

Newspaper Clips

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National teacher's mission soon to address key challenges, says HRD Minister

Indo Asian News Service

New Delhi, Feb. 7

Stressing that the quality of education in the nation's schools and colleges rested on sound teaching, Human Resource Development Minister M.M. Pallam Raju on Thursday said the Government would soon launch a national teacher's mission.

"Even with tremendous advances in technology, good teachers are needed to provide quality education," Raju said, addressing the One Globe Education Summit, focusing on South Asia, in the national capital.

"In view of the tremendous need for good teachers, we will

undertake a national teacher's mission to address all issues related to teachers in a holistic manner, at all levels," the Minister said.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

Ministry officials explained that the mission would look at teacher education in a holistic manner and in a single continuum, covering school to university. It would suggest ways to strengthen institutional mechanisms at all levels, so that there are vertical and lateral linkages that could serve the community of teachers.

The Minister said that while



M.M. Pallam Raju

the 11th Plan focused on building infrastructure, the 12th

Plan was dedicated to improving the quality of education.

"During the 11th Plan, large-scale work on expansion had taken place, building new institutions for higher learning," Raju said, adding that it helped in taking the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) "from 10 per cent to 15 per cent".

"In the 12th Plan, we will be focusing on the quality of the outcomes. During the 12th Plan, it is proposed to create additional enrolment capacity of 10 million students, including a million in open and distant learning. We need to ensure access to quality education to all," he said.

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P-5

जेईई (मुख्य) के फॉर्म में आज से करें सुधार

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

एक और मौका

आईआईटी, एनआईटी व देश के प्रमुख इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए होने वाली संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (मुख्य) 2013 के फॉर्म में सुधार करने के लिए सीबीएसई ने छात्रों को एक बार फिर से मौका दिया है। छात्र आठ से 14 फरवरी के बीच फॉर्म भरते वक्त हुई गलतियों को सुधार सकते हैं।

ऑनलाइन के जरिए छात्र अपने नाम से लेकर डीडी नंबर तक को सही कर सकते हैं लेकिन बता दें कि अगर उम्मीदवार को अतिरिक्त राशि देने की आवश्यकता पड़ती है तो राशि का बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से 18 फरवरी तक जेईई के कार्यालय में पहुंचना जरूरी है।

सुधार करने वाले छात्रों को नया पावती पत्र मिलेगा। जेईई की वेबसाइट पर लॉग इन करने के बाद पावती पत्र प्रिंट का विकल्प आएगा जहां पंजीकरण, जन्म तिथि की जानकारी देने के बाद पावती पत्र प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। गौरतलब है कि इससे पहले जेईई के फॉर्म में ऑनलाइन माध्यम से सुधार करने का मौका 15 से 24 जनवरी के बीच दिया गया था। अतिरिक्त राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तारीख 31 जनवरी थी।

- आठ फरवरी से 14 फरवरी तक फॉर्म की गलती सुधार सकते हैं ;
- ऑनलाइन के जरिए नाम, पता डीडी नंबर आदि बदल सकेंगे, परीक्षा केंद्र नहीं बदला जा सकता

ऐसे करें सुधार

गलती सुधारने के लिए उम्मीदवार जेईई-2013 की वेबसाइट www.jeemain.nic.in पर लॉग इन करें। यहां पुराने फॉर्म का रजिस्ट्रेशन नंबर, उम्मीदवार का नाम, माता का नाम, जन्म तिथि, डाक का पता, हस्ताक्षर, अभिभावक का हस्ताक्षर, अंगूठे के निशान आदि में सुधार किया जा सकता है।

दिवक्त आने पर लें

हेल्पलाइन की मदद

जेईई (मुख्य) परीक्षा के फॉर्म में सुधार के दौरान यदि किसी तरह की परेशानी होती है तो छात्र जेईई यूनिट की ओर से जारी हेल्पलाइन 8506061071 पर कॉल कर सकते हैं। यह हेल्पलाइन फॉर्म में सुधार करने वाले तमाम छात्रों की सभी परेशानियों को दूर करेगी।

This year, one in four IIT-B grads keeps off jobs race to set up own venture

Nivedita Ganguly
Deepa Nair
Mumbai, Feb. 7

Bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, young IITians are planning to set up their own ventures. From a few adventurous ones who dared to step off the placement mainstream, the breed has expanded, and premier institutions are now encouraging it too.

