

## Newspaper Clips

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# Can't be forced to buy foreign journals, say engg colleges

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** An association of engineering colleges has dragged the apex regulatory body for technical education to court over its new rule making it mandatory for institutions to subscribe to foreign e-journals costing about Rs 13 lakh to Rs 15 lakh per annum.

A petition filed by the Association of Managements of Coimbatore Anna University-affiliated Colleges in the Madras high court said the new approval process for the year 2012-2013 announced by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) states that colleges must subscribe to e-journals through a particular foreign company and pay subscription in foreign currency such as dollar, euro and pounds. Noting that each college offering computers, engineering, management and architecture has to shell out anywhere between Rs 13 lakh and Rs 15 lakh per annum, the association said that together the 5,000-odd institutions in the country would end up paying about Rs 1,500 crore to the foreign company every year.

The petition said when managements that run more than one institution sought to know whether they could subscribe to e-journals and share them, the AICTE said it could not be allowed

When there are more than 700 reputed e-journals, both Indian and foreign, available free of cost for research, the AICTE has arbitrarily been insisting on purchase of selected foreign e-journals at an exorbitant cost, that too through a private agency, the petition said. "Institutions cannot be forced to bear such arbitrary, exorbitant and additional burden," it said.

Till now, technical institutions had the option of subscribing to foreign e-journals through Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST)-AICTE consortium, which was the initiative of the Union ministry for human resources development. Now, the

petition said, the institutions are required to place subscription for online journals through EBSCO, a US-based subscription agency.

The petition said when managements that run more than one institution sought to know whether they could subscribe to e-journals and share them among their institutions, the AICTE said it could not be allowed.

Before finalizing the publisher, private agency and the prices, no technical committee was constituted to analyse the same, the petition said, adding, "no open tender system was followed before finalizing the rates and the private agency."

Counsel for the AICTE, noting that the last date for payment of the subscription and affixing the receipts in approval applications was December 31, 2011, said the council was prepared to extend it up to January 15, 2012.

Recording the undertaking, Justice N Paul Vasanthakumar, before whom the matter came up for admission, adjourned it to January 3 for further hearing.

Mail Today ND 27/12/2011

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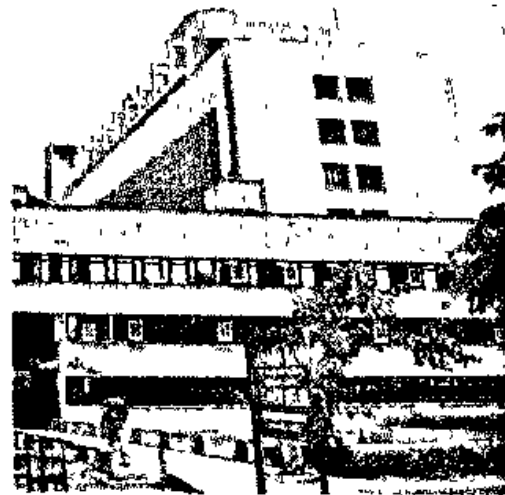
# Masters at IITs to train engineering faculty?

**THE** responsibility of alleviating the problem of faculty crunch in engineering institutes across the country could soon lie with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

A sub-group of the Planning Commission has strongly recommended that the IITs should start a special Masters programme to train engineering faculty.

"The plan is to set up a new part-time Masters' Degree in Engineering Education to be conducted by the IITs. The degree designed for faculty from engineering colleges will be conducted online, through live video lectures ... It is estimated that six to seven thousand young faculty can be handed out each year," states the report on technical education submitted by the sub group recently.

As an alternate solution, the report has also suggested that the IITs could start a dual Masters degree tailor-made to ensure that the students graduate with a degree in a specific domain and also one in



*IITs may start a special course to train faculty.*

teaching and pedagogy.

"Due to shortage of faculty, many engineering colleges are forced to recruit fresh engineering graduates as teachers. These fresh recruits need training in pedagogy as well as knowledge upgradation.. Another proposal would be to introduce a new three-year programme leading to a dual Masters i.e. an MTech degree in the domain area and a Masters degree in educational skill and pedagogy," the report stated.

*Ritika Chopra/New Delhi*

Deccan Herald ND 27/12/2011

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# PM urges youth to take up maths

**CHENNAI:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here on Monday expressed concern that for India's size, "the number of competent mathematicians we have is badly inadequate."

