

Newspaper Clips July 28, 2015

Missile Man, beloved former Prez dies

Hindustan Times (Indore)

GUWAHATI: Former president and Bharat Ratna APJ Abdul Kalam died on Monday after collapsing during a lecture in Shillong.

Kalam, 83, who reached Shillong via Guwahati in the morning, collapsed during a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management-Shillong (IIM-S) around 6:30 pm and rushed to the Bethany Hospital there.

Doctors at the hospital said he was brought dead around 7pm. "He had no pulse when he was admitted to the hospital. We can attribute his death to cardiac arrest," a doctor said.

The hospital authorities, however, refrained from confirming the death until Meghalaya governor V Shanmughanathan and chief secretary PBO Warjri visited the hospital around 8pm.

"His body will be flown to New Delhi via Guwahati Tuesday morning," Warjri said.

IIM-S officials said Kalam, who had tweeted in the morning about the function, showed no signs of illness after he reached the Meghalaya capital. "We had a packed house for the lecture on Liveable Planet Earth," an official said.

FROM 'MISSILE MAN' TO 'PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT'

Kalam served as president for five years from 2002, enjoying the support of both the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress.

Kalam was closely involved in the country's civilian space programme and military missile development efforts, earning him the sobriquet 'India's Missile Man'.

He worked as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) before he became president.

He also played a pivotal technical and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998. After his term, he returned to a life of education, writing, and public service. He received several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

The Centre has declared a national mourning of seven days. My first interaction with him was when I was a research student at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. He had come to meet Dr Vikram Sarabhai, who was at that time shaping the India's space programme.

"That was just a casual meeting."

We met again as colleagues in the Indian Space Research Organisation but the talks were mainly confined to our work.

Our friendship grew more intimate when he became the head of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and I was the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation. (Isro). I used to go to Delhi for official meetings and we used to meet in the evenings. We used to discuss many subjects not just science.

Later when he became the President of India, he invited me one day to have dinner with him at Rashtrapati Bhawan. I was touched with his humility. He had got South Indian food--dosa, vada cooked for me and had specifically asked the cook to make it in South Indian style. He made me sit on the head chair of the dining table. I was embarrassed but he made me feel comfortable and asked me not bother.

He later took me around Rashtrapati Bhawan. First he took me to his library. I was amazed at the collection of books he had. Then he showed me the room where he slept. It had a simple cot, a lungi (dhoti), a veena and a few other essential items. There was just no show or flamboyance. His behaviour was as informal as earlier with no distinction that he had been elevated as the First Citizen of the country. Then he showed me the room where he did his technical work. I was speechless to see his level of energy. Even at 70 years of age, he worked as a 40 year old.

But what struck me most was that even as the President of India he led such a frugal life, a spartan life.

His love for children was always visible. I have been with him in many programmes. After the programmes got over he would cross all boundaries to interact freely with the children, speak at length with them and motivate them to take up challenges.

My last meeting with him was last year when I was shifting from Delhi after a stint as member Planning Commission. It was 8.45 pm when I went to his house . He was teaching young students. I was awe struck to find so many youngsters hearing him with rapt attention even at that hour.

We had some informal discussions, exchanged notes. Before leaving I asked him to see my reports -one on waste energy and one on Western Ghats. "I will surely have a look at them Buddy," he has said.

IIT date with Kalam that will never happen

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Bhubaneswar/IIT-date-with-Kalam-that-will-never-happen/articleshow/48243846.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: IIT Bhubaneswar (IITBBS) will miss APJ Abdul Kalam during its forthcoming convocation in September.

The institute had contacted him to grace the event. "Though the date was not finalized, Kalam had expressed willingness when our chairman (S K Roongta) approached him," institute director RV Rajakumar said.

Rajakumar said Kalam along with some Nobel laureates were expected to attend the event. "We were working out a date suitable for him," the director said.

"Kalam's passion to ignite the young minds and bring the best in them is unparalleled. That is why we were looking forward to his presence at the convocation, where he would have interacted with our students on the new campus," Rajakumar said.

The state government postponed the inauguration of sound and light show at Dhauli here scheduled for Tuesday in view of the former President's death. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik was to inaugurate it, said deputy director, tourism, Utpal Pati.

Governor S C Jamir, the chief minister, several politicians and educationists across the state expressed grief over his demise.

Both Jamir and Naveen described Kalam's death as a "profound" loss for the country. "Kalam was a visionary and an immensely popular President," Naveen said.

Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in a statement, said Kalam will continue to inspire generations. "Undoubtedly, we lost one of the greatest sons of India," he said.

"Very sad to hear. Farewell, people's President, you made us proud to be Indian. R.I.P," industrialist and MP Baijayant Panda tweeted.

Stating that Kalam enthused and instilled scientific temper among Indian youth, leader of opposition Narasingha Mishra described him as an embodiment of peace, brotherhood and fraternity. State BJP president K V Singhdeo, senior Congress leader Niranjana Patnaik, among several others, mourned his death.

Utkal University vice-chancellor Ashok Das said the humility and simplicity of the missile man, one of the greatest Indians, would be remembered forever.

Mail Today ND 28/07/2015 P-20

■ IIT-DELHI CROWNED ENACTUS CHAMPS

AN IIT-Delhi team led by Parneeth Buriyu has emerged as the winner of the 11th Enactus India National Championship 2015, which concluded in Gurgaon recently.

The competition conducted by Enactus, a U.S.-based organisation that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilise university students to make a difference in their communities, is aimed



at identifying projects that can improve the overall quality of life and standard of living.

Hindustan ND 28/07/2015 P-6

आईआईटी विशेषज्ञ करेंगे कार की जांच

फॉलोअप

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

विवेक विहार में हादसे का शिकार हुए विनय जिंदल को टक्कर मारने वाली कार कौन सी थी? इसकी जांच आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञ प्रोफेसर करेंगे।

पुलिस सूत्रों ने इसका खुलासा किया। विनय का परिवार सोमवार को पूर्वी दिल्ली के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों से मिला। सूत्रों ने बताया कि गाड़ी का मॉडल कौन सा था, यह अभी तक स्पष्ट नहीं हो सका

डंप तकनीक सहारा लेगी

हादसे के वक्त कौन-कौन से मोबाइल वारदात स्थल के समीप थे, इसकी जांच करने के लिए पुलिस डंप तकनीक का सहारा लेगी ताकि कार चालक का पता चल सके।

है? टक्कर मारने वाली गाड़ी की गति कितनी थी? इन सब बिंदुओं को जांच करने के लिए आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञों की मदद ली जाएगी। पुलिस को जो फुटेज पुलिस मिला है, वह उतना स्पष्ट नहीं है। जिससे आरोपी चालक के कार नंबर की

आज बस्सी से मिलेंगे

विनय के मामा महेंद्र ने बताया कि परिजनों को दिल्ली पुलिस के कमिश्नर बीएस बस्सी ने मिलने का वक्त दिया है, यह मुलाकात मंगलवार सुबह 11 बजे होगी।

शिनाख्त हो सके। जानकारी के अनुसार, यह जांच गुड़गांव में होगी। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने घटना के बाद कार जीटीबी हॉस्पिटल की तरफ जाने की बात कही थी, ऐसे में पुलिस इस रूट पर पड़ने वाले सभी सीसीटीवी फुटेज को खंगाल रही है।

Industry-funded projects at IIT Madras rise 20%

Institute says will incubate 20 new startups every year

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/industry-funded-projects-at-iit-madras-rise-20-115072700120_1.html

Industry-funded projects at [IIT Madras](#) rose 20% to Rs 64 crore in 2014-15.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras in his convocation speech said IIT Madras said the institute will incubate atleast 20 new companies on an average every year.

The institute earned Rs 97 lakh from technology transfer fees and royalties during 2014-15. Meanwhile, the Intellectual Property Management Cell enabled filing of around 80 patents during the year.

The research fund of Rs 50 crore, created last year, was used to fund seven R&D Awards (amounting to Rs 1.9 crore), five research scholar innovation projects (for a total of Rs 25 lakh), twenty-two exploratory research projects with ideas (Rs 2 crore in all) and two multidisciplinary team projects that establish a new line of research with potential to lead to the creation of new Research Centres (for Rs 3.98 crore) this year, he added.

Ramamurthi said the Phase II of the IIT-M Research Park (IITMRP) will be ready for occupation by the end of this year.

Saint Gobain Research India (SGRI), the anchor client for Phase II has taken over 1.2 lakh sq ft area that spreads across four floors in one of the blocks. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Logistics, Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), Biosciences Incubator (BI), and IIT Alumni Industry Interaction Centre (IAIIC) have also been allotted space that already covers nearly 25% of Phase II.

