

Newspaper Clips

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January 1

Hari Bhumi ND 1/01/2013

P-6

पर्यावरण संरक्षण की राह पर आईआईटी

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

पर्यावरण संरक्षण को लेकर देश में केवल पर्यावरण मंत्रालय और इससे जुड़े विभाग ही सतर्क नहीं हैं। बल्कि अब देश के प्रमुख प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) ने इस दिशा में गंभीरता से काम करने का मन बनाया है। इसके लिए आगामी सात जनवरी को होने वाली आईआईटी क्राउंसिल की बैठक में ग्रीन ऑडिट नामक एक प्रस्ताव मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की मंजूरी के लिए पेश किया जाएगा।

आईआईटी अपने सभी 16 संस्थानों में अनिवार्य रूप से इस योजना को लागू करवाना चाहती हैं। अभी 13 संस्थान इसे लेकर सहमत हैं। ऑडिट में पर्यावरण संरक्षण और इसे हरा-भरा बनाए रखने के लिए सभी को कुछ न कुछ कदम उठाने होंगे। मसलन कोई बारिश के पानी को एकत्रित कर सकता है, कोई सूरज से मिलने वाली गर्म ऊर्जा को इकट्ठा करने के लिए सोलर पैनल लगा सकता है। कोई अपने कैम्पस में ग्रीन बिल्डिंग का निर्माण कर सकता है तो कोई पेड़-पौधों की संख्या में इजाफा कर सकता है।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 01/01/2013 P-6

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के प्रोजेक्ट पर हुआ रिसर्च हमारी आईआईटी ने बनाए शिक्षा के लिए रोबोट

भास्कर न्यूज़ | जोधपुर

आईआईटी राजस्थान ने शिक्षा के लिए रोबोट तैयार किए हैं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने यह प्रोजेक्ट हमारी आईआईटी को सौंपा था। प्रोजेक्ट पर रिसर्च करने के बाद आईआईटी की टीम ने लगभग पूरा काम कर लिया है। इसके साथ ही निशक्तजनों के लिए रोबोटिक चेयर का मॉडल भी तैयार कर लिया है।

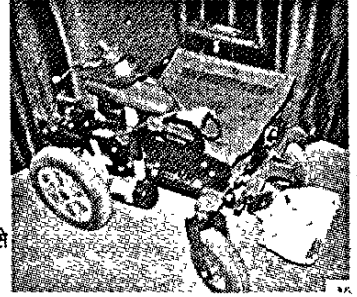
रोबोट तकनीकी की शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने वर्ष 2009 में आईआईटी राजस्थान का चयन किया था। इसके तहत आईआईटी को 155 लाख की सहायता देते हुए कम लागत के मोबाइल रोबोट विकसित करने थे। डॉ. दीपक फुलवानी के नेतृत्व में आईआईटी की टीम ने इस प्रोजेक्ट

को अंतिम रूप दे दिया है। इसके बाद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय शिक्षा के क्षेत्र रोबोट को उतारेगा।

मानव जैसे रोबोट भी बनेंगे: आईआईटी राजस्थान के मुताबिक रोबोटिक आज की समस्याओं को सुलझाने के साथ भविष्य में पीढ़ियों के लिए इस्तेमाल में लिए जाने वाली तकनीक साबित होगी। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में इसके उपयोग को ध्यान में रखते हुए अलग-अलग मॉडल तैयार किए गए हैं। आने वाले दिनों में आईआईटी की ओर से मानव की तरह दिखने वाले रोबोट भी बनाए जाएंगे। रोबोट के लिए आउटडोर प्लेटफार्म पर भी रिसर्च हो रही है। आईआईटी राजस्थान ने इस रिसर्च पर फिलहाल कुछ भी कहने से इनकार किया है। यह अलग बात है कि आईआईटी ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर इस रिसर्च और इसकी सफलता से जुड़े तथ्यों को अपलोड कर दिया है।

आवाज से चलेगी व्हीलचेयर

आईआईटी की टीम ने ऐसी हैडस फ्री व्हीलचेयर विकसित की है जो आवाज व चोहरे के भाव से कंट्रोल होगी। यह रिसर्च लकवा जैसी बीमारियों से पीड़ित लोगों को ध्यान में रखकर की गई है। इसे जॉय स्टीक से भी नियंत्रित किया जा सकेगा। इसमें लगे सेंसर व्हीलचेयर को उसी दिशा व स्थान पर ले जाएंगे, जहां इसे जाने के लिए कहा जाएगा।



Times of India ND 1/01/2013

P-4

DU changes system, JNU holds elections

For Delhi University, radical systemic change and innovative initiatives marked the start of the year, followed by a rollback of decisions in light of the reform chaos; protests raged towards the middle of the year, culminating in the 'Save DU' petition to the Prime Minister in the end.

The hub of higher education in the city saw all these and more during 2012. Tellingly, the first working day of the year saw the DU administration announcing its plans to replace its three-year degree programmes with a completely new four-year system from the 2013-14 academic session.

The year saw a series of protests by a section of teachers who alleged they had not been consulted while implementing the reforms. Twelve months hence, the DU administration is still bent on introducing the four-year-degree programme from July 2013; the proposed plan is with the 61-member taskforce and is yet to be approved by any of the statutory bodies of the university.

The university also witnessed one of the worst exam chaos as the administration introduced a policy of three teachers evaluating one answer sheet, dispensing with the re-evaluation system. Following protests by teachers and students, the uni-

versity finally decided against removing the provision for re-evaluation.

The year started with DU banking on ad-hoc teachers with as much as 40% of the permanent positions remaining vacant, and that's how 2013 will start as well.

