Newspaper Clips

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Amar Ujala ND 08-Apr-12
P-17

जेईई-2013 में बदलाव सीनेट को नामंजूर

संतोष सिंह

- शिक्षक और छात्र विरोध में उतरे प्रक्रिया अटकी
- आईआईटी काउंसिल और एमएचआरडी बैकफुट पर

कानपुर। आईआईटी जेईई 2013 में बदलाव संबंधी मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और आईआईटी काउंसिल के फैसले को आईआईटी दिल्ली, मुंबई और कानपुर की एकेडमिक सीनेट ने नामंजूर कर दिया है। इससे प्रवेश परीक्षा के पैटर्न में बदलाव की प्रक्रिया अटक गई है।

उधर, ऑल इंडिया आईआईटी फैकल्टी फेडरेशन और स्टूडेंट यूनियन जिमखाना क्लब भी बदलाव के खिलाफ है। इन सभी ने एचआरडी मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल, सभी आईआईटी निदेशक और बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर के चेयरमैन को लिखा है कि अगर मनमाने तरीके से बदलाव हुआ तो शिक्षक और छात्र उग्र आंदोलन करेंगे। इससे आईआईटी काउंसिल, एमएचआरडी बैकफुट पर आ गया है। अब चार सदस्यीय कमेटी बनाकर आम सहमति बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। आईआईटी काउंसिल और एमएचआरडी ने जेईई 2013 में बदलाव की मंजूरी देते हुए कहा था कि अब इंटरमीडिएट के प्रदर्शन भी जेईई में चयन का एक आधार बनाया जाएगा। जिन छात्रों को अच्छे अंक मिलेंगे, उन्हें जेईई की दाखिला प्रक्रिया में 40 फीसदी अंकों का वेटेज दिया जाएगा। 30 फीसदी अंकों की फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री, मैथमेटिक्स की प्रवेश परीक्षा कराई जाएगी। 30 फीसदी अंकों के एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट होंगे। इसका सभी आईआईटी की एकेडमिक सीनेट ने विरोध किया है।

Business Standard ND 08-Apr-12
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IIT entrance exam sees 'she change'

11 per cent increase in female candidates in today's JEE

M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 7 April

Woman power is evident in the Indian Institute of Technology's Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE), too. The IIT-JEE, to be held tomorrow, has seen an 11 per cent increase in the number of girls applying — the highest so far — whereas, boys have seen a mere three per cent rise. The number of students appearing for the exam has also seen a sharp increase. About 530,000 students will take probably the last IIT-JEE, compared to 480,000 students who took the exam last year.

The ministry of human resources is planning to introduce a single entrance examination for admission to the IITs from 2013. In the admission process, the class 12 board exam score may also get weightage.

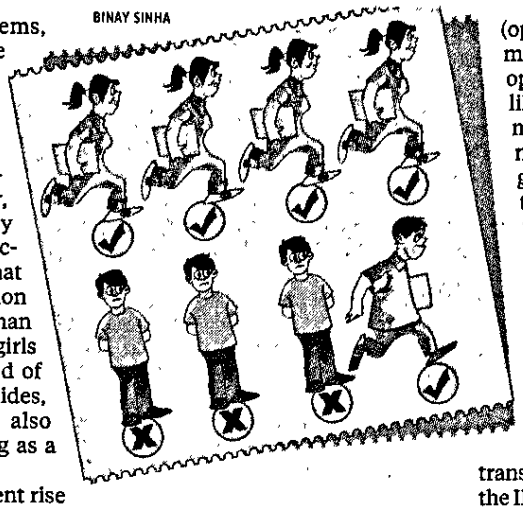
This year, candidates will be competing for about 9,600 seats in 15 IITs across the country, the Institute of Technology at Benaras Hindu University and the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad.

Pramod Maheshwari, founder and CEO, Career Point Info Systems, said in the last three years he had seen a shift in the subjects girl students had been choosing. "After internal research, we found that girl students are increasingly opting for mathematics. Earlier, biology was largely opted by girls. Our research and interaction with parents revealed that because the medical profession has a longer pay-back period than engineering, the number of girls applying to IITs over a period of time has been increasing. Besides, the outlook of parents has also changed towards engineering as a profession," said Maheshwari.

