Newspaper Clips
July 29, 2015

IIT's Mauritius venture off

Basant Kumar Mohanty

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150729/jsp/nation/story_34261.jsp#.Vbhoo5elhWU

New Delhi, July 28: IIT Delhi's research academy in Mauritius appears to have died an untimely death after the scant interest shown by the governments of India and the island nation in taking it forward.

The International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) was set up in July last year as a joint venture of IIT Delhi and the Mauritius Research Council. A year on, it has stopped admissions to its PhD and Master of Science in Research programmes for this July semester.

Professor S.M. Ishtiaque of IIT Delhi, who was deputed as the executive director of IITRA, has returned. He rejoined the institute earlier this month.

The Mauritius government has told the eight faculty members selected for IITRA that the project is on hold and they cannot join the academy, sources in the HRD ministry and IIT Delhi have said. It has also stopped releasing funds, prompting the academy to stop procuring equipment for labs.

Five students were given admission to IITRA last year but no classes have been held because there is no proper campus. These students are pursuing their courses in IIT Delhi at the moment, and would have moved to IITRA eventually. "Nothing was moving. There are no faculty, no progress on a permanent campus. I decided not to waste time," Ishtiaque said.

The untimely end of the academy can be attributed to neglect by the governments of Mauritius and India in the last few months. The project was conceptualised and executed in 2013 when the UPA regime was in power and Mauritius was governed by the Labour Party.

After the NDA came to power in May 2014, it began scrutinising the bilateral arrangement. So did the new Mauritius government headed by Anerood Jugnauth of the Alliance Lepep coalition, which took charge in December 2014.

HRD minister Smriti Irani has questioned the legality of the project. She told the Lok Sabha on April 27 that the project would entail spending taxpayers' money, which meant it would violate the Institute of Technology Act. However, IIT Delhi has denied any financial commitment for IITRA.

IIT Delhi wins Enactus India National Championship 2015

HT Education Correspondent
■ hteducation@hindustantimes.com

After a gruelling competition before a panel of judges from across the corporate world, IIT Delhi emerged as the winner of the 11th Enactus India National Championship. Ramjas College, Delhi was the first runner-up and Hansraj College, Delhi, was the second runner up. Over 90 colleges and 3,000 students participating in the Enactus India National Competition on July 21 and 22, 2015.

The winning team from IIT Delhi will present its project at Enactus World Cup 2015 to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa between October 14 to 16, 2015. The IIT Delhi team, led by Praneeth Buriyu, has 47 members.

"I would like to congratulate Enactus for successfully completing another year of the India National Competition, which continues to inspire students to enhance their entrepreneurial spirit, capitalise on their business skills and to innovatively handle real-world situations. If winning is about being the best, losing is about learning and paving your way to greater success," said Richard Rekhy, CEO, KPMG in India, and chairman, Enactus India National Advisory Board.

■ The winning IIT-D team with Enactus India chairman Richard Rekhy (third from left, front) and president Farhan Pettiwala (next to him)

IIT Delhi's winning project was called Excelsior India. As a part of the initiative, the team's entrepreneurs collect waste paper from urban areas and recycle that into notebooks.

The IIT team has also come up with a unique design for a bag-cum-desk, completely made out of cardboard which can serve both as a bag to carry one's belongings and a desk to write upon. The team members say they plan to distribute the bags among children from underprivileged sections of society along with a complete package of stationery items. The stationary package would include the bag-cum-desk, recycled notebooks, four pencils and an eraser. This package will be sold to the students at a very affordable rate of ₹30. The entire share of the profit will be given to entrepreneurs.

The team also presented Project Aanch, a smokeless chullah for the underprivileged sections of society.

Farhan Pettiwala, president, Enactus India said, "We are impressed to witness participation from leading colleges across the country in the national championship and hope that some of the projects can be adopted by the industry for the development of the community."

■ Students practising before the main event of Enactus India and (right) the team from Miranda House.

Tribune ND 29/07/2015 P-11

U'khand HC rejects IIT students' plea again

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

64 expelled for poor performance

DEHRADUN, JULY 28

A double Bench of the Uttarakhand High Court today upheld the July 22 single-bench verdict of the HC that rejected the petition of 64 students expelled by the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee for scoring less than 5 CGPA (cumulative grade point average) in semester examination. The Bench comprising Chief Justice KM Joseph and Justice VK Bisht ruled that the expulsion was not illegal according to the procedure adopted by the institute.

