

Newspaper Clips

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Times of India ND 04-Jul-13 P-1

Skewed formula behind NIT admission muddle

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: After nearly a month of collating normalization of Class XII marks and students' scores in JEE (Main), the final ranking for admission to the prestigious National Institutes of Technology (NIT) is finally out. Expectedly, the skewed formula has created confusion among students.

If the problem of normalization is not enough, there is also a report of mathematical miscalculation that has resulted in a peculiar situation. A stu-

► Stark difference in rank, P 17

dent, Muneet (roll no. 83201759) with Class XII percentile of 99.25 and JEE (Main) percentile of 98.55 got an All India Rank of 15,638, while another, Arjun Suri (roll no. 83207527), with a Class XII percentile of 98.87 and JEE (Main) percentile of 98.04 got a rank of 12,077. Both of them passed Class XII examination from the J&K Board.

Fears that the normalization proc-

DU's 4-yr BTech courses no sure ticket to IITs yet

Six DU courses, including electronics and computer science, which were earlier BSc (Hons) and have now become BTech under the new four-year UG programme, may not be your direct ticket to IITs. Though DU had said the switch to BTech would make its students eligible for MTech courses in technical institutes, IITs say they haven't even been approached on this by the university and that their senate will have to take a call on this. **P 6**

ess would end up distorting rankings seem to be coming true.

For admission to NITs, it had been decided that the JEE (Main) and the normalized Board performances would be used in 60:40 ratio. But after the JEE (Main) results were announced, the JEE Interface Group came up with the novel normalization formula that has put several students at a disadvantage.

Virat Vaibhav ND P-9
04-Jul-13

Dainik Bhaskar ND
04.07.2013 P-7

पांच जुलाई को कानपुर आएंगे प्रणब दा

कानपुर। राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी आगामी शुक्रवार को उत्तर प्रदेश की इस औद्योगिक नगरी के दौरे पर आएंगे और अपने संक्षिप्त प्रवास के दौरान आईआईटी कानपुर के 45वें दीक्षांत समारोह में भाग लेंगे तथा मेधावी छात्र छात्राओं को सम्मानित करेंगे। आईआईटी के रजिस्ट्रार द्वारा आज जारी एक बयान के अनुसार राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी पांच जुलाई को दोपहर को दिल्ली से आईआईटी पहुंचेंगे, मेधावी छात्रों को पदक तथा पुरस्कार वितरण करेंगे तथा दीक्षांत अभिभाषण भी देंगे। दीक्षांत समारोह में प्रदेश के राज्यपाल बीएल जोशी व आईआईटी संचालक मंडल के अध्यक्ष प्रो मु आनंदकृष्णन भी मौजूद रहेंगे। आईआईटी प्रशासन और जिला और पुलिस प्रशासन राष्ट्रपति की यात्रा के मद्देनजर सुरक्षा के विशेष इंतजाम कर रहा है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों के अनुसार दीक्षांत समारोह में आईआईटी के डायरेक्टर इंद्रनील मन्ना ए आर नारायण मूर्ति और प्रो अशोक सेन को डीएससी की मानद उपाधि प्रदान करेंगे। ■

आईआईटी दीक्षांत समारोह में भाग लेंगे राष्ट्रपति

भास्कर न्यूज | जोधपुर

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) जोधपुर के पहले दीक्षांत समारोह में राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी शिरकत करेंगे। दीक्षांत समारोह 10 जुलाई को करवड़ स्थित आईआईटी परिसर में आयोजित होगा। दीक्षांत समारोह से पूर्व राष्ट्रपति आईआईटी के अस्थायी कैम्पस में एंटरप्रिन्योरशिप सेंटर का उद्घाटन करेंगे। आईआईटी जोधपुर के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नेंस के चेयरमैन प्रो.गोवर्धन मेहता ने बुधवार को आयोजित प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कार्यक्रम की जानकारी दी। प्रो.मेहता ने बताया कि राष्ट्रपति 10 जुलाई को दोपहर 3 बजे जोधपुर आएंगे। एयरपोर्ट से वे सीधे आईआईटी के अस्थाई कैम्पस पहुंचेंगे। प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत व राज्यपाल मारग्रेट आल्वा भी उनके साथ मौजूद रहेंगे। अस्थाई कैम्पस में अवलोकन के बाद वे एंटरप्रिन्योरशिप सेंटर का उद्घाटन करेंगे।

Will DU's 4-yr BTech make an engineer? IITs not sure

Eligibility For Admission To MTech Not Yet Decided, They Say

Manash Pratim Gohain & Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

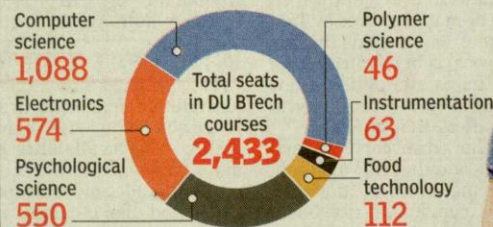
New Delhi: Courses in electronics and computer science in Delhi University—that were earlier BSc (Hons) and have now become BTech under the new four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP)—are attracting a large number of applicants. Delhi University officials had said the switch to BTech would make students eligible for MTech courses in technical institutes like IITs. However, the IITs are saying they haven't even been approached on this by DU and that, finally, their senate will have to take a call.

