

Newspaper Clips

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Single engineering entrance examination from next year

A formal notification on the matter is expected to be issued next month

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 25 January

Come February, and the cloud over the issue of conducting a single entrance examination for admissions to engineering institutes may finally be cleared. Directors of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) that *Business Standard* spoke to said that by the end of February 2012 there may be a consensus on whether to hold a single entrance examination in 2013 and thereon.

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) held for admissions to the IITs and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) for admission to Centrally-funded technical institutes may be merged to create a single entrance test.

"Directors of the IITs, NITs, IIITs and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) have been asked to give their feedback. A formal notification on this will be issued next month. Mostly, we are all on the same page," said an IIT director



NEW CHAPTER There is a proposal to merge the JEE and AIEEE for admissions to all engineering colleges

on the condition of anonymity.

In September 2011, the IIT council had accepted the recommendations of the T Ramaswami committee report on JEE reforms and proposed a single entrance test for all engineering colleges, including IITs, NITs and other engineering institutions.

Key reforms that the committee was looking at include reduction in the number of examinations to one; testing knowledge

intensity; alignment to the 12th class syllabus; reduction of dependency on coaching and pressure on students and emphasis on aptitude among other things.

IITs say a formal notification will be issued with details of the examination format to be followed by IITs. That is, while considering a student for a seat — whether to give 50 per cent or 60 per cent weightage to the

board exams and the rest to IIT-JEE scores.

Centrally-funded technical institutes along with other Deemed Universities and Technical Institutions offer admissions to students through AIEEE.

Last year, 10,53,807 candidates took the AIEEE exam out of 11,14,541 registered candidates. Approximately 34,311 seats are there for BE and BTech and 1,070 seats for Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Planning in various institutions. The institutes located in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi accepted AIEEE scores to admit students.

There are four IIITs at Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kanchipuram. Total number of NITs at present is 20. Also, 10 new NITs are proposed to be set up during Eleventh Five Year Plan. NITs are expected to be at par with other national level technical institutes.

IIT-JEE, say IIT directors, has become a craze among students, largely because of the high-paying jobs one lands after an IIT degree.

Indian Express, ND 26/01/2012 P-6

Nair to lose IIT-Patna post

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

TAKING forward the government orders on barring former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair and three other prominent space scientists from all current and future government projects, the Human Resource Development Ministry is likely to make the first move.

Nair currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Patna. He will be asked to step down from this post soon, sources confirmed.

"While we have not yet received the government orders... (on barring of the four scientists from government positions/projects), we will be bound to take the requisite action as soon as the orders arrive," said highly placed sources in the HRD Ministry.

This will be the rarest of rare cases as the office of the Chairman BoG of any IIT or



MADHAVAN NAIR

IIM is highly respected and seldom have any aspersions been cast on it.

A Bhaskarnarayana, former scientific secretary in ISRO; K R Sridharmurthi, former managing director of Antrix which is the marketing arm of ISRO; and K N Shankara, former director in ISRO's satellite centre, are the others who have been barred, according to an order issued by the Department of Space on January 13.

Sridharmurthi also faces the prospects of being dropped from government posts he currently holds. He is member of the National GIS Interim Core Group

constituted by the Planning Commission, a member of Karnataka State Innovation Council, member of the Board of Governors of National Design & Research Forum and also vice-president of the International Institute of Space Law from India.

Bhaskarnarayana currently serves as Pro Chancellor of Koneru Lakshmaiah University, a deemed to be university that was incidentally found highly deficient and blacklisted by an HRD Ministry committee in 2010.

Shankara on the other hand is a nominated member of the Karnataka Science & Technology Academy set up by the Karnataka government under the Department of Science & Technology.

The Indian Express was the first to report the government order sent to all Secretaries of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries of states and Union Territories, directing that four "former Officers of the Department of Space shall be

excluded from re-employment, committee roles or any other important role under the government" due to their role in the Antrix-Devas deal, in which a private company was accused to have been wrongfully allotted S-band frequencies for radio waves.

Further, the order said "these former officers shall be divested of any current assignment/consultancy with the government with immediate effect".

Former President and acclaimed aerospace engineer A P J Abdul Kalam responding to questions in New Delhi, said, "ISRO is bigger than any individual. The organisation will grow and succeed."

In his reaction, Congress spokesman Abhishek Manu Singhvi said it was an interim order till the final report comes. "The aggrieved party is entitled to challenge the said interim order. This is entirely for the government and for Madhavan to decide," he said.

'Black-Listed' Nair Hits Out at Govt

PM honest; willing to
quit aircraft project
& IIT Patna board,
says ex-Isro chief

OUR POLITICAL BUREAUS

BANGALORE | NEW DELHI

The scrapped contract between Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) commercial arm Antrix and Devas Multimedia to lease bulk transponders has returned to haunt to government after the government's decision to bar former Isro chief G Madhavan Nair and four others from holding any government jobs for their role in deal.

