

Newspaper Clips

July 1, 2011

Hindustan Times ND 1/07/2011
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POWERGRID signs MoU with FIIT of IIT Delhi

Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID), has signed an MoU with the Foundation of Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) of IIT Delhi. The MoU was signed by V.M. Kaul, Director (Personnel), POWERGRID and Dr. Anil Wali, Direc-



tor, FITT in the presence of Chairman, Board of Governor of IIT Delhi R.S. Agarwal, Prof Surendra Prasad, Director, IIT Delhi and other officials.

Times of India ND 1/07/2011 P-16

Powergrid signs MoU with FIIT of IIT Delhi

Power Grid Corporation of India (Powergrid), the Central Transmission Utility (CTU), has signed an MoU with the Foundation of Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) of IIT Delhi. The MoU was signed by V.M. Kaul, Director (Personnel), Powergrid and Dr. Anil Wali, Director, FITT, in the presence of R.S. Agarwal, Chairman, Board of Governor of IIT Delhi; Prof Surendra Prasad, Director, IIT Delhi, and other senior faculty



members of IIT Delhi and officials from Powergrid. The MoU aims to start long term collaboration between Powergrid and FITT, IITD in various areas of operation and maintenance of transmission assets and telecom.

Times of India ND 1/07/2011 P-17

IIT-D 'self-enrichment' programme open to all

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has opened its doors wider: all students wanting to take up the week-long self-enrichment programme can do so now. It was earlier meant only for SC/ST candidates.

TOI had reported about the course in its Thursdays edition. But various experts were anguished that IIT-Delhi was running the programme only for SC/ST students and termed the grooming course as smacking of apartheid and causing segregation on campus. Reacting promptly, the tech school changed its stand; it will now allow all students to take the course. The co-ed programme, which will run from July 10 to July 17, is made up of modules on communication, personality development and theatre for communication.

“(All) JEE selected students who are planning to join IIT-Delhi are encouraged to register for the special

Self-Enrichment Programme starting July 9. The programme is open for limited registration for up to 200 students and preference will be given to SC/ST and other students from economically weaker background,” read a fresh note put out by IIT-Delhi on Thursday.

The residential programme is conducted by the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, Kerala. It will enable students to improve communication skills, better time management and public expression as well as build self-confidence, says the note put up by the institute.

Ashley Paul, a course co-ordinator, says, “Most of these students don't have the social capital; they come from rural parts of India. The course leaves them a lot more certain than when they walked in.”

From classes in communication to touching on aspects of personality development, Paul says the course is meant to help students shed their inhibitions and come out of their shell.

TIMES IMPACT

IIT-Delhi CREST workshop not restricted to SC, ST students anymore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

IIT DELHI has reworded the notice for its 10-day "self-enrichment course" for students from marginalised backgrounds, on its Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) website. From inviting just SC/ST students enrolled into B Tech programmes for the new academic session, the course will now be open for all students.

However, institute Deputy Director M Balakrishnan said preference would still be given to SC/ST students.

The 10-day workshop, which will be organised by the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST), will commence from July 10 for a maximum of 200 students. "This will be the second year of the workshop. Last year, around 150 students attended our programme. We will open a registration system this year, clearly stating that it will be on a first-cum-first-serve basis for a cap of 200 candidates," said Professor Balakrishnan of CREST, which is an autonomous institute under the Kerala government.

Mounav Das, a second-year B Tech student from IIT Delhi who had attended the course last year, told *Newsline*: "The students knew it was a confidence-building measure for reserved category students. It was a very positive experience because we were told how to deal with specific situations, and it helped build our confidence."

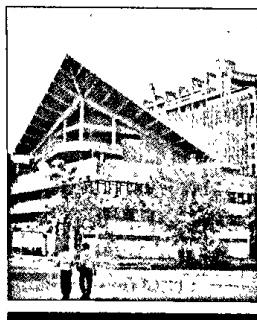
A former student of Delhi Public School-Dhaligaon in Assam, Das said the course was designed to help students "develop their personality".

"Most of my batchmates from the general category also knew about the course. There was nothing discriminatory about it. I thought it was a brilliant experience," he said.

Explaining the philosophy behind such a workshop, Dr Balakrishnan said, "In 2009, the Bangalore-based National Institute of Applied Sciences conducted a meeting for all IITs, where CREST made a presentation. Their course — which we adopted last year — provides for confidence-building measures to help students shed their inhibitions and come out of their shells."

Balakrishnan said that on an average, the SC/ST students who attended last year's programme managed to clear one course more than those who did not. Of the 240 SC/ST candidates admitted last year, 100 had attended the course. Quoting the Supreme Court verdict in a 2009 case, he said institutions have been directed to provide special facilities for the betterment of students from socially and economically backward classes.

