Newspaper Clips

June 4-6, 2013

June 4

Herald Goa 04-06-2013 P-8

Enter, IIT

The announcement that the central government has approved a scheme to set up an Indian Institute of Technology at the Farmagudi campus is welcome news for students and the state in general. To be set up on a public-private participation basis on a 85:15 ratio, the proposed IIT is expected to get Rs 100-150 crore financial contribution from the Centre, while the state government will invite bids to finalize the private partner for the project.

Goa is one of 20 states scheduled to have new IITs and when set up this will increase career options for local students, though it is unclear if any time-frame has been placed to get the IIT started.

Students might also take heart that last week's visit by Union Human Resource Development Minister M M Pallam Raju also saw the process of setting up a separate campus for the National Institute of Technology get a further nudge. Currently the NIT runs from a new block at the Farmagudi campus, where it has been operational from 2010. Sourcing land for the project has not been an easy issue for the government.

The ministry and NIT board had sought a 300-acre campus site, but given the small size of our state and the shortage of land, besides the difficulty in land acquisition, the government was wise at one stage to negotiate a smaller parcel of land for the NIT, offering 120 acres instead.

Several sites were considered and dropped, including Ponda and at Polem which were found to be too distant from the airport besides running into local opposition. A site near Cuncolim also ran into trouble with locals opposing the same. To the state government's credit, it stuck to its demand that the ministry assure a 50 per cent reservation of seats for Goan students in the NIT. At one stage, this 50 per cent quota was projected to be shared between Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, besides Daman and Diu. Pallam Raju's reiteration that the Centre had now agreed to the 50 per cent reservation exclusively for Goan students will now bring the project closer to fruition.

Obviously, NITs that have come to replace the then 17 existing regional engineering colleges in 2007 are prestigious institutions of national importance. When the Goa NIT was proposed under the 12th Five Year Plan, it was offered a Rs 250 crore structure to be borne by the Centre on land provided free by the state government. The latter has been posing a problem, with the state government quite rightly holding its own in trying to get the most for its students for the trade-off in providing the land. While it is true that other states are able to provide larger campus sites, this is a genuine problem in tiny Goa with a land resource crunch. Economy in such disbursements is always a wiser policy, unlike the large parcels handed over in the past.

Until the education system evolves to higher levels of differentiation in curriculum, coinciding with a student-friendly, multidisciplinary curriculum that leverages a student's strengths rather than the convenience of teaching staff/institutions, there will continue to be a demand for traditional engineering and medicine and consequently science streams for the more scholarly inclined, who see these as conventional avenues to build a career.

Thousands appear for the 1,300 engineering seats on offer in the few aided and non-aided engineering degree colleges in Goa. An upgraded NIT and proposed IIT will offer further options within the stream for local students, though the fact that only some 34 students cleared the IIT/JEE exams this year suggests that Goa would have to find the coaching mechanisms to increase these numbers substantially if it intends utilizing its 50 per cent reservation in the NIT or even ensuring high local presence in the IIT in future. The shortfall of science seats in higher secondary institutions, as witnessed this year, will also have to be addressed, both with additional capacity and some attention to career/aptitude guidance to prevent students from chasing down only conventional streams of study.

IIT-B students unveil first electric race car

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, JUNE 3

Students of IIT Bombay unveiled India's first electric race car, manufactured and designed by IIT Bombay Racing.

The car named Evo2, capable of achieving 100kmph in 5 seconds is participating in the UK Formula Student competition, to be held from 3rd to 7th July at Silverstone F1 circuit.
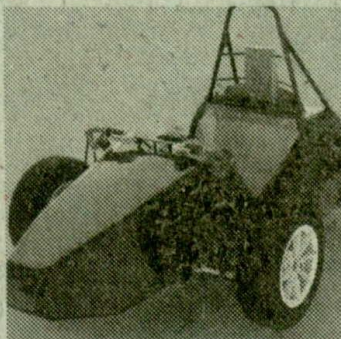
Entrants from 32 countries are gearing up to participate in the event.

A team of 20 design engineers, assisted by 25 junior engineers and guided by 8 mentors, achieved the mammoth task of designing this machine.

The IIT Bombay Racing team had manufactured the first electric race car in 2012. Back then, it could not meet the international standards at the Formula Student UK.

Nonetheless, it established a platform for upcoming aspirants in the institute.

"We have come a long way since we began the tri-

als. Today, the Evo2 is ready to compete with more than 100 universities from round the globe. As we know, Europeans lead the way in Auto motive

engineering. This was a great platform to interact with them and develop our own ideas, implementing our technology," said Sonam Motwani, team leader and final year student, Aerospace engineering at IIT-B.

The Evo2 is an electric run car, weighing 290 kg with a 2 step linear gearbox, and sits on a MS space frame chassis. Requiring not more than three hours of charging, the vehicle has a full scale, real-time on-board Data acquisition system installed.
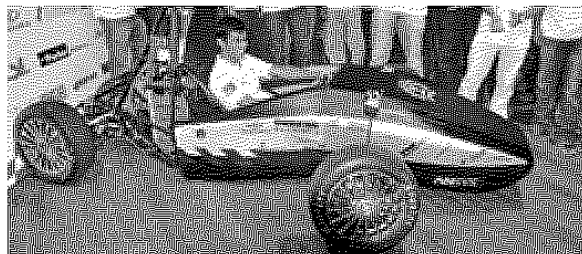
Sci- TECH

IIT-B unveils 1st electric race car

DC CORRESPONDENT
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began the trials. Today, the Evo2 is ready to compete with more than 100 universities from round the globe. Europeans lead in automotive engineering, this is a great platform to interact with them and develop our ideas," said Sonam Motwani, team leader and final year student, Aerospace engineering at IIT-B.