For politically active JNU, the year started on a positive note with the Supreme Court lifting its stay on the students' union elections. In the election for the interim period in March, the once-formidable Students' Federation of India (SFI) faced its worst drubbing ever while ultra-left All India Students' Association recorded a clean sweep. SFI stalwarts were also expelled from the party for opposing Pranab Mukherjee's candidature in the presidential poll. However, by September, they formed a new party SFI-JNU and won the JNUSU president's post.

The year also saw the coming together of the four centrally funded institutions — Jamia Millia Islamia, DU, JNU and IIT — to launch the first meta-university. Though JNU and IIT decided to hold further deliberations before launching any programme, Jamia and DU went ahead and launched the first course in meta-university mode — mathematics in education.

Economic Times ND
01/01/2013 P-6

BITS Pilani Lines up New Research Focus

ANUMEHA CHATURVEDI
NEW DELHI

Much like its prestigious rival — the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) — Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS Pilani) has chalked out a plan to focus on gaining recognition as a research-driven institute.

“Over time, the IITs have grown in research and have transformed into research and innovation universities. We are also working to transform ourselves into a research-led university,” says professor Bijendra Nath Jain, vice chancellor of the institute.

Professor Jain says the institute has set growth targets towards the objective, which include a six-fold growth in the number of PhD students and a 200% growth in the number of post-graduate students over the next eight years. He adds the institute is also increasingly focusing on

growing sponsored research-led projects. “If we were securing Rs 5 crore for R&D funding two years ago, we are attempting to secure about Rs 15 crore today. I expect this to grow to about Rs 100-140 crore a year

by 2020. The most important way for us to secure funds is through competitive research funding and sponsored research projects,” he says.

BITS has also tied up with the University of Southern California for its R&D faculty members and is also looking at tying up with the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of San Diego. In the next year, the institute hopes to sponsor 10-12 R&D faculty members to travel to such universities and will also encourage the faculty members to spend their summer in the industry to bring back the issues and the knowledge gained to the BITS classrooms.

The institute has also undertaken a mission of benchmarking its undergraduate and post-graduate programmes among the best in the world, and had revamped the curriculum and pedagogy for the undergraduate programme in August 2011 towards that end, says professor Jain.

In the coming year, the institute hopes to expand the number of centres for its undergraduate BITSAT entrance exam to about 35 centres from 32 in 2012.

BITS has tied up with University of Southern California for exchange programmes for its R&D faculty members



EDUCATION

UGC NET: Whose 'eligibility' is at stake, after all?

RANA NAYAR

THE latest edition of the University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC NET) — held biannually — was conducted on Sunday. This may be a good time to question the rationale of this test. Over the years, the UGC has displayed callous disregard for ground realities, especially in the way in which the NET has been perceived or conceptualised, and is being conducted.

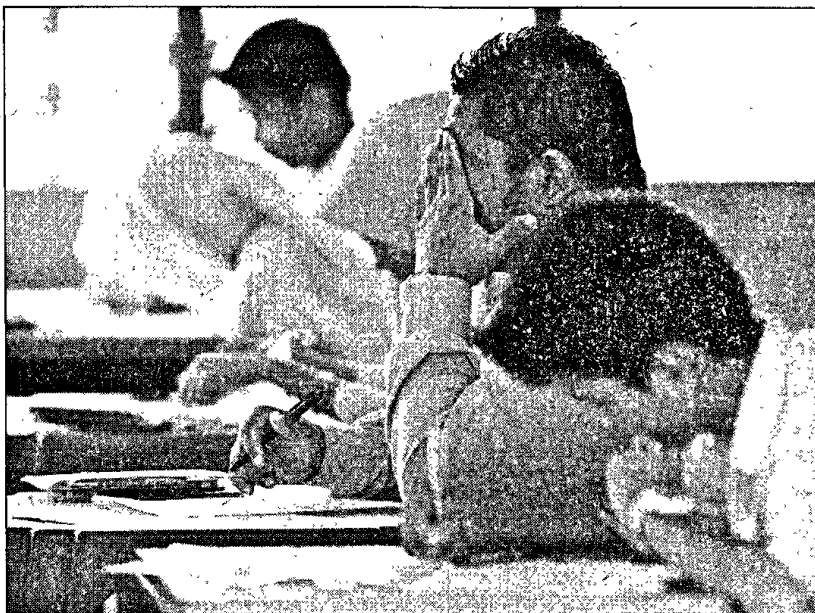
The mandarins in the UGC seem to be living in a fool's paradise if they think that by devising the NET, they have stumbled upon the ultimate antidote for everything that ails our system of higher education. So much is wrong with our modes of recruitment, right from the way interviews are prefixed or rigged to the bias against merit and so much more that it needs to be recast on priority.

How we need to replace our existing, archaic method of selecting/rejecting a candidate on the basis of a few 'stagey questions' with a more effective and practical mode of assessing him on the basis of his performance in an actual classroom situation is perhaps a matter for another article. Though there is no denying the fact that this exam is needed as a filter to identify the suitable candidates for lecturership, it is an equally important fact that its present design/model has made it into a poor, if not a completely porous and an ineffective, filter.

First of all, how did UGC mandarins come to this fallacious conclusion that Paper I, which is mainly 'a test of reasoning', should be made compulsory for all? Instead, wouldn't it have been much better if they had devised an aptitude test of some kind to evaluate the suitability of the candidates for the job? What we need to know is whether the candidates love teaching, and have the right kind of an attitude towards the students and are psychologically prepared to undertake the multiple challenges of teaching. By insisting upon 'a test of reasoning,' UGC mandarins have only displayed their own poverty, if not total bankruptcy of thought, which, in any case, is reflected in virtually every decision they take. There is a typical case of 'decide in hurry, and repent at leisure.'

