

Newspaper Clips January 18, 2016

Deccan Herald ND 18/01/2016

P-07

OCI students can sit for JEE: CBSE

Some IITs, NITs admitted students based on JEE tests

NEW DELHI: The CBSE has clarified on confusion on whether the students with overseas citizens of India (OCI) status are eligible for admissions to centrally funded technical institutions through joint entrance examination (JEE) or not.

While many students with OCI status were barred from taking the JEE-Main conducted for admissions to IITs, NITs and other institutions, the board in reply to questions asked under right to information Act has categorically stated that it never restricted any of these candidates from taking the test.

The board has also stated in response to the RTI application that there was no restriction on the OCI students to submit applications JEE-Main and appear in the nationwide test.

Contrary to its reply sought under the RTI, the information bulletin of the JEE-2016 categorically mentioned that the OCI students were not eligible for admissions to CFTIs through this test.

“The central board of secondary education (CBSE) has not restricted the wards of OCIs/ PIOs from submitting application for JEE Main and appearing for the examination. There was no restriction on the wards of the OCIs/PIOs to submit application for JEE Main and appear in earlier examinations of JEE Main 2013, 2014

and 2015,” the board said.

To a question on whether the OCI students were admitted to NITs and IITs through JEE conducted so far, the board conveniently drew its hands off, maintaining that its mandate was limited to holding the entrance test only.

While the information bulletin of the JEE-Main 2016 categorically mentions that the OCI students are not eligible for admissions to centrally funded technical institutions, the CBSE in response to an RTI application has clarified that it never restricted these candidates from taking the test. “The CBSE does not collect the information regarding the admissions in various institutes,” the board said in its reply.

On the other hand, some of the IITs and NITs say that they have admitted OCI students on the basis of their performance in JEE Main and JEE-Advance. But, these students were admitted under the category of foreign students and levied non-subsidised academic fee.

“The OCI students can take JEE but they will be admitted as foreign students based on their performance in the nationwide test. These students are not treated at par with Indian students. Subsidised education is only available to Indian students. We see passport and admit as per rules,” IIT-Bombay Director Devang K Khakar told *Deccan Herald*.

DH News Service

IIT का एंट्रेंस दे सकेंगे विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स

HRD मिनिस्ट्री ने दी इजाजत, विदेश में भी कराए जाएंगे ये टेस्ट

[अनुभूति विश्नोई | नई दिल्ली]

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (IIT) इस साल फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स के लिए अपना दरवाजा थोड़ा ज्यादा खोलने जा रहे हैं। ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डिवेलपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री ने फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स को आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाले एंट्रेंस टेस्ट में शामिल होने की इजाजत देने और ऐसे टेस्ट विदेश में भी कराने का प्रस्ताव मान लिया है। IIT में एडमिशन की खाहिश रखने वालों के लिए बैचलर लेवल पर ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जामिनेशन होता है। मास्टर्स और पीएचडी लेवल वालों के लिए ग्रेजुएट एप्टिट्यूड टेस्ट इन इंजीनियरिंग होता है।

HRD मिनिस्टर और IIT काउंसिल की चेयरपर्सन स्मृति ईरानी ने प्रपोजल को क्लीयर किया है और उनकी मिनिस्ट्री ने इस बारे में सभी IIT को मेमोरंडम जारी किया है। मेमोरंडम में सभी IIT से यह प्रपोजल अप्रूवल के लिए अपने सीनेट या बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के सामने रखने के लिए कहा गया है। प्रपोजल के जरिए खासतौर पर साउथ एशिया, अफ्रीका और पश्चिमी एशिया से पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट और डॉक्टरेट लेवल के स्टूडेंट्स को अट्रैक्ट करने की कवायद से 8 आईआईटी में लगभग 10,000 सीटें जुड़ेंगी। फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स को 4 से 5 लाख रुपये का फुल पेमेंट करना होगा, जो