Manly sweat makes other men cooperative

TAKE A WHIFF, men. A chemical component of other guys' sweat makes men more cooperative and generous, new research says. The study is the first to show that this pheromone, called androstadienone, influences other men's behavior and reinforces the developing finding that humans are susceptible and responsive to these chemical signals. Pheromones are everywhere in the animal world, but scientists did not know if humans played that game as well. But in the last 30 years, they have identified both male and female putative pheromones that are linked to mood and reproductive cycles. Researchers feel that their finding may hearken back to a time when cooperation between males conferred a survival advantage.

— *PLOS ONE*

83.8% IIT cut-off for ISC students

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: ISC students need to have scored above 83.8% in their board exams to be eligible for an IIT seat. They, nevertheless, will have to clear both the Main and Advanced levels of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) to secure a seat in the premier engineering college.

This is the first year that the IIT council has introduced a two-tier admission test. The 1.5 lakh candidates, who qualified in the JEE (Main), appeared for the Advanced level on Sunday. The ones who clear that level as well, will have to fall in the top 20 percentile of their respective boards.

With the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) releasing the rather high cut-off marks for being in the top 20 percentile to be eligible for IIT, several students, who have scored less than 83.8%, may be out of the race, even though they clear JEE (Advanced). The ISC cut-off is

In the open category, the IIT cut-off for the top 20 percentile of the CISCE is 419 out of 500. It is 397 for OBC, 378 for SC and 351 for the ST category

higher than that of CBSE and the state board as its schools have fared better than that of the other two. CBSE has pegged the cut-off for IIT aspirants at 78.2% and the state board at 64.3%.

The council's circular stated that the percentile of candidates who passed in English and other best four subjects in the 2013 exam are calculated category-wise. In the open category, the cut-off is 419/500, for OBC, it is 397, SC 378 and ST 351. "The cut-off may have come as a disappointment for students who have scored in 70s and less than 83.8%," said Praveen Tyagi, MD of coaching institute, IITians Pace. "The high cut-offs could prove to be a disadvantage for borderline students."

HRD gives up on NCHER Bill

Plans a co-ordination mechanism for regulators to push reform in education

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

THE Human Resource Development Ministry has given up on its ambitious bill for a National Council for Higher Education and Research, the single regulator that was proposed to be forged from the merger of University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Council of Architecture and other such agencies, and is instead working on a co-ordination mechanism for the regulators.

The ministry has held a series of meetings to work out the mechanism to co-ordinate among regulators and discuss and implement issues of common interest, such as UGC's anti-ragging norms which are largely acceptable to engineering institutes regulated by AICTE and medical colleges overseen by the Medical Council of India.

The HRD ministry hopes the co-ordination mechanism, which has not been named yet, would serve as a system to introduce reform in higher education and as a forum to build consensus on major policy issues.

The proposal to subsume all regulatory agencies, which often end up working at odds with each other, into an overarching regulator for higher education was made by two key panels, the PM's National Knowledge Commission headed by Sam Pitroda and the Committee for Rejuvenation of Higher Education led by Prof Yash Pal.

The ministry then introduced a bill, after ironing out differences with the health ministry, to set up NCHER. However, as with several other bills piloted by the ministry, it got stuck in Parliament, so the ministry decided to push through whatever reforms are possible through the non-legislative route.

The co-ordination mechanism for regulators is part of that effort, as was its decision to back the UGC to review and tighten standards and regulations to ensure quality and transparency in private universities, whose number is increasing by the day.

The UGC has sought public opinion on which provisions of the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations 2003 need to be repealed, revised, amended or replaced; which provisions are difficult to implement, which could be misused or abused, or which need to be made more robust to prevent lowering of standards of teaching and research.

Indian Express ND 04-Jun-13P-10

Making the grade

Why the methodology for world university rankings is not suited to India

M.M. ANSARI

INTERNATIONAL comparisons of the performance of higher education institutions (HEIs) in terms of quality of teaching and research outcomes are useful tools for policymakers. They help gauge the performance of institutions responsible for creating educated and trained manpower. In India, HEIs have a poor record of performance. None of the institutions, including the IITs and IIMs, is ranked among the world's top 200 universities, according to the survey conducted by Times Higher Education (THE).

The prime minister recently observed that many of India's HEIs had not "kept abreast with the rapid changes that have taken place in the world around us in recent years, still producing graduates in subjects that the job market no longer requires".

Taking note, the Planning Commission and the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) organised a conference titled "National Policy Dialogue: University Ranking, Research Evaluation, Research Funding". The conference focused on two matters. First, the suitability of the methodology employed by the THE for grading the Indian universities. Second, ways to raise the standards of teaching, research and scholarly publications so that Indian universities scored better under different parameters.

The world university rankings are based on 13 indicators, broadly grouped under four categories. These are teaching (30 per cent), research and citations/publications (30 per cent each), industrial funding (2.5 per cent), and international outlook and reputation (7.5 per cent). Ranking is teacher-centric. So HEIs which can attract and retain motivated and trained faculty score well under each parameter.

In India, overall scores suffer because of the weightage given to teaching. Most HEIs suffer from shortages of trained teachers and the student-teacher ratio is unfavourable for quality teaching. A majority of colleges and universities are engaged in teaching at the undergraduate level, while research activity gets much lower priority. Since teaching and re-

Higher education institutions suffer from internal inefficiency due to bad governance and external inefficiency because of weak linkages with industry.

search are closely related, learning attainments are adversely affected, hence the increasing number of "unemployable graduates".

Similarly, the weightage given to research and publication is also loaded against HEIs in India. All universities (which number over 700) and colleges (over 37000) do not have trained faculty, the required facilities and an academic environment conducive to research. Expenditure on research and development is less than 0.5 per cent of the GDP. Moreover, the model of higher education in India is such that most competent faculty move towards greener pastures offered by the specialised institutes, such as the IITs, IIMs or the CSIR's labs. HEIs for general

higher education do not attract and retain faculty for quality research and publications.

Needless to say, with research and consultancy services offered by HEIs at such a low ebb, financial support by industry is almost negligible. As for the international outlook and reputation of HEIs, universities and colleges are highly localised in terms of student enrolment and the recruitment of staff. International recruitment of faculty is unthinkable in India for financial and legal reasons. And very few institutions attract students from abroad.

