

Newspaper Clips

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Mail Today ND 27/01/2012 P-14

No big bang rollout of single engg test

By Ritika Chopra In New Delhi

THE first edition of the common engineering entrance examination scheduled to roll out in 2013 will probably cover only centrally-funded technical institutions in its first year.

In other words, just 15 IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology), 30 NITs (National Institutes of Technology), 4 IIITs (Indian Institutes of Information Technology), IISERs (Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research) and a few deemed universities will fall under its ambit.

Currently, there are 15 lakh engineering colleges across the country and more than 150 entrance tests are conducted for admission to these institutes.

The HRD ministry has held three meetings since last September to work on the final format of the examination, which will be jointly conducted by the IITs and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

But Sibal and his ministry are tight-lipped about the details. "We are working on it and an announcement will be made in February," the minister said.

However, those who attended the last meeting have told MAIL TODAY that the examination, in its first year, will probably be meant for engineering programmes of only central institutions.

"All our discussions till now have been mainly pertaining to the IITs, NITs, IIITs and centrally funded institutes. The test for the first year will probably just cover them or be a merger of the IIT-JEE and the AIEEE," an official who was present at the last meeting, held over a week ago, said on the condition of anonymity.

The rationale behind the common entrance exam for engineering is to reduce psychological and financial stress on students because of multiple entrance tests and give more importance to Class XII results than private coaching. "A student's class XII Boards results will be taken



The common test will be introduced in only centrally funded institutes now.

15 lakh
Number of engineering institutes in the country

150
Number of engineering entrance examinations



What is the rationale behind the common engineering entrance exam?

The rationale behind the common entrance exam for engineering is to reduce psychological and financial stress on students and to give more importance to Class XII results than coaching

Will common test cover all the institutes in its first year?

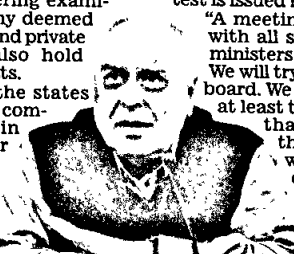
In its first year, 2013, it may cover just centrally funded institutes, which include 15 IITs, 30 NITs, 4 IIITs, IISERs & possibly deemed univs

into account at the time of admission," Sibal had said about the test in September last year.

Currently, apart from the joint entrance examination conducted by the IITs and the AIEEE conducted by the CBSE, all the states have their own engineering examinations. Many deemed universities and private institutes also hold their own tests.

"Whether the states will join the common test in the first year has not been discussed. I guess the idea is to

Kapil Sibal



first introduce the exam with the central institutes on board and then have the state governments and private players join it eventually," said the official.

The HRD ministry is likely to get the states on board before a formal notification on the test is issued next month.

"A meeting is scheduled with all state education ministers on February 15.

We will try to get them on board. We are hoping that at least the seven states that subscribe to the AIEEE score will join the common entrance test," an HRD ministry source said.

Deccan Herald ND 27/01/2012 p-1

HRD boost to set up more colleges

Scheme to be devised to incentivise states where student enrollment levels are poor

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: Aiming to achieve a 30 per cent increase in the country's gross enrollment rate (GER) in higher education in the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Centre is considering formulating a new scheme to provide increased funding for setting up new colleges and strengthening existing tertiary education institutions across states where enrollment of students is "very low".

"We are planning to formulate a scheme to incentivise those states where GER is very low. We will give more money to them for strengthening their higher education infrastructure and setting up new colleges where ever required," a Human Resource Development Ministry official told *Deccan Herald*.

The basic objective of the scheme will be to provide assistance to states for developing infrastructure and teaching learning resources, thereby giving the eligible population access to better opportunities in higher education. A move will be initiated to identify

Steep climb



- The target gross enrollment rate in higher education was 15 per cent during the 11th Five Year Plan, which was expected to grow by 8.9 per cent annually
- But the plan panel's mid-term appraisal found the GER to be still half of the world's average and much lower than that of developed nations
- Increase in higher education institutions across country confined to urban centres
- To meet 12th Plan target student enrollment must go up to 22 million in colleges and universities

those states where GER in higher education is very low, the official added.

