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TOI

Finmin rejects HRD proposal for 20 IIITs

New Delhi: An ambitious proposal of HRD Ministry to set up 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) could be a non-starter with the Finance Ministry not favouring it during the 11th Plan. A note issued by the HRD Ministry for clearance of Expenditure Finance Committee has been returned by the Finance Ministry with the suggestion that the proposal may be considered during the 12th Plan (2012-2017), official sources said.

The HRD Ministry had proposed to start the institutes in public-private-partnership mode during the 11th Plan (2007-2012).

"The Finance Ministry did not agree to the proposal of setting up of 20 IIITs in 11th Plan. It has said the scheme can be considered during the 12th Plan," the sources said.

The HRD Ministry is yet to decide its future course of action on the matter and HRD Minister Kapil Sibal will now take call on the matter. The ministry had earlier prepared a PPP model for setting up 20 IIITs under which the expenditure could be shared in the ratio of 85 to 15 between the government and industry. PTI

States want medical edu brought under NCHER

| New Delhi: The assets declared by Rajya Sabha election winners throw up quite a few surprises. Some of the well-off politicians defy popular perceptions. Chandan Mitra of BJP, who runs The Pioneer daily newspaper, is wealthier than LJP's Ram Vilas Paswan. But Paswan's Rs 2 crore declaration has political observers gasping in disbelief. Congress's Anand Sharma has declared Rs 4 crore, BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy has the same figure while his senior M Venkaiah Naidu has assets worth Rs 8 crore. Mitra has assets worth Rs 9.41 crore.

Besides Mallya and Jairam Ramesh, Anil Dave of BJP has claimed he has no immovable property. His total assets are worth Rs 2.7 lakh, one of the lowest in list of MPs. Other rich MPs include BSP chief Mayawati's aide Satish Chandra Mishra with assets valued at Rs 24 crore. He figures at No. 9 in list of rich MPs. Ram Jethmalani of BJP is at No. 7 with Rs 30 crore assets and Vijay Darda of Congress at No. 5 with assets valued at Rs 50 crore.

At the bottom of the ladder are Ram Kripal Yadav of RJD with Rs 27 lakh worth of assets, Shashi Bhushan Behera of BJD with Rs 30 lakh, BJP's Tarun Vijay Rs 33 lakh and, as mentioned earlier, Jairam Ramesh of Congress at Rs 62 lakh. NGO Association for Democratic Reforms came up with the figures based on affidavits submitted by candidates to the Election Commission for polls held in 13 states in two phases on June 14 and 17, 2010. Anil Bairwal of ADR said the information was not available on candidates from TN as the EC is yet to provide details.

A total of 15 candidates, or 28%, declared in their affidavits they have pending criminal cases against them, of which six face serious charges. These include attempt to murder, wrongful confinement and cheating and forgery. All the candidates with pending criminal cases have won the elections. New Delhi: Cutting across the political spectrum, education ministers of various states on Saturday said that medical education should be brought within the ambit of the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER).

Though many states pointed out problems with certain provisions of the Higher Education and Research Bill that creates NCHER, the general tone in the one-day meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was supportive of the idea of an apex regulatory body for higher education. With the health ministry resisting taking away of medical education from the purview of the now-defunct Medical Council of India, and HRD ministry also treading cautiously, it is likely that the final call on medical education will be taken by the PM.

Despite overwhelming support of the states to the idea of NCHER, HRD minister Kapil Sibal maintained that his ministry is yet to form its own opinion on the matter. "Right now the bill belongs to the task force," Sibal said. A clearer picture will emerge after a month since states have been asked to give their detailed views on NCHER in the Guwahati: In a unique initiative, government has decided that fresh medical graduates from 11 north eastern and northern states would get additional marks in the All India Post Graduate Medical Entrance Examination if they serve in rural areas of their states.

The states include Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. "I belong to Jammu and Kashmir, which is akin to the northeast. We have the same next four weeks.