DU has converted a batch of six courses—computer science, electronics, instrumentation, psychological science, food technology and polymer science—that were earlier BSc or BA to BTech. Since the curricula for all subjects were revised to fit into the FYUP pattern, the syllabi for these courses were also changed. And to given an example of how there has been no compromise on the engineering aspect, teachers point out that the electronics course, for instance, closely follows the one at Delhi Technological University.

So, will these BTech courses make one an engineer? Does this automatically make the student eligible for admission to MTech? A senior official at IIT, Delhi, said: "DU can't give that assurance...they haven't even spoken to us." Till now, the IITs admitted MSc students in their MTech courses as the BSc course was of three-year duration. "The senate will have to consider this but that will take some time. Before that, the university will have to decide what it's going to do with its master's," the official said. He added that eventually they may accept DU's BTech courses. "The senate will study the curriculum and examine the preparedness of the students for the MTech programme. We will look at the strengths, see if the students have done enough," he explained.

Senior members of the engineering faculty of Jamia Millia Islamia said that simply changing the nomenclature didn't make a course equivalent to an existing one. Khalid

PROMISING YET CONFUSING



General category admissions closed after first list

Computer Science | Acharya Narendra Dev, ARSD, Ramanujan, IP College, Kalindi, Maharaja Agrasen, Maitreyi, PGDAV, Shaheed Sukhdev, SGGs College of Commerce, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Electronics | Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja Agrasen, Zakir Husain

Highest cutoff on first list

Computer science | 95%-100% (Ram Lal Anand)

Electronics | 98% (Hans Raj)

ENTRY | In FYUP BTech courses, CBSE score; at all central and state government engineering colleges, admission is based on entrance test

PROSPECTS | Those hiring from former BSc courses may continue to do so; response of others remains to be seen

TEACHING | In DU, it'll be the same set of teachers as in BSc courses; no special staff from technical background

FOR MTech | DTU will accept them; for the IITs, the IIT-Senate will decide after "examining preparedness"; Jamia Millia Islamia University will decide later too



HC satisfied with facilities for visually impaired DU students

New Delhi: Satisfied with the steps promised by the Delhi University to ensure visually impaired students have full access to its teaching experience when the four-year programme starts, the Delhi high court on Wednesday disposed of a PIL raising the issue.

A division bench comprising acting chief justice B D Ahmed and justice Vibhu Bakhru, however, directed DU that the facilities for visually impaired students should be in place by July 23 so that the 361 students already admitted don't feel left behind. The bench also allayed apprehensions of NGO Sambhavana that DU's claim of having spruced up the infrastructure for the visual impaired is an "eyewash". The court said DU is duty bound to implement recommendations made by its Empowered Committee which was formed at the behest of the court to consider and redress their grievances.

Appearing for DU, senior advocate Pinky Anand placed before the bench the committee's report and informed it that students will be supplied laptops which have Non Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) software, which will help them with introductory courses in maths and science. Even though the NGO's counsel Pankaj Sinha argued there are no books in accessible format and teachers are not trained properly, HC reposed faith in statements by DU and gave Sinha the liberty to move court again if he remains unhappy with the facilities.

Abhinav Garg

Moin, dean of faculty of engineering and technology, Jamia, observed: "The primary objective of BTech is to teach technology while BSc and MSc are about how to develop the science of these. So a BSc Electronics and BTech Electronics are not the same. DU has introduced too many changes in a short span. A major overhaul like this and developing an engineering department needs anything between five and 10 years."

Teachers of institutes like the DTU however say that other universities and institutes may ultimately agree to grant DU graduates eligibility for

MTech admission. "However, the industry may have apprehensions as the admission process is not based on the JEE (Joint Engineering Entrance) score," said Rajiv Kapoor, head of the department of electronics and communication engineering, DTU.

The rigour of the BTech course of DU is also being questioned as conventionally almost all universities adopt the teaching of mathematics, physics, computers, electronics and material science subjects in the first two semesters of BTech Electronics along with workshop practice. DU, according to its FYUP struc-

ture, will teach just four papers on the subject, 11 foundation courses and one 'Integrated Mind Body and Heart (Gandhian philosophy)' course.