"There has been a 15 per cent rise year-on-year in the number of girls taking the exam in Mumbai. We attribute it to the fact that other courses such as medical have a longer duration and involve higher expenses," said Chandan Dikshit, marketing head at Rao IIT Academy.

He added that since software was one of the favourite professions among

BINAY SINHA



girl students, they opted for engineering. "IT companies would want an engineer in their company, rather than a science graduate or a degree holder from other fields," said Dikshit. About 11,000 plus students will be taking the exam from Rao IIT Academy this year.

Manoj Sharma, vice-president (operations and business development), Resonance, explained the opportunity to get into soft courses like mathematical computing, biomedical engineering and biotechnology at the IITs prompted more girl students to apply. "Waiving of the fee for online IIT-JEE applications for girl students and an offline fee of ₹200 for them compared to ₹1,800 for boys is also a major boost," said Sharma.

IIT heads also feel the increase in the number of girl students is most likely because of the free registration. "I do hope this would motivate more girls to apply, which may in turn translate into more female students at the IITs," said Gautam Barua, Director, IIT Guwahati.

Officials of coaching institutes also said there was only a marginal increase (around three per cent) in the number of boys applying for the examination. "The number of girls who have applied went up from 22 per cent last year to 33 per cent this year," according to Sharma of Resonance.

Hindu ND 08/04/2012 p-5

Young scientists presented Goyal Awards

Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: Union Science & Technology Secretary Dr. T. Ramasami on Saturday said that the Centre has launched various schemes to promote science among students.

Speaking at the Goyal Awards function at Kurukshetra University in Kurukshetra, he said the budget for such endeavours had been doubled to Rs. 24,000 crore in the 12th Five Year Plan.

He said that the Government and the universities should work together to create an environment to attract children and youth to science.

Stating that the Universities had a great role to play in creating scientists, he highlighted that India had a great scientific heritage which was different from other countries.

"Indian science is more integrative and human-oriented as compared to the deductive science of the West," he added.

He said that Indian science had a great future only if science teaching and research at the level of universities was strengthened.

Dr. Ramasami honoured six scientists with Goyal Award and three young scientists with "Rajib Goyal Yuva Award".

The scientists who received Goyal Award of Rs. 1 lakh each besides a medal and citation are Dr. G. D. Yadav, Vice-Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, Dr. V. K. Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, Dr. Narendra Tuteja, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, Dr. Utpal Sarkar, Dr. A.K. Singhvi and Dr. J. N. Goswami from Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

The young scientists who received the Rajib Goyal Yuva Award included Dr. N. Yayaraman, S. K. Sathoesh of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Dr. S. Ganesh of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. This award carries Rs.50,000 in cash besides a medal and citation.

Lt. Gen. Dr. D.D.S. Sandhu, Vice-Chancellor, Kurukshetra University, said that the KU had awarded 86 outstanding scientists since 1992 when the awards were instituted by late Ram S. Goyal.

Financial Express ND 08-Apr-12

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A little device that's trying to read your thoughts

A portable neural device, the iBrain, monitors and diagnoses conditions like sleep apnea, depression and autism

David Ewing Duncan

ALREADY surrounded by machines that allow him, painstakingly, to communicate, the physicist Stephen Hawking last summer donned what looked like a rakish black headband that held a feather-light device the size of a small matchbox.

Called the iBrain, this simple-looking contraption is part of an experiment that aims to allow Dr Hawking—long paralysed by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease—to communicate by merely thinking.

The iBrain is part of a new generation of portable neural devices and algorithms intended to monitor and diagnose conditions like sleep apnea, depression and autism. Invented by a team led by Philip Low, a 32-year-old neuroscientist who is chief executive of NeuroVigil, a company based in San Diego, the iBrain is gaining attention as a possible alternative to expensive sleep labs that use rubber and plastic caps riddled with dozens of electrodes and usually require a patient to stay overnight.

"The iBrain can collect data in real time in a person's own bed, or when they're watching TV, or doing just about anything," Dr Low said.

The device uses a single channel to pick up waves of electrical brain signals, which change with different activities and thoughts, or with the pathologies that accompany brain disorders. But the raw waves are hard to read because they must pass through the many folds of the brain and then the skull, so they are interpreted with an algorithm that Dr Low first created for his PhD, earned in 2007 at the University of California, San Diego.