So the methodology employed for world university rankings is not

suited to HEIs in India. Unless teaching and research activities are strengthened to set them on par with other international institutions, all comparisons would be futile. A free and fair competition requires a level playing field for judging the performance.

It seems unlikely that the relative strength and performance of HEIs will significantly improve in the foreseeable future. In the Twelfth Five Year Plan, for instance, the allocation for higher education has been reduced by 60 per cent as compared to actual expenditure in the Eleventh Plan. While the Centre is planning to launch the National Higher Education Mission to improve access to and the quality of education,

the strategy for implementing this scheme is yet to be formulated.

Moreover, at least 60 per cent of enrolment in higher education is accounted for by private universities and colleges. Such institutions not only charge exorbitant fees but also compromise on the quality of relevant education. It is not surprising that a large number of graduates, even from technical and professional disciplines, do not meet skill and competency based requirements. This is also true of institutions supported by the government. The culture of quality assurance and excellence in research does not exist in most of these institutions, which is why they shy away from accreditation by national bodies. There are a host of regulatory bodies to monitor quality in higher education, but they have failed to maintain prescribed standards. This is often attributed to corruption among these bodies.

Briefly, HEIs suffer both from internal inefficiency due to bad governance and external inefficiency because of weak linkages with industry and business organisations. All the issues, including governance, funding and accountability, should be thoroughly reviewed to make appropriate policy interventions. Improving the performance of HEIs is critical for ensuring economic competitiveness in global markets.

The writer is former director, distance education council, IGNOU
express@expressindia.com

Nationwide stir next, protesters warn university

NEW DELHI: With two days left for Delhi University (DU) admissions to start under the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), student groups of DU, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia came together on Monday to protest against the new graduation structure.

Protesters at North Campus burned effigies of the Prime Minister, Union human resource development minister and the DU vice chancellor.

"The university administration and police refused to allow the protest to take place. But the student organisations, teachers and DU students went ahead and participated in the demonstration despite repeated threats from the administration security and police," said a member of Democratic Students' Union.

"The students demanded to speak to the VC, but the administration agreed to send the proctor. We refused to talk to anyone but the VC."

DSU, Campus Front of India and the Students' Islamic Organization organised the protest.

"Why isn't the VC discussing concerns raised by academics and experts, who feel that the underprivileged sections will be the worst hit by FYUP? DU gets 70 per cent students from Hindi medium background. There is already lack of study material translated in Hindi," added the member.

"The exit point policy will be a deterrent for this section as students are under a lot of pressure (financially and socially) to get a degree and a job."

The protest was followed by a candlelight vigil at India Gate, organised by teachers and stu-

'Overruling DU on FYUP not done'

"If we overrule the university's decision, then I think it will set a dangerous precedent as tomorrow anybody will overrule academic programmes of universities for some idealogical or political reasons," Tharoor said, on the sidelines of 10th Convocation of the National Museum Institute here.

He said the HRD ministry will look into the needs of academic rigour, scholarships and other issues related to FYUP.

dents' group Joint Action Front for Democratic Education, which announced plans of a nationwide campaign to start in a few days. Members of JNU students' union also joined the vigil.

"Admissions to DU will start on June 27 (first cut-off list). We will go to other cities and villages and raise awareness among the public about the dangers of FYUP for reserved category and poor students. This is not an internal matter of the varsity anymore; it involves the future of many students," said a protester.

According to students, apart from increased financial burden for an extended year to get an Honours degree, mandatory studying of English, Science and Maths under the foundational course will discourage those who, after a lot of struggle, are able to reach college.

DH News Service

Now, GM fungi to produce biofuel

WASHINGTON: Researchers are manufacturing genetically modified fungi to produce significantly cheaper bio-fuel.

Bio-fuel is often obtained from starchy plants - but this places fuel production in competition with food production.

At the Vienna University of Technology, genetically modified mold fungi are created, which have the ability to break down long cellulose and xylan chains into smaller sugar molecules. This could make the production of bio-fuel a lot cheaper. Lignocellulosic waste such as sawdust or straw can be used to produce bio-fuel – but only if the long cellulose and xylan chains can be successfully broken down into smaller sugar molecules.

To do this, fungi are used which, by means of a specific chemical signal, can be made to produce the necessary enzymes. Because this procedure is, however, very expensive, researchers have been investigating the molecular switch that regulates enzyme production in the fungus. As a result, it is now possible to manufacture genetically modified fungi that produce the necessary enzymes fully independently, thus making bio-fuel production significantly cheaper.

Manufacturing bio-fuel from lignocellulose is therefore a preferable option.

"Lignocellulose from wood waste or straw is the world's most common renewable raw material but, due to its complex structure, it is significantly more difficult to exploit than starch," said Prof Robert Mach from the Institute of Chemical Engineering at Vienna University of Technology.

Biofuel manufacturing uses the Trichoderma fungus, which produces enzymes that are capable of breaking down the cellulose and xylan chains into sugar molecules. The fungus does not, however, always produce these enzymes; production must be stimulated using what is known as an 'inductor' (disaccharide sophorose).

"The high costs of the chemical inductor are a decisive price driver in bio-fuel manufacturing", says Mach.

Many different strains of fungus have been analysed, with varying productivity.

"In one of the strains, a random mutation occurred, which stopped the chemical switch in the fungus from functioning", said Mach. **PTI**

ISRO sets up fellowship at US varsity

Srinivas Laxman | TNN

Mumbai: For the first time, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has established a fellowship at an American university.

The Indian space agency has set up the fellowship at the Graduate Aerospace Laboratories of the prestigious California Institute of Technology (Caltech). This fellowship has been established in honour of Satish Dhawan, the ISRO chairman between 1972 and 1984.

The fellowship will provide an opportunity every year to one meritorious graduating student from the aerospace department of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, to pursue masters in aerospace engineering at Caltech, according to ISRO. The programme begins with Caltech's winter session of the academic year 2013-14.