"Around 25 per cent of the students did not sit for placements this year. Some may be looking to become entrepreneurs and start their own ventures," said S.K. Mehta, Assistant Placement Officer, IIT-B. While some students start off on their maiden ventures immediately after passing out of IITs, for many, the

foundation is laid during their IIT days. Vivek Arya took off in his third-year at IIT-Bombay, when he started a simulation-based learning company. Though the venture couldn't take off, it gave him the entrepreneurial experience. "The experience gave us a fair idea about entrepreneurship. It was then that I decided to start my own company," said Arya, who started Makesense, a recruitment consultancy, along with two fellow IITians.

"We later launched a new software CareerOpener, which uses technology for intelligent sorting of resumes, beyond just keyword searches for recruiters," he added.

Pratham Jahoorkar, an IITian, gave up his high-paying,

comfortable job in New York to come back to India and start his own venture in financial services. "Sometimes you hit a wall and find yourself stuck in a cosy space. I wanted to push myself to do something different," says Jahoorkar, who has created a platform that connects buyers and sellers for transactions.

Many of these start-ups have gone through IIT-Bombay's entrepreneurship cell (E-cell). "E-cell plays the role of a connector in the ecosystem. It connects start-ups, incubators, angel investors and industry," said Ayush Agrawal, overall coordinator, E-Cell, IIT-Bombay.

Similarly, IIT-Madras has an incubation centre that provides support to budding en-

trepreneurs. "There is a 20-25 per cent year-on-year growth in the number of students getting into entrepreneurship. In fact, IIT-Madras' incubation centre is 100 per cent full this year," said Narayanan Ramaswamy, Head of Education Practice, KPMG.

ATTRACTIVE SECTORS

Sectors attracting budding entrepreneurs are technology start-ups, Web-based start-ups, education services and social media sector. "These sectors are not capital intensive and thus, require less time to break even," Ramaswamy added.

nivedita.ganguly@thehindu.co.in
deepa.nair@thehindu.co.in

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Here's Rex: World's first bionic man is worth \$1m

Created With Synthetic Blood, Organs & Tissues

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: Man has once again played God.

The world's first bionic man Rex, created using nearly \$1 million-worth of state-of-the-art limbs and organs — synthetic blood from Sheffield University, prosthetic legs and ankle from MIT, retinas from Oxford University, artificial kidneys, pancreas and spleens from University College London and artificial lungs from Swansea was unveiled at London's Science Museum on Thursday.

A mixture of Robocop and Frankenstein, Rex — who has the face of a man is 6.5-foot tall with striking brown eyes.

He was jointly built with the help of over 18 companies and universities and for the first time gives tangible hope that replacing body parts with man-made alternatives can finally be possible.

Rex, the work of by UK roboticists Richard Walker and Matthew Godden with the support of the Wellcome Trust, will be displayed at London's Science Museum from February 7-March 11.

In the two centuries since Mary Shelley's Dr Frankenstein brought a 'monster' to life, the subject has fascinated science fiction in books, comics, film and TV.

Now research on advanced prosthetic arms and legs, as well as artificial eyes, hearts, lungs — and



PLAYING GOD: Bertolt Meyer, a lifelong user of prosthetic technology, with 'Rex', the world's first 'bionic man'. Meyer is the model for the humanoid

even hybrids between computer chips and living brains — means that scientists are finally able to replace body parts and even improve on human abilities.

The project involves Bertolt Meyer, a social psychologist from

Switzerland who has a bionic hand himself. He met scientists working at the cutting edge of research to find out just how far this new technology can go.

"I've looked around for new bionic technologies for a very long time and I think that until six years ago nothing much was happening. And then suddenly now we get this explosion of innovation," says Bertolt. "I think we are now at a point where we can build a body that is great and beautiful in its own special way."

Bertolt has had prosthetic hands since he was a child. His new £30,000 bionic hand, which can grasp and twist, is the most advanced on the market. But technology is moving so fast that Bertolt's bionic hand could soon be obsolete.

A far more advanced arm is being developed, the product of more than \$100 million-worth of research into bionic limbs, funded by the US military.

Bertolt visited Michael McLoughlin at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory to try out the latest prototype — the Modular Prosthetic Limb (MPL). The arm is controlled by tiny electrical pulses given out by muscles in the upper arm.

Bertolt spent months learning how to control his own bionic hand, but this new limb teaches itself to recognize his electrical pulses in minutes.

Cheating More Rampant in Indian Educational Institutes Than Abroad

The Harvard incident serves a grim reminder of the growing menace of cheating in India

DEVINA SENGUPTA
BANGALORE

Harvard University may have made news for a seemingly wrong reason when its administration recently reported a mass cheating scandal, but to its Indian counterparts the incident served as a grim reminder of a growing menace at home.

Officials at universities across the country admit that cheating is rampant during entrance exams for medical and engineering courses and that even the elite institutions need to devise ever newer means to check the culprits. With students getting increasing access to technology and Indian universities introducing more writing assignments at higher education level to be completed at home, there is greater threat than ever of plagiarism.