इंडियन स्टूडेंट्स को सब्सिडी के साथ 90,000 रुपये सालाना पड़ता है। इससे फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स के चलते सरकारी खजाने पर कोई प्रेशर नहीं होगा। फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स को अट्रैक्ट करने के लिए उठाया जाने वाला यह कदम इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट्स की ग्लोबल रैंकिंग में सुधार लाने की कवायद

से हिसाब से है। क्वालिटी के मामले में IIT की ग्लोबल रेपुटेशन है, लेकिन इंटरनेशनलाइजेशन के मोर्चे पर ये पिछड़ जाते हैं, जिनमें हर इंस्टीट्यूट में फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स और फैकल्टी की संख्या को फैक्टर किया जाता है।

मेमोरंडम 14 जनवरी को जारी हुआ जिसके मुताबिक, इंटरनेशनल स्टूडेंट्स को IIT की तरफ अट्रैक्ट करने की व्यापक व्यवस्था पर IIT बॉम्बे के डायरेक्टर प्रोफेसर देवांग वी खाखर की रिपोर्ट को लागू करने के वास्ते मंजूरी दी गई है। मेमोरंडम के मुताबिक, 'IIT बॉम्बे के डायरेक्टर से रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक चुनिंदा देशों में JEE और GATE कराने के लिए कार्ययोजना तैयार करने का अनुरोध किया जाता है। चुनिंदा फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स को फेलोशिप देने के लिए मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स और ICCR (इंडियन काउंसिल फॉर कल्चरल रिलेशंस) को अलग से कहा गया है।'

फॉरिन स्टूडेंट्स को IIT में पढ़ने की इजाजत सिर्फ कल्चरल एक्सचेंज फेलोशिप प्रोग्राम या ग्रेजुएट रिकॉर्ड एग्जामिनेशन (GRE) में स्कोर पर इंस्टीट्यूशनल मेमोरंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग के तहत मिलती है। अंडरग्रेजुएट कोर्स के लिए उनको JEE में शामिल होना पड़ता है लेकिन कुछ एलिजिबिलिटी क्राइटेरिया बाधक बनते हैं।

Aptitude test may replace JEE Mains

NEW DELHI: Students aspiring to get admission to IITs, NITs and other technical institutes will have to first clear a national aptitude test, most probably from the next year, with the Centre giving a final shape to suggestions for bringing in changes in the current format of the joint entrance examination (JEE).

The JEE, which is being conducted for the last few years in two parts —JEE-Main and JEE-Advance— will be subsumed into a single entrance examination as the proposed national aptitude test will serve as the first layer of filtering to

shortlist a good number of candidates for the next level of test.

“The JEE-Main will be replaced by the national aptitude test,” official sources told *Deccan Herald*.

Candidates will be allotted seats by all the premier technical institutes IITs, ISM and NITs on the basis of their scores in the entrance test (JEE) to be conducted for those shortlisted from the national aptitude test.

Recognised engineering colleges operating in the states, which have been accepting the JEE scores, will also admit students based on their ranking

in all India merit list of the final test, which is expected to retain its name as JEE-Advance.

First-level filter

“Performance of students in the national aptitude test would not make them eligible for admissions to NITs, IITs or any other technical institutes. It will only serve as the first layer of filtering of students for shortlisting of those to be taking the final test to be held for admissions to all centrally-funded technical institutions and those accepting the test scores,” sources added.

»IIT, Page 8

National aptitude test may replace JEE Mains...

IIT, from Page 1

The proposed national aptitude test will be held on the lines of SAT conducted in the United States for admissions to colleges. It will basically be an assessment of students' aptitude for engineering as well as other qualities, skills and traits they possess.

The questions to be asked in the proposed aptitude test will include those on logical reasoning and graphical analysis, among others.

The students' knowledge in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics will be tested through the second part of the entrance examination, which will be conducted in coordination with the IITs and the NITs, sources said. “The proposal to set up national testing agency will be placed before the Union Cabinet for its approval. The ministry is aiming to roll out the new format of JEE from 2017,” sources added.

