

Newspaper Clips January 17, 2016

HRD min to set up NAT to assess abilities of IIT aspirants

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hrd-min-to-set-up-nat-to-assess-abilities-of-iit-aspirants-116011700204_1.html

In a move that will alter the way entrance examinations to IITs and other top engineering institutes are conducted, the Human Resource Development Ministry is working to establish a National Authority for Testing (NAT) to assess the abilities of aspirants before they appear for JEE.

The NAT is proposed to be established in the coming months and its first major task would be to conduct tests in the latter half of the year.

The scores obtained in NAT test would form the basis for shortlisting candidates for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-advanced) 2017. JEE-advanced test is conducted for entrance to the IITs.

The HRD Ministry may soon seek the nod of the Union Cabinet for setting up the testing agency.

The HRD ministry began working on the proposal for setting up the NAT after a committee constituted by the [IIT](#) council recommended changes to entrance examination structure for these prestigious institutes including setting up of a National Testing Service.

As per the recommendations, the testing service would hold tests on the basis of which around four lakh students would be shortlisted for JEE.

The committee had held that the JEE itself will be on the lines of the current JEE (advanced) and designed to test knowledge in physics, chemistry and mathematics. It will be conducted by the IITs.

The committee had recommended that 40,000 odd examinees would then be given ranks after which they can seek admission to IITs and NITs based on a common counselling.

Many of the recommendations of the Ashok Mishra-led Committee of Eminent Persons (CEP), which submitted its report to the government on November 5 last year, were aimed at weaning away IIT aspirants from coaching institutes.

IIT Don urges teachers to ‘uncover syllabus’

Jalandhar, January 16

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jalandhar/iit-don-urges-teachers-to-uncover-syllabus/184550.html>

Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, Prof Sarit K. Das today termed the growth in the number of educational institutes as an opportunity and not a problem.

Addressing the 20th Foundation Day of IK Gujral Punjab Technical University as the chief guest, Prof Das said, “The need of the hour is to utilise the resources of these educational institutes. For this, we need to classify these institutes. In other words, the need is to demarcate the responsibilities of the IITs/IIMs, Central universities, state universities, private universities and colleges.”

He said that the IITs/IIMs should shoulder the responsibility of producing good teachers and plan schemes for research purposes. “Central universities should focus on research and innovative work. In the same way, private

and state-level universities should work to prepare skilled manpower as per the needs of the industry. He said Germany has less land area compared to Uttar Pradesh. Still, there are 86 higher educational institutes which are world famous because they work after defining their goals. In addition, he said in the present scenario, teachers should not only try to 'cover the syllabus', they should 'uncover the syllabus' because the syllabus is covered even by the internet. He gave the message that India is a start-up country and one should feel proud of it.

Bhog of Akhand Path took place in the university and ardaas was performed for the success of the university. The function began with the lighting of the traditional lamp.

University Dean Dr NP Singh welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet of flowers. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Singh said the IK Gujral Punjab Technical University has the distinction of being a self-financed university and working online.

Dr Buta Singh Sidhu welcomed the guests. He said one should follow the path shown by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He said that Guru Gobind Singh's message, "Shubh karman te kabhu na taru", should be one's motto.

Dr AP Singh highlighted the academic achievements of the university. He encouraged the staff to work for its betterment.

Members of the Board of Governors of the university, SS Bhogal, chairman, CII Punjab and Dr Ravi Kumar, Director, Beant College of Engineering and Technology, Gurdaspur, also congratulated the university staff and the students.

Registrar Dr Amanpreet Singh proposed a vote of thanks. He said the IKG-PTU is the first university in the region having the facility of transferring question papers online. He also spoke about the new ventures of the university.

Prof Dr Sanjeev Sharma from Dankook University, South Korea, was also present as a special guest on the occasion. He was honoured by the Finance Officer of the university Dr SK Mishra.

IIT Guwahati gears up to welcome Modi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/IIT-Guwahati-gears-up-to-welcome-Modi/articleshow/50611157.cms>

Guwahati: The IIT-Guwahati is gearing up to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will visit the premier institute of higher education on January 19.

Modi will address faculty members and students of IIT-Guwahati, Gauhati University and Cotton College.

"Right now, we are busy in executing infrastructure development plans to welcome the Prime Minister who is going to address students from higher educational institutes of the northeast. Our target is to bring around 6,000 people to the event," said IIT-Guwahati public relations officer Labanu Konwar.

Officials in IIT-Guwahati said Modi will connect with students of other higher educational institutes of the northeast through live webcast. They said Modi may also reply to queries of students from other parts of the northeast through live webcast.

While officials and teachers of IIT-Guwahati are busy preparing for smooth conduct of the event, students are eagerly waiting to make it an opportunity to boost Modi's initiatives for a clean and developed India.