About the Hawking experiment, he said, "The idea is to see if Stephen can use his mind to create a consistent and repeatable pattern that a computer can translate into, say, a word or letter or a command for a computer."

The researchers travelled to Dr Hawking's offices in Cambridge, England, fitted him with the iBrain headband and asked him "to imagine that he was scrunching his right hand into a ball," Dr Low said. "Of course, he can't actually move his hand, but the motor cortex in his brain can still issue the command and generate electrical waves in his brain." The algorithm, called Spears, was able to discern Dr Hawking's thoughts as signals, which were represented as a series of spikes on a grid. "We wanted to see if there was any change in the signal," Dr Low said. "And in fact, we did see a change in the signal." NeuroVigil plans to repeat the study in large populations of patients with ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

These preliminary results come as Dr Hawking's ability to communicate diminishes as his disease progresses. The 70-year-old physicist, whose mind has produced crucial insights in theoretical physics as well as the best-seller *A Brief History of Time*, now needs several minutes to generate a simple message. He uses a pair of infrared glasses that picks up twitches in his cheek. His team in Cambridge, England, has dubbed this the "cheek switch."

"Dr Low and his company have done some outstanding work in this field," Dr Hawking said in a statement. "I am participating in this project in the hope that I can offer insights and practical advice to NeuroVigil. I wish to assist in research, encourage investment in this area, and, most importantly, to offer some future hope to people diagnosed with ALS and other neurodegenerative conditions."

The physicist has also worked with other inventors seeking to better elucidate his thoughts. Engineers at the semiconductor and computing giant Intel recently hooked up a customised computer to communicate with his cheek-reading infrared glasses, along with a voice synthesiser, a webcam for using Skype, and special monitors. Intel is developing new face-recognition software that can monitor subtle changes in expression and may help Dr Hawking communicate more efficiently.

THE DEVICE USES A SINGLE CHANNEL TO PICK UP WAVES OF ELECTRICAL BRAIN SIGNALS, WHICH CHANGE WITH DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND THOUGHTS, OR WITH THE PATHOLOGIES THAT ACCOMPANY BRAIN DISORDERS. THESE ARE THEN INTERPRETED WITH AN ALGORITHM

Scientists not connected with Dr Low say they are encouraged by the iBrain's potential. "Philip Low's device is one of the best single-channel brain monitors out there," said Ruth O'Hara, an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University Medical School. She plans to use the iBrain for autism studies. NeuroVigil has not said what the device will cost.

"I can't speak to the veracity of his latest data," which has not been published, Dr O'Hara added, "but the preliminary data I have seen is compelling. It could be a significant contribution to the field as a window into brain architecture."

Dr Terry Heiman-Patterson, a neurologist and ALS specialist at the Drexel University College of Medicine, said she was in discussions with NeuroVigil to use the device on ALS patients, to see how they fared with it in comparison with instruments that use multiple channels and electrodes.

"Dr Low is researching signals that look for intent, which is becoming very exciting because it looks like they may be able to do it—for Stephen Hawking and for others with ALS," Dr Heiman-Patterson said. "Patients want to be able to communicate beyond the yes or no with an eye blink. They want to send an e-mail, and turn off the light and, even more, to have a meaningful conversation."

Monitors like the iBrain are also being used to assess whether experimental neurological drugs are working in clinical trials.

In 2009, NeuroVigil completed a deal with the drug giant Hoffmann-La Roche to test the iBrain. Neither company has released details of their early tests. NeuroVigil's strategy, Dr Low said, is to run clinical trials with Roche and other partners in industry and academia, and to seek approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Other companies also make single-channel brain monitors, but unlike NeuroVigil they sell the devices and software directly to consumers online.

Zeo, for example, based in Massachusetts, concentrates on measuring sleep patterns through a smartphone app or a clock-radio device. Emotiv Systems, in San Francisco, offers its Epoc headset for $299 plus a range of apps and add-ons that include neurofeedback, 3-D brain-mapping tools and games like Angry Birds, all using a combination of thoughts and facial muscle movements recorded by several electrodes that are in contact with a customer's head.