To boost incubation activities, IITMRP has allocated 100,000 sq ft space in Phase II.

Till date, 89 startup companies have been incubated at IITM, of which 29 were set up in 2014-15. Several of them are working in advanced and emerging areas such as IoT (machine-to-machine), clean energy, water, biomedical devices/healthcare, education, agri-tech and ICT.

KIIT and KISS founder Achutya Samant recalled how Kalam had visited KIIT and KISS four times, including once when he was the President.

IIM-A director apologizes to Gadkari over faux pas

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/IIM-A-director-apologizes-to-Gadkari-over-faux-pas/articleshow/48243517.cms>

NAGPUR: IIM Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda has apologized to union transport minister Nitin Gadkari for the faux pas in the invitation card, putting an end to the controversy. The minister, upset over his name being mentioned below that of Nanda, had skipped the inauguration ceremony of IIM Nagpur.

While Gadkari has dropped his plan to move a breach of privilege motion against Nanda, he has decided to write to union HRD minister Smriti Irani, urging her to take care that no public representative is shown disrespect in future in this manner.

Meanwhile, apparently in view of Gadkari's boycott, chief secretary Swadheen Kshatriya has issued a circular, asking officials to show due respect to public representatives. The directives state that the name of public representatives should be prominently mentioned in invitation cards of government events.

Nanda admitted in the handwritten apology letter that breach of protocol took place while inviting Gadkari for the event. In order to make amends, Nanda has decided to seek a personal appointment with Gadkari and invite him to IIM Nagpur so that he can address and guide students there.

Explaining the reasons for the goof-up, the letter states, "We were rushing through the preparations for inauguration within a one-week window before start of classes today (July 27). To add to the complexity, I was travelling in China whole of last week. In confusion my staff took several missteps."

The director further admitted that his institute took a hurried and casual approach, which made Gadkari feel unwelcome. "All I can do is to offer my sincere and personal apology," Nanda has stated in the letter.

Chief secretary Kshatriya's circular has outlined the procedure to be followed by officials for seven things. They include: showing proper respect to MLAs, MLCs and MPs, inviting them for government functions, meetings organized by divisional commissioners or ministers for discussing development works and local problems, answering the correspondent sent by public representatives, to take note of letters sent by them, to review the action taken on their letters and providing information to them.

This seven-page circular is an amended version of the one issued on January 17, 2014. The first circular, too, was issued after a number of MLAs and MLCs had moved breach of privilege motions against government officers for showing disrespect to them. The circular has mentioned in detail the procedure to be followed while organizing government functions. It has mentioned the public representatives who should be invited for such events.

GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

- * Names of MLAs and MPs in whose constituency the event is taking place should be invited
- * The guardian minister of the district should be invited for government events
- * All the ministers (both cabinet or minister of state) of the district should be invited
- * Written invitations should be sent all these public representatives
- * The names of all the dignitaries should be properly mentioned in the invitation card
- * The local head of department organizing the event should get the card checked by protocol officer
- * The seating arrangements of these dignitaries should be made as per state protocol
- * Important programmes at local level should not be held when legislature session is on

Times of India ND 28/07/2015 P-19

3D-printed UAV takes flight in UK

Drone, Weighing 3kg, Covers A Distance Of 500m

London: A 3D-printed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was successfully launched off the front of a Royal Navy warship and it landed safely on a Dorset beach after covering a distance of around 500 metres. Weighing 3kg and measuring 1.5m, the airframe was created on a 3D-printer using laser sintered nylon by the University of Southampton.

The SULSA UAV catapulted off HMS Mersey into the Wyke Regis Training Facility in Weymouth, before landing on Chesil Beach. The flight, which covered roughly 500 metres, lasted less than few minutes but demonstrated the potential use of small light-weight UAVs, which can be easily launched at sea, in a maritime environment, researchers said.

The aircraft carried a small video camera to record its flight and researchers monitored the flight from their UAV control van with its on-board video-cameras.

Known as Project Triangle the ca-

pability demonstration was led by Southampton researchers.

"The key to increased use of UAVs is the simple production of low cost and rugged airframes — we believe our pioneering use of 3D printed nylon has advanced design thinking in the UAV community world-wide," said professor Andy Keane, from Engineering and the Environment at the University of Southampton.

In 2011, University of Southampton engineers initially designed, and

© Radius Images/Corbis



With a wingspan of nearly 1.5 metres, the UAV has a cruise speed of 93kph but can fly almost silently. The aircraft is printed in four major parts and can be assembled without the use of any tools

flew project SULSA, the world's first entirely 'printed' aircraft.