IIT-Guwahati student Shweta Gupta, who hails from Prime Minister Modi's constituency, Varanasi, said Modi's presence at IIT-Guwahati will inspire youths of northeast to implement the PM's ambitious projects like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India Campaign and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

पेटेंट आवेदनों की मंजूरी की रफ्तार बढ़ाएगी सरकार

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : पेटेंट आवेदनों की मंजूरी की बकाया सूची की लंबाई को देखते हुए सरकार ने मंजूरी रफ्तार तेज करने का फैसला किया है। सरकार ने कहा है कि 18 महीने में पेटेंट मंजूरी की बकाया सूची को अमेरिका और जापान जैसे विकसित देशों के बराबर कर दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए सरकार देश के सभी आइआइटी की मदद लेगी।

स्टार्ट अप इंडिया कार्यक्रम के दौरान कंपनियों के सीईओ और अन्य प्रतिनिधियों से मुख्यातिब औद्योगिक नीति व संवर्धन विभाग (डीआइपीपी) के सचिव अमिताभ कांत ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में पेटेंट आवेदन मंजूरी के इंतजार में हैं। इनके निपटारे के लिए हाल में 1000 लोगों की नियुक्ति की है। इस सूची को जल्द ही अमेरिका और जापान के स्तर तक लाया जाएगा। सचिवों के एक सत्र का संचालन करते हुए कांत ने कहा कि पहली नवंबर 2015 तक देश में 2.46 लाख पेटेंट और 5.32 लाख ट्रेडमार्क पंजीकरण आवेदन मंजूरी के

• लंबित आवेदनों की संख्या को अमेरिका और जापान के स्तर पर लाया जाएगा

इंतजार में हैं। दूसरी तरफ जापान और अमेरिका जैसे देशों में लंबित आवेदनों की संख्या बेहद कम है। सचिवों के इस सत्र में आर्थिक मामलों के सचिव, वित्तीय सेवा सचिव, एमएसएमई सचिव, कारपोरेट मामलों और मानव संसाधन सचिव शामिल हुए। एमएसएमई सचिव अनूप पुजारी ने कहा कि उनके मंत्रालय में सिंगल पेज रजिस्ट्रेशन फार्म उद्यमियों में काफी लोकप्रिय हो रहा है। इसे अभी और सरल बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। सिडबी के सीएमडी के शिवाजी ने कहा कि उनकी संस्था स्टार्ट अप के कार्यक्रम के विभिन्न चरणों में सक्रिय है। उन्होंने कहा कि हम स्टार्ट अप की मदद के लिए एक 2000 करोड़ रुपये के कोष वाला इंडिया एस्पिरेशन फंड शुरू करने जा रहे हैं।

Non-NET fellowships will stay, says review committee

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: A review committee formed to look into the continuation of non-NET fellowships said that the financial grant for students will continue.

The review committee's decision comes in the backdrop of students threatening to launch a nationwide strike in central and state universities, on February 18.

Speaking to HT, chairman of the HRD ministry constituted review committee Gautam Barua said that the fellowship will not be done away with.

The committee was formed to look into the merits of both NET and non-NET fellowships.

"We are yet to finalise our report but we can say with certainty that the fellowship will

THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON JANUARY 28 TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES OF THE FELLOWSHIP AND HOW IT CAN BE EXTENDED TO STATE UNIVERSITIES TOO

continue. Our task is to only to ensure that there is greater uniformity in the criteria of providing the fellowship so that it can benefit a large number of universities," said Barua, a former director of IIT-Guwahati.

Barua further said that one of the members of the agitating unions had contacted him following which he asked the protesters to send their suggestions and queries through email. "I told them to send me a detailed

email with their queries as well as suggestions. However, so far I have not received any email," he said.

The committee will meet again on January 28 to work out the modalities of the fellowship and how it can be extended to state universities too, sources said.

Delhi police had recently cracked down on Occupy UGC protesters marching towards the Parliament. Following the outrage over the police crackdown, the HRD ministry had stepped in, asked the UGC to stop the rollback of the fellowship and had also formed a review committee to look into the issue.

Under the grant, non-NET fellows receive a monthly grant of ₹5,000 for M.Phil and ₹8,000 for PhD.

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NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

Think-Tank Tries to Redefine Education, the Right Way

As Centre readies a new education policy, a BJP-affiliated body wants changes in RTE Act, brought in by UPA govt

By PRATUL SHARMA

New Delhi: Despite several policy changes over the years, school education still hasn't reached to a large number of people in the country. With the Centre preparing a new education policy, a BJP think-tank has sent in several recommendations, including changes in the Right to Education Act, brought in by the UPA government.

The Public Policy Research Centre conducted a study on the education system and in its key suggestions to the HRD ministry, led by Smriti Irani, has argued in favour of re-considering the non-detention policy as envisaged under the RTE Act. It suggested that no-detention policy which has also been opposed by several state governments like Delhi, should be restricted to lower-primary level. It also suggested that pre-schooling (covering three-six years age) be made compulsory.

"Several RTE provisions like the non-detention policy, age-appropriate admission and special training mechanisms, role of teacher and their capacity building need to be reconsidered," the study added.

"Non detention policy under RTE has become one of the most controversial clauses, quoting that it deters learning in classrooms and discourages teachers, giving way to producing huge quantity of children with poor

Union HRD minister Smriti Irani



It suggested that no-detention policy, which is opposed by many states, should be restricted to lower-primary level

knowledge base and skills for the secondary level of education or even for the market as a poor human resource...."