The HRD ministry might seek PM's intervention at the time of finalizing the Cabinet note on NCHER. The Higher Education and Research Bill, proposing the setting up of NCHER, has been prepared by the task force constituted by the HRD ministry and brings medical education within the ambit of NCHER.

Members of the task militancy, insurgency, problems of aloofness, inaccessibility, hills and difficult terrain," Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said.

"The 11 states have been clubbed and given them the special concession. Doctors interested in post graduation can get 10% extra marks in the national PG test if they work for one year in the most inaccessible and difficult area of their state," he said. Those working for two years would get additional 20 per cent marks and 30 per cent for those serving three years. force — M K Bhan, secretary, department of biotechnology, legal expert N R Madhava Menon and social scientist Mrinal Miri — defended the provision of the bill and clarified that the autonomy of states in higher education is not being taken away. They explained that NCHER will promote the autonomy of universities by devolving powers.

ET

Finance ministry objection puts Sibal's dream IIITs in deep freeze

Our Political Bureau NEW DELHI

PLANS for setting up 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) is likely to be shelved with the finance ministry suggesting that the proposal could be considered for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period.

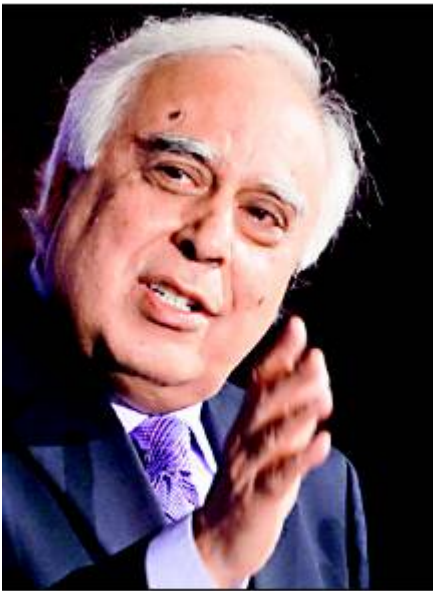
The HRD ministry had suggested that the institutes be set up in the private-public partnership mode during the current five year plan. The Eleventh Five Year Plan comes to a close in 2012. The ministry had outlined its proposal for consideration by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The Planning Commission had already given an in-principle approval to the proposal.

"The finance ministry did not agree to the proposal of setting up of 20 IIITs in the Eleventh Plan. It has said the scheme can be considered during the Twelfth Plan," an official said.

The proposal suggested sharing the burden of expenditure on the ratio of 85:15 between the government and industry. The government's share of funds would be borne by the Centre and state, with the former putting up 50% and the states 35%. Each IIIT would require an investment of Rs 200 crore. This would mean that the Centre would have to invest Rs 100 crore in the IIIT, the state government Rs 70 crore and industry Rs 30 crore.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal, sources said, will consider the future course of action as the ministry is keen to push through this proposal. The ministry had also planned to introduce a legislation in the forthcoming session of Parliament to confer the IIITs with the status of institutes of national importance.

It had been proposed that each IIIT would be developed as a centre of excellence and specialise in specific area. These institutes would concentrate more on basic than applied research. Some of the IIITs were to be set up in northeastern states, with the ministry for development of North-Eastern region stepping in if industry did not.



NO TAKERS: Kapil Sibal

IIMs seek foreign accreditation for tie-ups abroad

INDIAN Institutes of Management (IIMs) are in talks to get foreign accreditation to adhere to global benchmark, which is likely to help them in seeking tie-ups with foreign counterparts.

All premier domestic institutes— IIM Calcutta, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Lucknow and ISB Hyderabad—are in various stages of getting an accreditation. IIM Ahmedabad was the first to get such recognition when it got approval from the European agency EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) in 2008. IIM Bangalore got a similar accreditation from EQUIS last week.

“We are assuming that IIMs are known all over the world, which is not true,” said Debashis Chatterjee, director, IIM Kozhikode (IIMK). “Attaining a standard respect world-wide has become imperative in the changing global scenario.” IIMK hopes to get accredited by AMBA (Association of MBAs), a UK-based organisation, in the next four months.