"We have no plans to take an academic route," said Zeo's chief executive, Dave Dickinson, who added that his company's customers had logged one million hours of sleep time. He would not say how many devices had been sold. Emotiv was founded in 2003 and has reportedly shipped 10,000 devices.

Dr Low plans to team up again with Dr Hawking this summer in Cambridge to present their initial data at a neuroscience meeting in early July. NeuroVigil will continue to work with Dr Hawking and his team to refine their technology to decipher signals generated by Dr Hawking's thoughts. "At the moment I think my cheek switch is faster" than the brain-computer interface, Dr Hawking said in an e-mail sent by an assistant, "but should the position change I will try Philip Low's system."

Much work remains, however, including the integration of Dr Hawking's brain waves with the computers and devices that allow him to communicate. "Wouldn't it be wonderful," Dr Low said, "to have a mind like Stephen Hawking's be able to communicate even a little bit better?" *NYT*

Business Standard ND 08-Apr-12
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Post Aakash, tablet makers eye lucrative education sector

Apart from attractive prices, vendors bundle tablets with education content

PIYALI MANDAL
New Delhi, 7 April

Once viewed as a corporate tool for busy executives, tablet PCs are fast metamorphosing itself into an essential tool for students. Buoyed by increasing demand in the education sector, scores of vendors have launched tablets targeting students over the last one year. The latest entrants: Micromax and HCL Infosystem.

Earlier this week, Micromax unveiled its tablet PC called Funbook, it is priced at ₹6,499. The launch comes just a day after HCL Infosytem introduced its MyEdu Tab (priced at ₹ 9,999).

According to CyberMedia Research, the country saw sales of about 475,000 units of media tablets in the last calendar year. Report from research firm Frost & Sullivan says the tablet PC user base in India has increased from 60,000 units in 2010 to 300,000 in 2011. It added that the overall tablet PC user base is likely to grow at a CAGR of 107 per cent to reach 23.38 million by 2017.

The Indian market has become very competitive in the five quarters since 4Q of 2010, when Samsung introduced the first tablet model in the country. Then, the launch of Aakash tablets and the initial response its commercial launch last year received has encouraged other vendors to tap the market.

Aakash, termed as the world's cheapest tablet PC, was launched in October 2011 by Union minister Kapil Sibal. Coming with a price tag of ₹2,276, it is being supplied to students at a subsidised rate of ₹1,500. Sibal's Human Resources Development Ministry is also planning to come out with an upgraded version of Aakash (Aakash II) in May this year.

"The competition is expected to intensify further, with new vendors launching their products during 2012," according to Naveen Mishra, lead telecom analyst, CyberMedia Research. "For now, education seems to be the vertical, with highest priority of adoption and a large number of models are positioned at this segment."

The vendors are not only launching the hardware, but also bundling their product with education content providers for making it a full package for the student community.

For example, Micromax has partnered with Pearson and Everonn to make educational contents available to the students. It has also partnered with BigFlix, Zenga and Indiagames to provide entertainment and gaming contents.

HCL's MyEdu tab K12 version will have NCERT K12 Mapped Content, which will have animations and text in 2D and 3D other than solved examples, chapter quizzes, key revision points and free NCERT text books. The MyEduTab will have a version which will provide Hindi and English content for standard I to V students, and general knowledge content for junior classes.

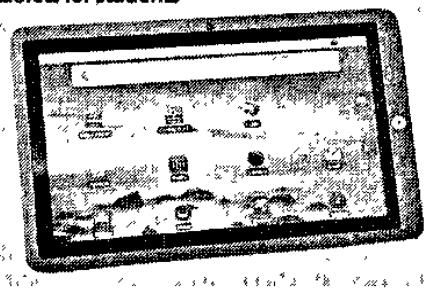
WishTel's IRA tablets (priced between ₹4,000 and ₹5,500) comes with eBook reader app, course content for ICSE, CBSE and state boards apart from engineering, medical, and other higher education offerings.

The Manufacturer's Association for IT Industry (MAIT) says there is heightened interest among vendors following a drastic fall in the prices of tablets. "Besides, there is increased focus on use of computing devices to impart education," notes MAIT president Alok Bharadwaj. "The state governments are also looking at providing laptops and computers to the students. Instead, now if they offer tablets to the students, their cost would come down."