Satish Dhawan was an alumnus of Caltech's Graduate Aerospace Laboratories and obtained his PhD in aerospace in 1951

June 5

JEE (Advanced) 2013 stumps students

Change in negative marking scheme was the surprise element for many candidates, say experts

HT Education Correspondent
hteducation@hindustantimes.com

The first-ever Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2013, that was meant for the top 1.5 lakh students who cracked JEE (Main) 2013, was held on June 2, 2013. There was no negative marking in questions with single correct answers in some parts. Questions with multiple options had negative marking, that was a surprise.

Paper 1

This paper comprised 60 questions and students were marked on a total of 180 marks. Here is a section-wise analysis.

Physics: There were a few tricky questions in this section. "Out of 20 questions, three were very easy, two were difficult and the remaining were average. The average score would be around 35 out of 60," says Aakash Chaudhry, director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd.

Chemistry: Some questions in this section were very tricky and required indepth knowledge of the subject. Out of 20 questions, four were easy, 10 were average and six were very difficult. The average score would be around 30 out of 60.

Mathematics: This is a crucial section. "It was relatively tough as compared to physics and chemistry. There were around 10 tricky questions in this section. Most of them required more than the expected time for finding the accurate answer. The paper was relatively lengthy. There was equal weightage given to Class 11 and Class 12 syllabi. The average score in this section should be around 24 out of 60," Chaudhry adds.

Paper 2

Paper 2 also had 60 questions. "There was a mix of eight multiple choice single correct answer and multiple correct answers in each section. This was a little taxing for students since they had to be extra careful while marking the answers. Overall, Paper 2 was easier than Paper 1. The cut-offs are expected to be lower than previous years," says RL Trikha, director, FIITJEE.

According to Chaudhry, "Unlike Paper 1, physics and chemistry sections were tough. In fact, Paper 2 had a few surprises in terms of the pattern of the questions asked. The first section in each of the subjects had eight questions with multiple answers. This change in pattern made the paper lengthier, since it required more time to solve questions with more than one correct answer. The paper also introduced 'match the column' type questions for the first time. There were more questions on comprehension as compared to previous years' papers."

Physics: "Paper 2 was lengthy and difficult as compared to Paper 1. Overall, the level of questions in this section was not difficult, but students found the language of questions quite difficult. The average score in this part would be around 24," says Chaudhry.

Chemistry: It was more difficult than Paper 1. Many of the problems were based on reaction mechanisms. Some of the questions from inorganic chemistry were tough. Out of 20 questions, six were easy, six questions were moderately tough and the remaining eight were difficult. The cut-off for this paper is expected to be around 24 marks.

Mathematics: This section was easy but lengthy. "Nine questions were from Class 11 syllabus and 11 questions were from Class 12 syllabus. The cut-off marks can be expected to be around 25 out of 60," Chaudhry adds.

PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR

Unlike Paper 1 of JEE (Advanced) 2013, the physics and chemistry sections of Paper 2 were tough

HTJaipur

CBSE's brutal shock to JEE Mains qualifiers

A large number of students who qualified in the IIT Mains have failed to make it to CBSE's top 20 percentile – a prerequisite for IIT admission

HT Correspondent

■ htraj@hindustantimes.com

For a large number of students who cleared the JEE Mains examination this year, the CBSE cut off score for the top 20 percentile came as a brutal shock.

Despite clearing the first phase of one of the toughest entrance tests, many students will not get admission in any IIT even if they clear the JEE Advance as their names have failed to make it to the CBSE's top 20 percentile.

Under the new two-phased Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE), those students who pass both JEE Mains and JEE Advance and make it to the top 20 percentile of the respective senior secondary education boards are only eligible for admissions in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

According to the CBSE, the cut off score for the top 20 percentile for the general stream is 391 (78.2 %). For OBC it is 389; SC, 350 and; ST, 338.

When the CBSE cut off was declared on Monday, many students who have passed the JEE Mains could not make it to the top 20 percentile; out them a majority lost their dreams by a small margin.

A JEE-Mains qualifier from Kota, who did not wish to be identified, said he had scored 390 in the class 12th CBSE exams - just one mark less than the cut off but sufficient enough to debar him from seeking admission in any IIT.

Shailendra Maheshwari, director of Career Point Coaching Institute in Kota, said the CBSE cut off was very high and deprived several deserving students the opportunity to get into IITs. The eligibility percentile should be increased to 30, he added.

Amit Ahuja, a counsellor of Allen Career Coaching Institute, Kota, informed that those aspirants of JEE Advance whose Class 12 score have fallen marginally less than the cut off, can go for a revaluation of their papers.

He said they can also try for admissions in the National Insititute of Technology.

Millennium Post ND 05.06.2013 P-1

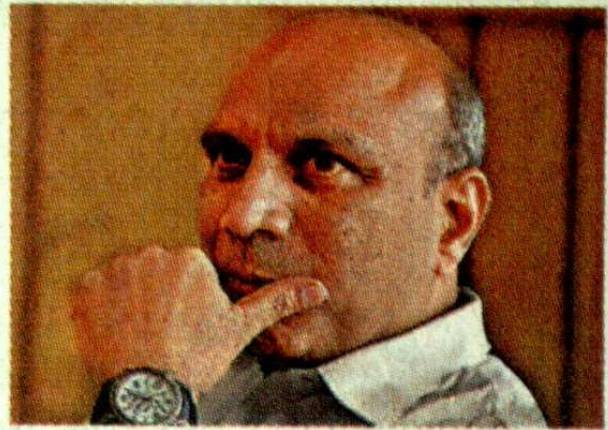# Indians to get foreign degrees sitting here

Pallam Raju says global education providers will establish educational institutes here soon

TANIA AMEER KHAN

NEW DELHI: Clearing the air about foreign educational institutions entering the Indian market, Union Human Resource and Development (HRD) minister MM Pallam Raju has said that the move 'was in the offing'.