Going for an accreditation is a strategic investment, said Sougata Ray, dean of programme initiatives at IIM Calcutta (IIMC). “Employers in the West expect a B-school to maintain certain standards, which in return helps a lot in getting jobs in foreign markets,” said Mr Ray.

IIMC has been in talks with AACSB (Association to advance Collegiate schools of Business) International, a North American body, for a year now. An accreditation with AACSB will help IIMC to offer its students double degrees, one from IIM Calcutta and the other from a US B-school, simultaneously.

However, getting accreditation is not smooth and easy. Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad had applied to AACSB in end 2006 and is still going through the process. “It takes a long time for the AACSB review as it requires a participating school to establish and adhere to well defined processes involving all its internal stakeholders including the alumni,” said Sriram Gopalakrishnan, marketing & communication head, ISB.

The accrediting organisation expects a B-school to adopt certain changes in its functioning to conform to its global standards as they go about the process. A B-school’s objectives, goals and research works come under the lens. “We are tweaking the evaluation methods by detailing feedback given to students and also increasing its frequency. The idea is to bring uniformity in the process of every course delivered in IIMC,” said Mr Ray.

But it makes sense to go through the pain. Mr Chatterjee of IIMK said an accreditation from a foreign agency might help it to tie-up with Ivy League business schools.

IIML will file an application either with EQUIS or AMBA by year-end. “We are ambitious to set up a campus abroad. We have 25 tie-ups and we want to have more in the UK,” said Devi Singh, director, IIML.

Face of the new global varsity

NYU ABU DHABI The new university has drawn 9,000 applicants from around the world

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WASHINGTON: Laith Aqel, co-valedictorian of his high school graduating class in Wayne, New Jersey, and juggler of too many activities to list, says he always envisioned himself on a classic New England campus with "Gothic architecture and big grass lawns."

He weighed offers from Tufts University, Boston College's honors program and New York University (NYU).

But when he leaves for college this fall, he will travel 6,900 miles to Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf. That is where NYU will open a campus in September with an inaugural freshman class of 150 students from 39 countries, a far cry from

Aqel's old ideal.

"NYU Abu Dhabi came and messed that all up," he said. "I think they're trying to create a new paradigm, which I never factored into my education."

Indeed, Aqel, whose parents immigrated from Jordan when he was a baby, is part of a high-stakes experiment in higher education — what experts are calling perhaps the first truly international university, with top students and faculty from around the globe.

American colleges have long had branch campuses and international programmes in which students spend a semester or two abroad.

But after years of planning, John Sexton, NYU's president, is about to open the doors on a more ambitious project: a four-



■ New York University's school in Abu Dhabi will be downtown until 2014, when an island campus is expected to be completed.

year liberal arts research university in Abu Dhabi that will eventually have 2,000 undergraduates and share an island alongside future outposts of the Louvre and Guggenheim museums. It will be a full-fledged sister school of NYU and issue its own diplomas.

The new institution drew more than 9,000 applicants and has accepted fewer than 200.

They are an elite group. The Abu Dhabi students have an average SAT verbal score of 715 and an average math score of 730, on par with Ivy League universities. Nearly 90 per

cent are bilingual.

Backed by the open checkbook of the Abu Dhabi government, the wealthiest of the seven United Arab Emirates, NYU Abu Dhabi scoured the planet for candidates.

It called on the Institute of International Education, which administers the Fulbright scholarships, to help it identify 900 of the world's top high schools, and then pressed the schools for their best students.

Though based in Abu Dhabi, students will be encouraged to spend time at some of NYU's 16 other sites, on five continents — more traditional study-abroad centers with short-term or narrowly focused programs. In a promotional booklet, the university sketched out a hypothetical plan for film and media

majors, with sojourns in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Prague and New York.

The project carries risks. While Abu Dhabi is a relatively modern, multicultural Muslim state, homosexual acts are illegal and the Internet is censored. And there is no guarantee that the seemingly limitless resources of its oil-rich government will remain so, given the precarious global economy and Middle East politics.