The test of reasoning makes the entire process of selection/rejection of prospective teachers extremely mechanistic, and for that reason, very callous and inhuman. In fact, it is the absence of 'human agency' in most of the decisions of the UGC that often appalls one. For that reason, I make a strong plea for replacing the test of reasoning with a more humanistic idea of an 'aptitude test' to be prepared by some of the best psychologists in the country. Or we may also borrow a model for this purpose from the West. Don't we work with borrowed models in other matters, too?

Now that the UGC has introduced objective type in Paper III, there is no justification, whatsoever, for continuing with Paper II (which is again objective type). Tell me, how will you, in that case, effectively differentiate between Paper



In its present form, this particular examination has become a way of keeping a majority of the aspirants out of the charmed circle.

II and Paper III? So it's time to dispense with Paper II completely. Paper I, provided it is designed effectively, should be made the basis of elimination in the first round. Only in case of those candidates, Paper II (which should be the only objective type paper) be evaluated who manage to secure minimum 60 per cent marks in Paper I. Paper I should be of two hours duration and have 60 questions (which should be real brain teasers so that the candidates are made to think and reflect. Somehow, this factor of critical thinking is absent in the current dispensation), consisting of 120 marks.

While one may argue against the basic wisdom of introducing an objective type test at this level (given the nature of some subjects, especially in social sciences and languages), now that it is there, let's talk of how it could be improved upon. Paper II (objective type) should be of three hours duration and have 90 questions of two marks each, with a total of 180 marks. The total score in both the papers should not exceed 300. Only if a candidate secures 72 marks out of 120 (that is 60 per cent) in Paper I should his Paper II be evaluated and if he secures 55 per cent (which is the minimum eligibility condition for lecturership at the Masters level, too. After all, there has to be some internal consistency in the way in which we devise the minimum eligibility condition for lecturership), he should be declared pass in the NET.

In its present form, this particular examination has become a way of keeping majority of the aspirants out of the charmed circle, not a way of testing their eligibility. As a result, in most

of the cases, even good students (who manage to secure more than 60 per cent marks in their Masters) fail to qualify the NET. Are our mandarins in the UGC trying to tell us that our system of evaluation in the universities is so completely faulty that those who get more than 60 per cent in Masters don't actually deserve to clear the NET?

The idea is not to eliminate potentially good candidates but to sift the potential teachers from those who lack potential for teaching completely. Let us not make total mockery of the system. Let us not act in a whimsical and arbitrary manner (in which the rest of the system works in our country), and let us inject some element of 'human agency' into our callous and inhuman practices.

Let us be prepared to change our modes of evaluation. We can't fail our next generation just because we don't have the right kind of ideas or we are not prepared to try out new ideas. Let's be prepared for the overhaul and let's do it sensibly. Let us not become a laughing stock of all by merely flaunting our own poverty of thought.

If we make no efforts to bring about the necessary changes in the current model of the NET, then perhaps, it's not the candidates' but the 'eligibility' of the UGC itself that shall be at stake. Let us not forget that it is a body, tethering on the brink of collapse. Aren't there efforts afoot to replace it with the Knowledge Commission (of whatever kind)?

The writer is a Professor in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh

January 2

Hindustan ND 02/01/2013

P-1

कम आय वालों को फीस में पूरी छूट

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में अगले सत्र से आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्रों को फीस में पूरी तरह से छूट मिल सकती है। जिन अभिभावकों की वार्षिक आय साढ़े चार लाख रुपये से कम है, उन्हें आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर मानते हुए आईआईटी उनकी पूरी फीस माफ करने की तैयारी में हैं। ऐसे छात्रों के लिए नेशनल आईआईटी स्कॉलरशिप प्रोग्राम शुरू किया जाएगा।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री पल्लम राजू की अध्यक्षता में सात जनवरी को होने वाली आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव को अंतिम रूप दिए जाने की संभावना है। इसी बैठक में आईआईटी की फीस को 50 से बढ़ाकर 90 हजार किया जाना है। वैज्ञानिक डॉ. अनिल काकोडकर ने यह स्कॉलरशिप शुरू करने

आईआईटी प्रबंधन कर रहा तैयारी

● 5.5 हजार छात्रों की फीस माफ हो जाएगी नई योजना से। देश में स्थित करीब 15 आईआईटी में 12 हजार सीटें हैं।

● स्कॉलरशिप योजना में आईआईटी के एमटेक एवं पीएचडी के सभी छात्रों को भी शामिल किए जाने पर भी विचार

एआईसीटीई जारी कर चुका है यह आदेश

5% सीटों पर उन बच्चों की ट्यूशन फीस माफ करनी होगी, जिनके अभिभावक सालाना 4.5 लाख से कम कमाते हैं।

1.5 लाख छात्रों (निजी पेशेवर कॉलेजों में पढ़ने वाले) ने पिछले साल इस योजना का लाभ उठाया था

की सिफारिश की थी। इसमें अनुसूचित जातियों एवं जनजातियों के उम्मीदवारों को भी शामिल किया जाएगा। इसके अलावा 25 फीसदी सीटें उन छात्रों के लिए रखी जाएंगी जिनके अभिभावकों की वार्षिक आय साढ़े चार लाख रुपये से