In an exclusive interview with Millennium Post on Tuesday, Pallam Raju said: 'I think it is very apparent that there is a shortage of quality higher education capacity in the country. In order to bridge that gap, we must look at all kinds of channels. Definitely, foreign education providers are one of those channels. That is the reason why the bill (Foreign Educational Institutions Bill) was introduced and the standing committee had its observations regarding it.'

'We are hoping that we will be able to bring in foreign education providers to establish their educational institutes in India at an early date,' said Raju. Does this mean we will soon get new institutes in India that are affiliated to foreign universities? 'That could be in the offing,' said Raju.

Pallam Raju, who was earlier minister of state for defence, said that working in the HRD ministry was a very 'enabling and positive experience' for him. 'Both the ministries have been a great experience for me. I have learnt a lot in the ministry of defense while the education ministry has an enabling environment, where you can experiment and take new initiatives,' said the minister.

BTech in six subjects on offer for applicants to DU's four-yr programme
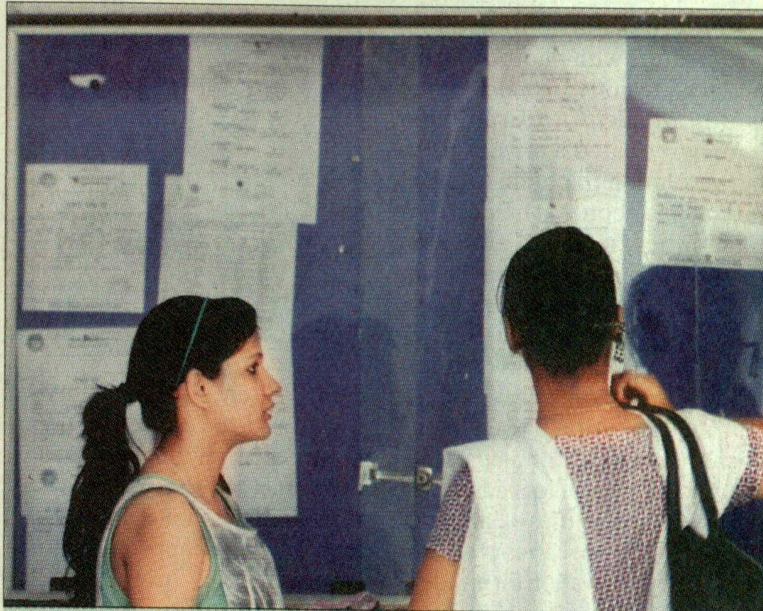
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

APPLICANTS to Delhi University's four-year undergraduate programme can now seek a BTech degree in six subjects — Computer Science, Electronics, Food Technology, Instrumentation, Polymer Science and Psychological Sciences — on the completion of four years.

Miranda House, for instance, will offer 30 seats in a BTech course in Computer Science. "The course has been re-crafted and it is on a par with computer science courses offered at engineering institutes across the country. The course is open to students from science as well as humanities and commerce streams," principal of Miranda House Pratibha Jolly said.

Elaborating on the nature of the course, she said, "The course is predominantly software oriented and involves the mathematical aspect of computer science. The structure provides opportunities to students to take up projects which could address problems that are relevant to the workplace."

The curriculum for the course on the university website talks about the jobs that students can expect after completing the courses. "On exit after two years, a student... will be equipped with sufficient knowledge to get an entry level jobs as data entry operators, laboratory attendants, etc. After three years, a student will... be fit for mid-level industrial jobs such as like programmer, computer maintenance and system administrators. After four years, a student... will be fit for all types of jobs in the IT sector," it said.

SECURING DU FOR STUDENTS

■ With the registration for admission to around 54,000 undergraduate seats beginning on Wednesday, DU has decided to implement special security measures in North Campus.

■ From 9 am to 1 pm, traffic movement will be restricted on Chhatra Marg, with effect from June 5 to June 19.

■ Police will patrol the campus and extra personnel, including women officers, will be deployed.

■ CCTV footage will be monitored.

Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, on the other hand, will offer BTech degrees in four subjects — Electronics, Instrumentation, Food Technology and Polymer Science.

"The problem with the three-year programme was that even though students got jobs in the industry, the BTech degree was of use only in some places. Now, the BTech degree will put them on a par with other students," principal of the college S Lakshmi Devi said.

"Designed to cater the needs of the hour", the contents of the Electronic course are such, that the passing out students will be more useful to the industry..., the university website said.

SGTB Khalsa College will offer two BTech degrees — Computer Science and Electronics. "There are 30 seats for Computer Science and 20 for Electronics," principal Jaswinder Singh said.

"The content of these courses is better than that in the three-year programme. Unlike other engineering programmes, project work has also been embedded in the curriculum," Singh said.

COMMON PRE-ADMISSION FORM AVAILABLE AT 18 CENTRES

NORTH /CENTRAL DELHI

MIRANDA HOUSE (North Campus)

KIRORIMAL COLLEGE (North Campus)

FACULTY OF ARTS (North Campus)

SWAMI SHARADHANAND College (Alipur)

ZAKIR HUSAIN COLLEGE (Jawaharlal Nehru Marg)

SOUTH DELHI

JT DEAN STUDENTs Welfare Office (South Campus)

PGDAV COLLEGE (Nehru Nagar, Ring Road)

COLLEGE OF VOCATIONAL STUDIES (Sheikh Sarai)

DESHBANDHU COLLEGE (Kalkaji)

ARSD COLLEGE (Dhaula Kuan)

GARGI COLLEGE (Siri Fort Road)

EAST DELHI

BR AMBEDKAR COLLEGE (Yamuna Vihar)

SHYAM LAL COLLEGE (Shahadara)

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE (Vivek Vihar)

MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE (Mayur Vihar Phase-I)

WEST DELHI

RAJDHANI COLLEGE (Raja Garden)

SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE COLLEGE (Punjabi Bagh)

BHAGINI NIVEDITA COLLEGE (Kair, Najafgarh)

UGC advisory committee to track FYUP implementation

Five-member panel set up by University Grants Commission

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission on Tuesday constituted an advisory committee to monitor the progress of implementation of the new four-year undergraduate programme being rolled out by Delhi University.