But the Abu Dhabi government has agreed to pay for the entire NYU project, though neither it nor the university has detailed a price. And the emirate has embraced NYU's vision of a liberal arts institution with full access to ideas, books and the Internet.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DUTA can't obstruct admissions: HC

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday restrained the Delhi University teachers, who are agitating against implementation of the semester system for undergraduate students, from obstructing the ongoing admission process.

In an interim order, Justice A.K. Pathak said: "Keeping in mind the career of the large number of students, it is directed that the DUTA will cooperate in the admission process."

The court also directed DUTA not to obstruct the admission process in any manner asking the body to file its reply by Aug 16.

The university had

approached the High Court after it received letters from some of its college principals that the teachers had decided to disassociate themselves from the admission process.

The university petition had also sought a ban on all forms of protests by teachers.

Following a letter from the University Grants Commission on March 21, Delhi University has implemented the semester system for undergraduate students.

DUTA has been opposing the semester system for a long time but matters came to a head when Vice-Chancellor Deepak Pental had approved the new curricula for 12 science courses at the academic council meeting last month.

No plea to disrupt admissions: DUTA

NEW DELHI: Reacting to the Delhi High Court order, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) clarified in a press statement that their appeal to teachers to dissociate from the admission process is still on.

"We had never appealed to teachers to obstruct the admission process in any manner whatsoever," said DUTA President Aditya Narayan Misra in the statement.

HTC

A bird's eye view of the UK

Thinking of heading abroad for higher studies? Don't know where to begin? Here's the low-down on Britain as a study hub

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Why choose Old Blighty? Well, the United Kingdom offers internationally-accepted qualifications. Indians are attracted to one-year post-graduate degrees. British universities, colleges and schools provide a vibrant, creative and challenging environment to develop students' potential. Quality standards for UK institutions are among the best in the world. Universities, colleges and schools continually have to prove that their courses meet strict criteria. At degree and postgraduate level in particular, students are encouraged to read widely, to question and analyse what they have read, and to discuss openly their ideas in seminars and tutorials. Career-based courses are designed to equip students for specific roles in the modern world of work.

Number of Indian students in the UK: Over 31000

Programmes popular among Indian students: Business and management, science and engineering, art and design, and law courses are among the most sought-after.

Session commences: Most undergraduate and postgraduate programmes start in September/October and some in January/ February. There may be a different timetable for research-based programmes and it is best to check it with the institution. In Scotland, Bachelors'

degree programmes are four years long, unlike in the rest of the UK.

When to apply: Begin a year in advance. Institutions start accepting applications a year before, in September/October. Applicants should apply at least six to nine months before their session is slated to start.

How to apply and to/through whom: Applicants only have the option of applying online through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). UCAS, UK's central organisation, processes applications for full-time first degrees, foundation degrees, higher national diplomas (HND), higher national certificates, certificates of higher education, and diplomas of higher education and university diplomas. Fill up a UCAS form. You can select up to five courses and send your completed form to UCAS, which will forward it to your chosen institutions. More details are available at www.ucas.com.

Aspirants for Master's programmes need to touch base with their selected institutions or apply through UCAS for some programmes.

Deadlines for UG and PG: The final date for all those applying for UG programmes in the UK is June 30. All applications received after these deadlines are put into 'clearing'. The deadline for the UCAS application to Oxford and Cambridge universities as well as medicine, dentistry and veterinary programmes is October 15.



PHOTOS: MCT

A view of the city from atop the London Eye

MONEY MATTERS

Average tuition fees for UG and PG
GBP 8000-11000 for UG courses and GBP

7000-12000 for PG courses. In addition, the student has to bear the cost of living.

Pay up



Toothpaste
£1.50 to £3.75



Vegetables
£1 to £4.50

Can of juice
£2 for a tetra pack

Burger

Depends on where you are eating, at places like McDonald's it's £ 3.60 for a burger. In London, a decent cafe or bistro lunch might cost £10 to £15 per head, according to Lonely Planet.