कम है। इस प्रकार 47.5 फीसदी छात्रों को इस स्कॉलरशिप योजना के तहत लाया जाएगा। यह योजना लागू होती है तो फिर आईआईटी में सिर्फ 52.5 फीसदी छात्रों को ही पूरी फीस चुकानी होगी। अंतिम फैसला बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स को करना है।



आईआईटी केंद्रों में डिफेंस रिसर्च फैकल्टी स्थापित करने पर विचार

संजय सिंह/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। देश के सभी आईआईटी (भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान) परिसरों में रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में डिफेंस रिसर्च फैकल्टी स्थापित करने पर विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है। देश की रक्षा और सैन्य जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए विदेश पर निर्भरता खत्म करने को डीआरडीओ के रक्षा वैज्ञानिक और आईआईटी के छात्र अब मिल कर रक्षा और सैन्य संबंधी अप्लायड रिसर्च करेंगे।

इसलिए डीआरडीओ प्रमुख एवं रक्षा मंत्री के वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार डॉ. वीके सारस्वत की आईआईटी काउंसिल के साथ 7 जनवरी को एक बैठक का आयोजन किया गया है, जिसमें महत्वपूर्ण फैसले किए जाने की संभावना है। बैठक की अध्यक्षता केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री करेंगे।

मंत्रालय के आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि आईआईटी काउंसिल की इस

माह होने वाली बैठक में महत्वपूर्ण एजेंडा पर चर्चा होगी। काउंसिल की बैठक के बाद डीआरडीओ के प्रमुख डॉ. सारस्वत के साथ इस मुद्दे पर अलग से बैठक होगी। उनके साथ डीआरडीओ के कुछ और रक्षा वैज्ञानिक भी होंगे।

► डीआरडीओ के रक्षा वैज्ञानिक और आईआईटी के छात्र मिल कर करेंगे डिफेंस रिसर्च

► 7 जनवरी को आहूत आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक के बाद डीआरडीओ प्रमुख के साथ होगी महत्वपूर्ण बैठक

► बैठक में उनके साथ होंगे डीआरडीओ के कुछ और रक्षा वैज्ञानिक

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अधीन कार्यरत यह संगठन देश की तीनों सेनाओं की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए रक्षा उपकरण, सैन्य हथियार, अस्त्र-शस्त्र और जीवन रक्षक वस्तुओं का विकास और निर्माण करता

है। सरकार चाहती है कि इन सामानों के लिए विदेशी निर्भरता पूरी तरह खत्म हो। बैठक में इस बाबत महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिए जाने की पूरी संभावना है। ऐसे में रक्षा और सैन्य शोध को और धारदार व कारगर बनाने के लिए डीआरडीओ को देश की अकादमिक संस्थाओं के साथ मिल कर रिसर्च फैकल्टी खोलने की इजाजत दी गई है।

डीआरडीओ ने कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय के साथ मिल कर इसकी शुरुआत भी कर दी है, जहां विश्वविद्यालय डीआरडीओ के लिए 'हाई पावर माइक्रोवेव' को भविष्य का हथियार बनाने के मद्देनजर शोध कर रहा है।

हाल ही में डीआरडीओ ने आईआईटी, मद्रास के साथ मिल कर रिसर्च की शुरुआत की है, जहां डीआरडीओ ने एक अलग लैब की स्थापना भी कर दी है। बताया जाता है कि वहां मानवरहित युद्धक्षेत्र (अनमैन्ड बैटलफील्ड) से संबंधित चीजों पर रिसर्च किया जा रहा है।

इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की मदद करें आइआइटी

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : देश के सभी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में बेहतर पाठ्यक्रम और पढ़ाई के लिए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी) अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। लिहाजा, सभी आइआइटी को उनके नजदीक के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के संरक्षक (मेटोर) की भूमिका में लाया जाना चाहिए। प्रधानमंत्री की वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार परिषद के अध्यक्ष प्रो. सीएनआर राव ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को यह सलाह दी है। प्रो. राव का मानना है कि एक-एक आइआइटी को उनके नजदीक के कम से कम दस-दस इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में गुणवत्तापूर्ण पढ़ाई सुनिश्चित कराने की जिम्मेदारी दी जानी चाहिए। उससे उन कॉलेजों के

- ◆ पीएम की वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार परिषद के अध्यक्ष प्रो. राव का सुझाव
- ◆ दस-दस इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के संरक्षक बनें एक-एक आइआइटी

पाठ्यक्रम व पढ़ाई के स्तर में सुधार हो सकता है। देश में भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा व शोध संस्थान (आइआइएसआर) खोलने के अच्छे नतीजे आए हैं। लिहाजा, एक-एक आइआइएसआर पर भी पड़ोस के कम से कम पांच साइंस कॉलेजों का जिम्मा सौंप देना चाहिए। इससे सरकार पर कोई नया खर्च भी नहीं

आएगा। यह काम महज मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की पहल से हो सकता है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने देश में कम से कम तीन और आइआइएसआर खोलने पर जोर दिया है। सूत्रों की माने तो उन्होंने इस बाबत मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री को पत्र लिखा है। उन्होंने हवाला दिया है कि 1970 के दशक में इस तरह के प्रयोग किए गए थे। पूर्व में मंत्रालय भी इस पर सहमत रहा है। यह बात अलग है कि अब तक उसने इस दिशा में किया कुछ भी नहीं। अब इसकी अनदेखी नहीं की जानी चाहिए। प्रो. राव ने जरूरी नतीजों के लिए केंद्र को राज्यों के शिक्षा मंत्रियों के साथ हर तीन महीने में एक बैठक करने का भी सुझाव दिया है।

Hindu, ND 2/01/2013 p-7

Aakash-3 tablet is the next project for IIT-Bombay

Aarti Dhar

MUMBAI: Encouraged by the overwhelming response to Aakash-2 — India's low-cost device for higher education — the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay is already planning the next edition of the tablet that will work on a SIM. A global tender is expected to be put out next month for producing 50 lakh units of Aakash-3.

