

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 23/02/2011 p-3

MINORITY INSTITUTION

Jamia ruling: win-win or setback?

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: Muslims across the country on Tuesday celebrated after a court ruled that Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia — set up by nationalist Muslims during India's freedom struggle — was a minority institution.

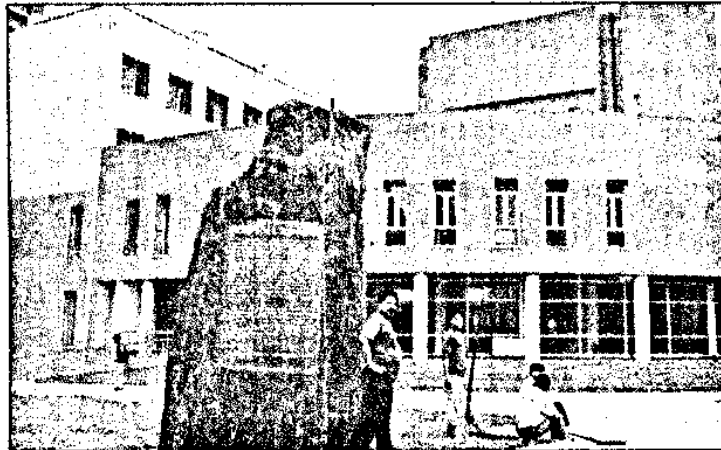
A debate whether this would help promote inclusion or further alienate the community, however, raged on.

Jamia has been an emotional anchor for Muslims, who saw the state snatch away an institution raised and bequeathed by their founders, even as others, such as St Stephen's flourish.

"It is the most significant verdict involving Muslims since Independence," Tariq Siddiqui, a lawyer for those fighting for the minority tag, said.

Jamia's minority status — in the eyes of Muslims — constitutes a bedrock freedom, given to them by Article 30, which governs fundamental rights.

One of these allows minori-



■ On Tuesday, a court ruled that Jamia Millia Islamia was a minority institution.

SONU MEHTA/HT FILE PHOTO

ties to set up and run their own institutions. "Fundamental rights can never die, cannot be forfeited or surrendered," according to Ilyas Malik, the convener of a campaign for Jamia's minority status.

The literacy rate of Muslims is well below the national average, according to the November 2006 Sachar report. Muslims — mostly Sunnis — make up

13.4% of India's population, yet hold fewer than 5% of government jobs.

"Therefore, minority institutions, which can reserve seats for students of the community they represent, are critical. Jamia can now reserve 50% of seats for Muslim students. Rest would be open to all. This is no ghettoisation but promotion of real merit and pluralism,"

HALLOWED PRECINCTS

- Set up in 1920 in Aligarh by Muslim Intellectuals
- Shifted in 1925 to Delhi
- Run by a Jamia society consisting of eminent Muslims
- Incorporated as central university through an Act of Parliament in 1988
- Functions as university without minority status
- Declared a minority institution

argues Faizan Mustafa, the vice-chancellor of state-run National Law University, Cuttack.

However, the larger debate is still about how best to promote education among Muslims. Manisha Sethi, an assistant professor of Jamia, dreams of a Jamia that is against "insularity" and "isolationism of all kinds".

"Those who think the minority status will promote the interests of the minority community will only be advocating a shallow minorityism at the cost of securing genuine minority rights," she said.

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■ HRD minister Kapil Sibal

SECOND CHANCE FOR 2ND-RUNG DEEMED UNIVERSITIES?

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The human resource development (HRD) ministry has offered a quick lifeline to 44 deemed universities. These universities were given three-year time to improve standards and retain the 'deemed' tag by an expert panel. They, however, claiming they have already improved.

The HRD ministry has set up a panel consisting of the same experts who rated these deemed universities in 2009, and found them deficient. But this time, to scrutinise their claims of improvement, government sources have told HT.

Those deemed universities which clear the scrutiny will be eligible to expand their courses and campuses, HRD ministry officials said. Tens of thousands of students study at these 44 deemed universities.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal had set up a four-member panel to probe standards at each of country's deemed universities soon after he took over the reins of the country's education in 2009. The panel concluded that 44 institutions should be stripped of the deemed tag immediately, while another 44 were unworthy of the tag but could be given three years to improve. Only 38 institutions were found satisfactory.

However several institutions — such as Pune-based Symbiosis — have in recent months approached the HRD ministry seeking permission to set up new campuses.

Commercial hit



Weighting options:
Students at a tutorial in Delhi's
Shri Ram College of Commerce



Hans Raj College

AMONG DELHI'S BEST

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

Admission procedure: The admission process begins in May/June, along with most other Delhi University colleges. The college accepts the university's centralised application form. The annual intake is of around 550 students every year and nearly 1,200 study BCom (honours) in all the three years put together.

Faculty: Out of 50 faculty members in the commerce department (the total number of teachers is 73, as per the college website), about 32% are PhDs. Well-known faculty members and authors are VK Singhania and Girish Ahuja (both teach income tax).

Placements: The highest pay package offered in 2011 was ₹39 lakh a year for a London posting at Deutsche Bank followed by the Parthenon Group's offer of ₹20 lakh. The average package was ₹6.5 lakh a year. The other 30 companies which visited the campus include Ernst and Young, Deloitte Consulting India, McKinsey and Bain Knowledge Centre.