With a wingspan of nearly 1.5 metres, the UAV being trialled has a cruise speed of 93 kph but can fly almost silently. The aircraft is printed in four major parts and can be assembled without the use of any tools. PPI

Times of India ND 28/07/2015P-2

AIPMT leak: Girl who filed PIL, dad booked

Manash.Gohain
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New Delhi: The AIPMT paper leak case has taken a new turn with police filing an FIR against three people, including a candidate of the exam. They have been booked for allegedly trying to create fear and confusion among CBSE officials and obstructing them in conducting the re-test in a "proper manner".

In its complaint, the board has alleged that two men, including a Niti Aayog official, had mailed CBSE hours before the re-exam, stating there could be another paper leak. He used his daughter's email ID, who later turned out to be a candidate of the exam. She is also the petitioner on the basis of whose PIL the Supreme Court had quashed the May 3, 2015 exam and ordered the re-test.

There was high drama at the CBSE office on the eve of the AIPMT re-test after the board received an email that read, "I would like to bring to your notice that I have heard of some agents promising candidates access to question papers one day before the exam for a consideration; the modus operandi of these agents is to pick the candidate one night before the exam, provide them the papers and answers in the night and lead them write the exam next morning without allowing contact with parents or anyone else. (sic)"

Sanyam Bhardwaj, officer on special duty, CBSE who filed the police complaint said the email account belonged to the candidate who filed the PIL in the apex court. "We contacted her. The girl and her mother denied sending the mail. Through Niti Aayog we contacted the father of the candidate. He said he sent the mail on a basis of a hearsay."

After Bhardwaj spoke to the Niti Aayog official, the board received another mail from the same email ID stating, "This information was based on hearsay, and was shared with you to caution the authorities of such possibilities."

Twelve hours later, CBSE received a similar mail from

another man, whose daughter was also a candidate of the AIPMT exam. The man has also been booked, along with the Niti Aayog official and his daughter. TOI is in possession of all these mails.

The Niti Aayog official could not be contacted as his phone was switched off.

In the complaint, CBSE said both the candidates were trying to create fear/confusion among CBSE officials through their fathers. It also requested police officials to investigate "why these people have written such an email and who were the people from whom they heard the possibility of such leakage and



Two men, including a Niti Aayog official, had mailed CBSE hours before the re-exam. The official had used his daughter's email ID, who later turned out to be a candidate

whether both of them were in touch with each other or not".

The complaint also said that "seeing the chronology of dates as it happened last time we have a strong conviction in our mind that in case this time the candidates from whom the emails are received in our office do not perform well to qualify the exam, which they will get ascertained after the keys of the question paper are made public by this office. They will use this information sent through the emails as one of the grounds for cancellation of the exam which otherwise has been conducted successfully throughout the country".

Times of India ND 28/07/2015 P-19

Soon, a space sojourn for microscopic worms

London: Scientists are planning to send thousands of microscopic worms to the International Space Station (ISS) in an experiment aimed at understanding what triggers the body to build and lose muscle.

In a recent international call for new life sciences experiments to be flown on the ISS, coordinated by Nasa, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Japanese and Canadian space agencies, three new experiments led by UK research teams were selected for further consideration.

One of the experiments is led by Dr Timothy Etheridge of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Exeter, who studies muscle decline in space and potential ways of counter-acting this. Etheridge's team will use a nematode worm species called *Cae-*



© Matthias Kulka/Corbis

RIDE TO ISS

norhabditis elegans—or 'C.elegans'—which are highly useful for studying long term changes in human physiology because they suffer from muscle loss under many of the same conditions that people do.

The experiment is likely to take place between 2017-2020. PTI

EXAM BREATHER

MOVE TO BENEFIT STUDENTS FROM DIVERGENT STREAMS

CAT changes pattern

Kritika Sharma Sebastian

The format of Common Admission Test (CAT) to be held on November 29 has been changed to provide an "even" field to candidates from divergent streams.

Academics have welcomed the move as it will increase the participation of students from different backgrounds. Earlier, admission to prestigious B-schools in the country was assumed to be easier for students from engineering background. The new CAT will give a fair chance to students from arts and humanities background.

"Some questions in each section may not be multiple choice type. Instead, direct answers will have to be typed on the screen," CAT 2015 convenor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay said in the statement.

