Hindustan Times ND 04/07/2012

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TESTING TIMES

IIT spot gets tougher for CBSE, ISCE students

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NEW DELHI: Students from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and select boards may face a tougher battle in seeking admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in 2013 than students from other boards.

A cap that will allow only the top 20% students from each board to be eligible for IIT admission tests would hurt aspirants from tougher boards, experts have argued. Students from the CBSE, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), and state boards of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh may be worst hit. Many of them – who don't make it to the top 20% — would be as qualified as some of the top 20% students from easier boards but will not be eligible for admission to the IITs.

The IIT Council — the highest decision-making body of the IITs — last week

UNEVEN STANDARDS

TOUGHEST BOARDS
CBSE, CISCE, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh

EASIEST BOARDS
Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

Source: Analysis of student performances by professors Anil Kumar and Dibakar Chatterjee, IISc Bangalore

decided on new admission criteria from 2013, including the eligibility cap, arguing that students across all states are equally meritorious.

Though there is no evidence suggesting any difference in innate merit between students based on their board or background, students from some boards perform better than others in common tests, two independent studies have shown.

This makes it harder for a student to squeeze into the top 20% in a tougher board, IIT-Kanpur dean Dheeraj Sanghi said.

IIT ENTRY TO BE TOUGHER FOR CBSE STUDENTS

"You simply cannot compare different boards. Their performance levels vary widely," he said.

In 2009, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore scientists PS Anil Kumar and Dibakar Chatterjee compared the performance of students from India's 29 boards over 10 years in a common examination.

The selection test for the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) is conducted by the department of science and technology each year to select the brightest high school science students, who are awarded a fellowship to pursue studies in the sciences.

Their results showed that the average score of students from the CBSE, CISCE, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in the KVPY test — a common examination unlike the class 12 boards — in physics, chemistry and mathematics far exceeded those of aspirants from other boards.

The results were published in November 2009 in Current Science, India's top science journal.

"Our work clearly showed that students from different boards have different performance standards," Chatterjee said.

An independent study by Wipro and Educational Initiatives, a non-profit group started by alumni of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, published in December 2011 also concluded that CBSE and CISCE students have higher performance levels.

सरकार ने विशेषज्ञों का सुझाव नहीं माना

नई दिल्ली | चारू सूदन कस्तूरी

आई आईटी और अन्य इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में दाखिले के मसले पर विशेषज्ञों के सुझावों को सरकार ने ताक पर रख दिया। भारतीय सांख्यिकी संस्थान (आईएसआई), कोलकाता के विशेषज्ञों ने विभिन्न बोर्डों से 12वीं परीक्षा के प्रदर्शन की तुलना करने पर आगाह किया था।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की समिति ने प्रवेश सुधार योजना तैयार करते समय आईएसआई विशेषज्ञों से सुझाव मांगा था। विशेषज्ञों ने कहा था कि विभिन्न स्कूल बोर्डों के छात्रों के स्कोर की तुलना नहीं की जा सकती है। आईएसआई के प्रोफेसरों ने बताया कि विज्ञान सचिव टी. रामासामी की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने तब उनसे देश भर के बोर्डों के स्कोर की तुलना का सबसे अच्छा तरीका बताने को कहा था। इसके बाद प्रबाल चौधरी और देब्राशीष सेनगुप्ता ने संशोधित सुझाव दिए थे। लेकिन 'हिन्दुस्तान' के पास मौजूद दस्तावेजों के मुताबिक, व्यापक अध्ययन के बाद तैयार इन सुझावों पर भी सरकार ने ध्यान नहीं दिया। विशेषज्ञों के सुझावों की अनदेखी के बारे में सोमवार को पूछे जाने पर रामासामी ने दलील दी कि सुझाव बाध्यकारी नहीं थे।

आईआईटी में प्रवेश मामला

ऐसे की मनमानी

विशेषज्ञों ने पहले क्या कहा?