Alumni: Anajit Singh, chairman, Max India Limited; Pramod Bhasin, CEO, Genpact; and Rajiv Memani, CEO, Ernst & Young India.

Alumnus speak: "Amit Sachdeva in the economics department and Dr CS Sharma in the finance department are known for their published work," says Ajay Dawar of the 2008 batch.



HANS RAJ COLLEGE



Admission procedure: Same as SRCC.

Faculty: There are 500 students and 23 faculty members out of which five are PhDs. Well-known members of the faculty are NP Kapoor (business studies), Dinkar Pagare (business studies) and MN Arora (costing).

Placements: About 65 (out of 72) students were placed

in various organisations on an average pay package of ₹4.5 lakh a year while the lowest package stood at ₹2.5 lakh a year. Companies that visited the college for placements included Facebook, Google, Future First and McKinsey.

Alumni: Navin Jindal, Member of Parliament and entrepreneur.

Alumnus speak: "The fact that the college runs other programmes has helped us build a sound faculty base. We had a psychology teacher teaching politics, ethics and social responsibility in the first year in BCom (honours)," says Vikram Singh, a 2010 graduate.

SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH COLLEGE

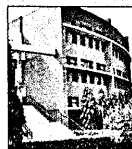
Admission procedure: Same as SRCC. About 850 students are admitted in BCom (honours) and 150 in the BCom programme every year.

Faculty: Out of 10 faculty members in the commerce department, half of them are PhDs. In all, there are

around 55 teachers. Noted members of the faculty include GK Kapoor (law), SB Saxena (management accounting), BC Sehgal (costing) and SS Sareen (business law).

Placements: Around 10 companies recruited 81 students for pay packages ranging from ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3.5 lakh a year in the 2011 batch. They included KPMG, Ernst & Young, Indiabulls, Protiviti, and Deloitte, etc.

Alumni: Deepak Kapoor, chairman, PwC India
Alumnus speak: "Most of my teachers were PhDs and half of them had written books. The only drawback was that it's an off-campus college," says Harinderjit Singh, partner of PwC and a graduate of 1981



Packages for commerce passouts can go as high as ₹39 lakh. Find out what else makes Delhi's commerce colleges rock

HT Horizons Correspondent

There are no surprises when it comes to the best college for commerce in Delhi. Ask anyone, from experts to students, and the reply more often than not will be Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC).

According to KV Bhanumurthy, head, department of commerce, University of Delhi, the notable Delhi colleges for commerce, after SRCC, are:

- Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR)
- Shaheed Bhagat Singh
- Jesus and Mary College (JMC)
- Hans Raj

IC Dhingra, a well-known author of books on economics and a retired associate professor from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (Day), lists the following top performers (after SRCC):

- Sri Venkateswara
- Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC)
- LSR
- JMC
- Shaheed Bhagat Singh College.

There are four factors, says Bhanumurthy, which distinguish a college from others: quality of faculty, the college's reputation among employers, the quality of students and their participation in extra-curricular activities.

In Delhi, the calibre of the

learners seems to be the game-changer. "Companies scout for SRCC students only because their partial assessment is complete the moment they are admitted (to the college) because the cut-off marks are normally above 95%. When it comes to cut-offs, there's just a difference of 1% to 0.5% between SRCC and Hans Raj," says Bhanumurthy.

The best colleges also become magnets for teaching talent. Dhingra says, "North campus has always been the first choice of commerce teachers and within the campus SRCC manages to draw the best of the lot. In south campus, Venkateswara has always stayed in the lead.

However, in the last few years, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC) has been doing well. Among the women's colleges, LSR and JMC have good commerce departments." When it comes to LSR, Arvind Kumar, an assistant professor in the college's commerce department, says, "This college has produced several rank holders. For three consecutive years starting with 2005, DU's topper was an LSRite."

Though it has a small batch size of 42, LSR's department of commerce has six faculty members. Out of them, four are PhD holders. JMC offers a bachelor of commerce (Hons) course and a bachelor of commerce (pass) course.

Times of India ND 23/02/2011 p1

Delhi docs hog lion's share of Padma awards

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Doctors from Delhi seem to have an undue advantage when it comes to receiving the prestigious Padma awards. And cardiologists and cardiac surgeons make the grade more often in the hallowed list.

An interesting analysis — 'Doctors and the Padma Awards' — published in National Medical Journal of India on Tuesday lists that 1,166 Padma awards

► 'Padma process in question', P 11

were announced between 2000 and 2010. Of these, 157 (13.4%) were from the field of medicine.

A total of 137 awardees were finally evaluated as five were overseas awardees and the remaining 15 were from alternative fields of medicine like ayurveda, siddha and homoeopathy.

Of the 137 awardees in medicine, 62 (45%) were from Delhi, 18 (13%) from Maharashtra and 17 (12%) from Tamil

Symptoms of Bias?

► **137 allopathic doctors** received Padma awards between 2000 and 2010

► **62** were from **Delhi**, 18 from Maharashtra and 17 from Tamil Nadu

► **Not a single doctor** from states like West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab **got any Padma awards**

► **4 of 7** Padma Vibhushans, **16 of 25** Padma Bhushans and **42 of 105** Padma Shris came from Delhi

► **31 of the 137 awardees (23%)** were **cardiologists or cardiac surgeons**

Nadu. There were less than 10 representatives from other states in the corresponding period.

Incidentally, not a single doctor from large states like West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana received any of the Padma awards.