However, analysts caution that the success in adoption of media tablets will largely depend on product performance, availability of relevant content and applications apart from affordable and widespread 3G services.

WHERE THE MONEY LIES

Vendors are rushing to offer low-cost tablets for students



Vendor	Name of the product	Starting price in ₹
Datawind	Aakash	2,500
Classteacher learning systems	Classpad	7,500
Micromax	Funbook	6,499
HCL Infosystems	MyEduTab	9,999
WishTel	Ira and Ira Thing	4,000-5,500

Source: Companies

Financial Express ND 08-Apr-12
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Genome's capacity to predict is limited

DNA sequencing cannot always forewarn against disease, study finds

GINA KOLATA

IF every aspect of a person's DNA is known, would it be possible to predict the diseases in that person's future? And could that knowledge be used to forestall the otherwise inevitable? The answer, according to a new study of twins, is "no".

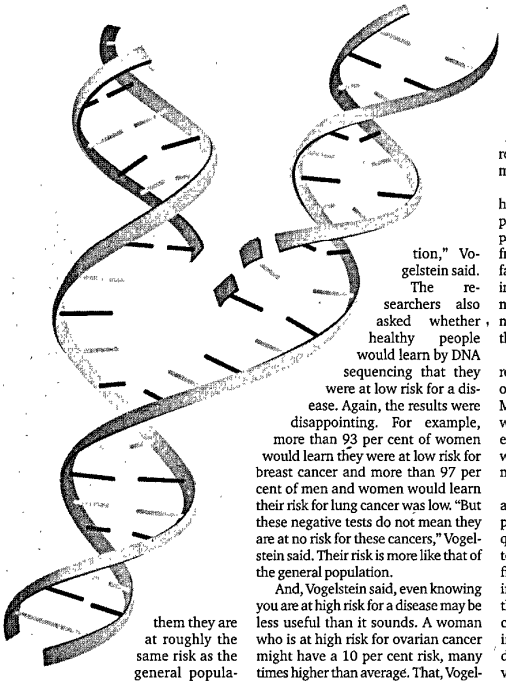
The new study concludes that it is not going to be possible to say that, for example, Type 2 diabetes will occur with absolute certainty unless a person keeps a normal weight, or that colon cancer is a foregone conclusion without frequent screening and removal of polyps. Conversely, it will not be possible to tell some people they can ignore all the advice about, for example, preventing a heart attack because they will never get one.

"The punch line is that this sort of personalised medicine will not in any way be the most important determinant of patient care," said Dr Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins, who, with his colleagues and his son Joshua, analysed the power of sequencing all of a person's DNA to determine an individual's risk of disease.

The study, published online Monday in the journal Science Translational Medicine, involved data from 53,666 identical twins in registries from the United States, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. The registries included data on 24 diseases, telling how often one twin, both or neither got a disease. Since identical twins share all of their genes, the investigators could ask to what extent genes predict an increased chance of getting a disease. Using a mathematical model, they reached an answer: not much. Most people will be at average risk for most of the 24 diseases.

The study involved data from 53,666 identical twins on 24 diseases, telling how often one twin, both or neither got a disease. Since identical twins share all of their genes, the investigators could ask to what extent genes predict an increased chance of getting a disease. They reached an answer: not much

They asked: Would those who ultimately got one of the 24 diseases have been forewarned by DNA sequencing? "Unfortunately, it tells them they are at roughly the same risk as the general population," Vogelstein said.



The researchers also asked whether healthy people would learn by DNA sequencing that they were at low risk for a disease. Again, the results were disappointing. For example, more than 93 per cent of women would learn they were at low risk for breast cancer and more than 97 per cent of men and women would learn their risk for lung cancer was low. "But these negative tests do not mean they are at no risk for these cancers," Vogelstein said. Their risk is more like that of the general population.

And, Vogelstein said, even knowing you are at high risk for a disease may be less useful than it sounds. A woman who is at high risk for ovarian cancer might have a 10 per cent risk, many times higher than average. That, Vogelstein said, "is unlikely to be the main determinant of her health."

