

# Newspaper Clips

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## DU to introduce new system to check answer sheets

**Mallica Joshi**

mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The semester mode is not the only change that Delhi University will witness this year. Marking of scripts (answer sheets) will also be done in a different manner from the coming academic year.

In a bid to make marking of scripts "more efficient and fairer", the university is set to intro-

### UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, FOUR EXAMINERS WILL CHECK EACH ANSWER SCRIPT.

duce distributed marking for each script.

Under the new system, four examiners will check each answer script at a centralised facility. If there are 16 questions

in the paper, for example, one examiner will correct the first four questions in every script, the second examiner will correct the next four and so on. The same evaluator will check the same set of questions in every answer script.

"This system is more efficient and fair. The marks obtained through this system will reflect more accurately the students' performance," said Dinesh

Singh, vice-chancellor, Delhi University.

Under the current system, a single examiner checks one answer script. In case the paper is interdisciplinary, two different course teachers check the script. The main examiner then goes through answer sheets to make sure there are no errors. Recounting is also done. The introduction of the new system will be part of the latest trans-

formation at DU. Changes included revision of courses in the last few years, introduction of the semester system in all courses and future plans to give more autonomy to all colleges under the university.

"It is a far more focussed approach for teachers and this will help make the long process of marking answer scripts quicker and easier. It will also benefit the students," he added.

Times of India ND 03/04/2011 P-7

# ICMR to focus on ageing

## Greying Population To Increase To 12% By 2025, Will Need Care

**Kounteya Sinha** | TNN

**New Delhi:** What do India's senior citizens love to eat, and what would be most nutritious for them? How many of them are undernourished, and how many obese? What are the main neurological disorders they suffer from? What are the environmental, clinical and biological determinants of functional lifespan among India's elderly? What is the country's actual burden of the greying population?

The nation's apex research body, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is seeking answers to these critical questions. The country will soon have to cater to a huge population of the aged. Consequently, the Union health minister is now trying to better understand "this section of society more scientifically."

"There is a need for focused research on the impact of social, economic and family transitions on the lives of the aged and to understand

**The idea is to explore new areas of research through amalgamation of biomedical and social approaches. This will help in policy decisions and address challenges and opportunities of an ageing world**

the biology and genetics of ageing. The idea is to explore new areas of research through amalgamation of biomedical and social approaches. These research ini-

tiatives would help to inform policy decisions and address challenges and opportunities of an ageing world," says ICMR.

It adds, "To gather scientific evidence on the biology of ageing and the environmental, health, and economic implications of ageing, ICMR announces the call for concept proposals in the following broad areas—longevity, brain ageing and neurodegeneration, effect of age-related diseases and longevity in humans, genetic studies, mental health and neurological disorders, epidemiology and burden of disease in the elderly, ageing and nutritional needs, assessment of nutritional status, malnutrition and obesity in the aged, nutrition and degenerative diseases."

According to officials, the overall goals are to build a research base for environmen-

tal, epidemiological, social and biological factors that influence healthy ageing. Each project has a maximum annual budget of Rs 50 lakh. A project can run maximum for three years.

According to the Union health ministry, the greying population will increase to 12% of the total population by 2025—10% of which would be bedridden, requiring maximum care. A majority (80%) of them are in rural areas, making service delivery a challenge.

Add to that, 51% of the elderly population will be women by 2016 along with a spurt in the number of older-old (persons above 80 years).

To make matters worse, 30% of the elderly will be below poverty line. It is estimated that the 60-plus population will increase to 100 million in 2013, and to 198 million by 2030.