- विभिन्न बोर्ड के 12वीं के स्कोर की तुलना नहीं की जा सकती

समिति का जवाब

- हमने तय किया है हम इसे लागू करेंगे, इसलिए हमें सबसे अच्छा तरीका बताएं

विशेषज्ञों के जवाब

- परसेंटाइल रैंक के आधार पर विभिन्न बोर्ड के स्कोर की तुलना की जा सकती है लेकिन यह सिर्फ चार बोर्ड के लिए ही है। बाद के वर्षों में सभी 29 बोर्ड का विश्लेषण होगा।

सरकार ने क्या किया

- बिना विस्तृत अध्ययन के ही मंजूरी दे दी

एकल परीक्षा का सही हल

प्रवेश परीक्षा का विवाद सुलझ जाने के बाद आइआइटी को अपने स्तर पर आत्मविश्लेषण की सलाह दे रहे हैं डॉ. निरंजन कुमार

29 जून को सभी आइआइटी की सर्वोच्च संस्था आइआइटी परिषद की बैठक में नए फार्मूले पर सहमति हो जाने के बाद एक महीने से चल रहे आइआइटी प्रवेश परीक्षा विवाद को सुलझ गया माना जाना चाहिए। विवाद की शुरुआत मानव संसाधन मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की पूरे देश में इंजीनियरिंग के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा करवाने की योजना से हुई। वर्तमान में इंजीनियर बनने के लिए आइआइटी/जेईई, एआइईईई, बीआइटी, एएमयू अलीगढ़, बीएचयू बनारस आदि के अलावा विभिन्न राज्यों और डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालयों की अपनी-अपनी प्रवेश परीक्षाओं को मिलाकर 30 से ज्यादा प्रवेश परीक्षाएं हो जाती हैं। इतनी परीक्षाओं को देते-देते विद्यार्थी पस्त हो जाते हैं। समय, धन, ऊर्जा की बर्बादी अलग से होती है। अभिभावक भी परेशान होते हैं।

पिछले वर्ष प्रधानमंत्री के वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार परिषद के अध्यक्ष सीएनआर राव ने गहरी चिंता जताते हुए कहा कि इतनी सारी परीक्षाओं में उलझे विद्यार्थियों की अधिकांश ऊर्जा एवं सृजनात्मकता एक तरह से नष्ट हो जाती है। उन्होंने मांग की कि उच्च शिक्षा के सभी पाठ्यक्रमों में अमेरिकी मॉडल की ही तरह एक राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा कराई जाए। विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी सचिव टी. रामासामी की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी ने भी इंजीनियरिंग की अनगिनत परीक्षाओं की जगह एक कॉमन इंजीनियरिंग टेस्ट का सुझाव दिया है। इसी परिप्रेक्ष्य में पूरे देश में एक इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा लेने का निर्णय लिया गया था, जिसका कुछ आइआइटी संस्थानों, आइआइटी शिक्षकों और पूर्व छात्रों ने विरोध करना शुरू किया कि यह न केवल आइआइटी की स्वायत्तता पर हमला है, बल्कि इससे आइआइटी का स्तर भी गिरेगा। अंतिम सहमत फार्मूले में यह तय किया गया कि आइआइटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा के दो चरण होंगे- मेन और एडवांस। मेन परीक्षा एआइईई की तर्ज पर होगी, जो सभी एनआइटी,

आइआइटी और अन्य केंद्रीय संस्थानों, डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालयों आदि में प्रवेश के लिए मान्य होगी। अनेक राज्य भी इसमें शामिल होने के लिए तैयार हैं। यह निःसंदेह स्वागत योग्य है। मेन परीक्षा को पास करने वाले शीर्ष डेढ़ लाख बच्चे आइआइटी एडवांस की परीक्षा में बैठ सकेंगे। इसमें प्राप्त अंकों के आधार पर ही आइआइटी के लिए मेरिट बनेगी। बारहवीं के रिजल्ट को लेकर यह सहमति हुई कि आइआइटी एडवांस में उत्तीर्ण उम्मीदवारों को अपने-अपने बोर्डों के शीर्ष 20 पर्सेंटाइल में भी आना होगा अर्थात एक बच्चे को आइआइटी में प्रवेश लेने के लिए अपनी बोर्ड परीक्षा (राज्य/सीबीएसई) के शीर्ष 20 प्रतिशत विद्यार्थियों में भी स्थान बनाना होगा। इस प्रावधान के पीछे यह लक्ष्य है कि बच्चे अब बारहवीं की पढ़ाई के प्रति भी गंभीर रहेंगे और कोटा-कानपुर टाइप के कोचिंग के धंधे पर रोक लग सकेगी। हालांकि यह कहना जल्दबाजी होगी कि इससे कोचिंग रुक पाएगी।