Professor D D Nampoothiri, executive director of CREST, said the course was modelled on the lines of a course developed by the University of Michigan, and had three components.



THE SC/ST students who attended last year's programme managed to clear one course more than those who did not. Of the 240 SC/ST candidates admitted last year, 100 attended the course, said Dr Balakrishnan

"The first part deals with developing communication skills, so students are able to articulate themselves freely. The second segment of the course helps students develop their academic writing skills, and the final part deals with theatre workshops. Last year, we had trainers coming from the National School of Drama for this component."

Balakrishnan said that IIT-Delhi, which spends around Rs 15 lakh for the course, had selected the students, and CREST was not aware of the caste specifications of the selected candidates. "Both IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay conducted the course last year. This year, several IITs have also invited us," he said.

IN APPROPRIATE WORDS

IIT-D withdraws social skill lessons for SC/ST students

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) on Thursday withdrew a controversial notice it had posted online announcing special classes for fresh scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students to help them "adapt to the environment at IIT-D."

The notice, posted on the IIT Joint Entrance Examination website, had triggered outrage among sections of SC/ST students who dubbed the classes derogatory and humiliating, as was reported by HT yesterday.

Human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal, asked about the controversial notice, hinted that the government had made it clear to the IIT that the notice must be removed. "The notice has been removed, and you should know why it has been removed," he said.

IIT-D director Surendra Prasad had on Wednesday told HT that he accepted the original notice was "inappropriately worded."

"The classes are meant for all students from rural backgrounds — and not just for SC/ST students — and were conducted last year

THE NOTICE, POSTED ON IITJEE WEBSITE, ASKED ALL SC/ST STUDENTS TO COME FOR SPECIAL CLASSES TO HELP THEM ADAPT TO IIT CULTURE

too," Prasad had said. But notice, which till Wednesday night specifically asked SC/ST students to come for the special classes, was late Thursday replaced on the IIT-JEE website by a mechanism for any student — and not just SC/ST or rural students — to enroll for the classes.

Titled a "social enrichment programme", the special classes are to be conducted by the Thiruvananthapuram-based Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST). "It is good that the IIT has withdrawn the notice, but such incidents leave me wondering about the mindset behind such notices," Rajesh Kumar, an SC candidate said.

The classes will be held a week before the academic session officially starts at the IIT on July 17. None of the other IITs are holding such classes.

Asian Age ND
1/07/2011 P-13

IIT develops 'smart cane' for the blind

PREETI KARMYOGI

NEW DELHI

June 30: The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has developed a technology that will help blind people to sense an object at three metres distance. The institute has sold the technology to Britain's Welcome Trust.

The present devices available in the market can catch the signals of the objects only at knee length. But the device developed by the IIT, named smart cane, will help the blind sense the object even if it is higher than the knee length, like a pole or any other taller structure.

"This device will help the blind in a great way and make their daily life easy," IIT director Surendra Prasad said.

The company has bought the technology for Rs 3.2 crores.

Smart cane sends signal to the blind through vibrations. The message also contains information what kind of object is in the way. The cane employs an ultrasonic transreceiver which sends an ultrasonic wave at regular intervals. The micro controller helps in determining the direction and distance of the object from the cane.

The receiver then sends the signal to the vibrator which vibrates the cane in various patterns, depending upon the proximity and nature of the obstacle. The complete mechanism is powered by a rechargeable battery, that mobile phones and digital phones have.

Business Standard ND 1/07/2011 P-16

IIT-Bombay to sell games

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 30 June

AFTER giving the nation its rupee symbol and designing the next car for General Motors India, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay's, Industrial Design Centre has decided to bring games in the market which you will be able to buy off the shelf.

The premier institute of technology has, for the first time, decided to auction board games created by its students in the market.

It would be selling 10 games created by its students from the Industrial Design Centre and has approached the All India Toy Manufacturers' Association to begin talks with toy makers.

"There are a number of games designed by our students which are available for

commercial exploitation. Some of them have design registration completed, while more recent ones are in process. Board games are very much in demand in the Western markets. Unlike digital games, they allow children to interact better and also helps their thinking process. This is the reason why chess is still a popular game," said a professor from IIT-Bombay.

The institute will be auctioning 10 of its games. In the past, the institute has been able to sell nine games to toy manufacturing company, Funskool India. These games, the institute said, have been sold in the international markets, too.

Funskool is a joint venture between Indian tyre giant MRF, and US-based Hasbro Inc, a toy and board game company. Hasbro is a worldwide leader in children's and fami-

ly leisure time entertainment products and services. A majority of its products are manufactured in East Asia.