The government had fixed the target GER in higher education at 15 per cent by the Eleventh Plan period, which was accordingly expected to grow by 8.9 per cent annually.

However, according to a mid-term appraisal of the

Eleventh Five Year Plan conducted by the Planning Commission, enrollment rate in higher education is still about half the world's average GER, which is 24 per cent, and about two thirds that of developing countries (18 per cent), and much lower that of developed nations (58 per cent).

» HRD boost, Page 7

Times Of India ND 27/01/2012 p-11

UGC mulls 20 exclusive univs, 800 colleges for women

Seeks A Four-Fold Hike Of ₹1,84,740 Cr During 12th 5-Yr Plan

New Delhi: Espousing the cause of women's education, the 12th Plan period document of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed 20 exclusive universities for them and 800 constituent colleges under the central varsities to ensure equity in access to quality education.

The UGC has also sought a four-time hike in allocation during the Five-Year Plan period from Rs 46,632 crore to Rs 1,84,740 crore to achieve its proposed initiatives.

The initiatives also include upgrading of autonomous colleges with potential of excellence, enhancing intake capacity of institutes of higher education and development of 'college cluster universities'. The plan document broadly emphasis on achieving the triple objectives of access and expansion, equity and inclusion, and quality and excellence,



POWER TO WOMEN: Initiatives include upgrading of autonomous colleges with potential of excellence and enhancing intake capacity

with an emphasis on consolidation and optimal use of infrastructure already created during the 11th Plan period.

Giving thrust to women's education, the plan document has proposed 20 universities facilitating their entry into higher education even from traditional background and rural and sub-urban areas. The Centre has proposed to fund their establishment

while the state governments may provide the land and help to establish such universities, the document states while holding the idea was included "because the social dynamics of our system".

Stating that certain sectors of our population are still not open to send girls to coeducational institutions, the UGC document contends that exclusive institutes of

higher education in some pockets for women "may act as a fillip to the participation of girls in higher education".

In addition to the already proposed and partially implemented 374 model colleges scheme, a new scheme of constituent colleges has been proposed for the 40 central universities in the country.

Under the scheme, 20 colleges each will be set up in the respective states in the district headquarters, numbering to 800 new colleges in all.

This will balance the regional distribution of colleges based on population density of the youth in the age group of 18-23 years.

"The colleges should be of international configuration in infrastructure, hostels, playground, library and technology-savvy classrooms, and to be 100% funded by the Centre as is presently followed in the case of the Delhi University," it said. ■

Hindu ND 27/01/2012 P-5

IIT extension centres for Chhattisgarh, Andamans

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Engineering teachers in Chhattisgarh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands will now be trained by the faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

The Board of Governors of IIT Kharagpur has approved the creation of extension centres at Raipur in Chhattisgarh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Damodar Acharya, IIT (K) Director told *The Hindu* on Thursday. Details are being worked out, he added.

There are concerns over the quality of teaching in engineering and technical institutions

because of lack of facilities for training of teachers.

In Chhattisgarh, the admissions to undergraduate engineering programmes in the various colleges show that in as many as 17 colleges (all of them in the non-government sector), 60 per cent or more seats remained vacant. Even though many of these institutions do satisfy the minimum requirements in terms of number of faculty as laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education, the quality of instructions is always questionable.

Prof. Acharya explained that teachers and engineers from

these two places would be trained through video-conferencing and contact mode and granted an M.Tech. degree but this course would be extended to three years instead of two which is the regular course duration. The faculty would have to attend classes on weekends at an identified centre - possibly in Kolkata or Bhubaneswar - and once a month visit Kharagpur for laboratory classes. "If this does not work out, we can have the students visiting Kharagpur once in a semester for longer duration," said Prof Acharya. Neither Madhya Pradesh nor Chhattisgarh has an IIT.