The students, expelled on June 8, have been requesting the court to let them continue studying in the next semester,

- Sixty-four students were expelled by the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee for scoring less than 5 CGPA in semester examination
- A double bench of the Uttarakhand High Court on Tuesday upheld the single-bench verdict of the HC that rejected the students' plea
- The Bench ruled that the expulsion was not illegal according to the procedure adopted by the institute

a demand turned down by the IIT authorities.

On July 15, the High Court in its interim order had allowed the expelled students to appear in a re-examination. But it had also asked the IIT administration to file its counter affidavit in the matter, following which the case was forwarded to a single bench of the court.

The students had alleged that they were not warned about the expulsion. However, the institute authorities claimed that they were asked to improve their performance and were also issued a notice in this regard. They said the rule was also clearly mentioned in the admission form and the students and their parents were aware of it.

Tribune ND 29/07/2015 P-12

HC notice to govt over IIT-Mandi firing incident

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SHIMLA, JULY 28

The High Court today issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary (Home) and the SP, Mandi, expressing displeasure over the response of the state authorities over the firing incident in IIT, Mandi. It asked the officers that why they had not filed their status reports as per the directions of the court.

The court also showed its annoyance on the report filed by the SP and directed him to file a fresh report on the incident in which four persons died and 10 injured in the north campus of IIT at Kamand in Mandi.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir and Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan passed this order on the report published in newspapers. Treating this report as PIL, the court had directed the state to file its status report indicating that what action had been taken by the DC and SP, Mandi, over the incident on June 19.

It had directed the state government to inform what

The case

Four persons died and 10 injured in the north campus of IIT at Kamand in Mandi on June 19 when a clash took place between gunmen of the contractor and labourers

action was taken against the contractor, who had hired gunman for construction work and who have granted licence to the so-called goons and other persons who carry arms and what is the mechanism in place for granting the licences. It had also directed the state to inform the particulars of the persons who have been granted such permits and which authority had permitted the persons to move with arms in the state.

The court asked the authorities that how shopkeepers, mill owners, contractors, companies, societies and others had been permitted to utilise the services of gunmen or so-called goons.

It also directed the state to produce the status of the investigation being carried out over the incident on the next date of hearing.

The assignment which Kalam could not give to IIM students

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/The-assignment-which-Kalam-could-not-give-to-IIM-students/articleshow/48247568.cms

KOLKATA: Working tirelessly even on his last day, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam had planned a surprise assignment for the students of IIM Shillong on finding innovative ways to end disruption in Parliament.

Kalam's close aide Srijan Pal Singh, who was with him on his last day, said that while travelling from Delhi to Shillong, they were discussing about disruptions in Parliament.

"He was very worried and said he had seen the tenures of many governments but disruption keeps on happening every time. He had told me to prepare a surprise assignment question for the students which would be given to them at the end of the lecture," Singh, who co-authored two books with Kalam, told PTI from Shillong.

He said the former President wanted students to come up with three innovative ideas to make Parliament more productive and vibrant.

"We had also decided to include this topic of disruptions in Parliament into our next book 'Advantage India' which would be released in September-October. I'll do that now before the book comes into the market," the IIM Ahmedabad alumnus said.
When asked about Kalam's last wish, he said Kalam always wanted a billion smiles on a billion faces in the country.

"He wanted rural India to develop and also he kept on talking about youth empowerment. Now his ideas are more alive as the man who was leading it from the front is no more," he said.

The only regret the 'Missile Man' had in his life was not being able to provide facilities like 24-hour electricity to his parents during their lifetime.

"That is I think one regret he always had in his life," Singh said.

Decks clear for DAVV V-C as next NAAC director

http://www.hindustantimes.com/indore/decks-clear-for-davv-v-c-as-next-naac-director/article1-1374085.aspx

University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday cleared a proposal of appointment of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidhyalaya (DAVV) V-C Prof Dhirendra Pal Singh as the new director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

NAAC is an autonomous body established by UGC to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country.

When contacted Prof Singh to get his comment, vice-chancellor said he got news through media sources only and can't comment without getting notification.

Earlier, UGC conducted interview meeting with the short listed candidates for one-on-one talk at Delhi for the selection on Friday after many professors, vice-chancellors and academicians from across the country had applied for the post.

Prof Singh who assumed as DAVV vice-chancellor on June 28, 2012 had earlier served as vice chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), one of the prestigious university in the country after after completing his tenure as vice-chancellor of Dr Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, the oldest university of Madhya Pradesh.