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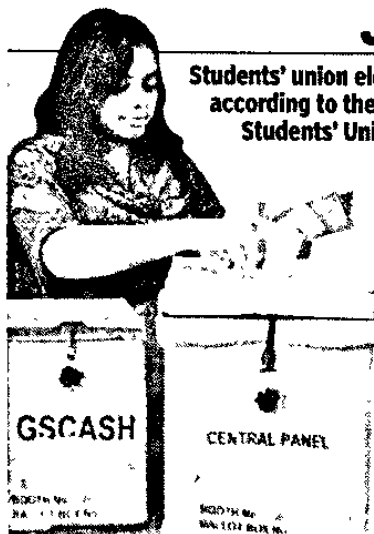
# JNU polls: Solicitor general to move SC

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

**New Delhi:** Students' union activities in JNU — which have been on hold for the past three years — are likely to gather steam in the new academic year.

The solicitor general of India is going to move the Supreme Court and recommend certain relaxations in the eligibility criteria for students, who will be allowed to contest the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections.

The JNUSU elections were suspended after the JNU administration and JNUSU were served a notice from the SC on October 21, 2008, following a petition by the then additional solicitor general and present solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam asking why the Lyngdoh Committee's recommendations were not being adhered to during the students' body election. The notice sought explanation on three issues: a lack of adherence to the recommended age limit for contesting elections; candidates



## JNU ELECTIONS

**Students' union elections in JNU are conducted according to the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) constitution that was framed in 1972**

▶ JNUSU elections are free from administration's interference

▶ JNUSU is the only union in the country created by university students

▶ JNUSU elections were a model for the Lyngdoh Committee, which was formed to frame guidelines for students' union elections in colleges & universities

### The elections were stayed in 2008

involved in acts of indiscipline or those with a criminal record fighting elections; and repeat candidates standing in elections. Three days after the notice was served, there was a stay on the elections.

Due to the resulting deadlock, three elections could not be conducted. On September 6, 2010, JNU students for the first time agreed to ex-

plore the option of negotiation at a University General Body Meeting — a sharp departure from the earlier stand of no negotiation and no compromise.

The recent dialogue between student leaders and Subramaniam has helped in ending the impasse and now they are trying to secure "maximum relaxation" from the Lyngdoh Committee's

recommendations.

The students have met Subramaniam, who is also assisting the court as amicus curiae (court's friend) in this matter, thrice in the past five months.

Subramaniam told TOI: "I am moving an application in a few days seeking certain relaxations which are justified. But there are certain demands which are non-negotiable. We are agreeing to relax the upper age limit from 28 years to 30 years and allow a candidate to contest in a maximum of two elections." The students' endorsement of the concession recommended by Subramaniam at the UGBM would pave the way for a revival of campus politics.

The student community is hopeful that elections will be held again this year. The JNUSU elections are marked by a complete absence of interference from the JNU administration. The new vice-chancellor, S K Sopory, said the administration would also like to see a revival of student elections.

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# India striving for 30 per cent gross enrolment ratio by 2020 : Sibal

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** There is a need to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education which is currently at 13 per cent, Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Indira Gandhi National Open University convocation here on Saturday.

Mr. Sibal, who delivered the convocation address through the teleconference mode, spoke about the need to raise the GER to the "global average by 2020, which by then will be around 30 per cent. It will mean that the enrolment should expand to 40-45 million from the mere 13 million today".

The answer for groups which do not have traditional access to higher education lies in distance education "which is becoming increasingly popular as economic forces



**"CONGRATULATIONS":** IGNOU V-C V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai (right) and former V-C P. T. Manoharan presenting the degree to one of the candidates during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Convocation of the university in New Delhi on Saturday.

PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM

encourage and new technologies facilitate its spread. We are thus targeting an enrolment of at least seven million students, with a majority from the disadvantaged sections and locations, during the next five years," he added.

Commenting on the role of Information and Communication Technology in distance education, both in terms of capabilities and cost, Mr. Sibal said: "Distance education requires use of technology. We need to invest much more in

these technologies and develop new teaching methodologies which will enable us to access complex educational resources for enhancing excellence in the field of distance education."

Highlighting the efforts made by the University to improve the GER, Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai said over 100 districts were identified with a GER between 3.0 and 7.0 where IGNOU could tap prospective learners in the age group of 18-23 years.

