Newspaper Clips

April 17, 2012

Asian Age ND 17/04/2012

P-3

EDUCATION BODY MEET POSTPONED

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 16

The meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (the highest advisory body on education), called by the HRD ministry to evolve a consensus on the proposed common national examination for science and engineering for Central institutes, has been postponed to June 6. The meeting was earlier scheduled to be held on April 23.

The decision comes days after the All-India IIT Faculty Federation (AIIITFF) strongly opposed the proposed changes to the existing IIT-JEE entrance examination pattern. The CABE meeting is understood to have been postponed as the HRD ministry is fearful that several states could also endorse the faculty's stance and oppose the proposal of common entrance test, scheduled for implementation from 2013. A state education ministers conference has also been called on June 5, a day ahead of the CABE meet, to seek their views on this and other issues. Sources stated that the proposed common national examination for science and engineering for Central institutes was scheduled to come up for discussion in the CABE meeting. However, on April 11 the proposal hit a roadblock as the meeting of HRD minister Kapil Sibal and IIT directors with IIT faculty members remained inconclusive.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Apr 17, 2012;Section: Times Nation;Page: 9;

Govt bans use of live animals for edu, research

Linah Baliga | TNN

Mumbai: The Union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) has banned the use of live animals in dissection and other experiments in educational and research institutions. But scientists conducting new molecular research will be exempted from the ban.

Based on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960), the MoEF has issued guidelines to the University Grants Commission, ministry of health and family welfare, Pharmacy Council of India and the Medical Council of India to discontinue dissection and experiments with live animals in universities, colleges, research institutes, hospitals, laboratories and instead use alternatives like computer simulation.

The MoEF says that the central government is duty-bound to use alternatives to avoid unnecessary suffering or pain to animals.

It states that effective alternatives in the form of CDs, computer simulations and mannequin models are available; they are not only effective as absolute replacements for animals in teaching anatomy or physiology but are also superior learning tools in teaching of pharmacy or life sciences.

The guidelines were framed based on the duties of the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments and Animals (CPCSEA), which has been constituted under the provisions of Section 15 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960).

The committee comprises seven nominees — three nominees appointed by CPCSEA and the remaining four from educational institutes.

"The animal experiments should be stopped in all institutes except for the purpose of new molecular research. Sometimes, in laboratories, a lot of work is repeated and animals become unnecessary victims. Only scientists researching on a new molecular theory can experiment on animals. In medical and pharmacy colleges, there is unwanted cruelty towards animals which can be avoided. These guidelines mention imprisonment for five years and monetary penalty," said Mangal Jain, a nominee of the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC), which is appointed by CPCSEA.

MoEF has issued guidelines to discontinue dissection and experiments with live animals in varsities, colleges, research institutes, hospitals, laboratories and instead use alternatives like computer simulation

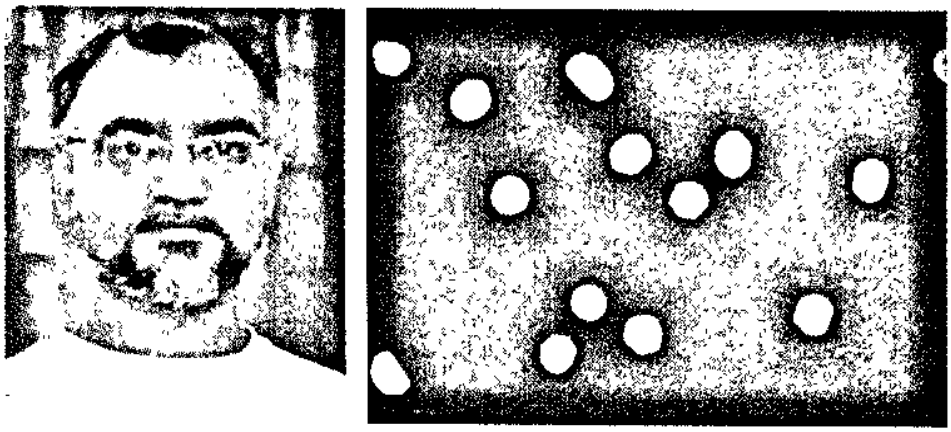
Hoshang Bilimoria, also a nominee appointed by the CPCSEA, said the guidelines were a welcome change.

"CPCSEA should give the nominees the power to inspect animals housed in educational institutes, experimentation centres or technical laboratories without prior intimation to the institutes. Cross-checks should also be maintained through other members," said Bilimoria.

Mail Today ND 17/04/2012 p-17

Scientists hit 'gold' with inkling of yellow metal cure for breast cancer

By **Dinesh C. Sharma**
in New Delhi



BREAKING NEW GROUND: Dr Singh (L) & his team are pioneering the use of gold nanoparticles (R) for breast cancer treatment.

