for an engineering student from, say IIT Kanpur to also enroll for a course in ancient history from the Jawaharlal Nehru University or a mathematics student from Indian Institute of Science pursue a course in comparative literature from the Jadavpur University. In such cases, the student also enrolls in an institution other than her 'primary institution" and chooses a mentor to study another discipline. Such a mentor in turn will have students from multiple institutions. A management structure pooling heads of select institutions to oversee the meta-university could be devised.

India is better positioned to implement an idea like a meta-university as so many major knowledge institutions here are part of a public system, and connected or to be connected through the National Knowledge Network. Bigname global schools like Harvard or Yale, while they might appreciate the virtue of collaborative knowledge creation, cannot easily do so as they would be conscious of preserving their specific brand equity as private corporate entities.

The policy environment in India also seems to be conducive with the government declaring its intent to set up 14 "universities of innovation". The DNA of the innovation university is flexibility. The National Knowledge Network could pilot the first such Innovation University as a meta-university. Such a university might imaginatively use current resources both in terms of faculty and connectivity. It also sets the bar high for the other proposed Universities of Innovation that can indeed innovate on the university idea, which after all, had its origins in India in Nalanda and Takshashila.

DD Kosambi, the famous Indian historian started off as a Professor of mathematics. His interest in mathematics led him to numismatics, which then led him to archaeological and historical research. As disciplinary and institutional walls collapse, it may be possible for young Indians to learn differently. A new world of possibilities could then open up.

(Views of the writer are personal)

R GOPALAKRISHNAN ADDITIONAL SECY, PMO

Aug 9

Bihar Super 30 best in India: US envoy

US PRESIDENT BARACK Obama's special envoy Rashad Hussain on Sunday said Bihar's Super 30, which provides free IIT entrance examination coaching to underprivileged students, is the best institute in India. "Super 30 is the best institute in India and an example of change, a dream which US president Barack Obama harbours in the field of education, irrespective of caste and creed," Mr Hussain, Obama's special envoy to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, said in Patna. "In India wherever I have gone I find it the best thing I have come across." "This is a very good beginning, people irrespective of caste and creed are living like members of a community. And back the in US, I will discuss the experience of 'Super 30' and 'Samman' and explore if anything could be done there," he added.

ATTRACTING INDIAN TALENT

Singapore is a cosmopolitan city that offers Indian talent a high quality of life and endless career opportunities. Sheetal Srivastava tells you more

Singapore, over the years, has attracted many Indian professionals to make this global city their home. More than 300,000 Indians have made Singapore their permanent home, some nine per cent of the resident population. There is a strong Indian expatriate community in Singapore, with about 35,000 Indian professionals working there. Among them are more than 700 IIM alumni, the largest outside India and about 1000 IIT alumni. India Club (Singapore), The IIT Alumni Association Singapore, and The IIM Alumni Association Singapore are some of the prominent associations that bring the Indian professional community together in Singapore.

In today's global economy, businesses move to where talent and manpower is readily available. Singapore has enjoyed strong economic growth accompanied by strong employment growth because it has not only kept its labour market flexible, but also made concerted efforts to attract global talent and business concurrently.

The last few years have seen the Republic becoming a talent hub in the region. It has attracted an increasing number of global citizens who have been drawn to opportunities in growth sectors like banking and finance, IT, manufacturing, biomedical sciences, interactive and digital media, healthcare and clean technology.

Singapore has many growth industries, such as Biomedical Sciences, Electronics, Financial Services, Healthcare Services, Interactive & Digital Media (which includes animation, visual effects and game development activities) and Information

Technology, that are keen to hire global talent. Singapore practices a meritocratic corporate culture and has a transparent work pass framework. Opportunities in these industries are open to talent with the right qualifications and skills from all over the world, including India.

Indian talent will find it easy to work and live in Singapore because the country boasts an international workforce, with one in four skilled workers coming from overseas; this helps to make global citizens feel at home. Also, the language of business and instruction is English, which makes it easy for Indians to adjust to the working life in Singapore.