Indian institutions are, however, increasingly addressing this challenge, officials say, adding that hundreds of students are debarred from the entrance tests or term papers for using unethical means to scrape through.

"Cheating is quite rampant in medical tests and every year 5-20 cases are reported just in Karnataka. There would be thousands across India and cases of cheating in nursing examinations are even higher than in medical," said Chikkananjappa, president of Karnataka Medical Council and syndicate member of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences. On Tuesday, he said, four second-year students were caught cheating by using Bluetooth in a college at Gulbarga in Karnataka.

"Cheating is not as rampant abroad as in India," said computer security consultant Ankit Fadia, who wrote a book on ethical hacking when he was just 15. "In colleges like Stanford, there are never any invigilators and for any doubt one can ask the professor who will be standing outside," said Fadia, who did a bachelor's programme at Stanford. Students are deterred from cheating at US universities because of the superior technology used to detect any malpractice, he said, explaining that some of these include software that can spot whether a portion of the assignment has been copied from

Cheat Code

WITH STUDENTS getting increasing access to technology and Indian universities introducing more writing assignments at higher education level to be completed at home, there is greater threat than ever of plagiarism

RECENTLY, A second-year student was caught cheating by using Bluetooth in a college at Gulbarga in Karnataka

ALONG WITH stricter invigilation, institutes rely on software and tools that can detect copied portions in reports and computer programmes



somewhere else. "The college would also keep assignments and papers submitted by seniors so that any similarity with those given by the present batch can be detected," he said.

Sankarshan Basu, professor of finance and control at Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore, said the B-school made rules against unethical practices stricter last year, marking students fail in the entire subject instead of giving them zero score on a particular test. "We realised that a zero in one test may not deter them like failing the entire subject would," Basu said. Further, in cases where assignments done by a group show sign of malpractice, then the entire group fails in the subject.

"Cheating was always there among students but now with advanced technology the temptation to cheat is even more," said SK Gupta, professor in chemical engineering department and dean of student affairs at IIT Delhi. "Not only do failing students try to cheat to pass, even good students cheat to compete and get better grade. In a year, we have about four-five reported cases of cheating that are taken up with the institute's disciplinary committee."

Last year, when a student from IIT Delhi's physics lab course was caught carrying a mobile phone, in which he had stored data and carried it to examination hall, he was given W (withdrawal) grade in all courses in the semester and failed in that semester.

Gupta said that while there are numerous instances of students caught cheating, such cases are mostly sorted out within the examination hall by the teachers or invigilators imposing a penalty in terms of negative marking or some such punishment. The punishment depends on the severity of the case and can lead to expulsion for a period of six months to two years, he said.

"As you go higher up the ladder in terms of degrees, one is given more assignments and take-home projects and hence there is scope of more element of cheating," said Prof Suneet Tuli, dean, industrial research and development at IIT Delhi. "At higher level, it takes place in research papers. There are software that can automatically scan and bring out the paragraphs or portions that have been taken out of somewhere. As a reviewer, we can have access to such tools."

IIT Bombay recently appointed a

committee to enforce ethical conduct among students. "It is more of an internal housekeeping exercise to put forward some (ethical) norms and reinforce certain others," said Narayan Rangaraj, professor of industrial engineering and operations research programme. The institute also has software and tools to keep checks on content that is being evaluated for possible copying and plagiarism.

Experts say cheating stems from a deeper problem. "There is a general casualness about education and it is in our DNA to be result-oriented and not look at the process," said Gouri Dange, Pune-based psychologist and family counsellor. Recounting instances of how worried parents often ask her to help their child with their statements of purpose for colleges, she said, "Often students who have scaled on their parents back forever grapple when they are out on their own."

Prof Roshan L Raina, dean for planning and development at IIM Lucknow, has found out a way to tackle the issue by stressing that there are no right or wrong answers to the assignments he gives out. "Explaining this way helps develop a chord with students and works better than penalising them. Cheating home assignments, as it happened at Harvard, raises questions on ethics and values," he said. Like many other institutes, IIM Lucknow sets up committees when each case is reported and although it does not impose blanket bans it has barred students from the term or placements for using unethical means.

Debarring a student from placement at management schools is sure way to instill fear, said Prof Chowdari Prasad, dean (branding & promotions) at the Manipal-based TA Pai Management Institute. The college had to deal with such a case last in 2011. "Students come for management programmes keeping placements to dream companies in mind and if debarred from that, their educational loans and two years in college are wasted," said Prasad.

(Additional reporting by Rica Bhattacharyya in Mumbai)

devina.sengupta@timesgroup.com