The ministry is going ahead with its proposal to bring changes in the JEE following recommendations of a committee headed by IIT-Roorkee Chairman Ashok Mishra.

The panel of experts, which was assigned to examine the demand of the NITs of doing away with the system of giving weightage to class XII board marks in JEE Main and suggest measures, recommended subsuming of two part JEE into one and introduction of an aptitude test, not only to reduce the dependence of students on coaching institutes but also to get quality students.

DH News Service

Dainik Jagran ND 18/01/2016 P-16

जेईई : इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश को साबित करनी होगी योग्यता

प्रवेश परीक्षा से पहले योग्यता जांच

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : आइआइटी और अन्य प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश के इच्छुक छात्रों को प्रवेश परीक्षा में शामिल होने की योग्यता साबित करनी होगी। संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) में शामिल होने से पहले उन्हें योग्यता जांच परीक्षा पास करनी होगी। इस परीक्षा का आयोजन एनएटी करेगा। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय आने वाले महीनों में योग्यता जांच के लिए राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकार (एनएटी) का गठन कर देगा। साल की दूसरी छमाही में योग्यता जांच परीक्षा आयोजित की जा सकती है। एनएटी की योग्यता परीक्षा में प्रतिभागी छात्र जो अंक हासिल करेंगे, उसके आधार पर संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई-एडवांस) 2017 के योग्य प्रतिभागियों का चयन होगा। आइआइटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए जेईई-एडवांस योग्यता परीक्षा ली जाएगी। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय शीघ्र ही केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से योग्यता जांच एजेंसी का गठन करने की अनुमति मांगेगा। मंत्रालय ने एनएटी के गठन पर काम करना शुरू कर दिया है। आइआइटी परिषद द्वारा गठित समिति ने प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों के लिए होने वाली प्रवेश परीक्षा ढांचा में बदलाव की सिफारिश की थी। इसके बाद ही मंत्रालय ने कदम बढ़ाने का फैसला लिया। आइआइटी की समिति ने राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा सेवा का गठन करने का भी सुझाव दिया था।

◆ मेधा परीक्षा के लिए एनएटी का गठन करने जा रही है सरकार

कैसी होगी परीक्षा

सिफारिश के अनुसार योग्यता परीक्षा का आयोजन परीक्षा सेवा करेगा। इसके आधार पर जेईई के लिए करीब चार लाख छात्रों का चयन किया जाएगा। जेईई मौजूदा जेईई (एडवांस) की तर्ज पर होगा और भौतिकी, रसायन एवं गणित में ज्ञान के स्तर की जांच की जाएगी। इस परीक्षा का आयोजन आइआइटी करेंगे।

पास हुए तभी नामांकन

सिफारिश में समिति ने कहा है कि 40,000 के आसपास परीक्षार्थियों का चयन किया जाएगा और तब उन्हें रैंक दिया जाएगा। इसी रैंक के आधार पर परीक्षार्थी आइआइटी एवं एनआइटी में आम राय के आधार पर नामांकन कराएंगे।

कोचिंग से बचेंगे छात्र

अशोक मिश्र के नेतृत्व में प्रमुख लोगों की समिति ने पिछले वर्ष 5 नवंबर को अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी थी जिसका लक्ष्य आइआइटी में प्रवेश के इच्छुक छात्रों को कोचिंग संस्थान के जाल से बाहर निकालना था।

Jansatta ND 18/01/2016 P-05

एनएटी का गठन अगले माह

नई दिल्ली, 17 जनवरी (भाषा)। आइआइटी और अन्य शीर्ष इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों की प्रवेश परीक्षाओं के आयोजन के तरीके में बदलाव लाने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण प्राधिकरण (एनएटी) की स्थापना की दिशा में काम कर रहा है। एनएटी का काम जेईई में बैठने से पहले आवेदकों की योग्यताओं का आकलन करने का होगा। एनएटी को आगामी महीनों में गठित किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है। इसका सबसे पहला और बड़ा काम साल के अंतिम महीनों में परीक्षाएं आयोजित कराना होगा।

