

# Newspaper Clips

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## IITs questioned on JEE error

**ht IMPACT**

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**NEW DELHI:** The human resource development ministry (HRD) has asked the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to explain how it will compensate for crucial errors worth over 10 marks in this year's IIT Joint Entrance Examination math question paper.

The HRD ministry has asked IIT Kanpur — in-charge of the 2011 JEE — for a detailed report on massive errors identified by eminent mathematician and IIT Bombay professor KD Joshi and reported first by the Hindustan

Times on April 15.

IIT directors will meet in Hyderabad on Friday to firm up their response on concerns raised over the question papers, and will in a few days release their blueprint for ensuring that deserving candidates do not suffer.

"I cannot at this stage reveal specifics, but the Directors will finalise our plan ahead. There is nothing to hide," IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande told HT.

Other sources, however, confirmed that a panel set up to evaluate the claims of errors in the question paper has concluded that the answer options provided with some math questions could have confused or misled students.

The IITs are likely to "nulli-

**IIT DIRECTORS TO MEET TODAY TO DECIDE HOW TO COMPENSATE FOR ERRORS, WHICH COULD AFFECT SELECTION**

fy the effect" of these questions for all students, a source in the Joint Admission Board (JAB) — the highest policy making body for the IIT-JEE — said.

"There is thinking that we should either give all candidates marks for these questions, or give no candidate marks for these questions," the source said. Over 4.8 lakh students appeared for the IIT-JEE this April 10, the largest number of candidates ever.

# Don't disrupt classes, Court tells teachers

## SEMESTER SYSTEM HC also issues notices to DU, VC and UGC on teachers' plea seeking quashing of April 19 notification

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the response of the Delhi University (DU) and its Vice Chancellor (VC) on a fresh plea, challenging its decision to implement the semester system for undergraduate level courses in the Arts stream, from academic year 2011-2012.

The court, at the same time, categorically told DU teachers not to indulge in any form of protests or disruption of functioning of colleges, when the court is seized of the matter.

Though a petition challenging the semester system was dismissed by the court in November, last year, a fresh one, filed by the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) against implementation of the semester system has been pending before the court since

last year.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna issued notices to the University, the VC and the UGC on a plea by a group of teachers seeking quashing of the April 19 notification to introduce the semester system for the undergraduate courses in the Arts stream from coming academic session.

The University's counsel argued before the court that the teachers continued to protest near the VC's office against the implementation of semester system, despite the court's order not to resort to any such

**THOUGH A PETITION CHALLENGING THE SEMESTER SYSTEM WAS DISMISSED IN NOV 2010, A FRESH ONE, FILED BY DUTA, IS PENDING.**

demonstration.

They also condemned the open air classes they were conducting.

But the teachers said they have only been protesting peacefully.

Meanwhile, the court asked the teachers not to go for any kind of protest when the matter is under the court's consideration.

Seeking to roll back the semester system introduced by the university and to follow the annual system as the mode of teaching, the lawyer argued that there was a need for a transparent procedure in which the teachers, students' union and experts should be consulting before taking any such step.

Following a letter from the University Grants Commission (UGC) on March 21, 2010, DU had implemented the semester system for undergraduate students in the Science stream.

**'It was a novel way of protest'**

The teachers protesting against the semester system were not satisfied with the High Court ruling. "The HC reacted strongly against classes held in the open. But we did not disrupt any classes. It was a novel way to protest with no loss of teaching hours. We are disappointed with the ruling," said a teacher, who did not want to be named. "Our protests in March did not affect students as all classes were held. Our main protest was against the intimidating tactics of the administration," said Abha Dev Habib, who teaches Physics at Miranda House.

HTC

Times of India ND 29/04/2011 p-7

## Sems challenged, HC seeks DU reply

### Notices Issued To Varsity, V-C & UGC; Teachers Want Wider Consultations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi high court on Thursday has sought the response of Delhi University and its vice-chancellor on a fresh plea challenging the semester system, but warned the teachers not to go on strike since the matter is sub judice. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna issued notices to the university, VC and the University Grants Commission (UGC) on a plea by a group of teachers seeking quashing of the April 19 notification to introduce the semester system for the undergraduate courses in the arts stream in the coming academic session.

After the DU counsel sought the dismissal of the latest petition alleging that teachers are still protesting near the V-C office against the implementation of semester system despite the court's order not to resort to any such demonstration, the bench made it clear it would not tolerate any kind of strike or demonstration.

Countering DU's allegation, the counsel for the teachers submitted that the teachers have been protesting peacefully and are seeking a rollback of the semester system introduced by the university. Pressing for the annual system as the mode of teaching, the teachers argued there was a need for a

transparent procedure in which teachers, students union and experts should be consulted before taking any such step. Following the varsity's notification, various

**The court has made it clear it would not tolerate any kind of demonstration or strike by teachers against semester**

committees have held the meetings without giving any time to the members to even study the items on the agenda and therefore urged HC to declare the emergency power

of the V-C as illegal, according to the petitioners.

The fresh plea follows an earlier petition by Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) challenging the implementation of semester system for undergraduate students. It has been pending before the court since last year. Following a letter from the UGC on March 21, 2010, DU has implemented the semester system for undergraduate students in Science stream.

Sources in DU administration said Thursday's hearing would ensure smooth implementation of the semester system in all courses from 2011-12 academic session. "In fact, this will help us

approve the rest of semester-based syllabi which are pending," said the official. On their part, the teachers maintained they were keen on pursuing all legal options, including moving the Supreme Court, on this issue. Member of the Joint Action Body, Abha D Habib, said, "We will wait for the HC's ruling. We hope that the judiciary will see logic in the teachers' argument. What kind of academic atmosphere it is if teachers are not even allowed to write a protest letter? Are we not supposed to raise our concerns over letters written to our colleagues by the university? The teachers have never acted against the interest of the students."

