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**ADMISSION TO IITs, NITs**

# HRD Ministry gets positive feedback for JEE makeover

**RITIKA CHOPRA**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

IN WHAT could lead to major changes in the admission process for IITs and NITs, the HRD Ministry has received positive public feedback on recommendations of a government-appointed panel, including introduction of a compulsory SAT-like aptitude test for aspirants, no weightage to school board marks and a single entrance exam.

The ministry had made the report of the Ashok Mishra Committee public last month for further consultation with stakeholders. The deadline for sending feedback was November 30.

According to sources, of the 100-odd responses received by the government, 67 have supported the removal of weightage given to Class XII marks at the time of admissions and nine

have opposed the suggestion. Similarly, 23 are for introduction of a national-level aptitude test for engineering aspirants and two against it. Twenty-six respondents have favoured a single entrance examination — instead of the current two-tier test — for admissions to IITs, NITs and other centrally funded institutes.

Although the ministry has not taken a final decision, the feedback could push the government to announce another makeover for the admission process at the top engineering schools. However, no changes will be introduced for 2016-17.

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) underwent a series of changes in 2013 after the then HRD Minister Kapil Sibal convinced engineering schools to give weightage to a candidate's school performance. This was done to help students focus on their schooleducation and wean

them away from coaching classes. But a review by the institutions three years later showed the decision had made little difference to the coaching industry, in fact it increased its influence.

Both IITs and NITs are now in favour of scrapping the weightage to Class XII marks. The Ashok Mishra committee was set up to study this proposal and also the feasibility of conducting a single entrance test.

The panel also suggested that the candidates should take an aptitude test to prove their inclination for science and innovative thinking. Passing this test will be a prerequisite for appearing for JEE. The test, designed to reduce the coaching culture, could be offered two or more times in a year.

नई इजाद

महिला दिवस पर परिधान की पूरी श्रृंखला पेश करेगी आईआईटीयन व फैशन डिजाइनर की तिकड़ी

# महिलाओं की आत्मरक्षा में मदद करेंगे अस्त्र लगे वस्त्र

■ गुलाब व कैक्टस से आया है आइडिया, जिनमें लगे कांटे ही करते हैं खुद की सुरक्षा  
■ जींस में होंगे स्मार्ट जिपर जो खुद के फिंगरप्रिंट को सेंस करके ही खुलेंगे

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

निर्भया त्रासदी की तीसरी बरसी के मौके पर एक फैशन डिजाइनर व दो आईआईटीयन की तिकड़ी ने महिलाओं की आत्मरक्षा के लिए उनके परिधानों को ही इस तरह डिजाइन किया है कि मौका पड़ने पर वस्त्र ही अस्त्र की तरह काम आ सके। 'क्षत्रियस' नाम से लांच किए जा रहे इन परिधानों को तैयार कर रही

टीम के सदस्य आईआईटी कानपुर के पूर्व छात्र लैकजोजो बताते हैं कि इसकी प्रेरणा उन्हें गुलाब व कैक्टस से मिली है। जिस तरह गुलाब की टहनी में लगे कांटे उसे नुकसान पहुंचने से बचाते हैं और कैक्टस खुद के कांटों से ही न सिर्फ सुंदर दिखते हैं बल्कि जानवरों द्वारा खुद को खाए जाने से बचाते हैं। उसी तरह यह जरूरी है कि महिला ने जो परिधान पहन रखा हो, वही उनकी रक्षा के लिए काम आए। उन्होंने कहा कि पीपर स्प्रे सुरक्षा का एक तरीका है लेकिन लड़कियों के बैग में इतना सामान होता है कि मौका पड़ने पर तुरंत पीपर स्प्रे नहीं मिल पाता। उन्होंने बताया बेल्ट के बकल, शूज, सैंडल, दस्ताने और बैग में कुछ सुधार करके तीखे धार वाले चाकू व नुकीली कीलें लगाई जा रही हैं। जो पहनने या इस्तेमाल करने वाले को खुद कभी

वस्त्र विद अस्त्र को शो में करेंगी प्रदर्शित

एसएनडीटी मुंबई की पूर्व छात्र व डिजाइनर शैलजा सिंह ने कहा है कि वस्त्र विद अस्त्र की पूरी श्रृंखला मार्च में पड़ने वाले महिला दिवस के मौके पर एक शो में प्रदर्शित करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी कोशिश यह खास नहीं बल्कि आम महिलाओं के लिए भी सस्ती कीमत पर उपलब्ध हो। पूरी श्रृंखला 15 से 35 साल की महिलाओं को ध्यान में रखकर तैयार की गई है।

नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाएगा। लेकिन जरूरत पड़ने पर महिला अपने बेल्ट के बकल को खोलकर तुरंत चाकू निकाल सकती है इसी तरह हाई हील की सैंडल को अंदर से खोखला बनाकर हथियार रखने की जगह बनाई गई है। इसी तरह शर्ट की कफ, शोल्डर व एल्बो में भी ऐसे क्रिस्टल लगाए जा रहे हैं जो मौका पड़ने पर आत्मरक्षा में काम आ सकेगा। ऐसे ग्लब्स तैयार किए गए हैं जो पहनने पर गहने की तरह सुंदर लगे पर असल में वे

हथियार की तरह काम आए।

आईआईटी दिल्ली की पूर्व छात्रा आकांक्षा ने बताया कि वह एक ऐसी जिप तैयार कर रही हैं जो बायोमैट्रिक सेंसर से ही खुले यानी जिस महिला की जींस या ब्लाउज में जिप लगी हो वह उसी महिला के फिंगरप्रिंट को सेंस करके ही खुले। ऐसी जिप बैग में लगाई जाएगी तो महिला को अलग से लॉक लगाने की जरूरत नहीं होगी और वह जब चाहेगी तभी वह खुद ही उसे खोल सकेगी।

क्षत्रियस

मार्केट में जल्द आने वाले हैं ऐसे कपड़े जो 'बुलेटप्रूफ जैकेट' और 'हथियार' बनकर करेंगे हिफाजत

# महिलाएं हाईटेक ड्रेस से करेंगी 'आत्मरक्षा'

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

महिलाओं के लिए मार्केट में जल्द ऐसे कपड़े आने वाले हैं जो 'बुलेटप्रूफ जैकेट' और 'अस्त्र' बनकर उनकी हिफाजत करेंगे। इनमें बेल्ट के बकल, शूज, सैंडल, दस्ताने और बैग हाईटेक होंगे। जिसमें चाकू व नुकीली कीलें लगाई जा रही हैं। जो पहनने वाले को कभी नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाएगा। लेकिन जरूरत पड़ने पर महिला अपनी हिफाजत के लिए तुरंत इन्हें निकाल सकेगी। शर्ट की कफ, शोल्डर व एल्बो में भी ऐसे क्रिस्टल लगाए जा रहे हैं जो मौका पड़ने



पर आत्मरक्षा में काम आएंगे। खास तरह के ग्लब्स पहनने पर दिखेंगे तो गहने की तरह लेकिन असल में वे हथियार की तरह काम आएंगे। निर्भया त्रासदी की तीसरी बरसी पर एक फैशन डिजाइनर व दो

आईआईटीयन की तिकड़ी ने महिलाओं के लिए विशेष ड्रेस डिजाइन किया है। 'क्षत्रियस' नाम से लांच किए जा रहे इन परिधानों को तैयार कर रही टीम के सदस्य आईआईटी कानपुर के पूर्व छात्र लैकजोजो बताते हैं 'इसकी प्रेरणा उन्हें गुलाब व कैक्टस से मिली है। जिस तरह गुलाब की टहनी में लगे कांटे उसे नुकसान पहुंचने से बचाते हैं और कैक्टस खुद के कांटों से ही न सिर्फ सुंदर दिखते हैं बल्कि जानवरों द्वारा खुद को खाए जाने से बचाते हैं। उसी तरह यह जरूरी है कि महिला ने जो परिधान पहन रखा हो, वही उनकी रक्षा के लिए काम आए।'

जींस व ब्लाउज की जिप में लगेगा सेंसर

आईआईटी दिल्ली की पूर्व छात्रा आकांक्षा का कहना है 'वह एक ऐसी जिप तैयार कर रही हैं जो बायोमैट्रिक सेंसर से ही खुले यानी जिस महिला की जींस या ब्लाउज में जिप लगी हो वह उसी महिला के फिंगरप्रिंट को सेंस करके ही खुले। ऐसी जिप बैग में भी लगाई जाएगी। इससे महिला को अलग से लॉक लगाने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। वह जब चाहेगी तभी उसे खोल सकेगी।'

मार्च में महिला दिवस पर होगी लांचिंग

एसएनडीटी मुंबई की पूर्व छात्र व डिजाइनर शैलजा सिंह ने बताया कि 'वस्त्र विद अस्त्र' की पूरी श्रृंखला मार्च में पड़ने वाले महिला दिवस के मौके पर एक शो में प्रदर्शित करेंगे। हमारी कोशिश है कि यह आम महिलाओं के लिए भी सस्ती कीमत पर उपलब्ध हो। कपड़ों को 15 से 35 साल की महिलाओं को ध्यान में रखकर तैयार किया है।

Hindustan Times ND 16/12/2015 P-18

# Will a regulator, **India rankings** make things better for B-schools?

**BIG STEPS** An all-India board/council for management studies, which will also rank B-schools, has been proposed by a 16-member task force set up by the All-India Management Association

**Gauri Kohli**

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Big changes are in store for B-schools across India – the most important one being the setting up of an all-India board of management studies as a regulator if the government considers proposals by a group of management education experts. A system to rank B-schools exclusively for India is also likely to be put in place in the future.