Movie ticket £5.10 to £5.90



for students

Local bus ticket to Birmingham Day saver £6, to and fro

Plane ticket to get back home Around £250 to £400 depending on the time gap given while booking the ticket



There are separate deadlines for art and design courses.

Except maybe a few institutions, there are no specific deadlines for most postgraduate programmes. So, confirm this from their website or prospectus of the institute.

Application docket checklist:

There is no need to submit any document while applying via UCAS, since it provides an online form. The application packet for PG applications should contain:

- Application form
- Statement of Purpose
- Attested photocopies of academic credentials such as marksheets and certificates from your previous educational institutions, as well as other recent certificates of your

extra curricular activities/sports or participation in debates, seminars or lectures that you mentioned in your application.

■ IELTS/ TOEFL scores if your results have been announced

■ Two references (academic/professional) along with the application form.

Accommodation options: Try to arrange accommodation before flying to the UK. Many institutions have student advisers or accommodation officers who can provide you information on finding a place.

Scholarships/ financial support: There are many scholarships available. For details, visit www.british-council.org/india-scholarships.htm

Part-time jobs policy: Students can work part time 20 hours, per week, during school term and 40 hours, per week, during vacations.

Student visa: The new point-based system, implemented on April 1, 2009, requires students to have an unconditional offer from a UK Border Agency-licensed institution and proof of enough money for course fees and living expenses. To apply for a visa, you need a visa letter, which is an unconditional offer of a place from your education provider.

The new visa fee is £199. For details log on to www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Job opportunities after graduation: Non-European Economic Area (EEA) students are allowed to stay on and work for up to two years in Britain under the International Graduates Scheme (IGS). The IGS is for students who have successfully completed their first or Master's degree, doctorate, postgraduate certificate or diploma programmes. For further information, check www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Middlesex comes to Noida

The university is all set to start its Noida campus

Vimal Chander Joshi

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Middlesex University, which has set up campuses in

London and Dubai, is set to open a new campus in Noida's Sector 61 soon.

The announcement of admissions is expected from the next session. Students in the NCR area will now get an opportunity to get a UK degree at a much lower cost, paying just £ 4,000, which is less than half of what an Indian student pays at present to study in the university's London campus.

According to Joe Victor, regional director, south Asia, Middlesex University, "Noida will have a multi-purpose campus with a full-fledged library. Initially we will run Bachelor programmes, which are business management, human resources management and finance". The library will be housed in a huge area and will be completed in two phases. The campus doesn't have a state-of-the-art laboratory as of now, which is why there would be no lab-intensive programme such as in design or information technology initially.

The degrees you get

here will be the same as that given to students in the other campuses. "We will ensure that the same quality is maintained here. Faculty, library, course curriculum and the examination standards will exactly be the same," adds Victor. "To maintain equal standards, the same examinations are held at the same time everywhere in all the campuses. While hiring faculty for the Noida campus, we will advertise internationally in Times Higher Education, London."

The Noida campus will be known as Middlesex University India, Noida Campus, as Victor is hopeful of establishing a few more campuses in other parts of India in the near future in places like Pune, Bhopal and Chandigarh.

Once the university is equipped with proper laboratories, the campus might contemplate starting programmes in information technology, engineering and product design.

To be eligible for admissions, students have to comply with all criteria followed in the main campus in London, including passing the IELTS with a score band of 6.5.

The students will also get an opportunity to spend the last year of their

graduation in any of the Middlesex campuses. If a student studies in Noida for two years, he will be entitled to spend the final year at the London campus before he finishes his graduation. "This option would be available across all the campuses. Around 25 per cent avail of this option. There are some students who avail of this cross-campus study option in Dubai to spend the final year at Mauritius campus," adds Victor.

Those who still wish to apply in the London campus can also apply for scholarships and bursaries. Every Indian student is given a bursary of £ 1,000 pounds and can qualify for merit based awards ranging from £500-£1,000.