But there was one positive finding—as many as 90 per cent of people would learn that they are at high risk of getting at least one disease. And gene sequencing could, in theory at least, identify as many as 75 per cent of those who will develop Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune thyroid disease, Type 1 diabetes and, for men, heart disease.

However, with the exception of heart disease, there is as yet no way to prevent these diseases or slow their progress. And since high risk of an infrequent disease, like ovarian cancer, is far from a prediction that the disease is in the person's future, the information might be valuable but would not necessarily make much difference in the end.

"The general point is absolutely correct," said Dr David Altshuler, professor of genetics and medicine at Harvard Medical School, who was not involved with the research. "Even if you know everything about genetics, prediction will remain probabilistic and not deterministic."

Other experts pointed out different aspects of DNA sequencing that can improve health and medical care. Sequencing can, in some cases, aid in determining a patient's prognosis. It can find the causes of mystery ailments in individuals, and it can find mutations that appear to be driving the growth of cancers in individual patients. Sequencing also is starting to help doctors decide who should take drugs to prevent diseases, as is happening with heart disease.

In heart disease, one pressing problem is how to decide which young and middle-aged adults would benefit from cholesterol-lowering statins to reduce the risk of a first heart attack, said Dr Sekar Kathiresan, a genetics researcher who is director of preventive cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. The drugs reduce the risk by 20 per cent, but if your risk is low to start with, a 20 per cent reduction does not mean much.

Now, Kathiresan said, by analysing data from studies that sequenced entire genomes, researchers have found 30 gene variants that, taken together, can identify healthy people who have twice the average risk of heart disease. "There is a great attraction to using genetics in this way," he said. Robert Cook-Deegan, professor of law, ethics and policy at Duke, notes that every person whose DNA is sequenced will get information about whether he or she will respond to certain drugs and whether certain side effects will result from taking certain drugs. Vanderbilt University is doing genetic analyses of patients to help in prescribing a short list of drugs, said Dr William Schaffner, chairman of the department of preventive medicine at its medical school.

But the real benefit of studying the human genome, Altshuler said, is not to predict people's medical futures but instead to understand how diseases occur and to use that knowledge to develop better therapies. Already this sort of work has succeeded with an entirely new type of drug to lower levels of LDL, or "bad" cholesterol, he said. *NYT*

Universities play bigger role in making of scientists, says secy

HT Correspondent
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KURUKSHETRA: "Universities have a greater role in creating scientists rather than research," Prof T Ramasamy, secretary to the government of India, department of science and technology, said. "All great scientists in India and abroad have been the products of the university system."

Prof Ramasamy was addressing audience at the Goyal Prize ceremony at Senate Hall in Kurukshetra University on Saturday. He said as the university system was the root of development of science, it was necessary to nurture the root for growth with liberal grants, equipment and incentive to researchers. "Without this, there is no hope of making a breakthrough in science and technology in the country," he said.

"Indian science is more integrative and human oriented as compared to the deductive science of the West."

According to Prof Ramasamy, Indian science has a great future only if teaching and research at the university level in India is strengthened. He said under the 11th Five-Year Plan the government was running programmes worth Rs 11,000 crore to inculcate love of science among children and youth. "This budget will be increased to Rs 24,000 crore in the 12th Five-Year Plan," he said.

The university vice-chancellor Lt Gen DDS Sandhu said KU had awarded 86 outstanding scientists since 1992, when the prizes were instituted by late Ram S. Goyal.

The scientists who got the prizes of Rs 1 lakh each as well as a medal and citation are GD Yadav, vice-chancellor of Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai; VK Singh, director of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Bhopal; Narendra Tuteja of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in New Delhi and Utpal Sarkar, AK Singhvi and JN Goswami from Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad.

Among the young scientists who received a cash award of Rs 50,000 each besides a medal and citation are N Yayaraman, SK Sathoesh, both from Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and S Ganesh of IIT, Kanpur.

'Technical education hit by lack of qualified teachers'

YAMUNANAGAR: Admitting that education has become an industry, MM Goel, dean, faculty of social sciences, Kurukshetra University, has said as the world's economy has fallen on bad times, colleges and universities have been forced to adopt strategies to increase revenue and minimise costs.

"Acute shortage of well-qualified teachers forces the management to appoint fresh engineering graduates. Immediately after joining an institute, they are made to teach students sans any formal training . This lowers the quality of education imparted," he added.