Times of India ND 23/02/2011 p11

Student abuses principal on FB, suspended

Shreya Bhandary | TNN

Mumbai: A 13-year-old student of a city school has been suspended for a Facebook prank targeting his principal.

Authorities at M P Shah English High School, Vile Parle, claim the Class VIII boy posted abusive language on the principal's Facebook wall a few days ago. A source also claimed the school is planning to file a police complaint against the boy.

The principal, Vandana Tandon, said the boy had sent her a friend request a week ago and her daughter had accepted the request by mistake. A week lat-



NO CHILD'S PLAY

er, when Tandon logged into her account, she saw boy's obscene comments on her wall.

She called for a meeting with his parents, who claimed their son did not post the messages

his friend did. They also said their son had been expelled. I was handed over my sons school-leaving certificate at the meeting and, ever since, the principal has refused to interact with us, said the father. My son was studying with a friend from another school, who wrote these messages. We have given a written apology but the school refuses to accept it.

However, the principal denied the boy was handed a leaving certificate, but said he had been suspended for a few days.

The father also claimed that when his son's friend posted profane language on the prin-

icipal's wall, the principal also replied back to the comment by using more abuses. "When we confronted the principal about this, she told us that her daughter was replying back to the comments made by the students as she was furious," said the father. The principal has deleted this conversation from her wall.

The principal said they have decided to deal with this affair very seriously. "Many children are misusing the internet and we want them to know that social networking is not child's play. He will have to take responsibility for his actions," Tandon said.

Times of India ND 23/02/2011 p11

'Delhi bias puts Padma process in question'

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Are Delhi doctors the country's best in the business? Or do they simply wield a greater clout? A medical journal study of the state-wise distribution of Padma awardees has shown that as many as 62 of them are medical practitioners in the capital.

The analysis — "Doctors and the Padma Awards" — published in National Medical Journal of India showed that among the seven Padma Vibhushan awardees, four (57%) were from Delhi. Among the 25

Padma Bhushans, 16 (64%) were from Delhi and among the 105 Padma Shris, 42 (40%) were from the national Capital.

The study team headed by Dr Samiran Nundy, from the department of surgical gastroenterology and liver transplantation of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital — also revealed the dominance by cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. It showed that 31 out of the 137 awardees (23%) were cardiologists or cardiac surgeons, followed by ophthalmologists at 15 (11%) and orthopedic surgeons at 14 (10%).

Cardiologists received a

greater proportion (43%) of the Padma Vibhushan awards. The other awardees were from orthopedics (1), neurology (1) and general medicine (1). Around 36% of the Padma Bhushans and 18% of the Padma Shris were conferred on cardiac specialists. "The over-representation of Delhi and cardiology in the Padmas for medicine shows their distribution is not entirely fair," the study stated.

It explained, "This data is interesting on many accounts. Nearly half the awards were bestowed on Delhi doctors who were likely to have treated the

politicians and bureaucrats who in turn made the decisions. This skewed bias towards Delhi and towards the specialty of cardiology raises some questions about the representative nature of these awards and the selection process."

The Padma awards were instituted in 1954, and are announced every year on the eve of Republic Day. Padma Shri is awarded for distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order, and Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 23, 2011;Section: International;Page: 21;

High cholesterol, BP can lead to memory loss

Houston: Middle-age people facing cardiovascular problems such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure may not only be at the risk of heart disease but also an increased risk of developing early cognitive and memory problems.

A study has found that people who have higher cardiovascular risk are more likely to have lower cognitive function and a faster rate of overall cognitive decline compared to those with the lowest risk of heart disease.

Higher cardiovascular risk is also associated with a 10-year faster rate of overall cognitive decline in both men and women compared to those with lower cardiovascular risk. For the study, authored by Sara Kaffashian of INSERM, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Paris, 3,486 men and 1,341 women with an average age of 55 underwent cognitive tests three times over 10 years. **PTI**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Feb 23, 2011; Section: International; Page: 21;

Catch 'em young: Scans to detect future criminals

Will Pick Up Violent Tendencies, Help In Kids' Treatment

London: In what echoes Hollywood science fiction movie 'Minority Report' which focused on detection of pre-crime, criminologists have claimed that brain scans could help pick up violent tendencies in children as young as four.

Two leading criminologists, who have put forward the theory, say by predicting which children have the potential to be trouble-makers, treatments could be introduced to keep them on the straight and narrow.

Prof Adrian Raine, one of the two British criminologists, argued that abnormal physical brain make-up could be a cause of criminality as well as helping to predict it, 'The Daily Telegraph' reported.

His studies have shown that psychopaths and criminals have smaller areas of the brain such as the amygdala and prefrontal cortex, both of which regulate and control emotion and behaviour.

He also believes a lack of conditioning to fear punishment which can be measured in toddlers before disruptive behaviour is apparent, could also be a strong indicator.



DANGEROUS MINDS

Just like in sci-fi 'Minority Report', which focused on detection of pre-crime, scans can help detect in children as young as four callous unemotional traits like lack of guilt and empathy that could suggest future bad behaviour

Another criminologist, Dr Nathalie Fontaine, argued that children as young as four exhibited "callous unemotional traits" such as lack of guilt and empathy that could also suggest future bad behaviour.

Linking these features with "conduct problems" such as throwing tantrums could be a strong way to predict who could be anti-social in later life. Both said that identifying these issues earlier could be important in stopping children from becoming criminals. ❦

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“India is touted to become one of the most rewarding talent pools in the world.”