A new section on reading comprehension has been added from this year, taking the total number of sections in CAT from two to three. The three sections this year are: Quantitative Aptitude (QA), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Verbal and Reading Comprehension (VRC). The new section will have a bearing on the final score of the candidates.

Like last year, CAT applicants will need to answer 100 questions. However, instead of two sections of 50 questions each, this time, QA and VRC will have 34 questions and DILR will have 32 questions. The duration of the exam has been revised from 170 minutes to 180 minutes. In 2014, the duration of CAT had been increased from 140 minutes to 170 minutes.

Each of the three sections will have a stipulated time limit and

CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN 60 MINUTES FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN EACH OF THE SECTIONS

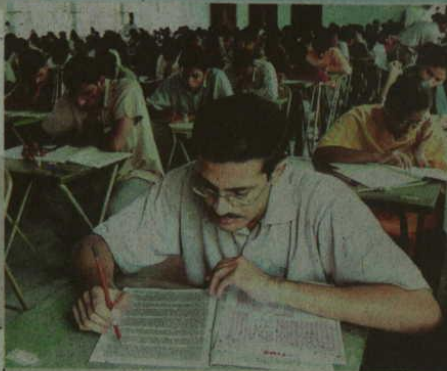
POINTS TO REMEMBER

EXAM CENTRES
650 CENTRES IN 136 CITIES,
4 CITY PREFERENCES
TO BE GIVEN AT THE
TIME OF REGISTRATION

- Registration starts: **August 6**
- Registration closes: **September 20**
- Admit cards can be downloaded: **October 15**
- Test date: **November 29**

WHAT TO EXPECT

- **CAT 2015** will have an additional section on reading comprehension, increasing the total number of sections from two to three
- The sections will now be **QA** (Quantitative Aptitude), **DILR** (Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning), **VRC** (Verbal and Reading Comprehension)
- Till last year, **QA** and **DILR** were one section and Verbal and Reading Comprehension was another
- Examinees to lose the freedom to move across sections while answering questions, unlike last year



- There will be questions requiring descriptive answers besides the traditional multiple choice questions

- All the three sections to be allotted **60 minutes** each with an overall time of **180 minutes**, an increase of **10 minutes** from the previous year

candidates will not be allowed to shift from one segment to another.

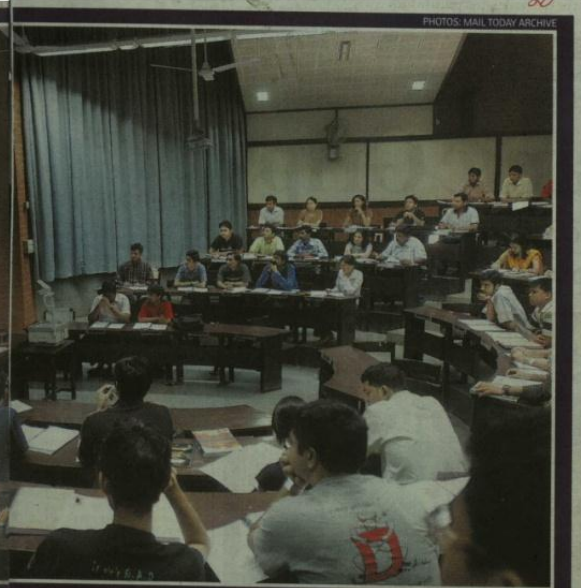
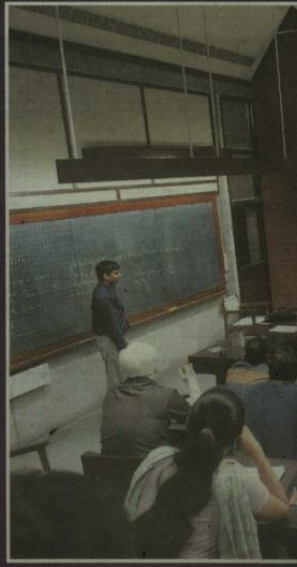
"Candidates will be given 60 minutes for answering questions in each section and they cannot switch sections," Mr. Bandyopadhyay stated on the CAT website. This restriction is also an addition.

Professor D.P. Goyal, dean, Graduate Programmes, MDI Gurgaon, said: "The new pattern is a welcome step. Earlier, there were complaints that admission to IIMs is easier for engineers. We got the same feedback from employers also who told us that they want to hire people from diverse backgrounds."