"Most MNCs have their AsiaPAC headquarters in Singapore covering countries such as India, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam etc. So a natural extension for professionals who have worked earlier in India would take a regional role in Singapore. Also, Singapore is a financial centre and therefore offers many opportunities to banking professionals. A new area which has opened up in recent years is Academics. Singapore Universities have been recruiting Indians for teaching and research positions, explains Anuradha Parthasarathy, Founder and CEO, Global Executive Talent.

"Singapore is likely to offer growing opportunities to Indians as it invests more and more into India and establishes a business corridor with places like Chennai," adds Parthasarathy.

Sharing his experience of studying at the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), 26-year-old Debajyoti Ghose from Calcutta shares his experience, "My two years at MDIS was truly memorable and what I liked most were the teachers as they all brought their own industry experiences and skills to the classroom to make the learning experience complete. The diverse mix of international students, including many from India, enhanced my learning experience. I had such a good connect with the students that I was nominated class representative."

When asked how MDIS helped him achieve his goal, he replied, "Singapore is my dream place to live and work. With an MBA from this reputed institute, I have managed to fulfill that desire." Ghose eventually plans to settle down here, but for now is focusing on his career.

With a non-resident Indian community of over 90,000 in Singapore, Indian professionals have found success in a diverse range of industries. A large proportion of Indian professionals provide technical expertise in engineering and IT roles in major manufacturing sectors, excelling as integrated circuit designers in electronics companies, or software developers in IT firms, for example.

Whatever the route, the nation has carved for itself a niche as a lifestyle destination and Asia's premiere global city.

Incorporated since 1956, the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) is Singapore's oldest independent educational institute. Offering various programmes in Business and Management, Engineering, Mass Communication, Information Technology, Life Sciences, Psychology, and Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Management offered in collaboration with highly acclaimed universities in Australia, France, the UK and the United States of America, the institute provides opportunities for individuals to develop themselves professionally.

The campus is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including biomedical laboratories, computer laboratories, a hospitality training centre, a mass communications studio and sports facilities such as a gymnasium, basketball and tennis courts. There is also an amphitheatre that can house art performances and other events.

The MDIS Residences@Stirling is the very first Hostel in Singapore to be awarded the Green Mark Award. Costing S$72 million, the new 15-storey hostel consists of 782 air-conditioned rooms, 14 suites, a lecture theatre and cafeteria. Scheduled

to be completed at end of 2010, the hostel can accommodate some 1,700 students. The hostel has eco-friendly features and integrated facilities so that students can live, learn and play in an interactive and conducive environment.

In addition, the institute has a Career Assistance Unit to train, equip and assist students with the necessary knowledge and skills to increase their chances of securing jobs upon graduation.

The English for International Students (EIS) course is a bridging programme designed to develop the English ability of international students who want to pursue a tertiary education conducted in the English medium.

The EIS course consists of five levels such as Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate and Advanced and includes subjects like,

General English

Communication Skills

Academic Reading, Study Skills and

Writing

Academic Listening, Note-taking and

Discussion

3 ministries quarrel over turf, new bill

TUSSLE Health and law ministries fight HRD's bid to take charge of medical and legal education

Nagendar Sharma
■ nagendar.sharma@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resources development (HRD), health and law ministries have drafted three versions of the same bill in their battle over regulatory control of higher education.

While the HRD ministry is keen to take over the teaching of medicine and law — currently under the jurisdiction of health and law ministries — the other two are fighting hard to protect their turf.

The face-off is a major setback to the government's plan of bringing all streams of higher education — barring agriculture, which stays with the agriculture ministry — under a single regulator.

The Prime Minister's Office has now been asked to play referee between the ministries.

The health and law ministries drafted their own bill on regulation to counter the HRD ministry's National Commission for Higher Education and Research bill, which had originally proposed the formation of a single overarching authority for higher education, with much wider powers than the present University Grants Commission.

"The PMO will have to take a final view in the matter," said a law ministry official. "The views of ministries concerned with certain specialised fields of education cannot be ignored."