LIKE most fellow Indians, Dr Surinder P. Singh loves to possess gold. But his fetish for gold has nothing to do with making jewellery or keeping it safe as a secure investment. He is interested in gold for treating cancer.

Singh is leading a team of Indian researchers which has found that gold nanoparticles can be an effective means of delivering cancer drugs.

The researchers have used gold particles to deliver chloroquine — a widely known anti-malarial drug which has recently been found to possess anti-cancer properties as well — for treatment of breast cancer.

The novel combination of chloroquine and gold nanoparticles uses only miniscule amounts of gold. Typically, a dose would consist of a few thousand gold particles — with a combined weight of a very tiny fraction of a gram. Nanoparticles are so small that it takes about 500 nanoparticles to span the width of a human hair.

"Our studies, done in breast cancer cell lines, have shown promising results. Gold nanoparticles help targeted delivery of the drug and we can monitor the drug's effect on tumours through scanning," explained Dr Singh, a scientist at Delhi-based National Physical Laboratory, who led the study along with professor Pinak Chakrabarti of Bose Institute, Kolkata. The team also included Prachi Joshi and Soumyananda Chakraborti. The research results would be published soon in scientific journal *Colloids and Surfaces*.

"We plan to conduct more studies before taking up trials on animals and eventually cancer patients," Dr Singh said. AIIMS may collaborate for further studies.

Hindustan Times ND 17/04/2012

P-12

Lost in transition

Many pending bills in Parliament seek to legalise the privatisation of higher education. This means opening newer avenues for profits at the cost of social good

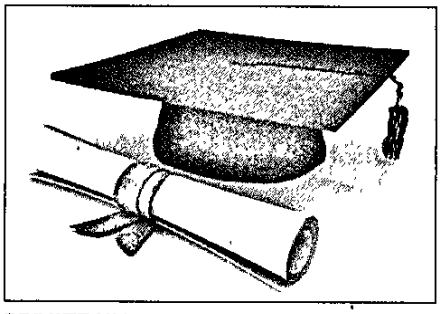
The Supreme Court ruling sanctioning the legality of the Right to Education has also mandated every private school to ensure at least 25% enrolment from the economically weaker sections. The caveat is that the fees will be subsidised by the government and the target will be reached progressively, in the coming eight years.

Soon after, the human resource development minister appealed "with folded hands" to pass 14 bills that have been pending before Parliament since UPA 2 assumed office. The basic thrust of both these developments is to legalise the further privatisation and commercialisation of education. The government is willing to pay up to ₹19,000 per annum per student from the weaker sections to private schools. While the elite schools may be unhappy, budget private schools would make a windfall profit. Already, according to the Annual Status of Education Report, private schools enrolment has sharply grown from 18.7% in 2006 to 25.6% in 2011. Studies across the states have shown that the per pupil expenditure in such schools is vastly below that of the government schools, while they charge as fees, anything between five to 12 times more.

The Universal Right to Education, international experience shows, can never be achieved, without a network of State-run 'neighbourhood schools'. This has laid the foundation in all developed countries. Our Bill also does not provide for children below six years, with the government refusing to attach aanganwadis to primary schools. Many of the pending bills on higher education seek to legalise this approach of the government subsidising private education players. Take the case of Andhra Pradesh, which has 705 engineering colleges with the capacity of 3,04,200 students. However, only 2,08,936 qualified after the entrance examination, leaving an excess capacity of 75,836. There are only 29 such government colleges with a mere 5,276 seats, the rest are private. With the government subsidising the fees of SC/ST/OBC students, AP has spent ₹3,621 crore in the last fiscal alone, compared with the budget of only ₹1,087 crore for technical education. If all eligible students are to be covered, then ₹7,500 crore is required. This is for one state alone. Consider that the initial requirement to start a government college is only ₹50 lakh. Instead of starting government colleges, such high subsidies to private colleges, apart from providing them with land and loans, only means the creation of new avenues for profit-maximisation. In addition, the government continues to drag its feet on legislating social control over such private business enterprises with regard to fee structure, syllabus, teachers and staff salaries etc. The salaries of teachers in unaided, budget private schools are, at least, four to seven times lower.