Lynda Gratton, professor of management practice at London Business School and founder of the Hot Spots Movement shares her thoughts with **Sheetal Srivastava** on the future of India’s workforce



HOW DO YOU FORESEE THE FUTURE OF INDIA’S WORKFORCE?

By 2030, India could become the third largest economy in the world. In contrast to China’s state-driven growth, India is fuelled by an expansive network of entrepreneurs, some of whom have already established globally recognised firms in less than a decade. With a rapidly expanding working population, India is becoming one of the most formidable talent pools in the world.

HOW WILL EXTERNAL FORCES SHAPE THE WAY A COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYEES WILL DEVELOP OVER THE COMING DECADES?

Over the coming two decades, we can anticipate a few external forces that will work together to profoundly impact companies and its employees.

Technology: Advances in computational speed, sophistication and efficiency allow for the emergence of more complex business analytics, a greater focus on virtual working and enhanced capabilities around collaborative practices and open innovation.

Globalisation: The growth of emerging markets will create new talent pools on a global level, yet the educational capacity of some countries will not create the required competencies and we can expect leadership capabilities to be in high demand.

Social Trends: Societies across the world will continue to see trust in larger businesses and institutions diminish, whilst growing faith in small and medium-sized enterprises will cause more talented people to work in start-ups, joint ventures and partnerships - putting an emphasis on the ecosystem of talent.

HOW BEST CAN ONE PREPARE ONESELF FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS?

It is crucial that companies prepare in four ways. First, by continuously monitoring the areas they believe could impact their business. Next, by looking at current capability around these trends. For example, of the 20 areas of ‘future proofing’ – there are four we see many companies not preparing for – including working across boundaries within the company, inter-generational cohesion, managing virtual teams and preparing for a low carbon future. Once a company has assessed the extent of the gap between what will be important for the future and the current capability – then the next step is to create a ‘blueprint’ of how best to move forward. The final step is to get a senior executive buy-in and we find that the earlier senior people are involved, the more likely this is to take place.

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Times of India ND 23/02/2011 p21

Hands-off: This car reads mind & drives on its own

© Ralf Schuttheiss/Corbis

London: Imagine controlling your car by your thoughts only — for instance, you just think of a congestion-free route to office which your vehicle should take and bingo you are right there.

Your imagination is now a reality, thanks to German engineers who claim to have developed such an autonomous car whose speed and direction can be overridden by the driver's thoughts, the 'New Scientist' reported.

And people with disabilities that prevent them driving regular cars could experience driving by controlling at least some of the car's functions, too. The smart, semi-autonomous 'Volkswagen Passat' has been christened 'MadeInGermany'.

Using laser radars, microwave radars and stereo cameras, the car can perform 360-degree obstacle detection



● **SPEED OF THOUGHT:** German engineers claim to have developed an autonomous car whose speed and direction can be overridden by the driver's thoughts

and sense a car in front from its fenders up to 200 metres away, say its developers. In all respects, it's a state-of-the-art autonomous car fully capable of driving itself or interfacing with other interesting control systems like the iPad or iPhone.

To find out, the engineers at Free University of Berlin

got a volunteer to wear an off-the-shelf mind-control headset containing 16 electroencephalogram sensors. The system is supplied with a software development kit that allows users to train it to sense brainwave patterns indicative of certain thoughts — for applications like gaming and tweeting, for instance. ▶

Times of India ND

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'50m may become environmental refugees by 2020'

Washington: Fifty million "environmental refugees" will flood into the global north by 2020, fleeing food shortages sparked by climate change, experts warned at a major science conference that ended here on Monday.

"In 2020, the UN has projected that we will have 50 million environmental refugees," University of California, Los Angeles professor Cristina Tirado said at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

"When people are not living in sustainable conditions, they migrate," she continued, outlining with the other speakers how climate change is impacting both food security and food safety, or the amount of food available and the healthfulness of that food.

Southern Europe is already seeing a sharp increase in what has long been a slow but steady flow of migrants

Scientists say that climate change is impacting both food security and food safety, or the amount of food available and the healthfulness of that food

from Africa, many of whom risk their lives to cross the Strait of Gibraltar into Spain from Morocco or sail in makeshift vessels to Italy from Libya and Tunisia.

The flow recently grew to a flood after a month of protests in Tunisia, set off by food shortages and widespread unemployment and poverty, brought down the government of longtime ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, said Michigan State University professor Ewen Todd, who predicted there will be more of the same. **AFP**

Times of India ND 23/02/2011 p21

Flying the nest? Parents more likely to welcome back 'boomerang sons'

London: Parents are three times more likely to allow their adult sons to return to the family home than daughters, revealed a survey published this week. The "Flying the Nest" study showed that returning sons or "boomerang boys" are considered more obliging house guests than their sisters and that they easily wrap their mothers around their little fingers.

Sons are more likely to pay rent, lend a hand with the housework and accept parental advice on careers and love, compared with daughters who are regarded as lazier and less likely to contribute to the household, the survey discovered. More than half the mothers interviewed for the study were glad their sons had returned home, and only 18% acknowledged their



BOYS HAVE THE EDGE

boys had overstayed their welcome. The survey showed that 58% of mums admitted spoiling their sons, but only 35% gave their daughters the same treatment.