Times of India (EDUCATION PLUS) P-1 ND. 29.04.11

# On a revamp spree

WITH 24x7 INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND RISING ASPIRATIONS OF STUDENTS, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA IS OPENING UP TO NEWER ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Smita Nair

Globally, Indian professionals are considered among the best in their fields and are in great demand due to their expertise. It signifies the inherent strength of education system and its ability to prepare young professionals to make a mark in the global scenario. From traditional to new age courses, education in India is growing by leaps and bounds and has seen a wide transformation in terms of its reach, academic excellence and infrastructure. The increasing number of students opting for higher education, including foreign students, clearly testifies the emergence of India as an educational hub for quality higher education.

The educational structure in India which operates at all conceivable levels from pre-school to post doctoral is of monumental proportions. According to a World Bank report there are more than 7,40,000 formal schools; more than 3.6 million teachers are working on full time basis; there are more than 175 universities offering under graduate and post graduate courses and about 6000 colleges affiliated to these



universities. As the government tries to make attempts to better the education system, gates have been opened towards a plethora of new opportunities in the field of education.

## TIME-TRUSTED-CAREER CHOICES

Doctors, engineers, management or teachers, are some of the traditional courses that have always had a popular following. Constant efforts, hard work and perseverance are the key skills required to succeed in these courses. With time,

these courses too are seeing a revamp. Though traditionally they are the same, various new specialisations have been introduced that give these courses a fresh feel. For instance, apart from the regular teachers, the demand for online teachers and teachers for varied languages is increasing. Similarly in engineering, specialisations vary from mechanical to telecom, which again is a growing segment. Doctors too are concentrating on specialisations in speech-language pathology, rehabilitation therapy, mar-

riage-counselling, etc. Kompal Sharma, a counsellor for special children shares, "I always wanted to be a teacher. But also I wanted to stand out from the crowd. So, I decided to teach special children. Seeing these children grow is the utmost pleasure and it commensurate for all the hard work put in."

## BEING DIFFERENT

Movies they say are the mirror of the society. There was a time when the only professions that a hero had were in the field of medicine, engineering or teaching. These

were the handful of options that ensured a successful career. With changing times and widened horizons, options too became to grow by leaps and bounds. Even the movies have witnessed this change. While earlier the heroes and heroines were limited to being doctors, police officers or teachers, now they are experimenting with new age and off beat professions like fresco artists, male nurses, video game developer, etc.

Being a college-drop out, having fewer marks, not able to clear entrance exams and other such instances no longer hamper the growth of a person. With many exciting career prospects, that were hitherto considered unconventional, a world of opportunities beyond the traditional 'engineering' and 'medical' courses is awaiting the youth. "In the era of change; a documentary maker is as successful as a doctor, a radio-jockey is as important an agent of change as a police officer and an art critic is as valuable as an engineer," says Ritu Sen Gupta, a career counsellor. Even the students feel that traditional BCom and BA courses will lead them to nowhere. Looks like the future is only going to be bright here!

Sanmarg Kolkata 28.04.11,p-11

## इंजीनियरिंग में एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा पर शीघ्र होगा फैसला

**नयी दिल्ली :** भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) समेत विभिन्न संस्थाओं में इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रमों में दाखिले के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर 'एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा' आयोजित करने की संभावना तलाशने के उद्देश्य से गठित उच्चस्तरीय समिति इस विषय पर सभी संबंधित पक्षों की राय जानने के बाद जल्द ही इसे अंतिम रूप देगी। इस मामले में दामोदर आचार्य समिति की सिफारिशों पर मतभेद के बाद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी सचिव **टी रामास्वामी** के नेतृत्व में दूसरी समिति का गठन किया था, जो प्रवेश परीक्षा के विषय में लोगों की राय जानने के बाद जल्द ही रिपोर्ट पेश करेगी। इस समिति का गठन आईआईटी जेईई प्रवेश परीक्षा में ढांचागत बदलाव के संबंध में सुझाव देने के उद्देश्य से किया गया था। सूत्रों ने बताया कि चूंकि इस विषय पर पूर्व में सहमति नहीं बन पायी थी, इसलिए अब विभिन्न पक्षों की राय जानने के बाद इसे अंतिम रूप दिया जायेगा। इस विषय पर कुछ दिन पहले मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री **कपिल सिब्बल** की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में व्यापक चर्चा की गयी थी। सूत्रों ने बताया कि बैठक में उपस्थित सभी लोगों ने इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा का समर्थन किया। इस विषय पर लोगों की राय आमंत्रित करने का भी निर्णय किया गया। सरकार ने जेईई समेत अन्य इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा को समाप्त कर इंजीनियरिंग के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव किया था। इसके तहत साल 2013 से एकल इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने का विचार व्यक्त किया गया था। इस मामले में एक प्रवेश परीक्षा के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर विचार करने और इसकी संभावना तलाशने के उद्देश्य से आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक **दामोदर आचार्य** के नेतृत्व में समिति का गठन किया गया था। समिति ने इस विषय पर पिछले वर्ष अपनी सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत कर दी थी। लेकिन इन सिफारिशों पर कुछ आईआईटी के अलावा राज्य शिक्षा बोर्ड की ओर से भी आपत्ति उठायी गयी थी। दामोदर आचार्य समिति ने इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा में पात्रता के लिए बारहवीं कक्षा में 60 प्रतिशत अंक के अलावा आईआईटी में प्रवेश परीक्षा में 'एप्टीट्यूट टेस्ट' की सिफारिश की थी। एजेसियां