This is precisely the thrust of the neo-liberal reforms that seek to prise open newer avenues for higher private profits at the cost of social good. The economic gain from the export and import of higher education is an essential element in the General Agreement on Trade in Services. According to the Planning Commission, 88% of funds required for the approved expansion of higher education in the 11th Five Year Plan (FYP) were to be generated through the infamous public-private partnership (PPP) route. The Approach Paper to the 12th FYP, states: "Private initiatives in higher education, including viable and innovative PPP models, will, therefore, be actively promoted. The current 'not-for-profit' prescription in education sector, should be re-examined in a pragmatic manner." Private participation in enlarging the coverage of mid-day meal schemes, fully funded by the government, is being encouraged and a major part of the expansion of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan will take place through PPP.

Professor Tilak of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration has detailed the measures the government is contemplating for legalising such large-scale privatisation and commercialisation (*Economic and Political Weekly*, March 31, 2012). He concludes that higher education in India has moved "from a system embedded in welfare statism... to a system based on a neo-liberal market philosophy. Sadly, the transition seems to be complete and dangerously irreversible." Today, there are 73 private universities and nearly 100 deemed universities compared to none a decade ago. Private higher education today accounts for about four-fifths of enrolment in professional education and one-third overall. Contrast this with the US where less than one-fourth are enrolled in private institutions.



PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTS FOR FOUR-FIFTHS OF ENROLMENT IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION. CONTRAST THIS WITH THE US WHERE LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH ARE IN PRIVATE COLLEGES

Prof Tilak says: "A 30-40% enrolment ratio seems to be the critical threshold level for a country such as India to become an advanced nation." In 2009-10, the government's gross enrolment ratio was only 15%. Even this low percentage gives all of us a reason to be proud that in every effort at expanding the frontiers of knowledge the world over, Indian youth are playing an important role. The second language in Silicon Valley is an Indian language. Imagine, if this enrolment percentage were to, at least, double, the potential of India to lead the global civilisational advance would be unquestionable.

It is time to recollect the Report of the 1948 Commission on University Education headed by Dr S Radhakrishnan, which said: "As we claim to be a civilised people, we must regard the higher education of the rising generation as one of our principal concerns... Many of these proposals will mean increased expenditure, but this increase, we are convinced is an investment for the democratic future of a free people."

Instead of investing in the future by improving State-run education, qualitatively and quantitatively, UPA 2 is eager to subsidise and promote unregulated commercial shops.

Sitaram Yechury is CPI(M) Politburo member and Rajya Sabha MP

The views expressed by the author are personal

Left Hand Drive

SITARAM YECHURY

Times Of India ND P-17
17/04/2012

Supercomputer to simulate brain for disease fight

London: Scientists say they are building a 'human brain', using the world's most powerful supercomputer that will simulate the entire mind and thus help fight against brain diseases like Alzheimer's.

The 'brain' is intended to combine all the information so far uncovered about its mysterious workings — and replicate them on a screen, right down to the level of individual cells and molecules, says an international team behind the project.

The scientists hope to complete it within 12 years.

If it works it could be revolutionary for understanding devastating neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and even shedding light into how we think, and make decisions, the Daily Mail reported.

Switzerland-based Henry Markram, who is leading the team which include UK-based Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, said, "The complexity of brain, with its billions of interconnected neurons, makes it hard for neuroscientists to truly understand how it works. Simulating it will make it much easier, allowing them to manipulate and measure any aspect of the brain."

Housed at a facility in Dusseldorf in Germany, the 'brain' will feature thousands of three-dimensional images built around a semi-circular 'cockpit' so the scientists can virtually 'fly' around different areas and watch how they communicate with each other. PTI

Gene code change tied to higher IQ

An international team of scientists said a study had found a gene linked to intelligence, a small piece in the puzzle as to why some people are smarter than others. A variant of this gene "can tilt the scales in favour of a higher intelligence", study leader Paul Thompson said, stressing though that genetic blessings were not the only factor in brainpower. Searching for a genetic explanation for brain disease, the scientists stumbled upon a minute variant in a gene called HMGA2 among people who had larger brains and scored higher on IQ tests. Thompson dubbed it "an intelligence gene" and said it was likely that many more such genes were yet to be discovered. AFP

Economic Times ND 17/04/2012 P-4

Crowd-Sourcing Expands Power of Brain Research

Social Networking in Science: Using imaging technology globally to zero in on key genes

BENEDICT CAREY
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

In the largest collaborative study of the brain to date, scientists using imaging technology at more than 100 centres worldwide have for the first time zeroed in on genes that they agree play a role in intelligence and memory. Scientists working to understand the biology of brain function — and especially those using brain imaging, a blunt tool — have been badly stalled. But the new work, involving more than 200 scientists, lays out a strategy for breaking the logjam. The findings appear in a series of papers published online Sunday in the journal Nature Genetics.