Singh declared 2012 as "the National Mathematical Year" as a tribute to the great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The Centre has also decided to declare the birthday of the genius, December 22, "National Mathematics Day," Singh said while inaugurating the year-long celebrations at the Madras University Auditorium to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Ramanujan.

He also expressed concern over a slide in the number of students pursuing higher studies in mathematics. He also

rueed the sharp decline in the number of quality mathematics teachers in schools and colleges.

He rebuffed perceptions that pursuing mathematics does not end up in a rewarding career. The mathematicians now have a wide array of attractive careers to choose from, with "the teaching profession itself becoming much more attractive."

He was hopeful of a revival of mathematics in the ensuing "National Mathematical Year."

Singh spoke highly of Ramanujan, whose "whose extraordinary genius so very brightly lit up the world of mathematics in the second decade of the last century. Though Ramanujan came from an economically disadvantaged background and had

only minimal training in mathematics, his genius overcame formidable difficulties to reach the pinnacle of greatness."

Union Human Resource and Development Minister Kapil Sibal said the ace mathematician's life shows how discoveries were beyond formal education. He also emphasised the role of the education system in nurturing students.

Sibal said the Centre was determined to root out the rote learning and archaic examination system, making learning and education child-centric rather than exam-centric. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in the age-group of 18-24 in India is a mere 15 per cent, against the over 50 per cent in most developed countries, Sibal said.

**DH News Service**

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# IIM-C students to assist in work in tsunami-hit areas of Japan

**The natural disaster there earlier in the year had claimed many lives**

Shiv Sahay Singh

**KOLKATA:** Students from Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, will assist in reconstruction work of the tsunami-affected areas in Japan, where early this year the natural disaster claimed many lives besides leaving a trail of destruction.

Thirty-four students of the Visionary Leadership in Manufacturing Programme, a joint initiative of IIM Calcutta, IIT Madras, and IIT Kanpur, which receives cooperation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will work in the tsunami-affected areas of Japan under extreme climatic conditions, said A K Chowdhury, the head of the VLM Office at IIM Calcutta here on Monday.

"This opportunity will expose them to the limitations of current technology before

• **The programme is a joint venture of IIM-C, IIT-Madras and IIT-Kanpur**

• **Year-long programme includes compulsory two-week industry visit to Japan in February 2012**

the forces of nature. They can also learn directly from the Japanese practices of risk management," Mr. Chowdhury said.

The students will be take up the job in the last week of February next year and they will be helped by engineers from Japan in this endeavour, he added.

## **Excited**

"We are excited about the opportunity to contribute in reconstruction work of tsunami-affected areas in Japan. During the one-year programme we have created a community feeling with Japan which we will try to give

back to the country," said G. Nagarajan a student.

Mr. Nagarajan said he was deeply moved when Professor Shoji Shiba, a renowned international expert in the manufacturing sector who kept his promise to teach the students at IIM Calcutta in April this year, despite his centurion mother being hospitalised and his own home being damaged in the tsunami.

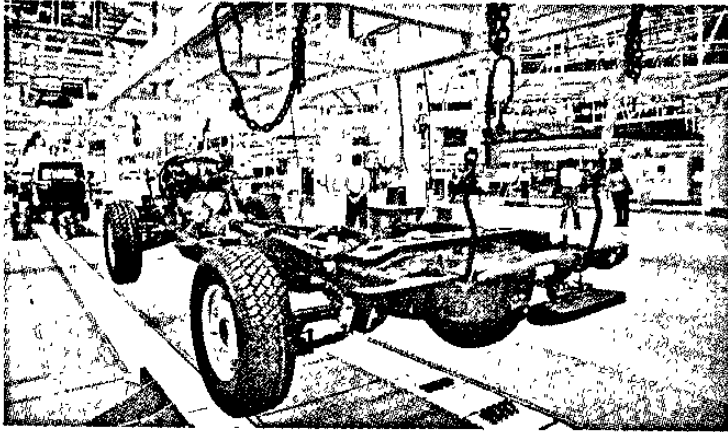
"As students we are happy that through our little contribution in reconstruction work in Japan we can thank JICA and Professor Shiba for his efforts," said another student Arun Sankar.

The year-long programme includes a compulsory two weeks industry visit to Japan where the students will visit Hino Motors, Mitsui Chemicals, Toyota plant, Toyota Museum, Sony Archives, and Shinsei Bank in February 2012. It is during this visit that all the students of the fifth batch of the institute will work in the Tsunami affected areas.