The proposed upgraded tablet will also have a faster processor, a higher memory capacity and will function on both the android operating system and Linux. The challenge now is to ensure that improved facilities do not in-

crease the price.

As of now, Aakash-2 is being purchased by the government at Rs. 2,263 per unit, while the price for students and institutions is Rs. 1,130. The Aakash-2 has been distributed to 250 engineering colleges across the country so far. The target is to train 1 lakh teachers once every college and institution gets the device. "Our ultimate aim is to imbibe the usage of tablets in the education system and create an ecosystem for this," said Deepak B. Phatak, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT-Bombay and member of the Standing Committee of the National Mission on Education

through Information and Communication Technology. Over 1 lakh tablets have already been procured by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for distribution to educational institutions.

According to Prof. Phatak, it was likely that there would be multiple vendors for the tablets instead of just one to deliver such a huge number.

"The companies that had scoffed at us when we had suggested a low cost device now want to be associated with it," Prof. Phatak said, adding that international companies such as Samsung and Intel, too, had shown keen interest in the project, in addition to several Indian manufacturers. Indian

manufacturing for such a project was a must, he explained.

Dismissing controversies over the use of Chinese components for the current version, Prof. Phatak explained that only a few countries such as China, Korea and Taiwan produced computer hardware and even American manufacturers used those components. "Where are Apple's iphone manufactures," he sought to know.

By providing a SIM card slot, Prof. Phatak said, the tablet could be converted into a communication device. "The dream is to increase tablet education usage in the country in the next 10 years," he said.

Get ready for the new JEE

Thoroughly revise CBSE syllabus and treat all topics as important

Anand Kumar

■ hteducation@hindustantimes.com

One thing that remains unchanged in the new Joint Entrance

Examination (JEE) is that an aspirant needs to have in-depth knowledge of all subjects. That is the key to success. By now, you would need to cover the full syllabus and get into revision mode by solving a lot of practice tests. You should prepare small notes related to important formulae and results.

Since Paper 1 of JEE Main is likely to be objective-type, the level of questions asked in physics, chemistry and mathematics is not likely to be very high. The emphasis will now be on what you have studied



in school because the syllabus for paper 1 of the new JEE will be based on the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum. The responsibility of setting questions will be on experts from the CBSE, though the team will also have professors from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Knowing the IITs, however, one can expect brain-teasers, which will require you to get your concepts clear for different subjects. The papers will test not only your knowledge, but your aptitude, speed as

well as accuracy. So, for excellence, a good command over subjects will be necessary.

Ensure that you revise the chapters given in the NCERT books first to be able to get your concepts clear. With school board marks also getting weightage, school teaching can really help. Regular practice of single-choice questions asked in previous examinations really helps. Make sure you understand what you are doing. Mere ticking of options may not be the right way. Attempting single-choice questions from previous

years' IIT-JEE will also help you crack paper 1.

Your focus should always be on getting your concepts clear and understanding the topics well. There are times when students try to be thorough only with important topics from the point of view of the JEE, but that is not the right way. Total focus on a particular topic can be problematic, as you never know which topic will have more questions. The best way is to give equal importance to all topics. For instance, a student who decides to skip probability and gives more importance to quadratic equation, can repent later. In the new JEE, it is difficult to ascertain what trend will be set.

Finally, confidence holds the key. And for building confidence, regular practice is the only way. Still, if you come across difficult questions while writing the exam, there is no need to get nervous. There may be a few questions that will be difficult for most candidates. Keep your confidence high, for cut-off in the JEE can really fluctuate.

The author is founder, Super 30

CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Consolidation continues in India's coaching industry

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

The consolidation in India's fragmented and unregulated test preparation industry continues with smaller local entities getting acquired by bigger ones. The latest is listed coaching company MT Educare Ltd acquiring a majority stake in Lakshya, a chain that prepares aspirants for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The trend has picked up largely because of three reasons—a change in education policy, the modification of exam formats and efforts by leading test-prep companies to expand their portfolio. For smaller companies it's a question of survival as a merger or partnership with a bigger entity allows them to be competitive in a changing environment.

In the last three years, the Common Admission Test (CAT) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) has gone online. The civil service exams have become more like CAT by adopting an aptitude test. In May, the government decided to give 40% weightage to school board marks in engineering college admissions.

The implementation of a single, online entrance system for selection into all engineering colleges including IITs has made it difficult for smaller coaching centres without the capability of delivering national-level tests. Adding to this is the stress on English language capability in both CAT and the civil service exams and the growth of a blended tutoring

format that combines elements of the classroom with distance education.