Career counsellor Pervin Malhotra feels the change will only "create a lot of confusion." She wonders if students going for these courses, when they emerge after four years, will be regarded as engineers. "I doubt the courses will be of that level," she says, "and if they are, why is DU simply duplicating courses?" She adds that if the industry had recruited from the BSc courses, it'll recruit from the newly-designated BTech ones too.

Pioneer ND 04-Jul-13 P-8

The height of absurdity

UGC tests aptitude for social biases

The University Grants Commission's aptitude test for recruiting university teachers provides shocking insight into the parochial and outright sexist mindset of those who administer higher education in this country. Question 44 in the multiple-choice 'teaching aptitude' section of the National Eligibility Test given this past Sunday asked candidates why most teachers at the primary school stage should be women. If the question stumped many, the options that accompanied highlighted all that was wrong with it. Take the first option, which read: "(Women) can teach children better than men". Apart from the fact that there is almost no evidence to back up this claim, the statement reiterates gender stereotypes that women are better with children than men. Perhaps the examiners had in mind that in many homes it is the women who take on the responsibility of teaching the little ones. But this is not because mothers possess any natural talent in this field but mostly because fathers rarely take an active interest, especially at the elementary stage of their

child's education — thanks to established social parameters of traditional gender roles. But, instead of dismantling these restrictive norms, UGC seems to be accentuating them. This is an observation that is applicable to the second option, "(Women) know basic content better than men". It again presumes that women have some special powers perhaps that better equips them to deal with so-called "basic content". Yet another option that "(women) can deal with children with love and affection" is equally damaging — taking gender roles back a few decades when the men went out to provide for the family while the women stayed back to care for the



home and hearth.

But perhaps the most galling of all is the third option that women make for good primary school teachers as they "are available on lower salaries". The statement tears into the constitutional basis of equality between men and women, within which is in-built another key principle — equal pay for equal work. Additionally, inherent in the statement is the assumption that somehow cheaper teachers maybe hired at the elementary level since the job is 'basic' and does not require special skills, such as that of an astrophysics professor, for instance. Yet, it is at the elementary level that the educational foundation of a lifetime is laid. Finally, the question is as offensive to men as it is to women. Just as it traps women in the mould of care-givers, it also assumes that men are incapable of rearing children, that they are not loving or affectionate or that they make incompetent teachers because they can't handle "basic content".

HT Chnadigarh



■ Officials from Aston University, UK, and British Deputy High Commission, Chandigarh, during launch of a renewable energy project at Khwaspura village near Rupnagar on Tuesday. HT PHOTO

UK university, IIT Ropar launch renewable energy technology

Bahadurjeet Singh

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RUPNAGAR: A new renewable energy technology for biomass conversion from agriculture waste, developed by scientists of the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University (AU), United Kingdom (UK) in international research collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, was formally launched at village Khwaspura near here, on Tuesday.

The technology developed with funding from the Oglesby Charitable Trust at AU is housed in a container unit that can be transported between rural locations by a tractor and is operated by the villagers themselves.

Robert Berry, executive dean, school of engineering and applied science at Aston University said, "The project titled Energy Harvest takes agricultural waste left over from the harvests such as rice and wheat straw and EBRI's technology heats them in controlled

conditions."

"The process generates oil, gas and biochar. Each one of these products is useful and means that the harvest waste now has a value as it is put to use rather than simply being burnt," Berry said.

"The oil produced can be mixed with diesel and used in engines to drive water pumps found on the agricultural land in the region, the gas can be used for power generation while the biochar can be used as a fertiliser to increase crop growth," he added.

HT Chandigarh

MERIT LIST FOR ENGINEERING INSTITUTES OUT

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the merit list for admission to the National Institutes of Technology and other centrally funded engineering institutes, which for the first time this year was based on a student's performance in JEE-Main and their normalised board exam score.

Candidates can check their results on http://cbseresults.nic.in/jee_main/jee_cbse_2013.htm.

The percentile formula for drawing up the merit list has been challenged by students in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, but the court has said admissions can proceed but will be subject to the outcome of the petition.