Mums are more inclined to cook dinner for their sons, wash and iron their clothes and provide a taxi

service. Sons also tend to be more frequent recipients of cash hand-outs. Four out of 10 parents admitted doling out money to their sons, averaging 624.18 pounds during a stay. However, although boys request cash more frequently, girls borrow more in total, averaging at about 689.61 pounds.

It's not surprising how much boys seem to get away with compared to girls when it comes to their parents," psychiatrist Avie Luthra said in a statement with the survey's results. The survey of 3,000 people over the age of 18 who are living at home and 1,500 parents hosting adult offspring was commissioned by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment to mark the DVD release of the film "Cyrus". REUTERS

Times of india b'lore 22.02.11 p-8

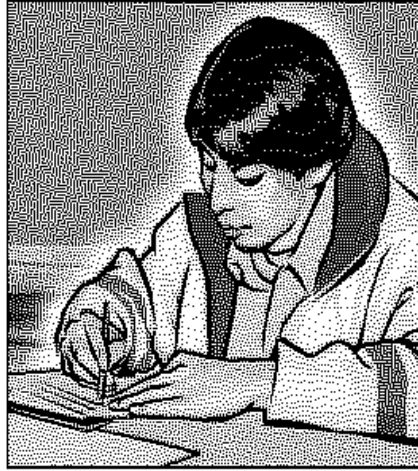
4L to appear for IIT-JEE

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: The directors and representatives of all the 17 IITs met at IIT-Kanpur here on Monday to discuss smooth conduct of the Joint Entrance Exam-2011 (JEE-2011), scheduled to be held on April 10.

After the meeting, IIT-Kanpur director S G Dhande briefed the reporters about this year's JEE which is being conducted by IIT-Kanpur. He said a total of 4,85,918 aspirants will take the prestigious exam, of which 1,13,942 are girls. "A total of 16,976 girls will take JEE in Roorkee zone alone followed by Kanpur zone where 16,770 have registered for the exam," said Dhande.

Stating that out of the total number of students



who would take the exam this year, 28% are girls. "This is fairly a good percentage as only 24% girls had participated in JEE last year. The Kanpur zone, which comprises Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, will witness 80,431 students participating in the exam to be held in two shifts — from 9 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 5 pm."

As against the 160 cen-

tres constituted during the last JEE in Kanpur zone, this year 173 centres would be set up across various cities in the zone. "This is due to the fact that a fairly large number of students will be writing the Joint Entrance Exam this year," Dhande added.

The director said with a view to accommodate more students in the JEE this year, a total of 1,051 centres would be set up in the country. He added that preparations for conducting the JEE were almost complete.

"After holding the JEE on April 10, we will prepare an information brochure containing details about the counselling schedule. The set scheduled will be followed till the complete process of JEE comes to an end," Dhande added.

'Will carve out education as a separate entity'



Q&A
NIKHIL GANDHI
 Chairman,
 SKIL Infrastructure

WE WILL INITIALLY OFFER A TWO-YEAR MBA programme. From the next year, we will offer a three-year bachelor of business administration programme as well. We are also planning to start a one-year executive MBA programme and, together with Strathclyde, will also look at engineering programmes

entity altogether. We are working on this, and will soon take a decision on the matter.

How did you zero in on Strathclyde University as your partner?

According to the joint initiative, Strathclyde will provide the academic inputs. It has been associated with education for 25 years, and has been involved in 10 countries. It also has accreditation from the three principal international accrediting bodies, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the European Quality Improvement System and the Association of MBAs (AMBA).

We will initially offer a two-year MBA programme. From the next year, we will offer a three-year bachelor of business administration programme as well. We are also planning to start a one-year executive MBA programme and, together with Strathclyde, will also look at engineering programmes.

Infrastructure company SKIL Infrastructure had, last year, forayed into the education sector by acquiring a stake of 22 per cent in Chennai-based Everonn Education. The company has now tied-up with UK-based University of Strathclyde to offer management education in the country.

Chairman Nikhil Gandhi, in an interview with Piyall Mandal, says that going forward, the company also plans to offer graduate programmes in management and engineering.

Excerpts:

What is the rationale behind venturing into the education sector?

Education has been my pas-

sion. We, as a group, have been trying to venture into this sector for long. We had bought a stake in Chennai-based Everonn Education and made significant investments in New Horizons, which offers training in IT, vocational and domain skills. Now, with the strategic alliance with Strathclyde Business School, we will be able to expand our horizons. Under the partnership with the University of Strathclyde, we will offer a two-year masters in management (MiM) programme from September 2011 at our campus in Greater Noida. We clearly see education as a sector critical to the country's growth in the next

10-20 years.

Does this mean you would be looking at more such partnerships?

Yes, we are looking at all kind of opportunities. We have on our board some of the best educationists, and they have been trying to help us chalk out a proper plan.

Are you planning an initial public offering? If so, would the proceeds be used for your education ventures?

Yes. We plan to raise about \$500 million (about ₹2,250 crore) through the IPO. We shall, in another four weeks, file the details of the IPO. About one-fifth

of the money raised through the IPO will be invested in our education ventures. We have already invested ₹450 crore in our educational ventures. Going forward, we plan to invest another ₹2,250 crore in the next three years. For the Strathclyde-SKIL B-school alone, we will spend ₹200 crore in the next two-and-a-half years. We are looking at various options to raise money, including private equity.

Are you planning to carve out education as a separate entity from your infrastructure arm?