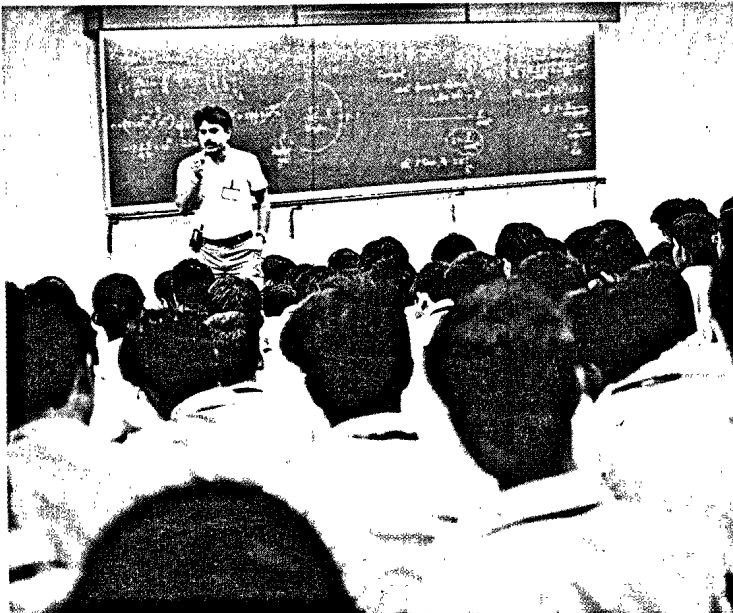
"The education scenario has changed and you just cannot have the same mindset you used to have seven or eight years back," said Satya Narayanan R., chairman of CL Educate (formerly Career Launcher), a leading coaching chain. "Now, all the key exams need expertise and not all have that. So consolidation is happening. People with different expertise are coming together to fulfil the demand."

CL Educate has made at least three acquisitions in the last five years, the most recent having been in December 2011, when it took over G.K. Publications, a Noida-based publisher of competitive exam books. The acquisition has helped CL expand distance-mode tutoring, in which books from the institute are an integral part. Before that it had acquired Arun Roy Classes, an IIT test-prep chain in Maharashtra, and Law School Tutorial in north India.

"Those who thought organized classroom tutoring is a choice in a postal tutoring era, missed out on market share," the CL Educate chairman said. "Now, those who are thinking classroom is the only mode will miss out too. You have to think of the digital mode too."

For instance, Brilliant Tutorials, once a market leader, is not as dominant. Brilliant uses the CL platform for classes in north and east India. The change in education policy makes it imperative for smaller companies like Lakshya to tie up with a bigger organization.

"MT is a leader in school preparation and we are for IIT-



Learning curve: The test-prep industry is becoming organized and some are now professionally run firms, say experts.

JEE (joint entrance examination)," said Vamsi Krishna, co-founder, Lakshya, started in 2006 by four IIT graduates and having built up a presence in Punjab. "With the change in education policy, joining hands (with MT) will provide complete training to aspirants—from schools to IIT."

The test-prep industry is becoming organized and some are now professionally run companies, he said.

Yagnesh Sanghrajka, chief financial officer of MT, de-

scribed their deal as a "backward-forward integration of business. Earlier, we were serving students for four years (in school board preparation) and now they will stay with us for seven to eight years".

If a coaching institute has a good reputation in school preparation, their students will feel comfortable staying with it when he or she seeks to get into engineering or medical school, said Dilip Nayak, a Class 11 student in south Delhi. "I don't understand their

business but for a student it's more about trust and comfort," he said.

A school education system that's patchy in quality and unable to keep up with growing aspirations among Indians will fuel growth in the coaching industry, according to experts and the industry.

The tutorial business is expected to grow to ₹75,629 crore in 2014-15 from ₹40,187 crore in 2010-11, according to a Crisil Research report.

Sensing that the business

was set to expand, Educomp Solutions Ltd acquired Vidya-mandir Classes in 2010 and Triumphant Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd (TIME) took a majority stake in Veta, an English language training chain in south India.

The acquisition made Educomp a complete education company catering to students from school to higher education and finally the job market. For TIME, the acquisition was aimed at making its MBA coaching more robust.

"India is a young country and the demand for education will grow. So it's natural that coaching as a sub segment will grow," said Soumya Kanti, chief executive of Educomp Global at Educomp Solutions. "We as an education company want to get involved with students from pre-school to getting job ready."

While some are already part of the consolidation process, other leading names are looking to see whether there are any opportunities.

"The coaching industry is now getting corporatized. Consolidation is a sign of maturity," said Aakash Chaudhry, director, Aakash Educational Services, a leading engineering and medical tutorial chain. "Like any other sector, it's now passing through a critical phase that's good for students."

As Aakash seeks to expand its base from north to south India, it too is ready to "shake hands" with regional players. "We will like vertical integration—if we are in the undergraduate space, maybe we would go for synergy in the postgraduation space."

TIME said in an email that while the company is achieving "credible organic growth", it too is "actively pursuing acquisition opportunities in the field of education and training".

Israel grants scholarships to 66 Indian scholars

Each awardee to receive about ₹14.7 lakh a year for three years

Vandana Ramnani

■ vandana.ramnani@hindustantimes.com

As many as 66 Indian postdoctoral scholars will travel to Israel in the coming months to pursue research at top universities. The researchers will benefit from three-year scholarships granted by the government of Israel.

In the framework of the scholarship programme, fellows from IIT Delhi, Osmania University, universities in Delhi, Lucknow, Kolkata, Mumbai and other

leading academic institutions in India will conduct research in a wide variety of fields, including immunology, genetics, neurobiology, bio-informatics, computer sciences, law and economics. The research will be undertaken at leading universities in Israel, namely, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, Haifa University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the

Open University of Israel.

"The annual amount per scholar is 100,000 shekel (NIS) that is equivalent to about ₹14.7 lakh a year, for three years. Of this sum, two thirds are given directly by the government and one third by the university (which is also government supported). The criteria for selection are academic excellence of the candidate, academic value of the research proposal and interest of the concerned university department in the subject matter," officials from the Israeli Embassy said.