The institute will have a revenue sharing mechanism with the toy manufacturer and students in place, wherein royalty from large companies will have an initial payment of ₹50,000. The payments will start in one year and the rights will return to IIT if the game is not marketed within a year.

"We generally give the students (who create the games) an option of either picking up a part of the royalty or accept cash payment upfront. The students usually opt for the latter as they prefer the same. For each game sold, we get around ₹30,000, which the students divide among themselves depending on how many of them worked on the game in a group," added the professor.

HRD set to challenge SC order on OBC quota

TRIGGER Ruling unintentionally hands over seats meant for OBC to general category students, feels govt

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resource development (HRD) ministry plans to challenge a 2008 Supreme Court ruling that the government holds responsible for unintentionally handing over quota seats meant for the Other Backward Classes to general category students at institutions such as the Delhi University.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday said the government was considering approaching the SC seeking a review of a ruling that bars admission of OBC students with marks lower than 10% less than the last general category candidate selected.

"The high cutoffs at universities like DU, along with the 10% ruling, make it very hard for OBC students to fill seats due to them. We are very concerned and I am considering going to the court. I will also be speaking to the DU vice-chancellor," Sibal said. Only a seven judge bench can change the ruling, made by a five judge bench.

The immediate trigger for the government's intervention is a SC hearing on Friday on a petition accusing the DU and the Jawaharlal Nehru University of wasting OBC quota seats, denying students from these communities the opportunities the 27% OBC reservation law is meant to offer. Only 3,158 out of the 7,059 OBC quota seats at the

ADMISSION GALORE

The problem is rampant at

■ DU, JNU and several central universities

Problem free institutes

■ IITs and IIMs

Reasons

■ DU uses Board exam scores to set cutoffs. While IITs, IIMs use them as eligibility criteria and set cutoffs based on entrance tests

DU were filled last year. The vacant seats go to general category candidates under another SC ruling - which the government is not challenging.

But skyrocketing cutoffs at the DU - epitomized by a 100% cutoff at a top commerce college this year - proved equally critical in pushing the ministry's hand, government sources said.

Since OBC students who score higher than the general category cutoff obtain general category seats, the 27% seats reserved for students from these communities must be filled by those who obtain marks in a 10% band below the score of the last selected general category candidate.

This, the ministry sources argued, is near-impossible statistically at institutions like DU that admit students on the basis of scores in qualifying examinations - conducted in India by state and central Boards.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Jul 1, 2011;Section: Times City;Page: 6;

Sibal: Govt will help OBC students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: HRD minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday said the government was concerned about the high cut-offs coming in the way of filling seats reserved for OBC students in Delhi University colleges.

Sibal said the ministry was contemplating several steps to address the issue, including moving the Supreme Court. The existing education system is "working against policy of access to education," said Sibal while batting for holding a single examination for students across the country to do away with such problems.

Stating that "he will sit" with the vice-chancellor of Delhi University on the high cut-off issue, Sibal hinted at the other option of moving the Supreme Court for the benefit of OBC students. "...I am thinking of approaching the Supreme Court that your 10% margin that you have kept...it is not fulfilling the aspirations of OBC students who want admission in DU. But I have not taken a final decision on it. This is one of the options," he said on the sidelines of a function here.

Sibal said it would be difficult for OBC candidates to get admission if the cut-off is above 90%.

Times of India ND 01-Jul-11

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DU says can't probe dud certificate scam

University Says Staff Not Equipped To Detect Fakes

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi University officials have said there is not much they can do about the fake certificate scam. There is no internal probe on cards and verification of certificates at the university or college level is not feasible. Colleges say neither the faculty nor their administrative staff



MASTERMIND: Himanshu

is equipped to identify a fake. The varsity may organize appropriate training for its staff soon.

"We will train our people and ask them to be more alert. We hope to work in close coordination with the police and the people," said DU vice-chancellor, professor Dinesh Singh. The university hasn't thought of holding an internal inquiry as it hasn't received any official intimation from the police about the scam or the people involved. Professor J M Khurana, dean of students' welfare, said, "We know about the scam

through the media only. How can we conduct an inquiry till we get anything in writing from the police? DU is not responsible for the conduct of individual employees and we are happy that the police are catching those who may be responsible for clearing such admissions."

Though the OBC admissions are conducted by colleges, SC/ST candidates are allotted seats by the SC/ST Cell of the varsity. Candidates just have to submit a photocopy of their caste certificate with the form and their choice of colleges. The Cell allots the seat in a college on merit-cum-choice. The certificates are sent for verification with the issuing agency only after the admissions are through. A senior DU official said, "After admissions, colleges write to the issuing authorities to verify the caste certificates. However, often these agencies do not reply soon. By then colleges become lax."