The VLM Programme was started in the year 2007 after an Indo-Japan Cooperation Agreement, signed by Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, in December 2006. The programme is supported by National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

## TOPPER'S FORMULA

# JEE IS ABOUT ACCURACY AND AIEEE TESTS SPEED



The IIT-JEE and AIEEE can lead to rewarding careers in sectors such as automotive engineering (above).

### By Vipul Singh

THE TWO premier engineering entrance examinations in the country — IIT-JEE and AIEEE — are so similar in terms of syllabus, yet so different in the way in which the question papers are set.

What I would advise engineering aspirants to do is to work harder on the IIT-JEE because it's the toughest nut to crack and covers almost all of the topics that is required for AIEEE.

The only topics specific to the AIEEE are semi-conductors and propositional logic. Let's now look at the examination pattern. The IIT-JEE involves six hours of rigorous testing of the candidate's understanding of concepts, knowledge of tricks and ability to handle pressure.

The AIEEE, on the other hand, is a three-hour speed test with a lot more simple questions than what you confront in the IIT-JEE. A good knowledge of various tricks, especially in mathematical questions involving long equations and solutions, will serve you well in this exam.

The AIEEE is also a tough exam because the number of students who appear for it is much higher and consequently the competition is more intense.

Then there's the issue of negative marking for guessing. It entirely depends on your assessment of how much you're going to score. If you're certain you have cleared the cut-off score, then you should attempt questions where you can eliminate two of the four answer options and you have some idea of the topic and have a good hunch about a particular option.

A point to note about the AIEEE paper is that it doesn't give students any time for revision, so aim for accuracy. The IIT-JEE, on the other hand, has fewer questions, which leaves you with some revision time. But the best way to gain speed and accuracy is to answer sample papers over and over, and to learn from the mistakes.

—Vipul Singh stood fifth in the IIT-JEE 2010 and topped the AIEEE 2010. This is a weekly column.

## A university at war

Amid political battles and administrative chaos, Bangalore University is virtually imploding

SARITHA RAI



The FIFTH METRO  
LETTER FROM BANGALORE

IF you want proof that higher education in India is a great big mess, look no further than Bangalore University. It is a university, not a riot site, and yet you can find hordes of policemen stationed there, looking to quell trouble. It is also the university whose vice-chancellor has sought police protection to walk about and function in his own campus. An ongoing power struggle between the vice chancellor and the registrar of the university has made things worse.

Earlier this week, despite the police throwing a protective ring around him, the vice-chancellor, Prabhu Dev, was hit on the head with a stick by a group of protesting students. The university has seen four protests by different sets of students this month alone. In addition, teachers refused to conduct classes to protest an attack against a colleague, the director of distance education, by a right-wing group.

If the students, teachers and the vice chancellor in one of the country's large and better-known universities are all stirred up, it heralds the worst of times for the institution. All academic activity has come to a stop.

IN ITS heyday, the university had illustrious students like Nobel laureate C.V. Raman, who was a researcher at the university, and technocrat Bharat Ratna M. Visweswaraiiah.

Mind you, this is the city to which much of India migrates in search of a good education. Its colleges have applicants from the far corners of India and even overseas. Even the Chinese come to Bangalore to learn English and get themselves degrees in areas like engineering and computer applications. Bangalore University is one of India's oldest, its origins dating back to 1886 when the British government launched it as Central College. It was named Bangalore University in 1964 to consolidate the city's higher education institutions. In its heyday, the university had illustrious students like Nobel laureate C.V. Raman, who was a researcher at the university, and technocrat Bharat Ratna M. Visweswaraiiah. More recently in 2001, the university was accorded "five star" status by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council of the University Grants Commission.

But today the university is in a state of disarray. Examinations and revaluations are the sticking points for the

students. Rural students complain of lack of access to revaluation facilities. Students are yet to receive marks cards years after exams have been held. Some students are still waiting for revaluation results three years after applying. Others complain of discrepancies in their marks cards, including being marked "absent" for examinations and being wrongly awarded marks in single digits.

When students sloganeer, "We want justice," and the vice-chancellor describes the circumstances as "mafia-like", the situation is clearly very dire.

Here is one instance of apparently chaotic administration by the university. Some exams held in August this year in certain subjects of the distance learning undergraduate and graduate courses were declared null after wide accounts of malpractice. A new date for re-examination was announced, December 14. But the exam was not held because some of the centres had not installed closed-circuit TVs to check malpractice as mandated by the university. The students allege that the university is "playing" with their future with such muddled actions.