"What's really new here is this movement toward crowd-sourcing brain research," said Paul Thompson, a professor of neurology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and senior author of one of the papers. "This is an example of social networking in science, and it gives us a power we have not had."

The genes, which influence elements of brain size, may have subtle effects on how people think and behave, though many other factors, including education and general health, play a role in intelligence and could easily offset the effect of any single gene.

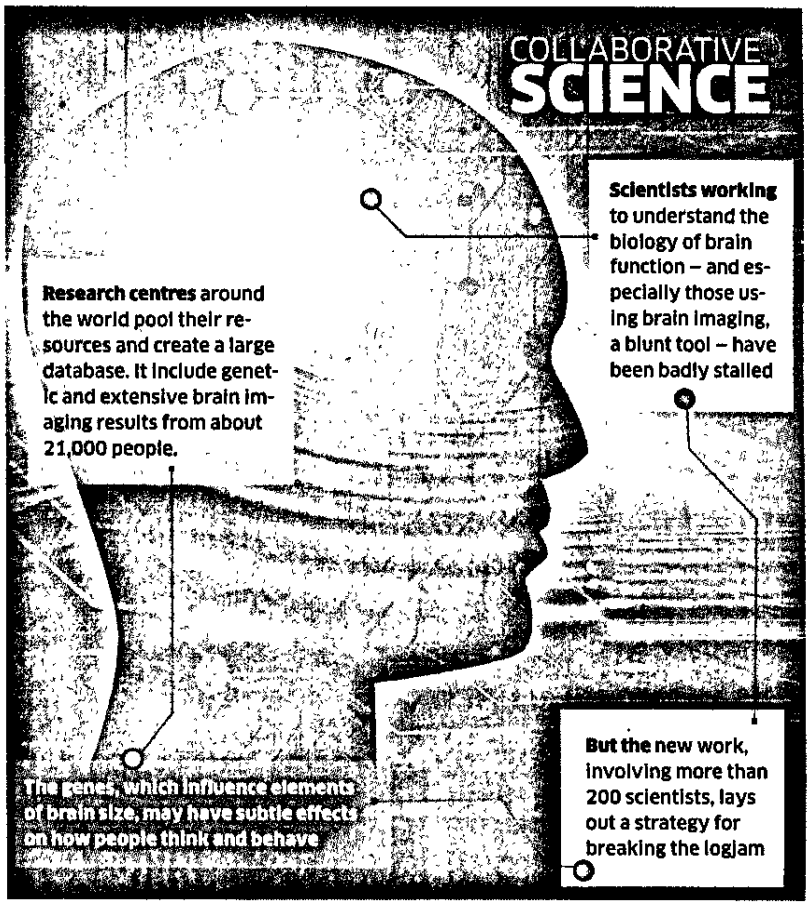
Still, size matters, in brain research at least as much as in brain function.

"I like this work a lot, because these guys finally did what needed to be done to take a real stab at merging imaging and genomics," said Dr Matthew W. State, a professor of psychiatry at Yale, who was not one of the collaborators.

Brain imaging studies are expensive and, as a result, far too small to reliably tease out the effects of common gene variations. These effects tend to be tiny, for one thing, and difficult to distinguish from the background "noise" of other influences.

And brain imaging is notoriously noisy: not only does overall brain size vary from person to person, for instance, but so do the sizes of specialised brain regions like the hippocampus, which is critical for memory formation.

To solve the numbers problem, Dr Thompson and three geneticists — Nick Martin and Margaret Wright, both of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Australia, and Barbara Franke of the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center in the Netherlands — persuaded research centers around the world to pool their resources and create one large database. It included genetic and extensive brain imaging results from about 21,000 people. The team then analysed the collective data to see whether any genes were linked to brain structure. As the study was being completed, the Thompson group learned that another consortium, led by Boston University researchers, was doing a similar analysis using its own large group. The two teams' findings did not completely line up. One found size-related genes that the other did not. But they agreed on two findings: one gene that correlated strongly with overall brain size, and another that correlated with the rate at which the hipocampus atrophies, or shrinks, with age.



The new trend is this move toward crowd-sourcing of brain research. Researchers say it gives them power they never had

People who carried one variant of the overall-size gene had brains that were about 1% larger than those of people who carried another variant. The two variants are equally distributed — about half of people have one and half have the other. In a separate analysis in Australia, Dr Martin and Dr Wright found that size correlated with IQ. People with the larger brains scored slightly higher on a standardized test. The results are all averages, meaning that they hold for the group but say nothing about any individual. (Some very smart people have relatively small brains.)