Delivering the keynote address at a two-day international conference on technical education organised by Shree Sidhivinayak Group of Institutions (SSGI) on Saturday, Goel spoke on the difference between vocational and professional programmes. "The field in which a person is skilled can be called his profession, but the area of work, which a person chooses to earn his livelihood, can be called his vocation. One may be an engineer by profession, but when that person chooses management for earning livelihood then management course becomes a vocational course," Goel said. Speaking on the quality of technical education in various institutes of the region, he said it varies from excellent to poor.

Faculty shortage, infrastructural deficiency, curricula obsolescence, lack of autonomy in academic, financial, administrative and managerial matters, poor involvement in knowledge creation and dissemination, and poor interaction with community and economy are the reasons for their underperformance, Goel said. Academician PV Gupta was chief guest on the occasion. Raj Aggarwal, director, AIMA, New Delhi, was the guest of honour and the conference was presided over by SSGI chairman MK Sehgal. **HTC**

Navbharat Times ND 08-Apr-12
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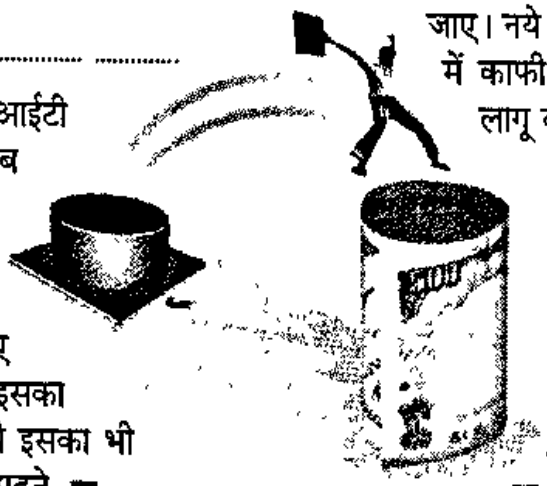
नए ख्वाबों की मंजिल बनता IIT

प्रमुख संवाददाता ॥ नई दिल्ली



देश में हो रहे कई बदलाव से आईआईटी भी अछूती नहीं है। रविवार को जब देश भर के तमाम केंद्रों पर स्टूडेंट्स देश के बेहतरीन इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज में दाखिले के लिए इम्तहान देंगे तो उसमें आए बदलाव की झलक दिखेगी। इसका दायरा बढ़ा हुआ दिखेगा। साथ ही इसका भी अहसास होगा कि आईआईटी में पढ़ने का सपना छोटे शहरों में उसी शिद्दत से देखा जा रहा है जितना कि बड़े शहरों में अब तक देखा जाता था। वहीं, इस बार ज्यादा लड़कियां भी एक्जाम में शामिल हो रही हैं।

छोटे शहरों के स्टूडेंट्स में भी बढ़ी दाखिले की ललक

मौजूदा पैटर्न का आखिरी एग्जाम?

अगर एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री की पहल को राज्यों से मंजूरी मिल गई तो संभव है कि अगले साल से इस परीक्षा का पैटर्न बदल जाए। नये प्रस्ताव के तहत इस परीक्षा के मौजूदा स्वरूप में काफी बदलाव होने हैं। बदलाव को 2013 से ही लागू करना है। हालांकि इसे लेकर विरोध भी है।

बदल रहा है ट्रेंड

▶एक बार फिर छोटे शहरों के स्टूडेंट मेट्रो शहरों के मुकाबले ज्यादा परीक्षा दे रहे हैं। कुछ साल पहले तक इसमें मेट्रो शहरों के स्टूडेंट सबसे ज्यादा रहते थे।

▶इस बार एग्जाम में शामिल होने पाली लड़कियों की संख्या 25 फीसदी बढ़ गई। इसी साल से एक्जाम फी में उन्हें छूट भी दी गई थी।

▶पिछले दो सालों से एग्जाम में कामयाब होने वाले स्टूडेंट में हिंदी और क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं-गैर अंग्रजी मीडियम के स्टूडेंट की तादाद ज्यादा रही है

किस जोन से सबसे ज्यादा

कानपुर जोन और हैदराबाद जोन