During his three-year tenure as vice-chancellor of DAVV, university has been accredited with "A" Grade by NAAC on February 21, 2014.

Prof Singh also served in PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, an apex institution of MHRD at Bhopal, as Professor in Environmental Science and Head of HSE Division.

Prof Singh won the prestigious environmentalist of the decade award on the occasion of World Environment Day, earlier for his outstanding contributions in field of environmental front in short span of two years as BHU vice-chancellor.

AICTE affiliation system needs to end in 10 years, says govt panel

Panel suggests single engineering entrance exam for all schools under AICTE and a single management test for all business schools

http://www.livemint.com/Home-Page/BHubWldT5l3bDtjHlszqZP/AICTE-affiliation-system-needs-to-end-in-10-years-says-govt.html

New Delhi: A government panel has recommended converting the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) into a statutory constitutional body and suggested ending the affiliation system of technical schools in the next 10 years.
The panel has recommended that the AICTE should evolve as a mentor rather than a "policeman".
Recognizing the "need for restructuring and strengthening" the AICTE to address challenges, the human resource development ministry set up a review committee led by former education secretary M.K. Kaw in November 2014.
More than 11,000 professional schools, including engineering and management schools, fall under the purview of the AICTE.
The panel's report called on the regulator to shed the mindset of a licence distributor and suggested some radical steps, including doing away with the affiliation system in a decade, conducting a single engineering entrance exam for all schools under AICTE and a single management test for all business schools.
The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) do not fall under the AICTE's purview.
The government panel's report said, "AICTE should be recognised as the chief instrument of state policy in order to establish India as the technical education superpower of the world. It should be converted into an apex constitutional authority to promote orderly, integrated and coordinated development of technical education... technical education should be a fundamental right".
The recommendations hold significance in the face of growing suspicion over the AICTE's role as a regulator and its conflicting role along with the University Grants Commission. A case is also on in the Supreme Court on whether it qualifies as a technical education regulator at all.
"It has to get converted into a facilitating agency which promotes technical education... through suitable schemes of mentoring and guidance, faculty improvement, development of research and incubation infrastructure, grant of financial assistance to deserving institutions... and so on", the report said.
On the growing number of new institutions, the panel said, "New institutions should be allowed only if there is substantial unmet demand pertaining to an area of specialisation."

The panel suggested that third-party ratings should be used as the "fulcrum of regulation" and that "norms shall measure outcomes rather than be obsessed with physical inputs alone".

It asked the AICTE to improve the functioning of sub-standard institutions with help from "senior faculty drawn from higher technical institutions who will act as mentors and trainers".

H. Chaturvedi, director of the Birla Institute of Management and Technology in Greater Noida, said he supports the suggestions of making the AICTE a statutory constitutional body like the Election Commission.

He added that instead of the National Board of Accreditation carrying out the accreditation of courses, the government needs to take the help of competent industry bodies for better outcomes.

Highest German civilian award for IISc professor

July 29, 2015, Bengaluru, DHNS

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/492059/highest-german-civilian-award-iisc.html

Prof Raghavendra Gadagkar, a professor in insect biology who plies his trade at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, has been conferred the Cross of Order of the Merit, highest civilian award of Germany.

A founding chairman of the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Prof Gadagkar is also the president of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi and has published more than 270 research papers and two books.

 In a release issued by the German Consulate in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Joern Rohde, German Consulate General, stated: "It is a tribute to the substantial contribution made by Prof Gadagkar in the field of behavioural ecology and sociobiology. He has worked tirelessly towards strengthening the Indo-German research cooperation." He further said that the honour "symbolises Germany's commitment on continuously intensifying the bilateral research cooperation with India."

While Gadagkar has travelled to many countries and has collaborations worldwide, he has a special liking for Germany. He was instrumental in the MoU signed between IISc and the University of Wurzburg in 2012.

He is active in the Indo-German scientific cooperation with the Max-Plank-Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, the German Zoological Society in Halle and the universities of Freiburg and Offenburg. In 2012, he was elected member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and is in talks for a closer cooperation between INSA and the German academy, the release said

Between 2000 and 2002, he spent fellowships in Berlin Institute for Advanced Study and is a Non-resident Permanent Fellow of the institution assisting its vice-chancellor in areas of academic leadership and in the selection of Fellows.

Furthermore, he is a member of the Scientific Committee of College for Life Sciences of the Wissenschaftskolleg.