एनएटी (नेशनल अथोरिटी फार टेस्टिंग) परीक्षा में हासिल किया गया स्कोर संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई-एडवांस) 2017 के लिए आवेदकों को शॉर्टलिस्ट करने का आधार बनेगा। जेईई-एडवांस टेस्ट का आयोजन आइआइटी में प्रवेश के लिए किया जाता है। मंत्रालय जल्दी ही इस टेस्टिंग एजेंसी के गठन के लिए केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से मंजूरी मांग सकता है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने एनएटी के गठन के प्रस्ताव पर काम करना आइआइटी परिषद द्वारा गठित समिति की सिफारिश के आधार पर शुरू किया था। इस समिति ने इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों

● आइआइटी उम्मीदवारों की योग्यताओं के आकलन के लिए सरकार कर रही है राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण प्राधिकरण (एनएटी) का गठन

● इसका सबसे पहला और बड़ा काम साल के अंतिम महीनों में परीक्षाएं आयोजित कराना होगा

● एनएटी परीक्षा में हासिल किया गया स्कोर जेईई-एडवांस 2017 के लिए आवेदकों को शॉर्टलिस्ट करने का आधार बनेगा

● जेईई-एडवांस टेस्ट का आयोजन आइआइटी में प्रवेश के लिए किया जाता है

में प्रवेश के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षाओं की संरचना में बदलाव करने की सिफारिश की थी। इन बदलावों में नेशनल परीक्षण सेवा के गठन की भी बात कही गई थी।

सिफारिशों के अनुसार, परीक्षण सेवा परीक्षाओं का आयोजन करेगी, जिसके आधार पर लगभग चार लाख छात्रों को जेईई के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट किया जाएगा।

समिति ने कहा था कि जेईई खुद मौजूदा जेईई (एडवांस) की तर्ज पर होगा और इसे भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान और गणित में जानकारी की परख करने के लिए डिजाइन किया जाएगा। इसका आयोजन आइआइटीज करेंगे।

समिति ने सिफारिश की थी कि लगभग 40 हजार परीक्षार्थियों को तब रैंक दी जाएगी, जिसके बाद वे एक

साझा काउंसिलिंग के आधार पर आइआइटी और एनआइटी में प्रवेश लेने के लिए कोशिश कर सकते हैं। अशोक मिश्रा के नेतृत्व वाली कमेटी ऑफ एमिनेंट पर्सन्स (सीईपी) की सिफारिशों का उद्देश्य आइआइटी में प्रवेश के इच्छुक लोगों को कोचिंग संस्थानों से दूर करने पर केंद्रित था। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट पिछले साल पांच नवंबर को सरकार को सौंप दी थी।

Rajasthan Patrika

ND 18/01/2016 P-07

आईआईटी कानपुर को भेजा रिमाइंडर

सागर सेटल ब्यूरो ऑफ इन्वेस्टीगेशन ने डॉ. हरिसिंह गौर केंद्रीय विवि के पूर्व कुलपति प्रो. एनएस गजभिए की अभियोजन स्वीकृति के मामले में आईआईटी कानपुर को रिमाइंडर भेजा है। सीबीआई ने आईआईटी कानपुर को नवंबर 2015 में अभियोजन स्वीकृति संबंधी पत्र भेजा था जिसका जवाब न आने पर रिमाइंडर भेजा गया है। सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक आईआईटी प्रबंधन को दो महीने में जवाब पेश करना था, लेकिन बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स की बैठक न होने से आईआईटी प्रबंधन मामला टालता आ रहा था।

Barack Obama to honour IIT Kanpur alumnus Dr Rakesh Jain with National Medal of Science

<http://www.catchnews.com/social-sector/us-president-obama-to-present-national-medal-of-science-to-indian-american-1453099977.html>

[News Agencies](#)

|18 January 2016

President Barack Obama will present the prestigious National Medal of Science to an Indian-American scientist on January 22 for his outstanding contribution to science.