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Going ballistic

Govt's order blacklisting ex-ISRO chief and three other scientists reads like bullying of the worst kind

ONLY three weeks ago, at the Indian National Science Congress, the prime minister underlined the need to free science from the constraints of officialdom, to respect and nurture scientists. Such sentiments hardly explain the bizarre order by which the government has punished former ISRO chief G. Madhavan Nair for his alleged (and still unknown) role in a now-scraped deal between Antrix (ISRO's commercial arm) and multimedia company Devas, over the allocation of S-band spectrum without competitive bidding. After a PMO-appointed probe into the matter, Nair and three of his former colleagues have been banned from any government appointment, now or in the future.

Nair has hit back, alleging personal vendetta by current ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan, and claimed that he hasn't got a fair hearing. "We are being treated worse than terrorists," he told this newspaper. Such anguish is understandable, given how Nair has been feted and decorated by the government so far — he got the Padma Bhushan in 1998 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2009 after ISRO launched the first Chandrayaan mission. He chairs the board of governors of the new IIT at Patna. The reports that indicted him are still

under wraps — and in the meantime, the science establishment has been roiled with unseeably rumour and allegation. Why has the government not cleared the air and explained his alleged wrongdoing before taking such an unprecedented step? It has neither allowed the scientists an opportunity to explain their positions nor moved legal action against them. By issuing such an order, the government has only ended up pitching ISRO into crisis, allowing the space agency to appear as a site of machination and intrigue. With its clumsy handling, it has undermined the credibility of one of the more robust, high-achieving public scientific organisations.

There is an instructive parallel between the government's blundering approach to the ISRO scientists and the way it managed the army chief's age controversy — both highly delicate matters that called for tact and an awareness of the institutional reputation at stake. The government, instead, by playing tough, made a bad situation worse and provoked a regrettable public confrontation. The army chief has gone to the Supreme Court; now the former ISRO chief suggests he could go to court, too. You couldn't get a better tableau to showcase the government's ineptitude.

Deccan Herald ND 27/01/2012 p-1

AP's 75 engg colleges up for sale

J B S Umanadh

HYDERABAD, DHNS: As many as 75 private engineering colleges have stopped admissions for the current academic year and have put themselves up for sale in view of the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to stagger the tuition fee reimbursement program.

The Y S Rajasekhara Reddy government had promoted a Rs 2,750-crore program to benefit 27 lakh students enrolled in plus-two to higher studies, which the present Kiran Kumar Reddy-led government has ventured to scale down for the current academic year.

As per the new guidelines, students with 75 percent attendance, 50 percent marks in first year of plus-two and an income of below Rs one lakh a year are eligible for reimbursement of tuition fees.

The government decision has dealt a death blow to 720 private engineering colleges in the State. At least 75 colleges, 50 in and around Hyderabad, have offered themselves for sale.

"The setback in Government



policy to promote higher education through tuition fee reimbursement scheme has resulted in 75 corporate colleges becoming unviable," a spokesman for the state council for higher education (AICTE) said.

Officials say colleges that were started to cash in on the Government policy since 2007 managed to get approval from the AICTE, leaving the State with a record 2.75 lakh seats in around 720 colleges.

Hoping to make a quick buck with the government policy of reimbursing fees, the educational institutions got approvals for another 75 engineering colleges last year.

But both the Rosaiah and Ki-

ran Governments dilly-dallied and even delayed payments of reimbursements for the last two years putting students and also the colleges in deep financial crisis.

The new guidelines, which has been challenged in court, will deny benefits of the scheme to nearly 13 lakh out of 27 lakh students and would get an allocation of about Rs 1,250 crore, against Rs 2,750 crore now.

