

## Performance audit of National Institutes of Technology

### Executive Summary

There were 20 Regional Engineering Colleges in India for disseminating technical education established between 1956 and 1987 (except REC Patna which was established in 1886). With a view to provide advancement of learning, instructions and research in branches of engineering, technology, management, education and sciences etc. the Government of India upgraded these Regional Engineering Colleges during the period 2002 to 2006 to be the institutions of national importance and renamed them as National Institutes of Technology (Institutes).

A performance audit of these Institutes disclosed that in 10 test-checked Institutes the admission of students in five streams of Civil Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and IT Engineering remained much below the intake capacity and 1.38 to 42.31 *per cent* seats in UG courses and 3.13 to 87 *per cent* seats in PG courses remained vacant in some of the years whereas in other years they admitted students more than the intake in the range of 0.83 *per cent* to 23.89 *per cent* in UG courses and 3.30 to 116.67 *per cent* in PG courses.

It was observed that new courses were introduced without ascertaining the need of dissemination of knowledge in the concerned fields. This is corroborated with the fact that NIT Durgapur and Silchar introduced two new UG courses during the year 2009-10 wherein 37 and 10 seats constituting 62 and 33 *per cent* of the intake capacity remained vacant. Similarly, in 12 new PG courses introduced during 2006-07 to 2008-09 by NIT Kurukshetra, Bhopal, Silchar and Surathkal 52 to 83 *per cent* seats remained vacant.

Of the 88 UG and 191 PG courses, 45 UG and 137 PG courses were not accredited from National Board of Accreditation (NBA) by the above 10 NIsT. This indicated that the quality of education of these courses could not be ensured on the basis of the criteria fixed by the NBA.

Of the 60 research projects undertaken by NIT Calicut and Kurukshetra during the period 2005-10, only 27 projects could be completed by 31 March 2010.

Though the grants received from the Government was less than the budget proposals, the NIsT could not utilize these grants in full leaving an un-utilized balance of ₹ 293.69 crore at the end of reporting period.

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On the front of Infrastructure Development the following discrepancies were noticed:

- Land measuring 281.568 acres of NIT Jaipur, Patna, and Silchar was encroached upon for which cases were pending before various authorities.
- There was shortage of class rooms in NIT Allahabad, Jaipur, Jalandhar and Tiruchirappalli and shortage of lecture halls in 12 NITs.
- There was shortage of computers in NIT Agartala, Jaipur, Jamshepur, Kurukshetra, Patna and Warangal.
- Despite having the availability, NIT Kurukshetra, and Nagpur did not provide hostel accommodation to 28 and 262 boy students as on 31 March 2010. Similarly, NIT Silchar did not provide hostel accommodation to 43 boys and 45 girl students as on that date.
- Internal control system was not in existence in 14 NITs.

**Highlights**

- Various authorities of the Institutes viz. 'Council', 'Board of Governors', 'Senate' and 'Finance Committee' did not hold meetings as per norms.

**(Paragraphs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4)**

- Despite receiving less grants than the budget proposal, funds of ₹ 293.69 crore remained unutilized at the end of reporting period.

**(Paragraphs 3.2.2 and 3.2.3)**

- In 10 test-checked NITs, five to 63 seats in UG courses and two to 348 seats in PG courses in five selected streams remained vacant in various years of the reporting period.

**(Paragraph 3.3.1)**

- Of the 16 new UG courses introduced during 2005-06 to 2009-10 two to 62 *per cent* seats remained vacant whereas three to 83 *per cent* seats remained vacant in 73 newly introduced PG courses during the above period.

**(Paragraphs 3.3.3)**

- The pass percentage of students in NIT Allahabad and Kurukshetra deteriorated from 96.62 in 2006-07 to 71.58 *per cent* in 2009-10 and 89.46 in 2005-06 to 71.13 *per cent* in the year 2009-10 respectively.

**(Paragraph 3.3.6.1)**

- In 10 test-checked NITs, accreditation of 45 UG and 137 PG courses was not sought from National Board of Accreditation resulting in absence of quality assurance.

**(Paragraph 3.3.7)**

- In NIT Calicut and Kurukshetra 33 sponsored research projects scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2010 were still in progress as of November and December 2010 respectively leaving unutilized grant totaling to ₹ 1.67 crore.

**(Paragraph 3.3.9)**

- In contravention of AICTE guidelines, NIT Durgapur appointed one lecturer and two Assistant Professors and NIT Bhopal appointed/promoted 92 Assistant Professors without having requisite qualification.

**(Paragraph 3.4.5)**

- Land measuring 281.568 acres was encroached upon in NIsT Jaipur, Patna and Silchar.

**(Paragraph 3.5.1)**

- Despite availability and being residential Institutes, NIT Kurukshetra and Nagpur did not provide hostel accommodation to 28, 262 boy students respectively whereas NIT Silchar did not provide hostel accommodation to 43 boys and 45 girl students. There was overcrowding of hostels in 13 NIsT due to shortage of accommodation.

**(Paragraph 3.5.5)**

### **Summary of Recommendations**

- *The meeting of the Council, BOG and FC should be held as per norms fixed by the Act so that core issues may not be left unattended.*
- *Budget proposals should be prepared on realistic basis after ascertaining actual needs of the Institute and Ministry should ensure timely release of grants.*
- *The Institute may consider conducting surveys for assessing the requirement in various fields before prescribing new courses of study.*
- *The Ministry may consider re-assessing the norms of teacher – student ratio and fix the same on realistic basis.*
- *Periodical review may be carried out for assessing the requirement in various fields to identify and prescribe new courses of study and accreditation of all UG and PG courses need to be obtained from NBA.*
- *In order to bring parity with international standards, NIsT should consider collaboration with reputed academic institutes within and outside India.*
- *Internal audit mechanism should be adopted to help effective and efficient working of NIsT.*