Though many colleges are now checking the certificates more cautiously, they say they cannot verify them. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, principal, Hindu College, said, "We are being very cautious now. I have requested one of our officials to especially check the names of candidates and income on the certificates for the OBC category. But it's difficult to know if the certificates are genuine or not."

Lax Scrutiny Made E Delhi Cell Scam Hub

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: Crime Branch officials probing the fake caste certificates case said on Thursday that the accused Sanjeet Mahajan, who was arrested on Wednesday night, was paid Rs 5,000 by touts.

They said Delhi University has SC/ST cells at three places - north campus, south campus and at Shyam Lal College in east Delhi. "Himanshu deposited most of the forms at the east Delhi centre as Sanjeet worked there. He chose east Delhi destination for two reasons - the vigil was lax and they could insert and change documents at will before transferring the forms to north campus," said DCP Chand.

He said on one occasion, the forgers used a genuine SC form of another candidate and submitted it by just changing the name of the candidate. "The admission slips are supposed to be handed to the students themselves as per university rule. But these accused handed over these slips to the racketeers so they could collect their fee before giving the slips to their client," said a crime branch source.

The sources said the two accused also informed the racketeers about the colleges where students could get admission before the merit list got uploaded at the DU website. This enabled Himanshu and his associate Vikas Khanna to draw up hard bargains.



IN THE NET: The two accused work at the SC/ST cell of DU

"If it was a seat in a campus college, the charges were around Rs 5 lakh. For non-campus colleges, the bidding began at Rs 3 lakh," added the source. Most of the discussions with parents took place at coffee shops close to south and north campuses as Himanshu never revealed the address of his house or his residence, which was in Jail Road, west Delhi.

Cops said Mahajan played a crucial role even after the admission process. "We are probing why DU authorities allowed him to send the certificates for verification to tehsildars of India using Under Postal Certificates. No tehsildar ever replied to such docu-

mentation," said an offer.

The cops also claimed that Himanshu got certificates of the applicants "scanned" through e-mails. This included photographs of the candidates which he kept as a proof of the dealings.

The accused also had a Facebook account, HimGupta2001, through which he contacted students.

"That it was one Pradeep of Madangir who introduced marine officer Himanshu to this crime in 2008. However, the two fell out last year. Pradeep is currently absconding and is believed to be running a separate forgery racket in DU," said the source.

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Sibal: Govt will help OBC students

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शिक्षा की नई दुकानों पर एआईसीटीई की कैची

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

इंजीनियरिंग एवं प्रबंधन कॉलेजों की बढ़ती संख्या से चिंतित केंद्र सरकार ने नए कॉलेजों को मंजूरी देने में कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। पहले से चल रहे कॉलेजों की सालाना गुणवत्ता जांच में भी सख्ती बरती है। नतीजा यह हुआ कि इस बार सिर्फ 136 नए तकनीकी कॉलेजों को मंजूरी मिल पाई। वहीं पहले से चल रहे 118 कॉलेजों में नए दाखिले पर रोक लगा दी गई है।

पिछले साल की बात करें तो 799 कॉलेजों को मंजूरी दी गई थी, जिससे प्रबंधन, इंजीनियरिंग आदि की करीब चार लाख सीटें बढ़ी थी। मगर इस बार 44 हजार सीटें ही बढ़ सकेंगी। ज्यादातर कॉलेज दक्षिण और मध्य के राज्यों में हैं। उत्तरी राज्यों में दस हजार सीटें ही बढ़ेंगी।

अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) के सूत्रों के अनुसार देश में इंजीनियरिंग में लाखों और प्रबंधन में हजारों सीटें हर साल खाली रह जाती है।

गुणवत्ता पर जोर

136 नए इंजीनियरिंग, प्रबंधन कॉलेजों को मिली अनुमति

800 तकनीकी कॉलेज पिछले साल खोले गए थे

44 हजार सीटें ही बढ़ पाएंगी इस साल इंजीनियरिंग, प्रबंधन की

21 नए कॉलेज मंजूर

मेडिकल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (एमसीआई) ने 21 नए मेडिकल कॉलेजों को इसी सत्र से शुरू करने की मंजूरी दे दी है। इनमें 16 कॉलेज निजी क्षेत्र के हैं, जबकि पांच सरकारी हैं। देश में अभी 314 मेडिकल कॉलेज हैं। नए कॉलेजों के खुलने के बाद यह संख्या बढ़कर 335 हो जाएगी। एमसीआई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स की बैठक में फैसला हुआ।