Rohit Shankarmani, an MBA student who wrote the test two

years ago, said: "This is for the first time that CAT has become descriptive, which is good because it will give an advantage to students from non-engineering backgrounds."

The exam, which will be conducted in 136 cities, will also give students an option to choose an additional city to take the test, in order of their preference, instead of the three choices given last year. The results will be announced in the second week of January 2016. Tutorial to understand the format of the examination will be available on the CAT website from October 15 according to the official CAT website.



CAT's new format promises to bring more academic diversity into the ISM classrooms of the future. (Right) An academic session in progress at ISM-Ahmedabad and a view of the campus (right-below).

By Education Mail Bureau

THE Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) on Sunday announced major changes in this year's Common Admission Test 2015 (CAT 2015), making the coveted management test an equal-opportunity platform for candidates hailing from non-engineering backgrounds. Admissions to IIMs have traditionally been the forte of engineering graduates who comprise around 75 to 90 per cent of the total enrollment. The change comes in the wake of growing criticism from employers that giving a background in engineering alone won't help in producing well-rounded managers.

CAT 2015 will be more descriptive in its format

So what does the new CAT mean for the thousands of aspirants who are preparing to take the test in a few months from now? The exam this year will be held on November 29.

To begin with, the new CAT will be more descriptive in nature to give candidates from non-engineering backgrounds such as Arts and Humanities a fair chance at the test.

This means some of the questions from the test sections will not be in the multiple choice format.

"Instead, direct answers are to be typed on the screen," says Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, Convener, CAT 2015, IIM Ahmedabad, which will conduct the exam this year, on the official CAT website.

CAT'S NEW TACK

Faced with growing criticism of favouring only graduates with an engineering background, CAT has finally made a course correction for the better

cial CAT website.

A new section on reading comprehension has been added from this year, taking the total number of sections in CAT from two to three. The new section will have a bearing on the final score of the candidates.

The three sections this year are: Quantitative Aptitude (QA); Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Verbal and Reading Comprehension (VRC).

Like last year, CAT applicants will need to answer 100 questions. But instead of two sections of 50 questions each, this time QA and VRC will have 34

questions and DILR will have 32 questions, respectively. The duration of the exam has been revised again this year from 170 minutes to 180 minutes. It was only in 2014 that IIMs had increased the test time from 140 minutes to 170 minutes.

Each of the three sections will have a stipulated time limit and candidates will not be allowed to shift from one segment to the other during the test.

"Candidates will be allotted exactly 60 minutes for answering questions in each section and they cannot switch from one section to another while answering questions in a particular section," states Bandyopadhyay in the CAT website. This restriction is also a new addition.

One of the good things about the previous CAT format was the freedom and flexibility it gave the applicants to switch between sections at will and could also spend extra time on questions that puzzled them.

It also gave them enough time to review their answers in the end. This option has gone. "All this does not mean students need to start their preparation afresh. The changes are not about syllabus but the way the exam is conducted," says Ramnath Kankasindhi, Course Director, CAT, at the Triumph Institute of Management Education, Hyderabad.

"So the Quant, Verbal, DI and LR preparation which students have been working on is still as relevant. But yes now they must get their exam strategy attuned to the new pattern, and this requires them to practice mock

THE D-DATES

Registrations: August 6 to September 20
Admit Card: October 15, 1 p.m. to exam day
Exam: November 29 (Sunday)

tests in the new format as early as possible," said Kankasindhi. The exam, which will be conducted in 136 cities across the country and in 650 centres in two sessions on a single day, will also give students an option to choose an additional city to take the test, in order of their preference, instead of the three choices given last year.

The results will be announced in the second week of January. Tutorial to understand the format of the examination will be available on the CAT website from October 15, as per the official CAT website.

CAT scores are a prerequisite for admissions at the 19 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other leading B-Schools across the country.



WHAT TO EXPECT THIS YEAR

■ CAT 2015 to have an additional section on reading comprehension, taking the total number of sections from two to three

■ Be ready for questions that require descriptive answers instead of the traditional multiple choice questions that suit to favour engineering graduates

■ Test takers to lose the freedom to move across sections while answering questions, unlike last year

■ All the three sections to be allotted 60 minutes each with an increase of 10 minutes from the previous year

Will the new CAT format help more women, non-engineers get into IIMs?