Yes, we are planning to carve out education as a separate en-

HRD min, Plan panel agree on innovation universities

■ Bill to prepare ground for setting up 14 such varsities in 11th Plan period

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Feb 22

THE human resource development (HRD) ministry and the Planning Commission have agreed on the Universities for Innovation Bill that will prepare the ground for setting up 14 innovation universities by the end of the Plan period.

So far, the two had divergent views on the ways of establishing these varsities. The Bill has now been sent to the law ministry before it is finally placed before the Cabinet. Each innovation university will specialise in research, besides establishing a council that will act as a link with research-funding organisations, industry and civil society.

"There was a misunderstanding on the way innovation is to be approached and the method of setting up the varsities. Now the confusion is clear and these universities can be set up in three moulds," said an HRD ministry official.

The first approach is for new greenfield innovation universities focused on distinct issues of national importance and building various disciplines and fields of research around such issues. Under the second approach, a few of the existing uni-

BACK TO SCHOOL

■ Each innovation university will specialise in research, besides establishing a council that will act as a link with research-funding organisations, industry and civil society

■ First approach is for new greenfield innovation universities focused on distinct issues of national importance and building various disciplines and fields of research around such issues

■ Under the second approach, a few of the existing universities and other institutions of repute will be identified after which they would be encouraged to attain world-class standards

■ Next is to identify educational hubs where universities of excellence by national standards are located, and then create architecture by building synergies for inter-disciplinarity and research and teaching

■ The National Development Council had approved setting up of 14 universities aiming at world-class standards and dedicated to innovation across the 11th and 12th Plan period



Kapil Sibal, HRD minister

versities and other institutions of repute will be identified after which they would be encouraged to attain world-class standards through innovation in chosen areas of knowledge with marginal top-up investment.

The third approach is that of identifying a few educational hubs or cities where a few institutions and universities of excellence by national standards are located, and creating the architecture of an innovation university by building synergies for inter-disciplinarity and research and teaching among

such institutions.

"Foreign universities can also set up or participate in setting up these universities and also the private sector. This Bill will allow existing varsities to reach a certain level of excellence," the official added.

The National Development Council of the Planning Commission had approved the setting up of the 14 universities aiming at world-class standards and dedicated to innovation across the 11th and 12th Plan period. These universities are proposed to be located in Orissa,

Kerala, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, among others.

Significantly, these institutions will have the option of appointing professors by invitation—something that has never happened in any Indian varsity before. This means these institutions can appoint any person of high academic distinction and professional attainment as a professor or an assistant professor by invitation. Similarly, they will be able to appoint any graduate with academic distinction for research as an assistant professor.

Financial Express ND 23/02/2011 P10

EDUCATION SECTOR

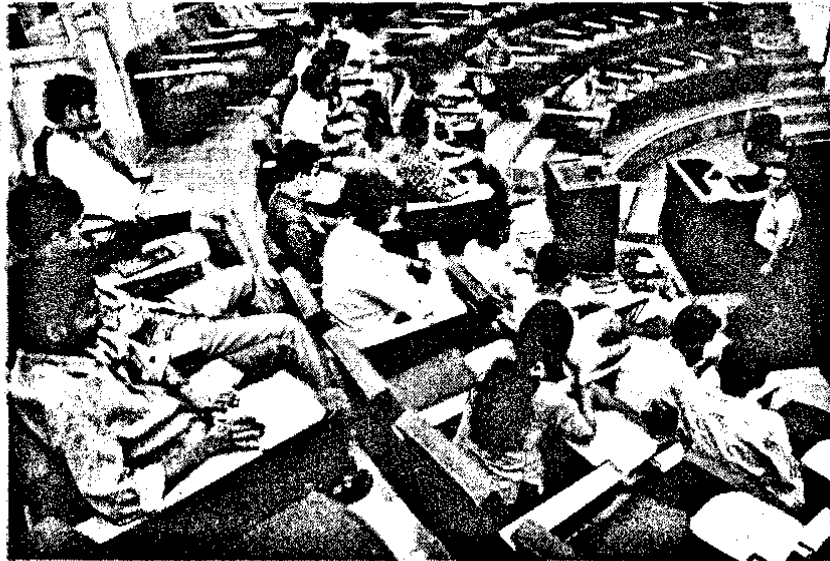
Creating education cities can boost overall quality

Sharing common infrastructure by multiple agencies lowers the costs and also help boost capacities

Bharat Gulia

FOR India, which has the largest young population in the world, the education sector is a key priority. While the implementation of the Right to Education Act would attempt to plug the gaps in school education, improvement in higher education is still a pending matter of concern. Just about 13% of Indians in the eligible age actually undergo any form of higher education as compared to about 24% of the Chinese and more than 70% of the eligible Americans. If we need to increase this to 20% by 2020, India needs to invest a whopping Rs 360,000 crores to create additional infrastructure. At the same time, there is also an urgent need to improve the quality of higher education institutes which is evidenced by the fact that we have more higher education institutes than any other country in the world, however just 2 or 3 of them ever feature in the top 500 global rankings.

It is in this light that India needs to seriously consider creating education cities as a tool to provide a fillip to the higher education segment. Across the world, countries are developing education cities to attract leading education institutes, cater to the needs of domestic students as well as to draw international students. In the Middle-east, impressive education cities are coming up in Qatar and Dubai. Similar education cities have come up in Korea, Australia and Singapore as well. These cities aim to provide a facilitating environment for educational institutes to set-up, thereby attracting best-in-class institutes from across the world.