Proposals for setting up the council and launching the rankings system have been made by a 16-member task force on Indian Management Education: A Way Forward. Set-up by the All-India Management Association (AIMA) in May 2014, the task force has prepared a strategy paper for the human resource development (HRD) ministry.

The proposed council, to be named either the management education council of India or the Indian management education council, is likely to

have representatives from both public and private management schools, industry, professional bodies and other statutory councils like the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Cost and Works Accountants, and Institute of Company Secretaries India. It will also have a representative from the HRD ministry.

“The goal of the council would be to forecast the demand for professional managers in India and the world in the next decade, facilitate faculty development, fund growth and development of management schools, and develop a code of conduct to be adhered to by all B-schools etc.,” states the task force report, a copy of which is with HT Education.

The number of members of the council will be decided once the report is accepted and changes are made to the AICTE Act, says Professor (Dr) Rajan Saxena, chairman of the task force and vice-chancellor, NMIMS University, Mumbai.

## THE NEW PROPOSALS

Key points of the new proposals by All-India Management Association

- A management education council will facilitate faculty development and also promote research, fund the growth and development of management schools

- An accreditation policy will encourage setting up of multiple accreditation agencies at the national and state level

- A ranking methodology that captures the essence of the quality of business schools

- The council will encourage business schools to acquire accreditation in three to five years

### FIGURES TO SHARE

**4,800** B-schools (approx) in the country

**3,60,000** MBA/PGDMs are produced every year in these B-schools

**3,66,439** Number of management students in AICTE-approved institutions in 2014-15

**300** University departments of business/management

**350** AICTE-approved, autonomous PGDM awarding B-Schools

SOURCE: AIMA TASK FORCE REPORT



ISTOCK

The task force has also recommended developing a ranking methodology that captures the quality of B-schools.

“The ranking methodology will take into consideration parameters such as transparency in admission process, faculty competencies and intellectual worth of the school, the pedagogy – innovations, developments and use of experiential pedagogy, and recruiter perception, among others,” says Professor (Dr) Saxena. The council, however, would

not be involved in the process of licensing or approvals. It will encourage B-schools to acquire accreditation in three to five years. Institutes not going in for accreditation will not be eligible for state support. The accreditation process would be at two levels – state or regional and national. B-schools will be allowed to choose either of these depending on their goals and resources.

Elaborating on the process, Professor (Dr) Saxena, says, “The accreditation norms

will be in three areas, namely inputs, like admission process, and how transparent the process is; teaching-learning process, governance structure and processes; student development processes; and the outcomes as reflected in student placements, faculty research, and reputation of the institution in its served markets. The council will accredit all full-time, part-time, executive MBA and PGDM programmes. It will also accredit functional programmes at the master’s level like the ones in

finance, marketing, HR etc.”

The industry and academia will jointly carry out periodic reviews of the course content and its relevance. The new council will also work on a standard curriculum developed by a group of senior management academics and representatives of industry. “It will also set the minimum requirements on academic contents that each student must go through, to earn an MBA and join the profession of management,” adds Professor (Dr) Saxena.

## US university launches APJ Abdul Kalam grant

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/us-university-launches-apj-abdul-kalam-grant/story-R7yrs96xvBXGNRzNiFO4SL.html>

The University of South Florida (USF) in the US has launched the President APJ Abdul Kalam Postgraduate Fellowship “to honour him and his vision” for Indian graduate students seeking to pursue a PhD degree in at least 14 subjects and disciplines.

Aanchal Bedi from HT Education spoke to Ralph C Wilcox, USF’s provost and executive vice-president.

**Here’s an excerpt:**

**What is the purpose of your visit to India?**

Our engagement with India has seen an upward swing in the past few years. The number of applications and enrolments from India have multiplied — from about 200 to 800 this year. During my visit, I met our Indian partners to take the relationship to the next level, interact with Indian students planning to study at USF and catch up with some of our alumni. There is one more purpose also, which is perhaps closest to my heart, ie to launch the President APJ Abdul Kalam Postgraduate Fellowship. We instituted this fellowship to honour him and his vision.

**Tell us more about the fellowship.**

The student award will be offered to an Indian graduate student seeking to pursue a PhD degree in the following subject and discipline at the university: applied anthropology, applied physics, business PhD programmes, cell biology, microbiology and molecular biology, chemistry, computer science and engineering, engineering, criminology, integrative biology, marine science and psychology.