The collaborators also found that about 10% of people carried a gene variant that correlated with a slightly accelerated rate of atrophy in the hippocampus. The hippocampi — there are two, each deep in the brain, one in the right side and one in the left, about level with the ears — are needed to form new memories. People with dementia often show pronounced atrophy in this region. The study was not set up to find a link between the gene variant and dementia, but experts suspect a connection.

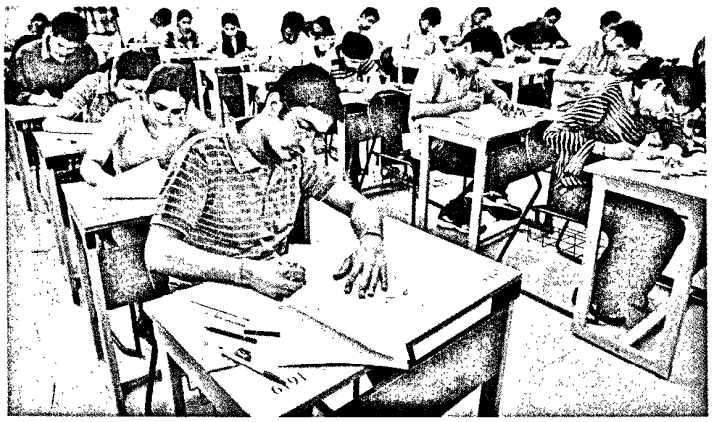
The collaboration is not likely to lead to new treatments any time soon, the authors said, and, as always, the findings will need replication before they are conclusive. It is more a beginning than an end, and it illustrates how far the field has to go to get any real traction — and what it will take.

"It means sharing your data, pooling everything," Dr Thompson said, "and this is not usually how scientists work."

For feedback, write to us at et.technology@indiatimes.com

Mail Today ND 17/04/2012 P-24-25

Why tough JEE gives us hope



CHEMISTRY

Subjects/ Topic	No of Ques.	Total Marks
Carbonyl Compound	4	12
P-Block Elements	3	10
Bio Molecules	2	8
Thermodynamics	2	8
Surface Chemistry	2	8
Qualitative Analysis	2	8
POC-I & Structural Identification	2	7
Atomic Structure & Nuclear Chemistry	2	7
Mole Concepts I	2	7
Chemical Bonding	2	6
Coordination Compound	2	6
Electrochemistry	2	6
Chemical Kinetics	1	4
Aromatic Compounds	1	4
Oxidation Reduction	1	4
Isomerism	1	4
Thermo Chemistry	1	3
Solid State	1	3
Mole Concepts 2	1	3
Colligative Properties	1	3
Metallurgy	1	3
Gaseous State	1	3
D-Block Elements	1	3
Carboxylic Acid & Derivatives	1	3
IUPAC Nomenclature	1	3
Grand Total	40	136

MATHEMATICS

Subjects/ Topic	No of Ques.	Total Marks
Definite Integration	4	13
Application of Derivatives	3	12
Probability	3	11
3D Geometry	3	10
Matrices & Determinant	3	10
Permutation & Combination	3	9
Circle	2	9
Continuity & Derivability	2	7
Vector	2	6
Functions	2	7
Limits	1	6
Trigonometric Equations	1	4
Differential Equations	1	4
Parabola	1	4
Fundamentals of Mathematics	1	4
Hyperbola	1	4
Indefinite Integration	1	3
Complex Number	1	3
Ellipse	1	3
Properties of Triangle	1	3
Sequence & Progression	1	3
Grand Total	40	136

PHYSICS

Subjects/ Topic	No of Ques.	Total Marks
Rotation (Rigid Body Dynamics)	7	24
Electro Magnetic Field	5	18
Electrostatics	4	15
Geometrical Optics	3	9
Modern Physics 1	2	7
Sound Waves	2	7
Modern Physics 2	2	6
Kinetic Theory of Gases	2	7
Circular Motion	2	6
Current Electricity	1	4
Gravitation	1	4
Electro Magnetic Induction	1	4
Alternating Current	1	4
Friction	1	4
Simple Harmonic Motion	1	3
Wave Optics	1	3
Capacitance	1	3
Fluids	1	3
Experiments & Error Analysis	1	3
Heat Transfer	1	3
Grand Total	40	136

By **Talrah Firdous**

MORE than half-a-million students appeared for the IIT-JEE 2012 and if they aren't complaining, there's a reason for it. The consensus in the IIT-JEE coaching community is that this year's examination was more difficult than last year's.

That should get students very upset, but no, it's the IIT-JEE tradition that the tougher the paper, the higher are your chances of making it past the country's toughest competitive examination hurdle.