All 39 Central Universities have agreed to adopt CBCS: Smriti Irani

http://www.prepsure.com/news/all-39-central-universities-have-agreed-to-adopt-cbcs-smriti-irani/

As many as 71 higher educational institutes including all the 39 central universities have agreed to adopt the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), the government informed Rajya Sabha on July 27, 2015. UGC has informed that all the 39 central universities are going to implement CBCS from the ensuing academic session. "In addition, 21 state public universities, five state private universities and six deemed-to-be-universities have also expressed their readiness for implementing CBCS," HRD Minister Smriti Irani said in a written reply.

Under CBCS, universities have also been requested to shift from numerical marking system, which is being followed presently in universities, to grading system of evaluation. This will facilitate student mobility across institutions in the country and also enable potential employers to assess the performance of students, Smriti Irani said. Further, under CBCS, universities will move from the conventional annual system to semester system.

The credit based semester system provides flexibility in assigning credits based on the course content and hours of teaching. The performance of students under the system will be adjudged in terms of grades rather than numerical marks. "Further, it would also provide greater choices to the prospective students as they may be able to earn credits in their chosen subjects from across the departments as also from across the institutions," she said.

Proposal on new National Education Policy to be ready after grassroot level consultations: Smriti Irani

http://www.merinews.com/article/proposal-on-new-national-education-policy-to-be-ready-after-grassroot-level-consultations-smriti-irani/15908262.shtml

According to the information given by Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on July 27, the Proposal on new National Education Policy will be finalised after grassroot level consultations initiated by the state governments.
Irani informed the house that consultation process was on for formulating the 'New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge'.

According to Smriti Irani, nearly 21,500 suggestions have been received on 33 identified themes and an online consultation process was going on www.MyGov.in. She also stated that the State governments had initiated action for conducting the grassroot level consultations.

At an earlier occasion Irani had assured that the draft education policy shall be ready by the end of 2015. She had said that the decade old earlier policy was finalised by 'a select band of bureaucrats, academicians and politicians'.

Furthermore, Irani sees that the goal of education is the empowerment of self and that of the nation by 'talking about the glorious past and culture of India'.

Meanwhile, as it is quite evident by now, Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas have become active to push through their own agenda of education based on so called "Indian tradition".

IIT to function from August 3

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/iit-to-function-from-august-3/article7475976.ece

Taking the higher education dreams of Kerala to greater heights, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) allotted to the State will start functioning from a temporary campus at Kozhipara, near Walayar, here from August 3.

Infosys cofounder and IIT Madras academic council member Kris Gopalakrishnan will be the chief guest on the occasion. An academic session involving the IIT Madras Director and an additional secretary of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development will mark the beginning of the classes.

Officials from IIT Madras and representatives of the Ahalya group have confirmed that the temporary campus was all set for inauguration. All facilities sought by the IIT authorities have been arranged.

In the beginning, there would be classrooms and accommodation facility for 120 students on the temporary campus, located at Kozhipara. A boys' hostel with 53 rooms and a girls' hostel with 73 rooms have been established.

The Ahalya group would directly supervise the mess, housekeeping, and security of the hostels.

Thirteen quarters for teaching staff have been set up at Kozhipara. The classrooms have been arranged in a 55,000-sq-ft building. Lift facilities have also been arranged. The temporary campus would remain functional for three years till the completion of the permanent campus at Pudussery West. There would be 120 seats in the beginning — in the mechanical, civil, electrical, and computer streams.

Meanwhile, the State government has begun efforts to organise the foundation stone laying function for the permanent campus at Pudussery during the second week of August.

 Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has written to Union Minister Human Resource Development Minister Smrithi Irani inviting her to lay the foundation stone.

With the State Assembly approving the sanctioning of Rs.163.28 crore to meet land acquisition expenses, the district administration is now planning to complete the process in the next two months. As much as 500 acres of land would be acquired for the campus.

IIT and IIM Indore's I5-Summit to encourage entrepreneurship in Tier II and Tier III cities

http://yourstory.com/2015/07/iit-and-iim-indore-i5-summit/

Indore has the privilege of having two premier institutions, an IIT and an IIM, in the city. In a move that heralds cooperation between premier institutes of the country, these two institutes have come together to host one of a kind initiative, the I5 Summit. The five Is stand for ideate, innovate, inspire, induce and invest. To fulfil this mantra, the summit will comprise a range of activities.