The development is a setback for the HRD ministry, which in June had won the states' approval to bring in a super regulator. State education ministers had also backed its proposal to bring medical and legal education under a single authority.

ANATOMY OF A FACE-OFF

Feb 2: Human resource development ministry makes public the draft bill proposing a single regulator for all streams of higher education, except agriculture and medicine

March 7: Bar Council of India objects to legal education being included

April 26: With Medical Council of India chief Dr Ketan Desai being arrested for alleged corruption, HRD ministry moves to bring medical education under its wing too

May 5: Ignoring HRD ministry's moves, health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad announces creation of a new regulator for the medical profession

July 15: Law ministry begins drafting its own bill

HindustanTimes
Title : 3 MINISTRIES QUARREL
Author :
Location :
Article Date : 08/09/2010

3 MINISTRIES QUARREL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The health ministry, which has been on a backfoot following the corruption scandal in the Medical Council of India (MCI) earlier this year, which led to the arrest of MCI chief Ketan Desai, has argued that the original draft of the HRD ministry had left agricultural and medical education out of its ambit – and both exceptions should remain.

With the MCI in disgrace, Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad floated the idea of forming a National Council for Human Resource in Health. "It will be a singleover-arching body for the MCI, Dental Council, Ayurveda, nursing and paramedical staff is in the offing," a ministry official said, which of course would control medical education.

In turn, the HRD ministry had cited the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Yashpal committee on higher education to bring all streams of higher education under the regulatory control of a single authority.

HindustanTimes
Title : HELPING HANDS - Global suitors woo new IITs
Author : Charu Sudan Kasturi charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com
Location : NEW DELHI:
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HELPING HANDS

Global suitors woo new IITs

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NEW DELHI: Germany and Australia have joined a growing number of developed nations keen to tie up with the new Indian Institutes of Technology that've opened in the last two years.

Both have formally told the Indian government their universities would like to collaborate with the new IITs. The reason is clear: the developed world is looking at India both for trained technical manpower and as a potential research hub.

Germany wants to collaborate with IIT-Mandi that started in 2009 while Australia is interested in IIT-Patna, started in 2008, top government sources told *HT*.

They join Japan, France and the United Kingdom, which are already in talks with the government to collaborate with the new IITs in Hyderabad, Jodhpur and Ropar, respectively.

The proposed collaboration involves the foreign partner providing technical knowhow and assistance to the IITs, and engaging in exchange programmes and joint research, sources said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

HALLMARKS OF EXCELLENCE

■ There are currently 15 IITs in the country
■ The first five – at Kharagpur, Mumbai, Chennai, Kanpur and Delhi – were set up between 1951 and 1961
■ The sixth was started in Guwahati in 1997
■ University of Rourkee got IIT status in 2002
■ Eight more IITs have been set up in the last two years
■ Around 4.5 lakh aspirants appeared for the JEE in 2010, competing for 6,500 seats

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HindustanTimes
Title : IITs' global suitors
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IITs' global suitors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The talks so far with Japan, France and the UK suggest that the foreign partners are keen to tap Indian talent — both in terms of trained engineers and research — through their collaboration with the IITs, the sources said.

Japan, for instance, wants IIT-Hyderabad to incorporate the Japanese language and the country's management practices in its course structure — a move that would ease the integration of the institute's graduates into Japanese firms. Top Japanese companies are also expected to help train students at this IIT.

The early IITs too were hand-held and assisted — financially and technically — by foreign countries when they were started half a century ago, though that was largely to help a newly independent, struggling nation find its educational feet.

IIT-Bombay was helped by the erstwhile Soviet Union and UNESCO, IIT-Kanpur and Madras by the US and Germany and IIT-Delhi by Britain.

HindustanTimes
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COURT RAP FOR NIIT

A consumer court has slammed computer education major NIIT for "virtually spoiling" the career of a student by denying him a certificate even after stretching a two-year course to over four years.