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/tLNvCFEWvtCBOGenI613PI/Will-the-new-CAT-format-help-more-women-nonengineers-get-i.html>

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have added descriptive questions and a reading comprehension section to the highly-regarded Common Admission Test (CAT) to increase the chances of women and non-engineers making it to the elite B-schools, *Mint's* Prashant K. Nanda [reported](#) on Monday.

Between 75% and 90% of the students who gain admission to the IIMs are engineers, the report adds.

This has traditionally put women and people from non-engineering backgrounds at a disadvantage.

But will the changes help more women and non-engineers gain admission to the IIMs?

Probably not. For one, they assume that engineers will fare badly in the non-quantitative non-multiple choice section of the test.

For another, the real problem might not be CAT itself.

“The stage at which women get left behind is not CAT, but IIT-JEE (joint entrance examination), which is the qualifying test for winning undergraduate seats in the technology schools. In JEE 2009, 98,029 women candidates sat for the exam, out of which 1,048 qualified. Given that a total of 384,977 candidates sat for JEE 2009, one in every four was a woman and that 1% of the women who applied made it into the IITs,” *Mint* reported in a [2010 story](#) which spoke of the measures being taken by the IIMs to boost diversity.

There’s nothing to suggest that the situation has changed six years later. Which would mean that the current changes being envisioned will not really make too much of a difference (they will make some, though).

That will happen only when changes are made to the JEE.

FUNDING CONCERNS

Cost of legal education shoots up as younger colleges struggle

In absence of common legislation, NLUs have to call on state govts; when funds dry up, they have to raise fees

By PRACHI SHRIVASTAVA
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The cost of a five-year national law university (NLU) course has risen to record levels this year, particularly at the newer NLUs, where the total fees to educate a lawyer come to as much as ₹2.47 lakh per year, dwarfing the fees charged by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The problem of rising fees can skew the diversity of the legal profession. Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA)—an initiative that aims to encourage students from non-traditional backgrounds to study law—surveyed students entering law school in 2013-14.

The survey found that almost 87% of students had received expensive common law admission test (CLAT) coaching that can cost upwards of ₹1 lakh, showing that a majority come from privileged backgrounds who can fork out such sums.

While most of the oldest national law schools have not increased their fees significantly this year, ₹2 lakh per year is now the apparent benchmark for an NLU education that aspiring law students aim for.

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, increased its fees and total expenses payable by students by 19% this year to ₹2.08 lakh per year.

Younger colleges played catch-up: National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi, hiked its fees by 27.5% to ₹1.94 lakh per year and National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, by 21% to ₹2.4 lakh.

National Law University and Judicial Academy Assam (NLUJAA), Guwahati, is the only one of the four youngest NLUs to keep its fees unchanged from last year at ₹2.14 lakh.

Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University (RMLNLU), Lucknow, reduced its already lowest-of-the-ladder fee by ₹500 this year from ₹1.2 lakh to ₹1.195 lakh. RMLNLU is the only one of India's NLUs to have as its chancellor the state's chief minister rather than the state high court chief justice.

Tight finances

In the absence of common legislation governing the NLUs, it is up to each NLU to evoke enough interest in the government of its home state to help it survive by providing funds. In the absence of such support, they have to raise fees.

"Finances are not in a great condition with all the tightening," said Faizan Mustafa, vice-chancellor of Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad.

While a one-time state government grant covered Nalsar's capital expenses, such as campus and construction, assistance from the state is not forthcoming for its recurring expenses, such as maintenance of infrastructure and salaries, he said.

Mustafa said that no NLU "can survive" without the state government assisting it with staff salaries. "The new pay commission will come and salaries will shoot through the roof. We can-

REVISED CHARGES

In 2015 so far, only RMLNLU Lucknow has reduced its fees, already the lowest among the NLUs.

National Law School	Total fees (in ₹)		Year-on-year % change
	2014	2015	
NUALS Kochi	1,52,150	1,94,050	27.5
NUSRL Ranchi	1,90,000	2,42,000	27.4
GNLU Gandhinagar	1,75,000	2,08,350	19.1
NLU Cuttack	1,64,000	1,81,000	10.4
Nalsar Hyderabad	2,30,000	2,47,000	7.4
NLU Jodhpur	2,15,000	2,20,000	2.3
CNLU Patna	1,73,000	1,76,000	1.7
NLSIU Bengaluru	1,78,150	1,80,000	1.0
RGNUL Patiala	2,00,900	2,00,900	0
NLUJAA Guwahati	2,14,000	2,14,000	0
RMLNLU Lucknow	1,20,000	1,19,500	-0.4
NUJS Kolkata	2,52,400	not notified	
HNLU Raipur	3,31,600	not notified	

Note: No data was available for NLU Bhopal.