Dr Rakesh K Jain is among 17 scientists, engineers, mathematicians and innovators who will be awarded by Obama at a White House ceremony.

The Medal of Science - awarded annually - recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science, engineering, and mathematics.

Jain, an IIT-Kanpur alumnus, is professor of tumor biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School.

Navodaya Times ND 18.01.2016 P-11

आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने की इनोवेशन केंद्र की शुरुआत

कोलकाता, 17 जनवरी

(एजेंसी): आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने स्नातक छात्रों के बीच पहले साल से ही नवाचार की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक इनोवेशन केंद्र शुरू किया है। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि संस्थान के पूर्व छात्र और पूर्व शिक्षक एमएन फारुकी के नाम पर शनिवार को इनोवेशन केंद्र की शुरुआत की गई। इसे संस्थान के एक और पूर्व छात्र तथा एचसीएल टेक्नोलॉजीस के सह-संस्थापक अर्जुन मल्होत्रा की ओर से आर्थिक मदद मिलेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह केंद्र संस्थान के पूर्व छात्रों और उद्योग जगत के समर्थन नवाचार की संस्कृति को प्रोत्साहित करेगा।

P-07

Centre, teachers spar over V-C eligibility

Srinand Jha

■ srinandjha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The task of selecting new vice-chancellors to the Delhi University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University has become tied up in a procedural battle, involving the faculty of the two universities on the one hand and the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) on the other.

The bone of contentions is the inclusion of the pre-condition that the aspirant should have 10 years of experience as a Professor. While the MHRD contends that the condition is in consonance with the UGC regulations of 2010, academics say that it infringes on the prerogative of university's search committee to decide a candidate.

HT had reported that the MHRD has adopted certain "deviations" in the selection process in a memorandum to President Pranab Mukherjee. Responding to HT's report, a ministry spokesperson said the qualifying conditions given in two separate advertisements for the posts are in line with the UGC regulations and the MHRD had issued similar advertisements for the posts of VCs of other universities too.

"The UGC regulations of 2010 apply to every university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, Provincial Act or a State Act, every institution including a constituent or an affiliated college recognised by the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and every institution deemed to be a university under

MHRD SAYS ASPIRANT MUST HAVE 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS PROF, TEACHERS SAY MINISTRY CAN'T OVERRULE AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT

Section 3 of the said Act," ministry spokesman Ghanshyam Goel said.

Teachers at DU and JNU, however, say that by prevailing upon the two universities to define the format for selection, the MHRD had compromised the prerogative of the search committee to decide on its mode of selection.

Faculty members argue that for the UGC regulations to become binding, they must be first adopted in the university statutes and acts. "The two universities have so far not amended their acts and statutes," said Dr J L Gupta, member of the Delhi University Executive Council.

"The search committee has been constituted on the basis of the existing statutes of the two universities that have been provided for through an act of Parliament, while the pre-condition of a 10 year experience as Professor for VC candidates have been inserted in accordance with the UGC guidelines of 2010.

"This kind of a mix and match is illegal. A statute created by Parliament cannot be overruled through an ordinance or a rule by the UGC," said Ram Narain Vats, member of the Delhi University Court and Finance Committee.

Economic Times ND 18/01/2016 P-06

We Need Better Lessons in Starting Up



THINKSTOCK

**Shashwati Shankar
& Payal Ganguly**

Mumbai | Hyderabad: 21-year-old Aditya Nayak (name changed), a former IIT-B student and founder of an AI startup incubated by SINE (Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) is one of the many student-entrepreneurs who find academic incubators lacking technical expertise and mentorship crucial for early-stage startups.