According to Prof. Pillai, IGNOU has a key role in creating 500 million certified technicians and skilled workers by 2020. At the convocation, 78 students were felicitated with gold medals. As many as 44,926 Bachelor's degrees, 20,775 Master's degrees, 59,042 diplomas, 90,618 certificates and three Ph.D.s were also distributed.

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# Rajat out, Godrej in as ISB chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Godrej group chairman Adi Godrej took over as the second chairman of the Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB) on Saturday. He succeeded founder chairman Rajat Gupta, who resigned on March 21 after the US Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) accused him of insider-trading.

The decision to accept Gupta's resignation was taken during the executive board meeting attended by 13 out of 33 board members on Saturday afternoon. "At the 49th executive board meeting, the board accepted Rajat Gupta's resignation and unanimously elected Adi Godrej as the second chairman of ISB with immediate effect," ISB dean Ajit Rangnekar told reporters just minutes before the class of 2011 comprising 569 grads passed out at the 10th convocation.



**BRAND NEW:** Adi Godrej

As the new ISB chairman, Godrej ruled out the possibility of Gupta coming back as ISB chairman if his name was cleared in the Galleon scam. "I don't think any such matter has been discussed today. He has resigned and I have taken over as chairman."

After his resignation was accepted, Gupta ceased to be on the ISB board. "No one discussed about Mr Gupta

continuing on the board. He is not on the board anymore," said Godrej.

Godrej though was concerned about the timing and circumstances of his taking charge. "Of course, I feel a little concerned that I am taking over at a time when Rajat, who because of some problems he is facing, had to resign." He denied the association with a scam-tainted ISB top gun had impacted the institute's brand equity. "The ISB has always upheld the highest standards of integrity. It is in its tenth year and has never been stronger," Godrej said.

One of its founders, Gupta had been at the helm of ISB since it was set up in 2001. But the once celebrated Indian American, who was former chairman of global consulting firm McKinsey, was forced to step down from the boards of other global companies and institutions after the US market watchdog charged him with insider-trading in the Raj Rajaratnam-led Galleon Hedge Fund scam.

Gupta has vehemently denied the allegations and claimed he was innocent. SEC has accused him of leaking confidential information about Goldman Sachs and Proctor & Gamble, that he was privy to as a board member, to Rajaratnam. This is for the third time that the spotlight is on ISB for the wrong reasons. In 2010, ISB director and for-

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# Delhi High Court restrains AICTE from proceeding against private colleges

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court has restrained the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) from proceeding against private unaided engineering colleges for non-compliance of the amended parameters for seeking approval for opening new engineering colleges or extension of approvals of existing engineering colleges.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw passed the restraining order on two separate pet-

itions by the Federation of Associations of Managements of Unaided Professional Educational Institutions in India and the Andhra Pradesh Private Engineering College Management Association filed through their counsel Romy Chacko.

The restraint order, however, will be applicable only to those engineering colleges which are members of the two petitioners in the High Court.

"Till further orders, the petitioners/their members shall not be proceeded

against for non compliance of the amended parameters," Justice Endlaw said in his order.

The Court also asked counsel for the petitioners to submit the list of the institutions which are beneficiaries of the restraint order to AICTE.

## Pay enhanced fees

The Court further asked the petitioners to upload their applications for extension of approval or establishment of new institutions by April 10 and make the payment of en-

hanced processing fees along with the applications subject to further orders.

In case of the petitioners succeeding, AICTE should refund the amount with interest at such rate from the date of deposit till the date of refund as may be directed by the Court, Justice Endlaw said.

The petitioners should also not be bound by the statement in the applications with respect to admissions to Non-Resident Indian quota, and in the event of the petitions succeeding, notwithstanding

the statement to the said effect in their applications, should be entitled to admit such candidates under the said quota as they may be found entitled to.

The petitioners had challenged the changes effected in the Approval Process Handbook (APH) of AICTE for 2011-2012.

One of the said changes is enhancement in the processing fee payable by various institutions applying for renewal of their approval or for establishment of new institutions.