Source: IDIA research

PARAS JAIN/MINT

not (proportionately) increase the fee of our students."

He told Legally India that teachers' salaries are subject to increases three times a year—twice when the dearness allowance (DA) is enhanced and once by way of an annual increment. The Telangana government recently increased the salary of non-teaching staff by 43%. "This puts a lot of burden on the university," he commented.

The other component of recurring expenses is campus maintenance, such as water, electricity, other facilities and campus security. Mustafa said that campus security agencies, which could be contracted for ₹5 lakh per year until a few years ago, have since 2012 refused to charge below ₹38 lakh a year.

"Most NLUs are not universities in the strict sense as they are still not fully funded by the state. Universities such as the Osmania University are fully funded, where even if you want to improve your horticulture, somebody will come from the state. (At most NLUs) you have to survive only on students' fees.

Make a central law governing NLUs and all NLUs will be more than happy to come under it."

"Fees are increased only in extremely tight situations. They cannot be adjusted for inflation or anything else," he remarked.

National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL) vice-chancellor B.C. Nirmal said the "totally self-funded" Ranchi law school was facing a funding crunch of over ₹70 crore currently and was indebted to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Jharkhand, which had loaned money to the law school to finish its ₹86 crore campus construction.

Nirmal said he hoped to keep its LLB fees this year unchanged from last year.

"We need money desperately and hope the government would be kind enough to help us," he said, adding, "the problem is

that with the ₹1-2 crore we get from our students (as fees), we cannot repay the debt to CPWD."

Nirmal said the previous state government had sanctioned ₹50 crore for the law school but had released only ₹15 crore out of that amount. A public interest litigation seeking directions to the government to release the remaining funds is pending before the Jharkhand high court, he said.

In 2012, NUSRL was close to winding up due to a fund crunch that year.

Happier NLUs

India's oldest national law school, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, which was also facing a major funding crunch because of an unsupportive state government back in 2012, has this year increased its fees by 1% to ₹1.8 lakh.

Its fees are the third lowest among 16 NLUs, according to IDIA research, after RMLNLU, Lucknow, and Chanakya National Law University, Patna.

NLSIU also became the first NLU to notify a formal scholarship programme for financially weaker students on 24 June.

In its scholarship policy, NLSIU stated that any incoming students and existing students whose combined parental income was less than ₹50,000 a month would be eligible to apply for the one-year scholarship by the law school's deadline, and can reapply next year if the student is again eligible.

Under its scholarship, it would "take all reasonable measures to ensure that the funds available each year through internal and external scholarships are sufficient to ensure that each deserving candidate is provided sufficient financial assistance, including a healthy stipend to cover living expenses and reasonable costs, enabling them to fraternize appropriately with their peers, without suffering

any form of social exclusion."

The college also undertook to give students avenues to earn money with part-time work in campus.

NLSIU registrar O.V. Nandimath said, "Government support has not improved. It continues to be what it was. But we have been able to extend our outreach activity, and faculty consultation is what is being encouraged."

Nandimath said NLSIU's faculty members are consulted by the industry and by government agencies, at a cost, and part of the revenue earned from this goes into the law school's coffers. Outreach activities include, for instance, conducting training programs for Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, which is another source of revenue in addition to NLSIU's distance learning programmes, which Nandimath says were gaining popularity.

Likewise, four-year-old NLUJAA, Guwahati, did not increase its fee at all from last year's ₹2.14 lakh figure, the ninth lowest among the 16 CLAT NLUs. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, also kept its fee constant at ₹2.01 lakh—the eighth lowest.

NLUJAA vice-chancellor Vijender Kumar said in a June interview that Assam's "cooperative" government directly bore the ₹3.5 crore of annual expenses towards the salaries of NLUJAA's teaching and administrative staff.

It provided the law school with an additional ₹3 crore annually for its maintenance, and also directly bore the infrastructural costs over and above maintenance needs.

NLUJAA has an annual expense budget of ₹8.5 crore and income of ₹4 crore from the fees for its LLB and LLM courses. The ₹300-plus crore construction of NLUJAA's independent 55-acre campus in Amingaon, Guwahati, was financed entirely by the central and state governments.

"The chief minister of Assam takes extreme pride in having an NLU in the state," Kumar said.

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