THEY ATTRACT LEADING EDUCATION INSTITUTES, CATER TO THE NEEDS OF DOMESTIC STUDENTS AS WELL AS DRAW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Creating such education cities in India can have significant benefits. Firstly, an education city allows multiple education institutes to share common infrastructure, thereby significantly reducing the investment incurred to create additional capacity. Secondly, new players and international universities seeking to enter the country face significant challenges in finding good locations and acquiring land at economically feasible prices. Developed education cities could be suitable locations for these players and attract them in large numbers. Thirdly, our higher education system suffers from a number of unconnected institutes and unidisciplinary centres of excellence. With an education city playing host to multiple institutes within a large super campus, multidisciplinary studies and collaborative research could receive a

significant boost.

Fourthly, as India seeks to emerge as an economic superpower it needs to build on its strength in the area of knowledge industries. Internationally it has been seen that education clusters double up as centres of excellence in research and significantly spur entrepreneurial activity in knowledge industries. Education cities could emerge as a way for us to re-create multiple 'Silicon Valleys' across India.

Till now there have been limited efforts to develop education cities in India. The few education cities that are being developed by private developers and state governments have largely been limited in size, unimaginative in scope and constrained by lack of regulatory support. Development of education cities is one of the most powerful tools that have emerged in the last few years for governments to transform a country's education landscape. India must seriously consider building on this idea as it sets to radically upgrade its higher education system.

The writer is senior manager, education practice, Ernst & Young. The views are personal

Business Line ND

23/02/2011

p-4

Over 4 lakh to take IIT entrance

Kanpur, Feb. 22

Over 4.5 lakh students from across the country will appear for the IIT-JEE examination scheduled to be held on April 10. Examinations will be held at 1,051 centres in which a total of 4,85,917 candidates will appear. This year, IIT-Kanpur will conduct the examination, an official release said. There has been an increase in the number of girl candidates this year with 28 per cent girls set to write the test as compared 24 per cent last year. While 3,71,975 male candidates will take the test, a total of 1,13,942 female candidates will appear in the examination. This year the maximum number of female candidates totalling 20,546 belong to the Madras zone, while least number of female candidates totalling 10,555 come from the Guwahati zone. A total of 185 centres, the maximum, this year have been allotted to the candidates of Mumbai zone, with only 117 centres allotted to the Guwahati zone, the least this year. While IIT-Kanpur and -Madras have been allotted a total of 173 and 156 centres, IIT-Delhi and -Roorkee have been allotted 142 and 132 centres. No changes have been made to the question-paper pattern, course curriculum, examination pattern and verification process, a statement released by IIT Director Professor Sanjay Govind Dhande said. Meanwhile, a high-level meeting attended by directors and officials of IITs was held on Monday at IIT-Kanpur to take stock of the examination process. — PTI

Financial Chronicle ND 23/02/2011

p-10

GRE takers in India rise by 10% in 2010

Test volumes jump over 700,000 worldwide: ETS

SREERUPA MITRA

Kolkata

THE NUMBER of students appearing for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is rising steadily not only globally but also in India. This can be attributed to the fact that an increasing number of business schools and graduate institutes are accepting this score for admission. According to Educational Testing Service (ETS), which conducts the GRE exams globally, during 2010, the test volumes have jumped by over 700,000 worldwide, a 5 per cent increase over the 2009 numbers.

"The growth we are seeing is further enhanced by the many business and graduate school programmes worldwide that are now choosing to accept the GRE General Test for admissions," said David G. Payne, VP and COO of the higher education division at ETS. "We expect continued growth in 2011 as students and institutions look to the GRE programme to provide an even more diverse applicant pool, and unmatched



GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE: GRE General Test volume has seen significant growth in China and India

value."

Giving an Indian perspective, Vinayak Kudva, product head at IMS Learning Resources, said the number of candidates appearing for the GRE test in the country is also rising by 5-10 per cent year-on-year. In 2009, about 55,000 students took GRE exams in India and last year the numbers rose by about 10 per cent," he added.

That's not all. Come August 2011 and GRE will be introducing a new test pat-

tern and according to Kudva, once this new set of patterns are introduced, a greater number of colleges, both management schools as well as graduate institutions, will accept and recognise this score, thereby leading to an increase in the number of candidates opting for this exam.

According to ETS, the GRE General Test volume has seen significant growth in China and India, as well as solid growth in Europe, Africa and other regions

around the world. "GRE test takers represent more diverse cultural, ethnic and academic backgrounds than ever before, attracting those institutions looking for a broad and highly qualified applicant pool," said Payne of ETS.

With thousands of graduate and business programs worldwide now accepting GRE scores for admissions, students are taking the GRE General Test to satisfy both business and graduate school application requirements for institutions worldwide.

Ajay Arora, director of the Triumphant Institute of Management Education (TIME) said that the rise is mostly due to the global meltdown of 2008, which saw both the 'GRE and GMAT numbers take a huge hit. "It's true that once the new format is implemented, the number of colleges accepting GRE scores will also increase. However, the main driver for students taking the exam will be the economic situation in the US and the employment trends globally," he pointed out.

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Financial Chronicle ND

23/02/2011 p-10



4.5 lakh to take IIT-JEE

Over 4.5 lakh students from across the country will appear for the IIT-JEE exam scheduled to be held on April 10.