This postdoctoral scholarship initiative was conceived during the visit of Israel's finance minister Yuval

Steinitz to India in December 2011. Steinitz had met then HRD minister Kapil Sibal and the two pledged their support to bolster Indo-Israel academic cooperation.

A call for research proposals for yet another round of this postdoctoral scholarship programme has already been announced.

Applications can be submitted through Israeli universities. "The second round means that in addition to those who have already received the scholarships, Indian researchers can apply for another round of scholarships (potentially up to 100 in number)," the officials said.

Change is in the air

Major institutions ring in the New Year with a host of fresh features from hostels and labs to more fellowships

HT Education Correspondent
 ■ hteducation@hindustantimes.com

It's not just the University of Delhi which is in the throes of momentous change (for example, replacing the three-year degree with a four-year course). Institutions in different parts of the country are entering the New Year with a host of plans ranging from new courses, online admission system to improved infrastructure and CCTV cameras. Here's a look at some of them



This tech institution is all set to make a splash in the new year. An Olympic-size swimming pool for the students and faculty is expected to be ready in 2013. There will be new hostels for male (about 550) and female (about 800) students as well as for married research scholars, taking the total capacity to more than 8000 hostel seats. Another new feature is the ₹9 crore High Performance Computer, currently ranked 224 in the world and an advanced Tunnelling Electron Microscope, only the third in the country, informs Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director.

Students can also look forward to a completely revamped workshop with intelligent machining centres, a new incubation centre

including a bio-incubator and "the country's only university-based Research Park fully occupied with 50-plus companies collaborating with students and faculty," says Ramamurthi.

There are also 40 new members of the faculty recruited from top universities in the world.

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



The university aims to consolidate its current initiatives in academics and administration. "The concept of smart classrooms will be introduced across all faculties. We will also focus on making the campus more clean and hygienic. We wish to improve the quality of all programmes and curricula. Earlier, we had introduced a concept of transfer of credits at the faculty of social sciences and humanities and languages. There is a proposal to introduce it across faculties and departments from 2013-14. For instance, a student who is majoring in history will be able to transfer credits from Islamic architecture. Similarly, a civil engineering student can take credits in architecture and social sciences," says SM Sajid, registrar.

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

For the first time, this Central-government university has advanced the admission schedule so that the aca-



demical year can begin in July, says an official. While till 2012, it used to put out the admission notification in April and hold the entrance test in the first week of June, now the advertisement is already out, the application process is online and the written competition is slated for February 21-26, 2013.

This PG and research institution is also starting a two-year master's programme in public health and a five-year integrated master's in oceanography.

In addition, as per official information, it is expected to open two new hostels which will house about 1600 male students on campus. At present, about 80% of its 5000 enrollees are hostellers.

IIT KANPUR

"The focus for the coming year will be on identifying new areas of interdisciplinary research and engaging students with a greater number of research projects," says Indraneel Manna, director.

IIM CALCUTTA

"We want our students to be suitably apprised of contemporary challenges in the domain of economics, international trade and law and politics so that they can be more effective managers. Keeping this in mind we

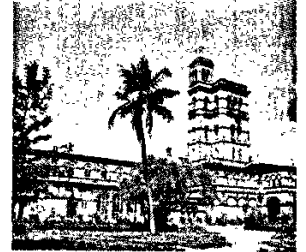
Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1

intend to organise some conferences and seminars that will focus on real world interdisciplinary challenges," says Shekhar Chaudhari, director, IIM Calcutta.

PUNE UNIVERSITY

The University of Pune is looking at improving safety for students in and around the campus. The brutal gangrape of the 23-year-old braveheart of Delhi has necessitated renewed focus on this vital area. "We want to install CCTV cameras in strategic locations around the university campus," says Vasudev Gade, vice chancellor.



IIM SHILLONG

This year, the Indian Institute of Management Shillong is going to concentrate on organising short- and long-term courses for local tribal communities at highly subsidised rates. Students are involved in designing and imparting these courses. One of the proposed courses is on microfinance. IIM Shillong has already organised many management development programmes and collaborated with different government and non-government agencies for launching different programmes on topics like entrepreneurship, capacity and skill building (marketing handicrafts, indigenous food items etc) for the local tribes, says Keya Sengupta, director.

PANJAB UNIVERSITY

"Strengthening safety measures for our university students, particularly women students, is a priority in the coming year," says Arun Kumar Grover, vice chancellor

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

The number of fellowships is likely to be increased in the coming year. New building/s will come up for the School of Social Sciences, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies and School of International Studies. New hostels and research labs are also likely to be set up. The university is working in association with the ministry of social justice to make the campus barrier free for the differently-abled students. Remedial classes are also being planned for maths and computer science students.

It is time to 'switch off' work

Co's Wean Staff From E-Devices To Balance Job & Life

Tanya Mohn

Resolutions to change behaviour are common at this time of year, but they usually involve exercising more or smoking less. Now, some companies are adopting policies aimed at weaning employees from their electronic devices.

Atos, an international information technology company, plans to phase out all e-mails among employees by the end of 2013 and rely instead on other forms of communication. And starting in the new year, employees at Daimler, the German automaker, can have incoming e-mail automatically deleted during vacations so they do not return to a flooded in-box. An automatic message tells the sender which person is temporarily dealing with the employee's e-mail.

No one is expected to be on call at all hours of the day and night, and "switching off" after work is important, "even if you are on a business trip," said Sabrina Schrimpf, a Daimler spokeswoman, referring to the company's recently released report, "Balanced! — Reconciling Employees' Work and Private Lives".