The fellowship provides a tuition fee waiver for up to four years, a stipend of \$18,000 over the nine months of the fall and spring semesters (\$2,000 per month) for up to four years. The provost’s office will pay a nine-month stipend for the first year with the department/college contributing a teaching/research assistantship for an additional three years. The total stipend amount will be payable by USF once the scholar is enrolled at the university for his/her first term. All other costs such as airfare, housing at USF, etc will be met by the awardee.

**What are the new developments at USF that are specific to India?**

The most recent ones would be our College of Engineering’s development of the “NEWgenerator” for India, which converts waste into nutrient fertilizers, renewable energy and clean water, providing a modular and self-sustaining machine that operates completely off-grid, requiring no water, power or sewer system.

**Please tell us about significant recent/upcoming partnerships with Indian institutes as well as industry partnerships for research etc.**

The collaborations already in place are in the areas of public health, management and engineering. Our partners include Delhi Technological University, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Manipal University, Government Medical College in Surat and several others.

Similarly, on one hand we have Indian students coming to study at USF each summer for the past six years, and on the other we have been sending American students to the Infosys campus in Mysore to learn from their faculty.

Last year, 15 USF students visited Arunachal Pradesh to engage with projects of the Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions, Cultures and Heritage (RIWATCH), which has been recognised by the United Nations as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. We are planning a similar trip in 2016 as well.

## **IIT student travelling on solar-powered cycle from Mumbai to Goa**



[http://www.goanews.com/news\\_disp.php?newsid=6507](http://www.goanews.com/news_disp.php?newsid=6507)

A group of students, alumni and professors from IIT Bombay (Indian Institute of Technology) travelled from Mumbai to Goa on a solar-powered cycle in an effort to create awareness about use of solar energy for domestic purpose.

According to a report by The Free Press Journal, Sushil Reddy, 2013 pass out of IIT Bombay, will start his journey from the Gateway of India in Mumbai on Friday, December 18.

## **IIT techie gives up career for women safety**

Launches programme for gender sensitisation and action against gender based violence

<http://gulfnews.com/news/asia/india/iit-techie-gives-up-career-for-women-safety-1.1637772>



Aditya Gupta, now 27, from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi, went whole hog to establish a sustainable change programme - People for Parity (PfP) - for gender sensitisation and addressing the malaise of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in India.

## Three IIT Gandhinagar professors receive Ramanujan Fellowship 2015

<http://deshgujarat.com/2015/12/15/three-iit-gandhinagar-professors-recvie-ramanujan-fellowship-2015/>

Three IITGN professors have been awarded the prestigious Ramanujan Fellowship by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. Prof Arnab Dutta and Prof Saumyakanti Khatua of Chemistry and Prof Virupakshi Soppina of Biological Engineering have been selected for the award of Ramanujan Fellowship 2015.

Each professor will receive a fellowship of Rs.85000 per month and in addition a Research Grant of Rs.7 Lakh per annum. The duration of Ramanujan Fellowship is 5 years.

Prof Soppina is engaged in the study of fascinating and important nanoscale protein machines called Molecular motors. His study focuses on understanding how molecular motors transport large cargo molecules over a long distance inside brain neurons and how defects in such transport system relates to various neurodegenerative diseases.

Prof Dutta is developing enzyme-inspired artificial electrocatalysts which will be essential for frugal utilization of environment friendly renewable energy resources in near future. Prof Dutta said, "For proper utilization of the renewable energy resources on the current scale of fossil fuel, we need to efficiently store these intermittent energy resources and properly extract that stored energy for future usage. Activation of Hydrogen and Oxygen can be employed for this energy transformation process but this requires an electrocatalyst to facilitate their transformations. We are developing this necessary enzyme-inspired artificial electrocatalysts in our lab."

Prof Khatua is working on synthesis and applications of gold nanoparticles and their assemblies. A gold nanoparticle can act as an antenna for visible light by confining light into a tiny area near the nanoparticle's surface. Confinement of light leads to enhanced electric field at the nanoparticle's surface. This property is even prominent at the nanogaps between adjacent nanoparticles. These nano gaps are called also hotspots. Prof Khatua is working on using these hotspots to detect single molecules which are either non-fluorescent or weakly fluorescent and therefore remain untraceable in conventional single-molecule fluorescence method.

## ISRO TO LAUNCH SIX SINGAPORE SATELLITES TODAY

Hindustan Times (Patna)

Indian Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle will launch six Singapore satellites from Sriharikota on Wednesday. The six satellites riding piggyback on PSLV-C29, to be launched from the first launch pad from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in the spaceport of Sriharikota, is scheduled for lift off at 6.00 pm. The 59-hour-countdown for the PSLVC29/TeLEOS-1 Mission began at 7.00 am on Monday and was progressing normally, ISRO said.