Here's the reason why. As Manoj Sharma, Vice-President, Operations & Business Development, of the famous Kota coaching institute, Resonance, puts it, "This year's examination papers were more difficult than the previous year's, so it is going to bring down the cut-off percentage. Last year, it was 47 per cent; this year, we are expecting it to be 43 per cent." Translated to studentspeak, it means you stand a chance of making it to an IIT, though not to your favourite course or institute, even if your aggregate is 43 per cent.

The Resonance Analysis of the IIT-JEE rates the overall difficulty level of the 2012 examination as 'moderate', with Paper I being easier than Paper II. That, according to IIT-JEE coaches, is how the difficulty level of the examination typically distributed.

Explains Sharad Awasthi, Head of Academics at CL Educate, formerly known as Career Launcher: "Paper II had more difficult questions. They were unnecessarily lengthy. These questions could have written better."

Paper I was worth 210 marks and Paper II added up to 198. Each paper had 60 questions and the marks added up to 408. Last year, both papers were of 240 marks each.

The difficulty level of Paper II was higher for all three subjects, but overall, according to the Resonance Analysis, Mathematics had the most number of difficult and very difficult questions (13), followed by Chemistry (12) and Physics (9).

"Mathematics Paper II was the one with the highest difficulty level," Awasthi revealed. "The questions from Permutation and Combination and Definite Integration were 'difficult'. The difficulty level went up to 'high' in the case of two questions from Permutation and Combination."

More questions were from the Class XII syllabus, but Class XI was well-represented in both papers. The split was 36 per cent (Class XI) and 64 per cent (Class XII) for Paper I; for Paper II, it was 38 per cent (Class XI) and 64 per cent (Class XII). Therein lies the catch.

Students, as Awasthi put it, struggle with the questions from the Class XI syllabus because their mindspace is occupied by Class XII, what with the IIT-JEE coming immediately after the Board exams. "It is natural for students to forget what they have studied a year earlier," Awasthi explained.

So what are the take-home messages of this analysis? One, keep going back to your Class XI even when you are in Class XII. Two, be prepared for long questions that will take up considerable parts of your time. And three, pay a little more attention to Mathematics — that's the toughest nut to crack.

The results will be announced on May 18. Hope and pray that you'll make it past the cut-off.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ANALYSIS: NO. OF QUESTIONS

Subjects	Very Easy	Easy	Moderate	Very Difficult	Difficult	Total
Physics	5	10	16	9		40
Chemistry	3	5	20	11	1	40
Mathematics	1	8	18	11	2	40
Total	9	23	54	31	3	12

TABLES SOURCED FROM RESONANCE (KOTA)

> "This year's papers were more difficult than the previous year's. It is going to bring down the cut-off percentage. Last year, it was **47%**; this year, it may be **43%**"
>
> — **MANOJ SHARMA**, VP, Ops & Biz Dev, Resonance (Kota)

Veer Arjun ND 17/04/2012 P-3

चुनौतीपूर्ण रही आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा

हमारे संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। महीनो की तैयारी के बाद देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ इंजीनियरिंग कालेजों में दाखिले का सपना लिए लाखो अभ्यार्थी आईआईटी जेईई 2012 मे शामिल हुए। परीक्षा के तुरन्त बाद ही कोचिंग केद्रो के विशेषज्ञो ने अपने विश्लेषण तैयार किए। एक्सपर्ट से लेकर परीक्षार्थियो तक ने आईआईटी जेईई के पेपर को अच्छा एवं स्कोरिंग बताया।

इस परीक्षा में दो पेपर थे जो कि सुबह 9 से 12 के बीच और 2 से 5 के बीच आयोजित किए गए. पहला पेपर 210 एवं दूसरा पेपर 198 अंको का था। प्रत्येक पेपर मे 60 सवाल थे (20 सवाल भौतिक विज्ञान, 20 सवाल रसायन विज्ञान, 20 सवाल गणित) पिछले साल दोनों पेपर कुल 480 अको के थे।

श्री आरके वर्मा (एमडी एवं सीईओ, रेजोनेन्स) के अनुसार आईआईटी जेईई 2012 की परीक्षा कुल मिलाकर उदारवादी रही। परीक्षार्थियों की नजर में पहला पेपर दूसरे पेपर की

अपेक्षा सरल था। जिन विद्यार्थियो ने इस परीक्षा के लिए गंभीरता से तैयारी की होगी और जिनकी गणना अच्छी रही होगी उन्हे यह परीक्षा दूसरे विद्यार्थियो को अपेक्षा सरल लगी होगी।