"It's not enough to provide working space for a subsidised fee and leave it at that. In the early stages we need help figuring out an appropriate business model and ensu-

MORE SPACE TO GROW

The Startup India Action Plan aims to set up 35 new incubators based on the PPP model

ring we don't experience quick cash burns that send us crashing in a few months," said Nayak. Turning to a private incubator after his experience at SINE, Nayak's startup has been able to pivot to a stronger business model. The Startup India Action Plan which was unveiled by PM Modi aims to set up

35 new incubators based on the public private partnership (PPP) model. A step in reinforcing the growing startup ecosystem in India, investors and firms alike hold the view that government funding within the ecosystem is a welcome sign, but running incubators should be left to the private sector.

"The reform in startup policies indicates we are moving in the right direction. However, private incubators are better in technical knowledge and mentoring," said Dr Apoorv Ranjan, founder, VentureCatalysts. Ranjan adds that PPP model can accelerate the growth of the incubator industry which will impact economy growth.

Deccan Herald ND 18/01/2016 P-06

Liberal thought integral to higher education

SEEING RATIONALLY Instead of existing in a vacuum, higher education should dialogue with society in terms of emergent political, social and economic developments from time to time, asserts **Gaana Jayagopalan Nair**

Today, the radical aspects of religion that threaten democratic ideals in society highlight the absence of free speech and expression in democracy. However, the need to be sensitive to religious sentiments is necessary for civil society to coexist harmoniously. This brings us to the debate between religious fundamentalism and secularism in the country which plays out in newspaper editorials, political speeches, social media and religious and other social fora. Apart from such platforms, universities need to sensitise their students to debates of such nature in their classrooms.

Recently, the controversial French magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, in September 2015 published the caricature of Jesus walking on water while "leaving the Muslims" to drown. This caricature attempted to satirically suggest 'Christian' Europe's 'apathetic' attitude towards the pre-dominant Muslim refugee crisis which emanates from West Asia and North Africa. This

would be an ideal example to explain the distinction between secularism and religious fundamentalism in emergent socio-political developments across the globe.

Creative writings that represent aspects of religion and belief systems in an allegedly sacrilegious manner in the spirit of secularism are not to be reduced to merely a question of who is right and who is wrong. One side of the argument is that creative expression of secularism and religious tolerance are integral to freedom of speech and expression. However, when does political satire begin to take on colours of intolerance and lack of respect for the other? In order to deliver the curriculum effectively, such instances have to be discussed in university class rooms.

Shielded attacks?

In February 2014, the government banned the Wendy Doniger's well-researched work *The Hindus: An Alternative History*.



The publishing house Penguin Books had to withdraw copies from the market. This suggests strong intolerance of the 'other' way to look at a traditional paradigm. Such writings provide an alternate world view that informs us of the need to respect and tolerate others' religious beliefs. While protests against such alternate views is regressive, to consistently attack religious beliefs and symbols in the garb of satire is also sometimes equally dangerous to a pluralistic understanding and a tolerant society.

In 2011, Right wing student organisations in Delhi University protested against the inclusion of A K Ramanujan's prolific essay "Three Hundred Ramayanas: Five

assert the diverse versions and variants of a valuable tradition of Ramayana than a homogenous text as the legitimate one which asserts values and belief systems. The academic nature of such texts provides scope for teachers and students to share multiple perspectives into the classroom. However, the problem arises when a creative work constructs the 'sacred' and in the process sometimes ridicules and criticises it 'in a secular vein'. The latter often invokes the freedom of speech and expression argument to justify such creative work. This manner of rationalisation need not be looked at purely in its secular spirit.

Higher education should not therefore exist in a vacuum, but should constantly dialogue with society in terms of emergent political, social and economic developments from time to time. Contemporary political and social developments around the world continue to emphasise the significance of debates over secularism and its related democratic ideals. Today, the global order is troubled by a growing intolerance towards those who are perceived as the 'other'. Therefore the importance to bring these debates into the classroom space assumes relevance.