The flagship event, Venture-I will be an opportunity for new entrepreneurs across the country to present viable business ideas and be chosen as the winner. A speaker series, where some of the most successful entrepreneurs of the country share their experience, is expected to inspire the aspirants and induce them to believe in their dreams, and make an investment to kickstart the transformation of the said dreams into reality. Workshops conducted will be specially designed to hone people's business skills besides giving them a glimpse of the startup world.

The I5-Summit will take place on 22nd and 23rd August, 2015, and will offer ample opportunities to network with interesting people across industries. The event hopes to successfully combine the ethos and skill sets that result in the IITs and IIMs standing apart from the thousands of other Indian educational institutions and thereby reinforcing the belief that they are the crème de la crème of the student population.

IIT-Mandi bids farewell to 'Missile Man'

Mandi, July 28

http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/iit-mandi-bids-farewell-to-missile-man/112491.html

The IIT today paid tributes to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a great scientist and former President, at Kamand near here. Prof TA Gonsalves, Director, IIT-Mandi, said they lost the Missile Man, the nation's simple-heart with beautiful mind and soul, who was an inspiration to an entire generation.
Dr Kalam was born in Rameshwaram on October 15, 1931. A bright student, his interest in flying led to a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and eventually to supervising the development of India's guided missile programme. He was also the author of 10 books. His autobiography, "Wings of Fire", written in 1999, had been among the best seller.
Dr Kalam played a pivotal role in the Pokhran-II nuclear test in 1998. One of the most loved Presidents, he was also known as the people's President.

Chasing the brand name called IIT. Right or wrong?

http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/chasing-the-brand-name-called-iit-right-or-wrong-35113539

Joint Seat Allocation Authority, has been the buzzword over the last few weeks for lakhs of students. Has this been one of the best changes in the system? Or, did it add to the confusion of the already existing process? What is the thought process that goes in the minds of 18 year olds while choosing their options? What after that? Is life just about cracking the JEE and getting to IITs? Or is there more to blurred picture? Read on to know Prof. Aakash Chaudhry's take on the issue.

One of the most sensible things the JEE authorities have done this year was, to conduct combined seat allocation process. I think it helped in preventing the seats going waste in IITs. This had been a problem for some years especially since the time more number of IITs came into existence; a student would block an IIT seat and then join an NIT in his/her home state. This year, however, thanks to the Joint allocation this problem has reduced considerably.

But the joint allocation was not an easy sail. Though the options were available under one roof, it caused a lot of chaos and confusion for the students. Most 17 and 18 year olds do not have the maturity to understand complex matrix of options and new changes to fill in appropriate choices according to their ranks.

Choosing a college is a big decision for children, and more so for parents. The selection they make involves a lot of discussion and guidance from their family. One thing however, that is common to students across the country is their attachment to the native states. This influences their decisions more than anything else. Apart from this, other factors too, like their ranks, the availability of seats in their preferred stream, too plays a role in deciding the choice of college.

Many students get into an IIT just for the brand name that comes with it, even though it may be Ropar or Bhubaneswar. This could be a good thing. If one looks at the example of IIT Guwahati, they will understand. Over the years it has developed to have recognition as one among the top IITs despite being a relatively new IIT. However some still would like to stick to the top older ones and just accept whatever branch they get.

The option of filling up to 500 choices added to the confusion, simply because at that age students cannot understand the logic and make their choices accordingly. The fact that parents influence their decision is good as well as a bad state. It is good because parents are more mature and usually take the right decision for their children. Bad because ultimately they tend to force their opinion or aspirations, and the child may never develop a sense of decision making in their lives.

Funnily enough, one can never understand what, apart from the parent's opinion that influences the choice of the student.

Ultimately getting into the IIT is what matters to them, which is not very difficult these days with all the tutoring, motivation, guidance etc. that has become easily available now. The education system has been dumbed down to a great extent with dummy-schools, so cracking an entrance exam is not a distant dream anymore. Any student can easily score 'A' grade, and eventually crack the entrances and get a rank.

But in a bid to just crack these entrance exams students in some these coaching hubs, don't attend school. The dummy schools and proxy attendance, is something I am against. It ruins the students' overall growth and ultimately their academic potential as well. What does this lead to? Where will we head to? What are we trying to achieve? Why does it have to boil down to a point where the students learn to crack the JEE but not sustain the life and rigour of IITs?

Answers for this are not easy to find. The flaw in the system needs to be changed. How? And, when? These again have no right answers.