The advisory committee, chaired by UGC member and former CSIR Director-General S.K. Joshi, will also offer corrective advice on the issue of curriculum.

The five-member committee was set up following a meeting chaired by Union Human Resource Development Minister M.M. Pallam Raju. The committee was set up on the eve of commencement of the programme.

The other committee members are UGC member and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology director V. S. Chauhan; Indian Council of

- **Panel will aid, advise UGC on DU initiatives in all aspects of implementation of FYUP**

- **It will deliberate on any issues relevant to the proposed FYUP, make suitable recommendations**

Philosophical Research chairman Mrinal Miri; Tata Institute of Social Sciences director S. Parasuraman and former Indian Institute of Advanced Studies director Bhuvan Chandel.

The four-year programme is facing stiff opposition from a section of the academia and political parties. Protests were organised by different bodies even as some teachers of Delhi University and Members of Parliament made representations to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pranab Mukherjee demanding its roll back.

In a notification issued here by UGC chairperson

Prof. Ved Prakash, the UGC said the advisory committee will "aid and advise it on the initiatives of Delhi University in all aspects of implementation of the programme".

Citing the UGC Act, it said: "The UGC can recommend to any university the measures necessary for improvement of university education and advise the university upon the action to be taken for the purpose of implementing such recommendations."

The notification said since the new undergraduate programme entails a significant departure from the existing three-year degree programme, "this needs to be

monitored closely in the initial stages as well as later semesters for its successful implementation".

The terms and reference entail the committee to assess implications of the undergraduate programme for the postgraduate degree courses at Delhi University as well as other universities. The advisory committee may give reports to the UGC from time to time.

Along with tracking the progress of implementation, the committee will deliberate on any other issues relevant to the proposed programme and make suitable recommendations.

Meanwhile, G.N. Saibaba of the Joint Action Front for Democratic Education (SC/ST/OBC/Left) has said that the move was an endorsement of the "disastrous and meaningless" course, adding that they will impress upon the committee to stop implementation of the course.

UGC for replication of DU's four-year format

Sets up panel to monitor implementation of FYUP, find ways to extend plan to other varsities

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

EVEN as protests against Delhi University's Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) continue, the University Grants Commission, which has so far backed the university on the issue, on Tuesday set up a five-member advisory committee to "aid and advice" it on the "initiative of DU in all aspects of the implementation of the programme". The apex higher education regulator also asked the committee to examine ways to replicate the FYUP format in other universities across the country as well.

Observing that while the competent DU authorities may have approved the four-year programme, the UGC order — signed by the Chairman — pointed out that there have been some apprehensions from some quarters on the FYUP.

Acknowledging that the shift to FYUP entails a "significant departure from the existing three-year degree programme", the UGC said that it needs to be "monitored closely" for its successful implementation.

The UGC said the FYUP plan may present some challenges, "both conceptual and operational", and therefore it is desirable to institute an appropriate mechanism to oversee its implementation.

Far from considering a review of the DU's decision to go with the FYUP in the wake of protests, the UGC is also looking at ways to replicate the programme across other universities.

UGC Chairman Prof Ved Prakash told *The Indian Express* that the committee would look into ways to "scale up" the FYUP format across other varsities as well.

"Besides monitoring the implementation in DU, this committee will look at whether the format can be replicated across universities and scaled up, improved in any manner. Since concerns are at the same time being raised on the DU FYUP, it was also thought that a third party be brought in to look into the issue," he said.

To be headed by former director of CSIR, Prof S K Joshi, the committee also has Chairman of Indian Council of Philosophical Research Prof Mrinal Miri, UGC member Prof V S Chauhan, TISS Director Prof S Parsuraman and former director of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies Prof Bhuvan Chandel.

This committee will submit its reports to UGC on the FYUP from time to time.

The committee is expected to track the progress of the implementation of the FYUP in DU from time to time, offer corrective advice in matters pertaining to curricular, pedagogic or assessment systems, assess implications of the FYUP for the postgraduate programmes in DU as well as other universities and deliberate on any other issue relevant to the proposed FYUP and make recommendations.

UGC takes over distance edu body

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken over the Distance Education Council (DEC) lock, stock and barrel.

The takeover, under an administrative order, is in violation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985. The DEC had come into existence as an authority of IGNOU under section 16 of the act. However, on May 4, IGNOU, through a notification, repealed and deleted the statute that provisioned for the DEC. IGNOU's action was in the wake of the HRD minis-

The DEC takeover is in violation of the IGNOU Act, 1985. IGNOU deleted the statute provisioning for the DEC through a notification issued on May 4

try's decision late last year entrusting UGC to become the regulator for higher education through the open and distance learning (ODL) mode. Instead of recognition from the DEC, now UGC's nod is needed.

The DEC's assets, liabili-ties, regular manpower and official records would be transferred to the UGC on as-is-where-is basis in order to "ensure smooth transition and carrying on of uninter-rupted functioning of the regulation of the ODL pro-grammes/recognition proc-ess in the country."

The DEC's entire regular manpower as on May 4, 2013 — except for temporary, con-tractual and ad hoc employ-ees — has been taken over by the UGC on a "deemed depu-tation" basis.

However, UGC member M M Ansari has raised objec-tions to the UGC takeover of the DEC. He said, "The man-ner in which the law framed by Parliament has been sub-stituted by a bureaucratic process, to evade and avoid meaningful discussion, calls for a debate on the procedure followed by the government."