So how exactly does an academician in the higher education space negotiate debates around secularism in the classroom? Invariably, an academic's disciplinary perspectives would shape their modalities of

critical thinking. Thus, disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences should ponder over what is satirical or disrespectful. Therefore, the syllabi must introduce pluralistic notions of what is otherwise regarded as the only 'pure', 'sacred' scripture in a classroom. Students must be oriented to the pitfalls of simplified interpretations that adopt a binary approach. It is necessary to be cautious not to take sides either with the religious perspectives alone or the secular discourses that propagate freedom of speech and expression.

Democracy is associated with liberal thought and tolerance of alternate ideas otherwise it is no different from an authoritarian form of governance. Therefore it is the job of universities and other institutions of higher education to ensure the promotion of liberal thought. The only way that these templates of learning could accomplish this objective is to consciously structure their curricula in a manner that emphasises plurality. The aim of higher education is to create responsible individuals who learn to respect and tolerate each other. Thus students should be able to identify dominant narratives that are in circulation which tend to marginalise others that propose alternate views.

(The writer is assistant professor of English Studies at Christ University, Bengaluru)

MS or MSc? Debate on degree name

Basant Kumar Mohanty

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160118/jsp/nation/story_64416.jsp#.VpyTRualhWU

New Delhi, Jan. 17: A notification by the technical education regulator AICTE equating MS (Master of Science) degrees awarded by IITs and NITs with MTech has triggered a debate about an earlier UGC order that MS can only stand for Master of Surgery.

The UGC in 2014 had barred institutions from using the nomenclatures MS and BS for Master of Science and Bachelor of Science courses respectively.

The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) last week said in a notification that MS degrees awarded by institutions of national importance (INI), such as IITs and NITs, are to be treated as equivalent to MTech if the basic degree is BTech.

"The MS degree shall be considered equivalent to ME/ MTech for all purposes provided MS degree has been acquired from INI as recognised by MHRD (ministry of human resource development) and the basic degrees should be BE/ BTech in relevant branch," the notification said.

The UGC's notification on Specification of Degrees issued in July 2014 had, on the other hand, said MS stands for Master of Surgery and MSc is the correct nomenclature for Master of Science. It had asked institutions to change their BS (Bachelor of Science) and MS nomenclatures to BSc and MSc respectively.

UGC sources argued that MS was the accepted nomenclature for a degree in medicine in India. If MS was used to stand for Master of Science, it could create confusion.

Under the UGC Act, the UGC with the approval of the government notifies nomenclature of degrees to be awarded by institutions.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, which was offering BS degrees, changed the nomenclature to Bachelor of Science (Research). However, the IITs contested the UGC's notification arguing that they are empowered by their respective Acts to design and offer courses.

A parent whose son is studying in the Bachelor of Science (Research) programme at IISc Bangalore said that institute, too, should be allowed to offer BS degrees since the AICTE has accepted MS for Master of Science.

"After this AICTE notification, MS is now a recognised nomenclature for Master of Science. Since MS is accepted, the BS should be accepted nomenclature for Bachelor of Science," he said.

Several parents have written to President Pranab Mukherjee seeking his intervention to restore the BS degree, he said.

"You have to protect qualified students in premier institutions. Public perception about BSc is poor. These students in IISc have chosen to pursue the courses specially oriented towards research. You cannot equate it with any other BSc course," the parent said.

AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe said the MS course offered by IITs or NITs would be treated as MTech.

"They are centrally funded institutions. For us, their MS signifies MSc which is equivalent to MTech," he said.

After the IITs protested, the HRD ministry had set up a panel headed by the higher education secretary to suggest a way forward. The committee has held two meetings. It is set to recommend that the ministry ask the UGC to notify the nomenclatures for innovative programmes and durations prescribed by IITs, sources said.