Disgraced Nair hit out against the government's move to bar him, claiming there was a conspiracy behind this "character assassination". Nair said he was prepared to sever ties with the government if that is what it wants, saying he could dissociate himself from IIT-Patna and a high-profile plane project he has been conceptualising.

"I am not one to thrust myself upon the government and offer my services. If not India, there are international institutions that will respect me," Nair, the president of the International Academy of Astronautics, told ET.

The 68-year-old is the chairman of the board of governors of IIT-Patna as well as the chairman of a committee overseeing the design of an indigenous aircraft capable of carrying about 90 passengers.

However, Nair said will not return the Padma Vibhushan award, which he was conferred in 2009, because it was an accolade for India's space community. "Besides, I have enormous respect for the president, from whom I received the award," he said.

Nair, who was chairman of Isro from 2003 to 2009, pinned the

blame for what he called "character assassination" on his successor K Radhakrishnan. "The buck stops with him," he said.

The prime minister, Nair said, should order a full investigation into why the deal between Antrix and Devas was cancelled, suggesting vested interests scuttled it. Dozens of similar agreements exist between Antrix and private firms but only this one was singled out, he said.

He described Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who oversees the space department, as an honest man. But Singh should have given him the courtesy of a fair hearing before the recommendations against him and three other former colleagues were finalised, Nair said.

The government's handling of the matter, which has plunged the department of space into a crisis, is being called into question as the accused scientists neither got a chance to explain their position nor are they being proceeded against in a court of law.

Following media exposes of the favourable terms Devas got from the deal last year, multiple enquiries were ordered into the incident and the Cabinet took the unusual decision of scrapping the deal to meet the "needs of the nation".

The space department's order barring the scientists refers to directions from the government following the enquiry reports. But it is unclear why no legal proceedings have been initiated against the scientists if they have been found guilty of wrongdoing in the sensitive matter by the enquiry commissions.

The timing of the action against Nair is significant as the Supreme Court is slated to hear Devas' petition to allow arbitration under UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) on February 3.

Hindustan Times ND 26/01/2012 P-10

Probe panel findings nailed the 4 scientists

isro-antrix deal

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: The government's decision to bar four of India's well-known scientists from being hired for government projects again was based on several irregularities found valid by two top investigation panels.

One of the panel has now recommended that different individuals should head the critical wings of space operations — Antrix, Isro and department of space — instead of the current practice where the same individual gets to head all three.

The charges relate to a 2005 deal to sell satellite space or "radiowaves" to a private firm Devas by state-owned Antrix, in violation of rules, such a failure to set up a proper bid.

A failure to seek the highest bid for satellite space or S-band airwaves, crucial for wireless broadband and other data services, may have cost the state crores of rupees in

QUARTET IN QUESTION

G MADHAVAN NAIR

A top scientist who headed Antrix and Isro at the time of the controversial deal. Oversaw more than 20 successful satellite launches that put India in a select global space club and steered a planned moon mission

KN SHANKARA

The former head of Isro's satellite station, the nerve-centre of India's sensitive orbit programmes

A BHASKARANARAYANA

The former chief of Satcom, he too has an impeccable track record in space operations; was a reliable hand during many critical missions

KR SHRIDHARAMUTHRY

The former top administrator of Antrix, the commercial arm of Isro, India's national space agency

potential revenue.

The Antrix-Devas deal was revoked in February 2011, after the government discovered several irregularities. Antrix is the commercial arm of Isro, while Deutsche Telekom is an investor in the privately held Devas.

The Prime Minister, who oversees the department of space, had first set up a high-powered review committee on Feb 10, 2011, following it up with a high-level team headed by former chief vigilance commissioner Pratyush Sinha on May 31 2011. Both went into the details of the contro-

versial deal.

The main findings, according to sources, relate to how transparency norms were violated. It has been found that former Isro chief, G Madhavan Nair, and his team sought to put satellites into space purely for private commercial use, a fact not revealed to the Cabinet when the deal was brought before it for approval.

Moreover, the space regulator — Space Commission — was not kept in the loop, it was found. The most flagrant violation relates to bypassing of bidding norms.

Pioneer ND 26/01/2012 P-8

IIM student held for 2008 IIT Kanpur murder

Victim killed for spurning 'homosexual'

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
LUCKNOW**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) made a major breakthrough in the sensational blind killing case of a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur when they arrested the killer -- also a pass out of IIT and presently studying in the country's premiere management institution 'Indian Institute of Management' (IIM), on Wednesday.