कुछ अन्य अहम मुद्दे हैं जिन पर अकादमिक जगत या मीडिया में कोई चर्चा नहीं हुई। एक तो आइआइटी शिक्षकों का यह प्रचार सही नहीं है कि प्रस्तावित सुधारों से आइआइटी का स्तर गिरेगा और उनकी स्वायत्तता छिन जाएगी। कपिल सिब्बल ने शुरू में ही स्पष्ट कर दिया था कि अंतिम निर्णय आइआइटी काउंसिल को ही लेना है, जो उसने लिया भी। दूसरे, जिस उच्च स्तर

और श्रेष्ठता या विश्व भर में अपना डंका बजने की बात का बखान किया जा रहा था उसकी कलई इस तथ्य से खुल जाती है कि ग्लोबल रिसर्च यूनिवर्सिटी प्रोफाइल संस्था, जो विश्व के 500 सर्वोच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थानों की रैंकिंग करती है, की 2011 की सूची में सिर्फ दो आइआइटी-दिल्ली और खड़गपुर ही जगह बना पाए, वह भी 400 से 500 के बीच। इस रैंकिंग में तीसरा भारतीय संस्थान इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस, बेंगलूर (300-400 में) था, जबकि विकासशील देशों में ही चीन के 35, ब्राजील के 7, दक्षिण अफ्रीका के 3 और यहां तक कि छोटे से देश सऊदी अरब के भी दो संस्थान इनमें शामिल हैं। आइआइटी संस्थानों को इस संदर्भ में बहुत गंभीरता से आत्मविश्लेषण करने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि बयानबाजी से परे जाकर सचमुच विश्व स्तर पर वे झंडा फहरा सकें।

एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है कि जिन उद्देश्यों के लिए आइआइटी संस्थानों की परिकल्पना की गई थी, क्या वे पूरे हुए हैं? अपवादों को छोड़ दें तो इन आइआइटी ने राष्ट्र निर्माण में कोई बड़ा योगदान नहीं दिया। कोई बड़ी वैज्ञानिक उपलब्धि या अविष्कार इन आइआइटी ने किया हो, ऐसा देखने में नहीं आता। अधिकांश आइआइटी छात्र तो अमेरिका जाकर वहां के लिए योगदान करते रहे हैं या भारत में मैनेजमेंट आदि की शिक्षा लेकर शुद्ध व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में उतर गए हैं, शोध और अनुसंधान को जैसे छोड़ ही दिया

गुणवत्ता का सवाल

◆ आइआइटी को अपने दृष्टिकोण और रुझान में परिवर्तन करते हुए पाठ्यक्रम और शोध को देश की आवश्यकताओं और विकास से जोड़कर डिजाइन करना होगा

है, यद्यपि यह ठीक है कि कई बार उनको भारत में आधारभूत संरचना और अन्य सुविधाएं नहीं मिल पाती हैं। यह ठीक है कि सरकार आइआइटी छात्रों और प्रोफेसरों के लिए अधिकतम बुनियादी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए, लेकिन इनके साथ-साथ आइआइटी को भी अपने दृष्टिकोण और रुझान में परिवर्तन करते हुए अपने पाठ्यक्रम और शोध को देश की आवश्यकताओं और विकास से जोड़कर डिजाइन करना होगा।

हाल में मेडिकल डॉक्टरों के लिए यह अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है कि अमेरिका जाकर उच्च अध्ययन करने से पहले उन्हें एक बांड भरना पड़ेगा कि वे स्वदेश वापस आकर काम करेंगे अन्यथा उन्हें अमेरिका में प्रैक्टिस नहीं करने दी जाएगी। कुछ ऐसा ही बांड आइआइटी छात्रों के साथ भी होना चाहिए कि अध्ययन के उपरांत कम से कम पांच वर्ष देश में कार्य करेंगे, जिससे देश के विकास में वे योगदान कर सकें।

आज बड़ी संख्या में लोग उच्च शिक्षा के लिए पैसा खर्च करने के लिए तैयार हैं। एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कोटा, कानपुर, बेंगलूर, दिल्ली, पटना, बोकारो आदि में चल रहे कोचिंग का कुल वार्षिक व्यवसाय 50,000 करोड़ रुपये से भी ज्यादा है। इसके अतिरिक्त विदेश जाकर अध्ययन करने वाले छात्रों का वार्षिक व्यय 100,000 करोड़ से ज्यादा है। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में जरूरी है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र में नए संस्थानों के अतिरिक्त प्राइवेट-पब्लिक पार्टनरशिप के तहत पर्याप्त संख्या में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले संस्थान खोले जाएं, जहां अधिक फीस ली जा सकती है। यहां यह प्रावधान जरूर हो कि कम से कम 25 फीसदी सीटें कमजोर वर्ग के लिए आरक्षित हों जो निशुल्क हों या सरकारी दर पर फीस दी जाए। नीति नियामक इन सुझावों पर ध्यान दें तो देश का कायाकल्प होने में देर नहीं लगेगी।