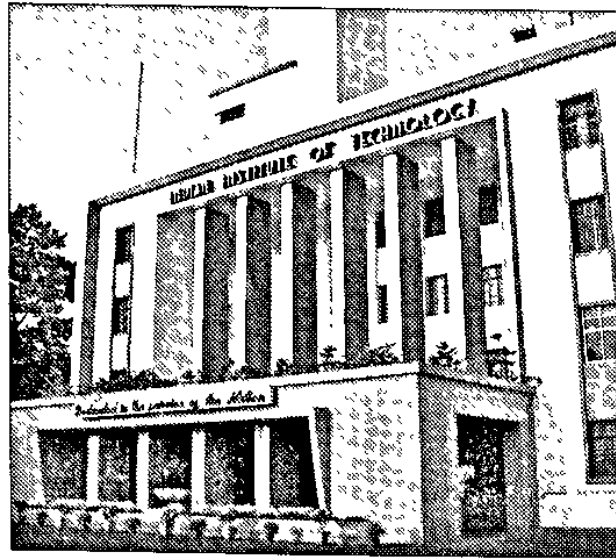
State higher social welfare minister Pithani Satyanarayana said the government said no government could operate a scheme with no ceiling.

As a result of the lopsided implementation of the scheme till 2009-10, the government is yet to clear the arrears of Rs 1,235 crore and, in the last two academic years, courts had come to the succour of the students, permitting them to write exams without payment of fees in full.

"The courts have made it clear to the Government that they will not help it for a third time. Hence the rush to regulate the scheme," said an official of the higher education department.

Financial Chronicle ND 27/01/2012

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IIT-Madras announces awards

Corporate head honchos V Sumantran and Prabhakar Raghavan are among the winners of this year's IIT-Madras Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA), the institute said on Thursday.

पिछले दस साल के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक इन क्षेत्रों में तेजी से आगे बढ़ी हैं छात्राएं

मैनेजमेंट और मेडिकल में भी लड़कियों की धमक

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में राजपथ पर जब स्नेहा शेखावत वायु सेना की अगुवाई कर रही थी, उस वक्त यूजीसी भी लड़कियों की पीठ थपथपा रहा था। बीते 10 वर्ष के आंकड़े गवाही देते हैं कि लड़कियां अब विज्ञान, इंजीनियरिंग, कॉमर्स और मेडिकल क्षेत्र में लड़कों से पीछे नहीं हैं। इस दौरान इंजीनियरिंग में 122 फीसदी, मेडिकल में 89 और कॉमर्स में 68 फीसदी लड़कियों की संख्या बढ़ी। विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के अनुसार,

ऐसे बढ़ी संख्या		
क्षेत्र ..	वर्ष 2000-01	वर्ष 2009-10
कॉमर्स/मैनेजमेंट	545,712	915,719
इंजीनियरिंग टेक्नोलॉजी	1,24,606	2,76,806
विकित्सा	1,07,177	2,02,803
कला	1,7,11,487	2,772,580
कानून	67,196	89,256

2000-01 में इंजीनियरिंग और टेक्नोलॉजी कोर्स में 1,24,606 लड़कियां थीं जो 2009-10 में 2,76,806 हो गईं। इस दौरान क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों की संख्या में करीब 122 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ। इन

वर्षों में कॉमर्स और मैनेजमेंट में लड़कियों का दाखिला 69 फीसदी बढ़ा, वहीं विज्ञान में 72, एजुकेशन संकाय में 223 और कानून के क्षेत्र में 33 फीसदी। इंजीनियरिंग काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया के चेयरमैन और

योजना आयोग के पूर्व सलाहकार पी.एन. शाली इस इजाफे का श्रेय इंजीनियरिंग में आईटी और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स जैसे संकायों को देते हैं। इन सेक्टरों में पेशेवर ढंग से काम होता है और पैकेज भी उम्दा है। वहीं, इन क्षेत्रों की कंपनियों की मानें तो लड़कियां ये काम बेहतर ढंग से कर सकती हैं। कंप्यूटर साइंस और इंजीनियरिंग के बाद मिलने वाली नौकरी ऑफिस जॉब की तरह होती है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व निदेशक प्रो. सुरेंद्र प्रसाद कहते हैं कि इस वृद्धि की बड़ी वजह सामाजिक ढांचे में बदलाव है।