The motive behind the murder is the victim's opposition to 'homosexuality', according to the CBI. The accused was produced before a special CBI magistrate and sent to judicial custody.

CBI officials claimed that on the night of 9th August, 2008, the staff of IIT Kanpur found a gunny bag lying in the bushes inside the campus. The body was that of student Adesh Vajpayee. The killers used acid

to burn the face of the victim so that he could not be identified and it was only with DNA sampling that the identity was ascertained.

When the Kalyanpur police failed to get any success, the family members of the victim hailing from Unnao went to High Court and finally in November 2010, the CBI was directed to take up the case. CBI officials found that one Rahul, hailing from Indiranagar locality of Lucknow, was a colleague of Vajpayee and used to call the victim often. The duo was seen together on the day of the crime too.

Later, the probe found that Rahul was homosexual and he wanted to enter into a relationship with Adesh and when the latter opposed and threatened to expose him, he killed the victim in the campus at Kanpur.

Rahul also managed to save himself from the local Kalyanpur police investigation since his relative is a senior IPS officer posted in a key position in Lucknow. However, when the case was transferred to the CBI, the string-pulling ended.

HindustanTimes

BIZ LEADERS IN FOCUS ON R-DAY

In a sign of India's growing economic clout, a number of business leaders have been feted by the government.

PADMA BHUSHAN



Murugappa Vellayan Subbiah
Former chairman, Murugappa Group

As chairman of the National Skill Development Corp, Subbiah is guiding programmes to enhance employability and skills of India's youth.



B Muthuraman
Vice-chairman, Tata Steel

As President of the CII, he is among industry's most influential voices. Rising from trainee at Tata Steel in 1966 to vice-chairman, he has been one of India's major industry change agents.

PADMA SHRI



Priya Paul
Chairman, Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels

An economics graduate, the hotelier mirrors the confidence with which daughters have taken leadership roles in industrial families.



Shoji Shiba
Professor, Emiretus, University of Tsukuba, Japan

The practitioner of 'break-through management' Shiba is known to help organisations devise strategies to meet challenges of the new and changing environment.



Gopinath Pillai
Executive chairman, Savant Infocomm

He has worked as the chairman of the largest supermarket chain in Singapore for 10 years and as chairman of its warehousing subsidiary.



Arun Hastimal Firodia
Chairman, Kinetic Group

Under his leadership, the company developed India's first indigenous moped — Luna. A B.Tech from IIT, Mumbai, Kinetic has collaborated with the likes of Hyundai, Taigene & San Yang.



Swati A Piramal
Vice-chairman, Piramal Life Sciences

One of India's top scientists and industrialists, she was the first woman president in 90 years to head the chamber of commerce Assocham in 2009-10.

WHY THEY MATTER

- From management thinking to brick-and-mortar manufacturing, Indian industry has come a long way in the last six decades
- Domestic entrepreneurs have played a big part in changing India's economic landscape.

Political Express Nd 26.1.2012

आईआईटी में तकनीकी महोत्सव टेककृति का आयोजन 27 जनवरी से

कानपुर: आईआईटी कानपुर में छात्र छात्राओं के तकनीकी महोत्सव टेककृति 2012 का आयोजन 27 से 30 जनवरी तक किया जा रहा है, जिसमें देश के विभिन्न इंजीनियरिंग और तकनीक कालेज के करीब 1500 छात्र छात्रायें शामिल होंगे। टेककृति आयोजन समिति से जुड़े छात्रों ने एक बयान में बताया कि महोत्सव में भाग लेने वाले छात्र छात्राओं को करीब 25 लाख रुपये के पुरस्कार वितरित किये जायेंगे। इस कार्यक्रम में टॉक शो का आयोजन भी किया जा रहा है, जिसमें तकनीकी क्षेत्र के दिग्गजों को आमंत्रित किया

जा रहा है, जिसमें अमेरिका के साफ्टवेयर विशेषज्ञ रिचर्ड स्टालमैन, रोलो कारपेंटर, डा रिचर्ड नोबेल, भौतिक शास्त्री डा डेबोरा, नीदरलैंड के विक्टर हेस, इंग्लैंड से मार्कस नार्टन व क्रिस फिलिप्स आ रहे हैं। इसके अलावा अपने देश के कई प्रमुख विशेषज्ञ भी शामिल होंगे। टेककृति में इंजीनियरिंग कालेजों के छात्र छात्रायें अपने अपने रोबोट भी बनाकर लायेंगे और इस महोत्सव का एक आकर्षण रोबोट के बीच में खेले जाने वाला फुटबाल मैच होगा। इसमें हिस्सा लेने वाले छात्र छात्रायें कल से आईआईटी कानपुर में आने लगेंगे।