"The deficiency in service and unfair trade practice is writ large on the face of the record," the Commission bench said. "NIIT could not fulfil their promise by providing satisfactory and adequate training to the student within stipulated period of two years (plus one year for practical) despite his having fulfilled the eligibility criteria," the Delhi State Consumer Commission said.

HTC, NDELHI

IIT-K gears up to revive sick units

KAUTILYA SINGH
KANPUR, AUGUST 8

IN AN effort to revive the lost glory of the industrial city, a group of 60 students from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) have joined hands with the Indian Industries Association (IIA) to help increase the productivity and quality of sick units in Kanpur.

In this regard, the IIT-K and the IIA jointly launched project 'Utthan- Ek Pehel' on Sunday. Under this initiative, the IIT-K students will visit various industrial units, study the problems faced by them and provide technical assistance to enhance productivity and quality. A workshop was held in this connection, which was attended by over 75 industrialists and 50 IIT-K students.

At present, there are over 6,500 industrial units in Kanpur — mainly of leather, biscuit, detergent, chemical, steel, engineering, textile and plastic. Due to heavy financial losses and tough competition, many among these have shut down in the recent past.

For instance, the number of biscuit industries has gone down from 47 to seven. The scene is similar in the engineering sector. Apart from a few prominent detergent companies, others have mostly faded away.

Promotion of Work Experience and Research (PoWER), a student body of the IIT-K under the Dean of Research and Development, will execute the project along with the IIA. At present, PoWER has 60 members, most of whom are engineering and management students. Gaurav Dixit, student and coordinator for Utthan-Ek Pehel, said that they have been working on the project for the last four months.

"It is a sincere effort on part of the students to help increase the productivity and quality of existing industries," said Professor A K Mittal, IIT-K Industrial and Management Engineering.

He added that members of PoWER themselves had approached the IIA and requested their support for the project.

The activities of PoWER are not included in the academics — it is a voluntary mission taken up by students. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute, National Productivity Council and Kanpur Productivity Council will also provide their support to the cause.

Divisional Chairman of IIA, Sunil Vaishya, said: "Some of the finest experiments and research are being conducted at the IIT-K. It is a privilege for industrialists that students from IIT-K have approached us. While industrialists can benefit from updated technology, the students will gain experience and exposure."

Bihar's 'Super 30' India's best institute, says Obama's envoy

PATNA: US President Barack Obama's special envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Conference Rashad Hussain on Sunday said Bihar's 'Super 30', which provides free IIT entrance exam coaching to underprivileged students, is the best institute in India.

Hussain at Super 30 Institute, on Sunday. PTI

"Super 30 is the best institute in India and an example of change, a dream which US president Barack Obama harbours in the field of education, irrespective of caste and creed," Hussain, Obama's special envoy to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, said here. "In India, wherever I have gone, I find it the best thing I have come across."

After meeting students at the institute, the envoy, accompanied by officials of the US Consulate in Kolkata, said he felt overwhelmed by the academic atmosphere on the campus. **PTI**

Innovations: IIT Bombay Alumni Assn ties up with IIM Ahmedabad wing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AUGUST 5

IN a first of its kind attempt, the IIT Bombay Alumni Association (IITBAA) – Pune chapter has tied up with the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, to provide a platform to creative minds and technocrats who qualify for 'Innovations', the annual event organised by the IITBAA – Pune Chapter.

A formal memorandum of understanding was signed to this effect between IITBAA – Pune Chapter and the CIIE last month. The CIIE comprises

CIIE will extend support in selecting innovators from 'Innovations 2011' which will be organised on January 8 in Pune.

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faculty and alumni of IIM – A, along with the mentors from the industry.

"We are very happy to extend support to innovators with this tie-up when 'Innovations' is successfully entering its fifth consecutive year," said Milind Joshi, president, IITBAA – Pune Chapter.

"The CIIE will extend sup-

port in selecting innovators from 'Innovations 2011' which will be organised on January 8, 2011, in Pune. The innovators will also be eligible to participate in 'MentorEdge' at CIIE", he added.

'Innovations' is an annual event that provides a unique platform to innovators to showcase their innovation, including products or processes developed by the technocrats, which have high degree of practical relevance to change everyday life.