The recommendation submitted also stated: "We hence advocate extending compulsory education in form of pre-schooling within the existing framework of Early Childhood Care and Education by Ministry of Women and Child Development, across all states through Anganwadis, for children at least 3-6years."

In another recommendation, the think-tank, led by the BJP's national vice president Vinay Sahashrabudde said even a centralised definition for drop-outs be formulated to tackle the out of school children as many are

involved in child labour, and some are trafficked.

"A pan-India response mechanism (PIRM) be set up at all levels to provide real time problem solving assistance in a cost effective way. The proposed mechanism shall certainly include the related existing mechanisms at CBSE, NCERT-SCERTs, NCTE-DIETs, MHRD and state education departments, involving teachers' associations, parents associations," the study said. The PPRC said that measures should be adopted to overcome the language disadvantage through focused training to teachers.

The study said policy focus needs to shift from providing infrastructure to learning-based infrastructure.

Occupy UGC protesters call for all-universities strike on Feb 18

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Occupy-UGC-protesters-call-for-all-universities-strike-on-Feb-18/articleshow/50602971.cms>

NEW DELHI: The group of students heading the Occupy UGC movement -- started in October in response to a recommendation for scrapping the non-NET fellowship and still on -- have now called for an "all-universities strike" on February 18, 2016. Before that, they'll hold a signature campaign which will begin on Monday, January 18.

A statement from the group says that this course of action is in response to the "indefinite delay on the part of the government" in either making its stand known or revealing the deliberations of the committee constituted after the protests. "It has been close to three months since the #OccupyUGC movement started as a spontaneous response of students to UGC's utterly rash decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowship scheme. Due to our sustained protests, the government was forced to go on a backfoot...[and] the matter [was passed] to a review committee. However, no news from either the MHRD, the UGC or the review committee has arrived and a clear-cut position on the status of the non-NET fellowship has not been communicated to us, thus far. On the 5th of November, 2015 the HRD Minister, Smriti Irani had given certain assurances. However, [those] mean nothing until the MHRD comes up with an order that [the] fellowship will be enhanced and expanded. She had also assured us of representation before the review committee, but far from representation, for a month, we were not even [been] given an appointment with the MHRD," says the statement.

Lack of clarity on when the committee meets and what it discusses hasn't helped matter. "We were told that there is no meeting on the 16th of January, and no alternative date for any meeting was communicated. All this clearly shows the extremely irresponsible attitude of the government towards students' issues and complete lack of accountability of the UGC and the MHRD," say students.

The team will now start a signature campaign in campuses across India on January 18. "The signature campaign will raise the demand that budgetary allocation for education be increased to 10 per cent in the upcoming budget session, as fund-cuts in education under World Bank and WTO diktats are ruining the education system of our country," adds the statement. The campaign will conclude on February 15. On the day of the strike, the signatures collected will be submitted to MHRD.

IIT-B prof's adopted son stabs self over social media post

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/IIT-B-profs-adopted-son-stabs-self-over-social-media-post/articleshow/50609050.cms>

UMBAI: The IIT Bombay campus witnessed a gory suicide on Friday afternoon when a 20-year-old student, the adopted son of a senior professor of the institute, stabbed himself during the course of an argument with his adoptive parents and sister.

The Powai police have, after talking to his parents and a married elder sister who was present at home during the incident, ruled out foul play and registered a case of accidental death.

While family friends suggested that the argument had started over a post on a social networking site, the police said that the sister was counselling the boy when he flared up. "His sister was trying to make him understand that he was now grown up and needed to take care of his parents when the youngster got angry. He went into a room and stabbed

himself in the chest before anybody could react," said B K Madheshwar, senior inspector of the Powai police station.

The boy was barely four years old when he adopted by his maternal aunt on his parents deaths. His aunt is married to a senior professor in IIT Bombay who told TOI over the phone that "it is a personal matter" and he wouldn't like to talk about it.

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According to the police and family friends, the discussion on Friday afternoon turned so heated that the boy first tried to hit his father. He then challenged his family saying "do you know what I can do to myself" and stabbed himself. He was rushed to the nearby Hiranandani Hospital, but he was declared dead on admission "due to serious internal injuries".

The police have ruled out any property dispute or foul play, saying that the IIT professor had, in fact, made the boy his nominee in all property matters. The police are recording statements of his friends and relatives to know the exact cause of his act.

This is an indication about the mental health of the present generation of youth. The social media is the only companion ... Read More raghunadharao k

While some friends and neighbours in the IIT campus said that the boy was "always irritable", others said that he was depressed. "The bizarreness of the incident shocks and points to disturbances within that are not easily visible to others," said psychiatrist Dr Harish Shetty.

He said the "event and the increasing number of suicides result in an invisible life-long trauma for parents. The pain and the suffering will manifest across life if not intervened early. Just like the state has decided to trace out school dropout, it needs to launch a similar movement to stop suicides. There is need to provide mental health succor towards parents and relatives who are left behind to answer questions."