Ansari asked "whether an administrative order can substitute the laws framed through an act of Parlia-ment." He demanded that the HRD ministry order giving UGC the power to take over the DEC be withdrawn. He said that as proposed by the Madhav Menon committee, the DEC should be made an independent authority.
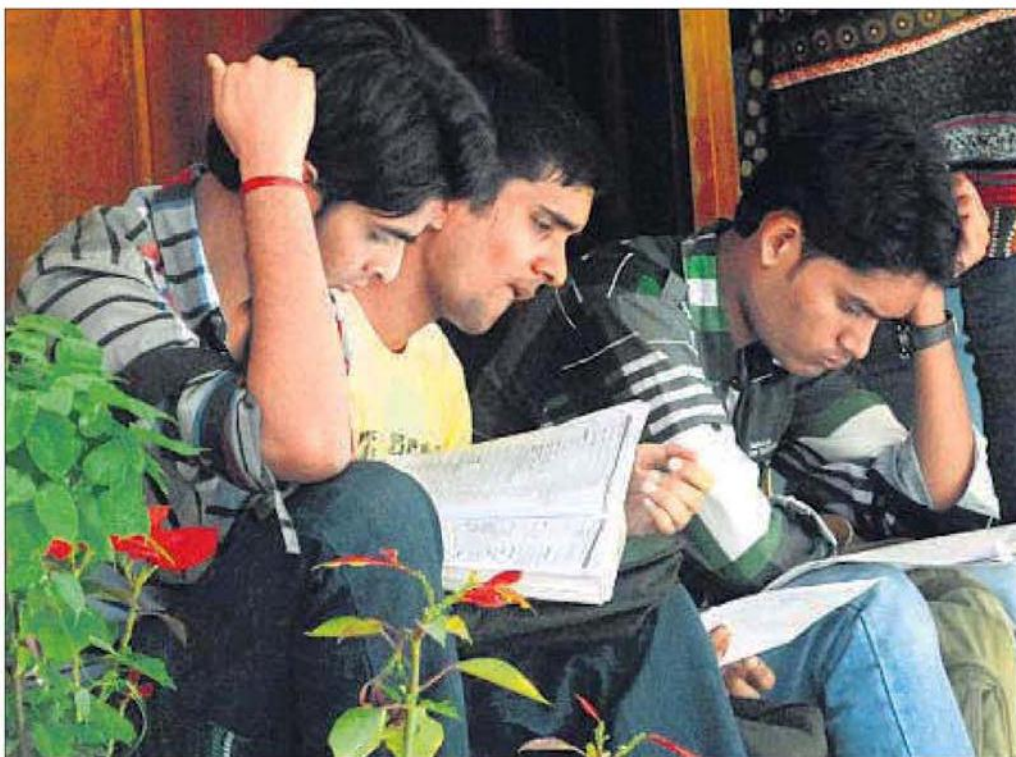
HT Mumbai

JEE Advanced 2013: An analysis

About 1.5 lakh aspirants for the Indian Institute of Technology and other centrally funded technical institutes appeared for JEE Advanced on Sunday, June 2, held across the country

The JEE 2013 Advanced paper, in general, was difficult and several notches above the JEE Mains 2013. Students have been confused about the negative marking scheme, and got nervous. Lined by ambiguity in terms of interpretation for some questions, the other questions were well-selected and at par with the former IIT JEE subjective papers.

The paper had very well-curated questions, in terms of speed, concepts and calculations. Overall, the paper was at par with old IIT subjective papers in terms of application of concepts.

Paper Pattern

PAPER 1: Total questions: 20 each (PCM); maximum marks: 60 each (PCM)

Section 1 – 0 10 Multiple choice questions (single option correct). No negative marking.

Section 2 – Five multiple choice questions. (One or more than one option correct), Has negative marking

Section 3 – Five integer-type questions, negative marking.

PAPER 2: Total questions – 20 each (PCM), maximum marks – 60 each (PCM)

Section 1 – Eight multiple choice questions (One or more than one option correct). Has negative marking

Section 2 – Eight paragraph type questions, four paragraphs. Has negative marking.

Section 3 – Four match the column questions. Has negative marking.

Subject-wise analysis:
PHYSICS:
Difficulty Level – Easy to Moderate

Good Score – 32 plus (Paper 1) + 33 plus (Paper 2)

The easiest of all the papers of JEE Advance in 2013. A lot of conceptual questions were present and students with strong fundamentals would have no problems with the paper. An intelligent paper to say the least, with a few tricky questions, in trademark IIT style.

MATHS:
Difficulty Level – Difficult to Very Difficult

Good Score – 24 plus (Paper 1) + 26 plus (paper 2)

This section went back to the good old days when the mathematics paper (in IIT JEE) was difficult and well set. There were few single option correct questions which were awarded only 2 marks and were very lengthy. The negative marking in the one or more than one correct questions added to the extra pressure in an already difficult paper. There were some speed breakers and some questions which could have been solved just by eliminating the options. Students who have selected the right questions to attempt will definitely out-perform others.

CHEMISTRY :
Difficulty Level – Moderate to Difficult

Good Score – 26 plus (Paper 1) + 30 plus (paper 2)

Unlike JEE Mains, all three sections (organic, physical and inorganic chemistry) had equal weightage. A few questions in organic chemistry were based on concepts which students say were out of syllabus, and the overall organic chemistry section was difficult. Physical chemistry was the easiest of the lot and had relatively straight-forward questions. There were no lengthy calculations involved. Inorganic chemistry was moderate with a few tricky questions (especially in paper 1). Some questions had different interpretations in Hindi and English language which created confusion.

Overall Paper – Moderate to Difficult

Good Score – 95 plus (paper 1) + 100 plus (paper2)

Students should congratulate themselves on their hard work of the last two years. The results of the paper is not in your hands, but you do deserve applause for your efforts. The last two years, with all the confusion about the new format, board exam weightage, and other controversies, must have been arduous for you, the first batch of the new JEE. Completing this journey successfully is a big achievement. Best wishes for the results of JEE Advance 2013. Let yourself loose and enjoy now!

Article courtesy Vipul Mehta, IITian's PACE

June 6

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JEE (ADVANCED) TO GET SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS AGAIN?