Last date of filing application to qualify for 'Innovations 2011' is October 6, 2010. For more details log on to www.innovations-pune.com .

5 scientists to get awards

AHMEDABAD: The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, has announced that five scientists from different parts of the country would be awarded for their "significant contributions to various fields".

ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan will present the Hari Om Ashram Prerit Dr Vikram Sarabhai Awards and the PRL Award 2009 to these scientists in a ceremony to be held at the PRL campus on August 12, the birth anniversary of Virkram Sarabhai.

The four scientists to recieve the Vikram Sarabhai Research Awards are: In the field of space sciences, professor Jayaram Chengalur from the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune; for his contribution towards the understanding of dark matter in dwarf galaxies and characteristics of the interstellar medium using the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope.

In the field of space applications, Prakash Chauhan from the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad; for his original contributions for oceonographic applications. In the field of telematics and automation, professor Abhay

DNA, Aug 7

IIT-B awards 179 PhD degrees

100% hike in number of research scholars

Mihika Basu

Enlarge Image

The countrys image of being backward in research got a face-lift on Friday when the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, awarded 179 doctorate degrees, a 100% increase in a span of eight years.

"While we had 771 PhDs on the rolls in 2001-2002, this year the number was 1,681. We are on course to achieving our target of 2,775 PhD students in training among the countrys 9,350 by 2018-19. An interesting aspect of our PhD output is that around 65% of our PhDs are in the engineering disciplines," said Devang Khakhar, director of IIT Bombay, during the 48th convocation ceremony of the institute.

"We can soon expect a substantial increase in the number of PhDs graduating from convocations like these, but the efforts need to be backed by a more comprehensive research and development infrastructure, which will have to a combination of technology incubation cells, innovation and entrepreneurship cells, and a research park," said Anil Kakodkar, chairman, board of governors, IIT Bombay.

With severe faculty shortage dogging the education sector, by a conservative estimate, India needs around 8,000 additional faculty members with doctoral degrees.

The first comprehensive review of IIT Bombays PhD programme is also scheduled to be completed this year. "The report will have great impact on our research culture and doctoral programmes," said Khakhar.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon and the chief guest, asked the passing out students to be job creators and not job seekers. "Look at what we have done today with the Commonwealth Games. Instead of showcasing our talent and technological prowess, there has been complete chaos and failure in trying to deliver a world-class product. Thats where we need to make a difference," she said.

Aug 8

Ansari unhappy with IITs performance

Unlike the PM, who praised them, vice president finds the institution lacking when compared to the best in the world

Vineeta Pandey New Delhi

Enlarge Image

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) may be the centre of excellence in India, but they seem to have failed to impress the vice president of India.

Unhappy that IITians are not making a mark at the international level, vice president Hamid Ansari handed over a list of grudges to them during a convocation function of IIT-Delhi. Instead of the usual showering of praise, the VP decided to do some straight talk with the engineering graduates. He complained about poor academic output based on publications, fewer patents and about the fact none of the IITs ranked among the 100 best institutes in the world. He went as far as to say that India fared poorly in comparison to even some developing countries.

Ansaris tough words come just a few weeks after prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh had showered praises over IITians during a function in IIT-Kharagpur. Singh had said that IIT alumni have helped immensely in the transformation of Indias image, serving as excellent ambassadors for their country and in issues of governance. The PM had said that the IITs were well represented in his office too in the form

of five officers from the institutions.

But Ansari wasnt in a mood for any such pep talk. He expressed concern over IIT pass-outs shying away from research work while reading out a whole list of grudges. Unhappy with the fact that none of the IITs ranked among the 100 best institutes in the world, the vice president said Indian institutes also fared poorly in terms of international grading of academic output.

"Only IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi find a place in the 2009 Times Higher Education ranking of 50 engineering and information technology institutions. However, no Indian university - not even an IIT - figures in the top 100 of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Institute of Higher Educations Academic Ranking of World Universities, or in the top 100 of the 2009 Times Higher Education