पहले पेपर मे कक्षा 11वी का 35.71% एव कक्षा 12वी का 64.28% वेटेज रहा, उसी प्रकार दूसरे पेपर में कक्षा 11वी का 33.83% एवं कक्षा 12वी का 66.16% वेटेज रहा। दोनों पेपरो मे कक्षा 11वीं के 42 प्रश्न (142 अंक) और कक्षा 12वी के 77 प्रश्न (266 अक) थे।

श्री वर्मा के अनुसार हर साल की तरह कुछ सवाल बिल्कुल ही नए एवं कठिन थे तो कुछ सवाल बिल्कुल सरल। कटआफ लगभग 45% जा सकती है। टाप 10 आल इडिया रैक की कटआफ लगभग 85% जा सकती है और जिन विद्यार्थियों ने 75% और उससे ज्यादा स्कोर किया है उनके टाप 100 मे रैक अर्जित करने की सभावना है।इस साल भी हमेशा की तरह परीक्षा मे बदलाव नजर आए और प्रत्येक विषय से कम ही प्रश्न देखे गए। इस साल परीक्षा मे 0-9 तक के कोड दिए गए थे और विद्यार्थियों को ब्लैक बाल पाइट पेन द्वारा जवाब भरने थे, विद्यार्थियों को परीक्षा के बाद उत्तर पुसतक ले जाने की अनुमति थी। आईआईटी जेईई 2012 का परिणाम दिनांक 18 मई 2012 को घोषित किया जाएगा।

Dainik Jagran ND 17/04/2012
p-11

बंगाल में कैद वैज्ञानिक रिहा कराएं पीएम

◆ देश-विदेश की नामचीन हस्तियों ने मनमोहन से लगाई गुहार

नई दिल्ली, प्रेट्र : पश्चिम बंगाल में पहले एक प्रोफेसर और अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के जीव विज्ञानी पार्थसारथी रे को जेल में बंद कर दिया गया है। देश और दुनिया की कई नामचीन हस्तियों ने रे को रिहा कराने की गुहार प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह से लगाई है। इस बारे में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के वैज्ञानिक नोम चोम्स्की, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता अरुणा राय, निखिल डे, वैज्ञानिक मृगांक सूर और आभा सूर समेत कई अन्य वैज्ञानिकों ने पीएम को पत्र लिखा है। पत्र में इन हस्तियों ने पीएम से ममता बनर्जी सरकार की शिकायत की है और पूरे प्रकरण में उनसे दखल देने की मांग की है। पत्र में रे के साथ-साथ जादवपुर विश्वविद्यालय के रसायन विज्ञान प्रोफेसर अंबिकेश महापात्र की गिरफ्तारी का मसला भी उठाया गया है। पत्र के अनुसार, महापात्र और रे की गिरफ्तारी से ममता सरकार साफ संदेश देना चाहती है कि अगर किसी ने भी विरोध का स्वर मुखर करने की कोशिश की तो उसे दबा दिया जाएगा। हस्तियों ने आशंका जताई है कि राज्य सरकार की इस तरह की हरकतें लोकतंत्र के लिख खतरनाक है।

रे को 68 अन्य लोगों के साथ 4 अप्रैल को उस समय गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया, जब ये लोग पूर्वी कोलकाता के नोमादांगा इलाके में एक झोपड पट्टी उजाडे जाने का विरोध कर रहे थे। पत्र में आरोप लगाया गया है कि रे सहित सात अन्य लोगों को पुलिस ने कई दिनों तक गैरकानूनी तरीके से हिरासत में रखा। पार्थसारथी रे कोलकाता स्थित प्रतिष्ठित इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च (आइआइएसईआर) के संकाय सदस्य हैं। आणविक जीव विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में अपने शोध के लिए वह न केवल देश बल्कि पूरी दुनिया में मशहूर हैं। पत्र पर जिन अन्य लोगों ने हस्ताक्षर किया है, उनमें आइआइटी के कई प्रोफेसर व एसएन बोस नेशनल सेंटर फॉर बेसिक साइंस समेत अमेरिका, डेनमार्क, सिंगापुर और स्वीडन के कई वैज्ञानिक शामिल हैं।

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Assembler Sues DataWind for Aakash Breach

HARSIMRAN JULKA
NEW DELHI

The fight over the world's cheapest tablet is getting murkier. Even as retail customers wait for delivery of Aakash, the Hyderabad-based assembler of the tablet, Quad Electronics, has sued DataWind alleging that the British Indian firm failed to procure its contracted inventory or pay for the tablets.

DataWind retorted saying it won't procure any more tablets from Quad and will settle the issue legally. Quad has served a legal notice to DataWind for non-payment of $1.12 million against dues outstanding and inventory procured for DataWind.