**CANDIDATES CAN CHECK
THEIR RESULT ON THE
WEBSITE OF CBSE
[WWW.CBSERESULTS.
NIC.IN/JEE_MAIN/JEE_
CBSE_2013.HTM](http://WWW.CBSERESULTS.NIC.IN/JEE_MAIN/JEE_CBSE_2013.HTM)**

After IIMs, other business schools too seek autonomy

Want freedom to draw syllabus; hire industry professionals as faculty, seek more time for student internship

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 3 July

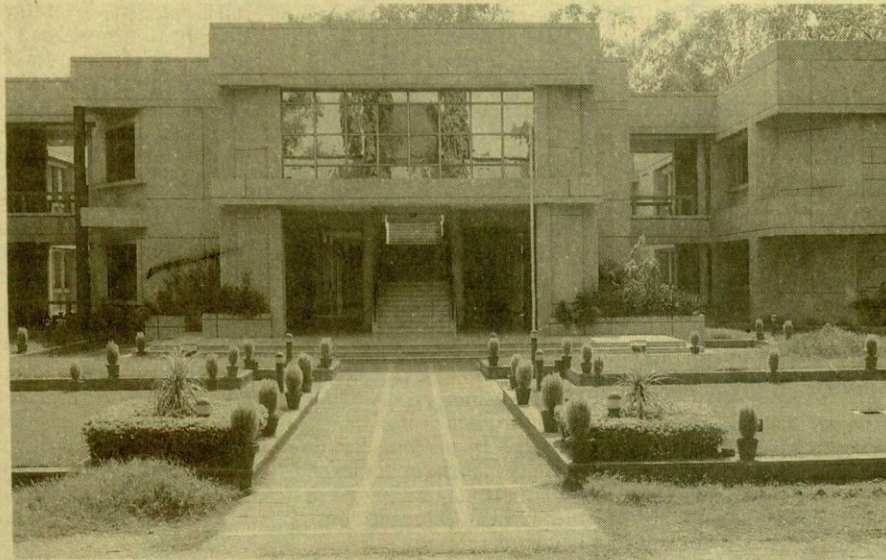
Seeking autonomy is the flavour of the season. It's not only the Central Bureau of Investigation crying for autonomy, Indian B-schools also want to be free to draft their own syllabus and grant degrees, among others.

"After the formation of the IIM Council, the Indian Institutes of Management will get the power to grant degrees. Why this should be denied to other B-schools in the country? We have requested the ministry of human resource development (HRD) to provide us with more autonomy," said the director of a Delhi-based B-school, who did not want to be named.

Recently, directors, deans and presidents of 15 top B-schools met M M Pallam Raju, Union HRD minister, demanding more autonomy for their institutions. Among other demands, B-schools want autonomy to draft their own syllabus and hire teaching resources.

"MBA is a professional practising programme. We would like to fine-tune the subjects, modify syllabus and provide better training to our students," said Sunil Rai, director, Goa Institute of Management.

B-schools want to introduce six-month internship against the present two months as part of the management course, so that students can have better industry exposure. At present, that cannot be done as the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country's technical education reg-



Jamshedpur-based XLRI wants the All India Board of Management Studies, which is now defunct, revived under the All India Council for Technical Education

ulator, does not allow the same, Rai said.

B-schools also want to adopt better technology to deliver programmes for management students, which they say will help students save time. They have long been demanding permission to induct senior managers from the industry. At present, to be a faculty member, one needs to be a PhD. B-schools say due to the insistence on PhD, they are deprived of experienced professionals.

"Senior industry executives with over 25 years of experience should be allowed to join B-schools as full-time faculty. This would not only help us tide over the faculty shortage problem, but also bring in experienced executives to teach professional courses like

WHAT B-SCHOOL AUTONOMY MEANS FOR STUDENTS

- **More time for internship:** B-schools are seeking six-month internship for students so that they can be industry-ready by the time they graduate
- **Change in syllabus and courses:** B-schools want to change syllabus and introduce courses more often and in tune with industry demand and needs
- **Drawing faculty from the industry:** Experienced industry professionals can bring live examples, real life cases and challenges to classrooms; tide over faculty shortage

investment banking," said Rai.

BR Manjunath, director general of Mumbai-based Sir M Visvesaraya Institute of Management Studies, agrees with Rai. "Most faculty members have been academics throughout their life and do not have any industry experience. AICTE should be able to approve anyone who has at

least 15 years of experience in the industry to teach in a B-school, as professors and directors, who in turn can train the students."

B-school directors are also seeking the revival of the All India Board of Management Studies (AIBMS) under the AICTE. Fr Abraham, director, Xavier Labour Relations



"MBA is a professional practising programme. We would like to finetune the subjects, modify syllabus and provide better training to students. This is possible only if we are given the freedom to draft our own syllabus"

SUNIL RAI

Director, Goa Institute of Management

Institute in Jamshedpur, and Indira Parikh, president, Foundation for Liberal and Management Education in Pune, told the HRD ministry that management programmes during 1970s and 1980s used to be governed by the AIBMS, and the board which had now become defunct should be revived.

"AICTE officials are not well-versed with management education. It's a professional qualification being treated as any general discipline. We want the AIBMS to be reconstituted to look into issues being faced by management institutions," added the Delhi-based B-school director quoted above.

The ministry said it would look into the demands of the B-schools.