Disconnecting can be more challenging for business travellers who frequently work across time zones. And there is a ripple effect, said Leslie A Perlow, a professor of leadership at Harvard Business School and the author of "Sleeping With Your Smartphone". "These guys fly in the middle of the night and send e-mails back to colleagues" who wait up, ready to respond.

A study conducted last spring



© MM Productions/Corbis

NO NEED TO BE ON CALL 24X7

by the Pew Research Center found that while mobile phones were valued as a way to stay productive, there were downsides to being available at all times.

The nationwide survey of 2,254 adults found that 44% of cellphone owners had slept with their phone next to their bed and that 67% had experienced "phantom rings", checking their phone even when it was not ringing.

Sam Chapman, chief executive of Empower Public Relations in Chicago, was one such cellphone user. He said he frequently checked email in the middle of the night and as result slept poorly, did not feel refreshed in the morning. "I wanted to make sure that what happened to me didn't happen to my employees."

So Chapman adopted what he called a BlackBerry blackout policy. He and his staff of about 20

turn off their BlackBerrys from 6 pm to 6 am on weekdays and completely on weekends for all work-related use, with rare exceptions. "When I'm well rested, I show up to work ready to go," he said.

But it is not always easy. In early 2012, when Michelle Barry, Mark Jacobsen and a third partner created Centric Brand Anthropology, a Seattle-based company that advises clients on brand strategy, design and culture management, they gave serious thought to the issue.

"A huge priority for us was to have a good balance between work-life," said Jacobsen, Centric's vice president and creative director. "Yet we have found that very difficult to do while working with large multinational clients," which often require international travel and constant availability. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Celebrating 'flag day': Internet turns 30 quietly

London: The internet, a revolutionary and cheap communications system that has transformed the lives of billions of people across the world, turned 30 on Tuesday.

The computer network officially began its technological revolution when it fully substituted previous networking systems on January 1 1983. Known as "flag day", it was the first time the US department of defence (DoD)-commissioned Arpanet network fully switched to use of the internet protocol suite (IPS) communications system.

Using data "packet-switching", the new method of linking computers paved the way for the arrival of the World Wide Web.

"I don't think that anybody making that switch on the day would have realized the importance of what they were doing," the Daily Telegraph quoted Chris Edwards, an electronics correspondent for Engineering and Technology magazine, as saying.

"But without it the internet and the World Wide Web as we know it today could not have happened."

Based on designs by Welsh scientist Donald Davies, the Arpanet network began as a military project in the late 1960s.

It was developed at prestigious American universities and research laboratories, such as the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the Stanford Research Institute. PTI

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 2, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 10;

Teens' internet usage unsafe: 31% meet 'friends' online

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The gap between what parents think their teenagers do online and what they actually do is alarmingly large. Most parents trust their kids to keep them informed of their activities, believe they'll be careful enough to keep personal information to themselves and resist accessing porn sites, giving in only a few times in a year. They are wrong. A sizeable section of teens – 55% across India, 35.9% in Delhi – will minimize screens, erase browser history and circumvent or disable parental control to avoid monitoring. But they are far less careful when it comes to protecting themselves online – large numbers have shared mobile numbers, addresses, photos of themselves in “revealing clothes” and even photos of them “illegally intoxicated.” And a frighteningly large section – 31% – has met ‘friends’ they made online.

A study conducted by security firm, McAfee, sought replies from 757 teens and 700 parents across seven cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Chennai – to get a handle on what it is exactly teens do online. They surf more porn, get into fights and explore ways



of cheating at tests much more than parents are ready to believe. The study, “The Secret Life of Indian Teens Online,” was conducted in other countries as well. And one of the differences between India and Australia and the US is that a majority of teens access Net through smartphones in India. Another is that Indian teens are very active on a large number and variety of social networking sites.

The vast majority of the respondents – 97% – has access to social networking and the average age at which teens get started is 13. However, McAfee’s Indian ‘cybermum’, Anindita Mishra, said at the release of the report, that she suspects the average age at which they start is actually

Of all parents surveyed, those in Delhi had the ‘lowest concern rates’ about their teens sharing details online

lower. As part of the concealment strategy, kids have learnt to disguise their age online. “Kids change their age and sometimes parents know about this. I have received friend-requests from kids who are definitely younger than 13,” Mishra had said.

As a generation that’s always been surrounded by technology, teens are more familiar with its ways than adults – 51% parents are helped by teens. While this role-reversal may make monitoring difficult – parents are known to get their kids to install software suites meant to track their activities – it’s still better than ignoring the issue altogether. The 75% of parents who say “modern technology overwhelms them” would do well to get involved and learn the ropes, even if it is from their sons and daughters. Delhi parents, of all parents surveyed, apparently had the “lowest concern rates” about their teens sharing personal details online.

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Celebrating 'flag day': Internet turns 30 quietly

London: The internet, a revolutionary and cheap communications system that has transformed the lives of billions of people across the world, turned 30 on Tuesday.

The computer network officially began its technological revolution when it fully substituted previous networking systems on January 1 1983. Known as "flag day", it was the first time the US department of defence (DoD)-commissioned Arpanet network fully switched to use of the internet protocol suite (IP) communications system.

Using data "packet-switching", the new method of linking computers paved the way for the arrival of the World Wide Web.

"I don't think that anybody making that switch on the day would have realized the importance of what they were doing," the Daily Telegraph quoted Chris Edwards, an electronics correspondent for Engineering and Technology magazine, as saying.

"But without it the internet and the World Wide Web as we know it today could not have happened."

Based on designs by Welsh scientist Donald Davies, the Arpanet network began as a military project in the late 1960s.

It was developed at prestigious American universities and research laboratories, such as the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the Stanford Research Institute. ■