N. ARUN KUMAR
CHENNAI, JUNE 5

IIT aspirants may be in for another revision of the Joint Entrance Exam (advanced) pattern next year with a subjective question and answer format replacing the current multiple-choice questions.

Two decades ago the IITs had switched to the multiple-choice question pattern as the number of students taking the exam had gone up to five lakhs. "As it was not possible to evaluate the long answers to subjective questions of so many students in a month, IITs migrated to multiple-choice questions, but now as there are only 1.5 lakh students writing JEE (advanced) it shouldn't be difficult for teachers to evaluate their answers to a subjective question paper in a month," says an officer of the HRD ministry.

The IIT council, which has directors and chairmen of all IITs on board, is expected to soon discuss the change in pattern, according to sources.

CYBERBREAK-IN

College boy hacks ICSE, ISC results

Mou Chakraborty
■ mou.chakraborty@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: A 20-year-old Cornell University student hacked into the ICSE, ISC results on May 17, the day they were announced, and has claimed to have exposed how the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations tinkered with the marks of its two lakh students by inflating scores to 'improve' overall performance.

Debargho Das, a student of computer science at the Ivy League college, is currently interning with Google USA. He passed his ISC exam from La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, in 2011. He reportedly hacked into the council's website on the request of some juniors of his alma mater to help them access

DEBARGHO DAS, 20, CLAIMED THE COUNCIL HAD MANIPULATED STUDENTS' MARKS AND POSTED HIS 'FINDINGS' ON HIS FACEBOOK PAGE

the results before they were out.

"He downloaded the results of ICSE, ISC schools across India. He also ran analytics on the data and compiled graphs to show overall performance of students. While he was doing this purely to pass his time, he was shocked to realise that the data revealed that the council had inflated marks and standardised them," said a former classmate who is currently studying in St Xavier's Mumbai.
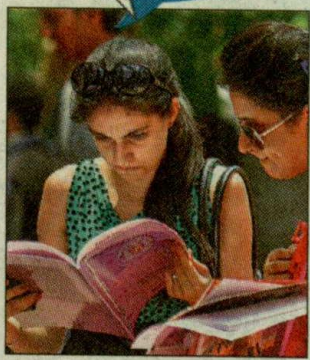
Asked if hacking the council's website was unethical, Das' friend, who didn't want to be identified, said, "Both Debargho and I agree it is ethically wrong. But how can the council have such poor security for its server? We have mathematical calculations of the entire original results data to show how the council has been tampering with the marks of students at a time when students are denied admission in top colleges for a fraction of marks. The council has to answer its students."

Das reportedly also hacked into the CBSE class 12 results, but is yet to analyse the data.

The council's chief executive and secretary Jerry Arathoon could not be reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

News television is his latest venture after IIT, IAS and Gujarat Metro

AVINASH NAIR

AHMEDABAD, JUNE 5

SANJAY GUPTA, IIT alumnus, former bureaucrat, business leader and now the man driving Gujarat's Metro project, has turned to television. Gupta, 49, launched last month a 24-hour digital news channel, Jano Duniya, a venture of his Neesa Group. It is the first Hindi national news channel to be aired from Gujarat.

A civil engineer from IIT Roorkee, Gupta joined the IAS at age 22 in 1985 and served 17 years during the pre-Narendra Modi era. Even today, he is remembered in the bureaucracy in Gujarat as a networking whiz, young and high-flying, who served in various positions and emerged a key player in the state's power corridors. As managing director of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation from 1998 to 2002, he is credited with turning the PSU around. He also played a key role in Gujarat State Petronet Limited, which was set up in 1998 to complement GPSC. He helped establish the intra-state gas transmission pipeline grid and a 160MW gas-based power project at Hazira. Before that, he was managing director of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat from 1995 to 1997

He quit the bureaucracy in 2002. Shortly after Modi had assumed office as the chief minister, the government transferred Gupta to Gujarat Rajya Sangeet Natak Academy, leading to his resignation.

Gupta joined the Adani group as CEO. He had already set up Neesa Technologies Pvt Ltd in 2000. Today, his Neesa Group is a Rs-2,000-crore, pan-India business conglomerate with varied interests. The Cambay hotels are the flagship brand of the group, whose assets includes six luxurious hotels and two golf properties. Gupta is the group's chairman.

In April 2011, Modi brought Gupta back as chairman of MEGA (Metro Express between Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad), the special purpose vehicle for the Rs-15,000-crore project.

Soon after the appointment, the income tax department searched Cambay's properties across the country and reportedly found unaccounted assets. Gupta approached the Gujarat High Court against the searches; the court held these were legal.

Gupta's company foresees a "business opportunity" for the news and current affairs channels in the Hindi-speaking market, with colloquial and regional flavour as the focus. It has hired well-known journalists to run the show.

"The basic idea of launching a channel is plain business. It makes business sense for me. Though the market space is cluttered, the business model is proven," said Gupta. The channel can be viewed on local cable networks and on the internet, Gupta told *The Indian Express* Tuesday.

The free-to-air channel is headed by Arvind Jha, also the CEO at Neesa Technologies Pvt Ltd, an information technology and IT-enabled serviced company.

The channel will focus on the Hindi-speaking viwership in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It has targeted Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bihar and Jharkhand for subsequent expansion.

"We currently have a 150-strong team for the channel and are able to produce over 9-10 hours of programming content," Gupta said. Apart from news, the channel is targeting coverage of fashion, philosophy, entertainment and music, and technology.

"Funds for the channel have been sourced from the financial markets and from entities who have a slew of interests," said Gupta, adding it operates on a "low-cost model" and is designed to provide "world-class news content". The channel's website, *www.janoduniya.tv*, provides live streaming of news.

The Neesa Group conglomerate operates 16 companies in hospitality, agri-tech, food-processing, real estate, education, IT, infrastructure, health, biotechnology, energy and security solutions, together employing more than 3,000. Gupta's wife is a co-partner is some of these ventures.