"DataWind contracted us for 50,000 tablets and has failed to pick up its inventory breaching the contract," R Soin, founder-CEO of Quad Electronics told ET. Quad claims DataWind procured only 10,000. "Quad has manufactured 10,000 more tablets which are not sold yet," Soin said. DataWind's CEO Suneet Tuli returns the fire saying "only 10,000 units were picked up because that's all Quad manufactured."

"Non-payment of dues can be confirmed from the bankers, Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait and Barclays Plc, involved in the letter of credit," Quad's Soin charged.

Replying, Tuli said the letter of credit is for banks to honour, not for DataWind. "Quad should show why they weren't able to submit required documents in a timely manner to get payment through letter of credit. They've been entirely paid for their services. It'll now be resolved in the UK courts," Tuli said. "We won't be picking up any more inventory from Quad. We've contracted other suppliers," he added.

Quad and DataWind's public spat comes even as thousands of buyers are posting messages on online consumer forums citing delays in delivery of the tablets, hawked online for Rs 2,999 each.

About three million pre-bookings for the tablets had been done on Aakashtablet.com, and through email by DataWind.

Many customers made pre-payments through cheques, six to eight weeks back. Quad also charged that DataWind has tied up with a customer of Quad for manufacturing Aakash II.

Faulty Keypad

- **QUAD** Electronics has sued DataWind for $1.1 million in dues, alleging that the British Indian firm failed to procure contracted inventory or pay for the tablets
- **DATAWIND** retorted saying it won't procure any more tablets from Quad and will settle matter in court

QUAD and Datawind'spublic spat comes even as retail customers are posting messages on online consumer forums citing delays in delivery of the tablets

- QUAD has also charged DataWind with tying up with one of its customers for manufacture of Aakash II

"They have been poaching talent from Quad to adopt the expertise required to manufacture the product," Soin points out.

Tuli added that Quad can't take DataWind's technology and sell it on its own. But Quad's Soin retorted saying that the contract has a clause for 'freedom of action' to manufacture similar products for any other original equipment manufacturer."

On the other hand, DataWind issued a media statement last week saying that "Quad Electronics has breached DataWind's intellectual property, circumvented their relationship with IIT-Rajasthan, signed a direct agreement with them and then sold off their inventory in the open market."

Soin countered that DataWind is making baseless allegations about copyright infringement against "the 15-year-old Quad and an IIT." He also said there is 'no direct arrangement between IIT-Rajasthan and Quad. "The pact which Tuli is talking about pertains to one we signed with IIT on convergence systems." It has also informed the Ministry of Communications & IT and IIT Rajasthan, regarding DataWind's default.

TOI, New Delhi

Be ready for changes in the IIT-JEE new format

gurukool

Rajiv Agarwal

CEO OF EDUDIGMS (A MENTORING INSTITUTE FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS)

Like every year, this time also the most competitive exam in the world saw changes, be it the pattern of the paper, number of questions, marking scheme or even how to mark the response sheet!

This unpredictable nature of the paper often is the biggest predicament for students, parents and teachers. Now, add to this the talk about the proposed single entrance test, Indian Science-Engineering Eligibility Test (ISEET) from 2013 and then things become more confusing for everyone, especially those slated to appear for their higher secondary next year.

Instead of being overwhelmed, let us try to decode and understand the current scenario.

To maintain their edge, the IITs have been constantly innovating and changing. Being an IITian myself, I have experienced the progressive wave of transformation that the IIT system has been undergoing firsthand. The case of IIT JEE is also no different.

Fundamentally IIT JEE tests a student's ability to demonstrate his/her understanding of concepts in physics, chemistry and math and apply them in solving problems.

The pattern of the paper has changed in a subtle manner from the 90's. IIT JEE has done away with lengthy and extremely difficult questions, but has instead focused on innovating with the presentation of questions and their marking scheme.

From multiple answer type questions (where there was no part marking this year) to integer type questions to long passage type questions to reasoning assertion questions (not this year), IIT JEE requires a student to be more than just a problem solving machine.

IIT JEE has this knack of preempting mistakes on the part of the students and now with a student having to mark the response sheet with a pen, certainty, confidence and exam temperament have become extremely important.

Most students nowadays don't complain about the paper being out of the world but instead they rue about their careless mistakes or having missed out on that small thing that was to be noticed.

With subject and over-all cut-offs being announced beforehand, a carbon copy of their response sheet is also being provided to the students, things are clearer, certain and full proof than ever before.

The future of ISEET is still unclear right now and hopefully all the questions and doubts shall be clear in the days to come.

The one thing though that I am 200% sure of is that no matter what the exam, the pattern or type of questions, knowledge and concepts will always hold you in good stead. So, stick to the basics and keep things simple.