HT.COM ND 29.07.2015 P-6

Belling the CAT made easier

A NEW FORMAT Several changes have been introduced in CAT 2015, to be conducted on Nov 29

■ The Common Admission Test is a student's gate pass to the many IIMs in the country. Pictured above is IIM Kolkata.   HT PHOTO

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Online registration: August 6 to September 20, 2015

Download of admit card: October 15 to November 29, 2015

Test date: November 29, 2015

Release of results: Second week of January 2016

Names of non-IIM member institutions: To be announced on August 6, 2015

What the changes mean for students

Gauri Kohli

The changes announced in CAT 2015 may indicate that this edition of the test will be significantly different from CAT 2014 but, in reality, most of the changes are superficial and will not affect a well-prepared student, say experts.

If we compare the CAT 2014 structure with the proposed CAT 2015 to understand its impact, CAT 2014 had section 1: quantitative aptitude (QA 34 questions) and data interpretation (DI 16 questions) and section 2: verbal and reading comprehension (VRC 34 questions) and logical reasoning (LR 16 questions).

CAT 2015 will have the following sections — section 1: QA (34 questions), section 2: DI (16 questions) and LR (16 questions) and section 3: VRC (34 questions). According to Gautam Puri, co-founder, Career Launcher, "CAT 2015 pattern is just a case of taking DI of section 1 and LR of section 2 from CAT 2014 paper and putting them together in a third section. The introduction of sectional time limits (60 minutes for each section) in CAT 2015 has both positive and negative implications. Students now need not worry about how much time has to be given to a section and can just focus on maximising their attempts in each of the three sections in 60 minutes.

"On the flip side, it will now not be possible for students to save time in one section and use it in another. The other implication of this change is that in CAT 2014, one could clear the verbal ability and logical reasoning section with few or no attempts of verbal and reading comprehension, but this will not be possible in CAT 2015. So students who have been avoiding reading comprehension passages and some verbal questions will need to rework their preparation plans," suggests Puri. The descriptive questions will be tricky this time. Though these type of questions are new for CAT, they have been a regular feature of SAT and GRE.

"The only thing different in these questions is the way you mark the answers. The process of solving the questions does not change. In GRE and SAT, only QA has this question type and this is likely to be the case for CAT too. Many students may interpret that the provision of calculator will mean that questions will be more calculation-intensive but that is unlikely.

THE DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR

■ Sectional time limits (60 minutes for each section) and sectional cut-offs have been introduced

■ Introduction of the calculator could mean that the paper would be calculation-intensive

■ The verbal section is now a more important part of the test

■ There will be descriptive questions alongwith Multiple choice questions

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Gauri Joshi

CAT 2015 will be conducted in two sessions in a day. The test will be held on November 29, 2015, in 136 cities comprising 650 test sites. Candidates will be given the option to select four test cities in order of preference.

Candidates will be allotted 60 minutes for answering questions in each section and they cannot switch from one section to another while answering questions in a section. The tutorial to understand the format of the test will be available on the CAT website from October 15, 2015. CAT 2015 score will be valid till December 31, 2016.

Two different test forms will be administered in two test sessions. To ensure fairness and equity in terms of performance of candidates across different test sessions, the scores will be subjected to a process of normalisation. A candidate must hold a bachelor's degree, with at least 50% marks or equivalent

THE TUTORIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE NEW FORMAT OF THE CAT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CAT WEBSITE FROM OCTOBER 15, 2105

CGPA, awarded by a recognised university. Each IIM shortlists candidates for its second stage of selection differently. The process may include written ability test (WAT), group discussions (GD) and personal interviews (PI). IIMs may use previous academic performance of the candidates and relevant work experience for shortlisting and ranking at various stages of the admission process. The processes, academic cut-offs and the weightage allocated to the evaluation parameters may vary across IIMs.

Candidates clearing CAT may be eligibile to join postgraduate programmes in management, fellow programmes in management and executive

fellow programmes in management at IIMs.

Names of non-IIM member institutions will be announced on August 6, 2015. andidates who wish to appear for the Common Admission Test (CAT) this year for admission to top B-schools across the country will have to prepare themselves to answer descriptive questions, along with multiple-choice questions.

This change has been announced by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to deal with any criticism that the existing multiple-choice format favours students from an engineering background.

In another change, the duration of the test has been increased to 180 minutes instead of the earlier 170 minutes. There will be three sections, quantitative aptitude (QA), data interpretation and logical reasoning (DILR) and verbal and reading comprehension (VRC).

QA and VRC will have 34 questions each, and DILR will comprise 32 questions.