Hindu, ND 23-Feb-11 P-7

Over 4.8 lakh students to take IIT-JEE this year

KANPUR: Over 4.8 lakh students from across the country will appear for the IIT-JEE examination scheduled to be held on April 10.

Examinations will be held at 1,051 centres across the country in which a total of 485,917 candidates will appear.

This year IIT-Kanpur has been given the responsibility to conduct the examination across the country, an official

release said.

There has been an increase in the number of girl candidates this year with 28 per cent girls set to write the test as compared 24 per cent last year.

While 371,975 male candidates will take the test, a total of 113,942 female candidates will appear in the examination.

This year the maximum number of female candidates

totalling 20,546 belong to the Madras zone, while the least number of females totalling 10,555 come from the Guwahati zone.

Maximum centres

A total of 185 centres, the maximum this year, have been allotted to the candidates of the Mumbai zone with only 117 centres allotted to the Guwahati zone, the least this year.

While IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Madras have been allotted a total of 173 and 156 centres, IIT-Delhi and Roorkee have been allotted 142 and 132 centres respectively.

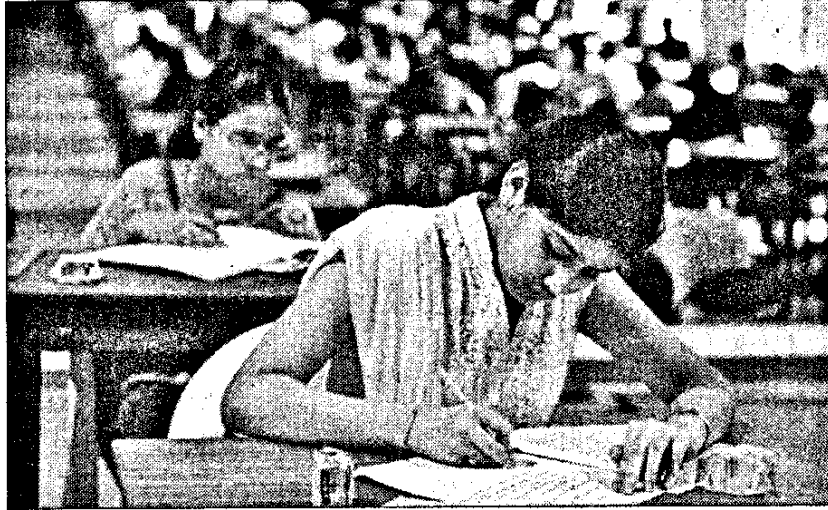
No changes have been made to the question paper pattern, course curriculum, examination pattern and verification process, a statement released by IIT Director Prof Sanjay Govind Dhande said. - PTI

आईआईटी इंट्रेंस में होंगी 28 फीसदी छात्राएं

■ विराट न्यूज।

कानपुर। आईआईटी संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा में इस वर्ष देश भर के चार लाख 85 हजार 917 छात्र छात्राएं बैठेंगे। आगामी 10 अप्रैल को देश के विभिन्न प्रदेशों के 1051 केन्द्रों पर होने वाली परीक्षा करने की जिम्मेदारी इस बार आईआईटी कानपुर को सौंपी गई है।

इस बार आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा में बैठने वाली छात्राओं का प्रतिशत 28 है, जबकि पिछले वर्ष आयोजित परीक्षा में 24 प्रतिशत था। इस बार प्रवेश परीक्षा में तीन लाख 71 हजार 975 छात्र तथा एक लाख 13 हजार 942 छात्र छात्राएं बैठेंगी। इस दफा सबसे ज्यादा 20 हजार 546 छात्राएं मद्रास जोन से परीक्षा में शामिल हो रही है, जबकि सबसे कम छात्राएं आईआईटी गुवाहाटी जोन से



10 हजार 555 इस प्रवेश परीक्षा में शामिल हो रही है।

आईआईटी कानपुर द्वारा जारी एक बयान के अनुसार, इस बार की प्रवेश

परीक्षा में सर्वाधिक 185 परीक्षा केन्द्र आईआईटी मुंबई जोन के छात्र छात्राओं के लिए बनाए गए हैं, जबकि सबसे कम 117 परीक्षा केन्द्र

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी जोन के लिए केन्द्र बनाए गए हैं।

आईआईटी कानपुर जोन के लिए 173, आईआईटी मद्रास जोन में

156 परीक्षा केन्द्र, आईआईटी दिल्ली जोन के लिए 146 परीक्षा केन्द्र, आईआईटी खड़गपुर जोन के लिए 142 तथा आईआईटी रूड़की के लिए 132 परीक्षा केन्द्र बनाए गए हैं। आईआईटी के निदेशक प्रो संजय गोविंद धांडे द्वारा जारी बयान के अनुसार आईआईटी-जेईई प्रश्नपत्र, पाठ्यक्रम, परीक्षा पद्धति, समय तथा सत्यापन किसी भी व्यवस्था में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है।

आईआईटी कानपुर द्वारा जारी बयान के अनुसार संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए 10 अप्रैल की तिथि निर्धारित की गई है और यह प्रवेश परीक्षा देश के विभिन्न 1051 परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर एक साथ होगी। परीक्षा की तैयारियों के सिलसिले में आई आई टी कानपुर में एक उच्च स्तरीय बैठक भी आयोजित की गई, आईआईटी के निदेशकों और अधिकारियों ने हिस्सा लिया। ■