Though Indian students now have an option of studying in London or Noida; studying in London will continue to have its own advantages. Agrees Arindam Ghosh, who did his Masters in computer networking from the London campus: "While you stay in London, you are well connected and you study in a culturally diverse environment where students from all parts of the world come to study," says Ghosh

FACT FILE

The Noida campus, set to be operational by 2011, will offer BA honours in business management, human resources management and finance





Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal (second from left) at the Symbiosis International University (SIU) in Lavale on Tuesday. SIU chancellor SB Mujumdar, Colombian Ambassador to India Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra and SIU vice chancellor MN Raste are also seen. SANDEEP DAUNDKAR

‘Opening education sector a priority’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JUNE 22

UNION Minister for Human Resource and Development Kapil Sibal on Tuesday termed private sector involvement in higher education ‘essential’ but curbing commercialisation of education was also one of his top priorities.

Sibal was speaking at the convocation ceremony of international students studying in various institutes of the Symbiosis International University (SIU).

During his speech and also

while interacting with reporters after the function, Sibal maintained his stand on the need to privatise the

higher education sector. “Opening up the education sector is definitely a priority to improve the accessibility of higher education as presently the supply is far lower than the demand,” he said.

“We all appreciate and acknowledge that universally accessible and affordable public higher education is an economic and social necessity. But the government is presently unable to make the massive investment needed to realise this vision. The stark reality is higher education can no longer be conceived purely

as a public good,” said Sibal. Higher education has assumed the nature of private benefit, converting the stu-

dents to consumers. “Acknowledging this reality, we are doing our best to ensure that the consumers’ rights are protected and that they have easy and reasonable access to funds to finance their education,” he said.

“The private institutions should serve as an engine of social mobility, meaning that educational institutions or universities should help low income and first generation individuals to access education and become financially stable,” said Sibal.

He said the Foreign Edu-

cation Providers’ Bill was a step forward to create opportunities of higher education for those who have no

access to it.

“While we aim at scaling up the number of students enrolling in colleges to 42 million in 2020 from the present 14 million, still 160 million students will be left out. To give them alternative education, we need investments that may also come through foreign institutes,” he said.

Sibal said implementation of the Right To Education was his priority. “It is a historic legislation and is now at the implementation stage. However, it will take time to

see the results. The state governments are also required to frame policies for its implementation,” he said.

'Single body will monitor higher education'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JUNE 21

BODIES like University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would cease to exist once the National Council of Higher Education and Research (NCHER) would be formed, said Narendra Jadhav, Union Planning Commission member, on Monday. "Autonomous bodies like UGC, AICTE will be dissolved soon and NCHER will start controlling the higher education in the country."

Jadhav was speaking at the inauguration of Late Shri Govind Jagannath Ghaisas auditorium at MAEER's Maharashtra Institute of Medical



Union Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav (3rd from right) inaugurates Late Shri Govind Jagannath Ghaisas Auditorium at Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education and Research Medical College in Talegaon Dabhade on Monday.

EXPRESS PHOTO

Education and Research (MIMER) Medical College, Talegaon Dabhade.

"Initially, as many as 15 bodies were formed to regulate

higher education in the country. They performed well in the beginning but the situation became chaotic as they began to lack in coordination. Hence,

the government has decided to dissolve these bodies and form NCHER," said Jadhav.

"A preliminary plan for such a body has been prepared and objections and suggestions have been invited. A final plan will be made after considering these suggestions and objections. The whole process will be completed in another six to 12 months," he said.

Founder director of MIT V D Karad, president Bhaskarrao Avhad, vice president Suresh Ghaisas, MLA Sanjay Bhegade, president of Talegaon Nagar Parishad Rajendra Jambhulkar were also present on the occasion.

Executive director of MIT Suchitra Nagare welcomed the guests while Virendra Ghaisas proposed the vote of thanks.

Epigenetics centre inaugurated at IISER

PUPUL CHATERJEE

JUNE 22

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal on Tuesday inaugurated the Centre for Excellence in Epigenetics and a Cluster Computing Facility at the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) here.

The Centre for Excellence in Epigenetics is a joint mega project involving the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. Here, scientists from various institutes, including the above mentioned ones will carry out studies on various heritable diseases, beginning with some animal models.