A television channel exposed the sorry state of the 200 students enrolled for Bangalore University's recently launched four-year in-

tegrated science course. These students make do with a guest house instead of proper space on the campus. Their chemistry lab does not have a single piece of equipment, their physics lab has only benches and its library is filled with rows of beds.

In the past years, several complaints of malpractice were received about the process of selection and awarding Ph.Ds. Finally this year, in an attempt to elevate the standards of its 64 Ph.D streams, the university recently held an entrance exam and took it online. Over 1,500 students appeared. Only 19 per cent managed to get through.

The university should have rightfully been a feeder for the proliferation of Indian and multinational corporations based in the city. Instead, it has become an arena for power play between right-wing and other political interests, while administrators with suspect motives further their own agendas.

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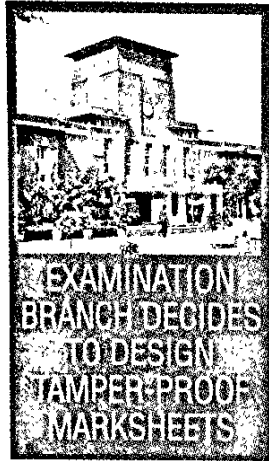
# DU to introduce bar-coded marksheets

ROHINEE SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Embroidled in several controversies pertaining to fake marksheets, the Delhi University itself is making a cautious move and is taking steps so that the marksheets provided by the university is not forged. After two cases of students forging their first year graduation marksheets have come to light in a North Campus college, the office of Dean of Examination of Delhi University is to introduce marksheets with bar coding. The first semester result of DU is likely to be declared on Wednesday and the marksheets may see a bar coding.

University sources said that two students are in a college at North Campus and are currently in the third year of graduation course. These two students did not score the pass marks to be promoted to second year. "They then forged their first year marksheets to get promoted to the second year," informed the office of Dean of Examination.

To avoid such incidences in the future, the Examination Branch has now decided to design tamper proof marksheets. "We are trying to design



fullproof marksheets so that the students cannot tamper them. We might go for bar-coding of the mark-sheets or create a serial number so that the forging can be avoided," said an officer of the examination department. The final decision for the same is yet to be taken.

Meanwhile, the office of the Registrar of Delhi University is writing to all the colleges making it mandatory for them to register the marks of all students in the master register. Currently, maintaining a master register is not

## Ramjas racket: 4 more held

STAFF REPORTER ■  
NEW DELHI

North Delhi police have arrested four more persons in connection with the fake marksheet scam in Ramjas College of Delhi University. The arrested persons include one staff member of the college and one ex-Ramjas student. Raje Singh, an office assistant at Ramjas College, was arrested along with an ex-student Kuldeep Singh on Sunday. Following their arrest, two more persons were arrested on Monday. With this, the total number of arrests in the case has gone up to 15.

DCP of North, IB Rani said, "We have arrested four more persons in the Ramjas College admission scam. One

taken very seriously by all colleges. "As a result, many a time, the colleges do not have in their records the marks of all students and they bank on the marksheets supplied by the students. This is where these two students got an upper hand and managed to get pro-

of the arrested persons, Raje Singh, is one of the staff members of the college. Kuldeep Khapra is an ex-student of the college, while Vardhan Choudhary is a third-year student in the current academic session. The other accused Ashwini Rajput is a graduate from Aurobindo College."

Kuldeep, who was a student of Ramjas College from the year 2004 to 2008, forged a marksheet along with the office assistant Rajesh Singh. These two have been involved in one of the fake admissions in the college. Vardhman and Ashwani Rajput were involved in another case. All these persons had been running their separate gangs, the DCP added.

Delhi Police's investigation

motored on forging the marksheets," said the officer. The two cases have been reported to the college and also to the office of the Registrar. An FIR is likely to be registered against the two candidates.

Meanwhile, the first-year first semester results of the

into the scam has unearthed the involvement of college staff and ex-students in a big way. After the arrest of four more persons, the number of staffers involved in the scam has risen to two. Earlier, a lab assistant, Suresh Chanda, had been arrested for his alleged involvement in the case.

However, controversy is not new to Ramjas College. In 2005, an admission scam manipulated by the present accused Raje Singh was unearthed. One Manjeet Singh assisted him. That time, admissions were given on cancelled admission forms. The college administration had suspended Manjeet Singh him from his services. However, no FIR was registered against him in the case.

Delhi University are likely to be out on Wednesday. To start with, results for the commerce stream will be out followed by science and humanities. The candidates this time will be given only 15 days' time from the date of declaration of results to apply for revaluation.