(लेखक दिल्ली विवि में प्रोफेसर हैं)
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MISSIONADMISSION

IIT: Nearly 400 students opt out under exit policy

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NEW DELHI: Even as the final allotment of IIT seats is yet to conclude very soon, nearly 400 students have surrendered their seats after the second round of allotment under the 'exit policy' introduced this year.

"We have so far got around 380 applications. I am hopeful that the number will touch 400," Organising Chairman JEE 2012 Dr GB Reddy said.

In an attempt to plug seat vacancies, the IITs have introduced the policy under which the student is permitted to surrender his seat within a stipulated time (after second round of seat allotment).

Those who surrender their seats will get a refund of their registration fees. In case of general candidates, the amount refunded is ₹40,000 and in the case of SC/ST category the amount is ₹20,000.

"The refund has definitely acted as an incentive for the child to inform the institute before joining elsewhere. Till last year after the registration fees was deposited, the seat was considered to be filled. I am sure this will help to minimise vacancy of seats," Reddy said.

Another advantage of the exit policy is that those who surrender their seats also get a second chance of sitting in the IIT JEE exam.

After the second round of seat allotment this year, there were around 630 seats still vacant including the surrendered seats.

As many as 435 seats were offered in the second round of allotment, of which 199 students

WHAT THE POLICY SAYS

■ The exit policy aims to plug the seat vacancies.

■ Under the policy, any student who withdraws his/her application will get a refund of his/her registration fees after after deducting the processing fee of ₹1,000.

■ Once the candidate surrenders, he will be eligible to sit for the next years IIT JEE provided other eligibility criteria are met.

did not accept. Among the physically disabled seats, there are still 50 seats vacant.

The third round and final allotment of seats will be held on July 6 after which the exact number of vacant seats will be known.

This year has been eventful for the premier institutes. First there was quota controversy.

Then came the much-debated change in the JEE format. It ended with introduction of the new percentile-based formula.

IIM e-classes to aid absentees, other institutes

TECH SOLUTION For IIM-Ranchi students, lectures are now just a mouse-click away

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Management-Ranchi is planning to launch a virtual classroom facility, which will allow students to 'attend' classes without being physically present at the location, in August.

With classes just a mouse-click away, this facility is expected to make things easier for students who are unable to attend college for various reasons, including illness.

Speaking on the virtual classroom facility, which has been hailed by many as a solution to the country's education-related issues, IIM-Ranchi director MJ Xavier said: "Our hostel is nearly 20 km from the campus. There are occasions when students find themselves unable to attend classes because of medical reasons. Also, there could be some urgent matter back home, for which the student may have to go away. In such cases, he can opt for attending classes from his laptop after registering his login credentials."

The lectures would be broadcast live, and students will be able to benefit from face-to-face interactions with faculty members.

IIM-Ranchi is also planning to conduct virtual classes for students of Ranchi University. "We are just two years old, and our classrooms are still being constructed. The Ranchi University has offered some of theirs, in return for virtual class-

VIRTUAL BENEFITS

■ Virtual classes would enable students, who are not able to come to college due to various reasons, to 'attend' classes without being physically present at the location

■ The virtual classroom facility would prevent students from lagging in studies due to loss of attendance, or being burdened with work upon returning

■ The facility would also enable IIM-Ranchi to provide quality education to students in other institutions.

es by our faculty members. A projector will be used for the purpose," Professor Xavier said.

Stating that the virtual classroom project with Ranchi University would act as their "test bed", he said, "Our broader objective is to extend virtual education to many institutions across the country. Our country suffers from an acute shortage of quality education, and virtual classrooms will help in this regard."

Students would be able to register their attendance by marking a biometric sensor with their thumb impression, the director said.

The students' understanding of the subject would be evaluated by faculty members through their notes on the subject in a separate module.

IITGn ties up with Japan's Ricoh Innovation

Ahmedabad: Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) has tied up with Japanese group Ricoh's California-based unit, Ricoh Innovation Inc (RII), to jointly work on technology development. "We had floated proposal to Ricoh Innovation to get involved with us, to which they have agreed. The idea is to work together on technology development focussed on improving interaction between people and information," said Sudhir K Jain, director of IITGn.