The Cluster Computing Facility, however will be open to all departments in IISER to facilitate complex calculations.

Addressing the students, Sibal said, "You are the ones dreaming about a future for India. As long as we listen to you, the nation is going to do fine. In all these 62 years, we did not listen to you. We're just facilitators. If the nation wants double digit growth figures, we have to provide

A Cluster Computing Facility that can be accessed by all departments of the Indian Institute of Science Research and Education for complex calculations was also unveiled

an atmosphere of absolute trust and freedom to our scientists as they are the ones laying the foundations of our future."

Appreciating the efforts of IISER in involving its research scholars in undergraduate teaching, Sibal said, "By 2020, we will have 220 million schoolgoing kids. Thus, we will need enormous human resource as faculty members. I am very passionate about promoting science and technology in this nation. It is a kind of a personal commitment for me, though I myself have been a student of history and a very bad student of politics."

Sibal also commended the efforts of IISER at promoting inter-disciplinary studies and said that the old systems of creating water tight compartments between different

areas of science have been done away with in most countries as there are no barriers to learning.

"Knowledge is the only thing in today's world that does not need visas", added Sibal on a lighter note.

Prof Krishna N Ganesh, Director, IISER Pune said, "Here we're trying to move away from traditional pedagogy and promote original thinking. The Cluster computer facility here will simulate those complex calculations that cannot be done experimentally, including molecular dynamics and non-linear dynamics.

SIU plans campus in Muscat

■ SYMBIOSIS International University will soon establish its campus in Muscat in Oman. "S B Mujumdar had come to Muscat recently and we had a talk about setting up a campus in Oman. Symbiosis will very soon come to Oman," said Pankaj Khimji, director, Khimji Ramdas Group, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Mujumdar confirmed the same. Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra, Ambassador of Colombia to India said that a prominent university in Colombia will soon tie-up with Symbiosis for various courses.

ENS

An officer and a minister

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had to part with his close aide and Personal Secretary A J Kurian last week since the latter has been empanelled as Joint Secretary and his term in Central deputation is over. Sibal, however, made the parting worthwhile. Not only did he throw a special farewell dinner for Kurian, he also added a personal touch by cooking himself. That apart, the minister is learnt to have seen off Kurian right to his car as the party ended. The minister's thoughtfulness has sure left the HRD babus impressed. Meanwhile, Kurian is set to return to the UT cadre and join the Delhi government.

'UGC concerns will be met'

NEW DELHI: HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said that the concerns of all UGC employees will be addressed and that their seniority and pay scale will be factored in once UGC is subsumed under NCHER. UGC employees have been protesting against the Commission being subsumed under the proposed authority.

21 Jun 2010, DNA (Daily News & Analysis)

Rejected disabled CAT-taker moves court against IIMs

CONTENDS INSTITUTES LEAVE DISABLED CATEGORY SEATS VACANT

Do the IIMs adequately fill up the disability quota for students? No, thinks Rahul Girreddy, who took CAT this year and has filed a petition against the IIMs in the Bombay high court.

The commerce graduate contends in his petition that the IIMs are not complying with the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (PD) Act, 1995.

"Though there are 90 to 100 seats reserved for DAs (differently-abled candidates), only approximately 55 candidates are short-listed collectively by the IIMs for the second phase of the selection process," the petition states. Under the PD Act, 3% of seats in educational institutions have to be reserved for DA candidates. But the number of seats provided by the IIMs against the quota does not amount to 3%, the petition states.

It states that IIM-A stipulates that SC/ST/DA candidates should score at least 17% in each of the three sections of CAT. Accordingly, 396 DA candidates should have been eligible for interviews this year. But the IIMs put the cut-off for the three categories at 80 percentile — much above what the 17% per subject would yield — and called only 31 candidates for interviews.

Girreddy contends that even if all the IIMs were to set their cut-off at say 60 percentile — like IIM-Indore — only 55 DA candidates would have been selected, leaving many seats vacant, which would then be filled up with candidates from the general category.

Girreddy, who secured 46.20 percentile, was certain of getting an interview call.

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