"An emerging market like India offers huge opportunities, and Ricoh Innovation centre wants to understand Indian market through us. Our students shall get involved in doing this," he said. RII develops technologies for Ricoh, specialising in office-imaging equipment,

IIT, Gandhinagar, will jointly work with the California-based unit of the Japanese company on technology development

production print solutions, document management systems and IT services.

"One of the projects initiated at the institute in joint collaboration with RII was Book Snap, as a part of which our students had developed a library linked software for them," said Jain.

"A project linked to Smartboards in collaboration with RII is likely to kick-start at the institute," informed sources in IITGn.

In education sector, RII's free whiteboard share iPhone application allows users to capture and share whiteboard discussions. It removes unwanted artifacts from the whiteboard images, making them easier to read, share and print. Two students from IITGn recently were picked up by Ricoh Innovations Private Limited (RIPL), subsidiary of RII in India, working to address opportunities in India and similar emerging markets. "Two of our students have been selected by RII's Indian subsidiary, RIPL to work on technology development," said Jain. Being sanctioned Rs 10-crore grant by Gujarat government to set up a Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering, the institute is also scouting for collaboration with a US-based leading healthcare service provider. — PTI

IIT-B'S ROBOTICS CONTEST

HT, Mumbai

IIT-B HAS LAUNCHED its robotics competition, E-Yatra, open to all undergraduate engineering students

PRAFUL GANGURDE IIT-B students have developed a programme through which a robot can fill potholes. At the upcoming fest, teams can improve upon such programmes.

THE INSTITUTE will provide teams with a robot and a program created for the robots, which participants can improve upon. One such program enables robots to fill potholes and clean city roads. MUMBAI: There may soon be a robot designed by students that can fill potholes and clean city roads.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) launched its pan-India robotics competition, E-Yantra, on Tuesday, open to all undergraduate engineering students.

The institute will provide teams with a robot and a programme created for the robots, which participants can improve upon. One such programme enables robots to fill potholes. "Why can't we create a jhadoo-khatka robot that can be used at public and private spaces? An important part of this initiative is to inspire youth to solve the problems of the nation by leveraging innovative thinking," said Kavi Arya, professor and coordinator of E-Yatra.

The project has been sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under its National Mission for ICT in Education programme. It aims to provide hands-on learning infrastructure to students with limited access to labs and mentors.

"Traditionally, when students wished to do a robotics project, they had to first build a robot, then work on it, often faltering at the first hurdle," said Arya. "Now, they have a commodity robot and an existing open source code base."

About 120 robots will be given to participants, who have 12 weeks to programme it. The finals will be held at the institute's annual technology festival, Techfest, in January 2013. To register log on to www.eyantra.org/register.

AICTE sets up awards for engineering institutes

HT Correspondent

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BHOPAL: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has instituted awards for the best engineering institutes and engineering faculty in the country, nomination for which is open till August 15.

Along with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the AICTE has also launched a yearly survey of industry-linked engineering institutions; with a view to map the best practices by institutions and industry in order to create a benchmark for quality education in the country.

The AICTE approved engineering institutes and university departments (government, self-financing as well as private) that have been in existence for at least ten years (as on August 1, 2012) will be able to participate in the survey and also vie for the awards, a joint AICTE-CII notification said.

The institutes should be offering a bachelor's degree in at least three among six streams including chemical, civil, computer and information technology, electrical, electronics and communication and mechanical engineering.

Awards will be given to overall best engineering institute in the country, stream-wise best institute and stream-wise best faculty member in abovementioned six streams.

The parameters of the survey include governance, curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, services, entrepreneurship and innovation and placements, the joint notification said.

The results of the survey and the awards will be announced during the AICTE-CII university-industry congress, which will be held in New Delhi on November 8.

The details are available on the AICTE website- www.aicte-india.org.

cityscape
IIT-KGP PROF NAMED JU'S NEXT V-C

KOLKATA: Professor of mechanical engineering department of IIT, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), Souvik Bhattacharyya has been named the next vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University (JU). He is also a member of West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination Board (WBJEEB). After Pradip Narayan Ghosh retired from his position as vice-chancellor of the university on April 14, Abhijit Chakraborty from BESU was appointed as interim vice-chancellor for six months. This was done to allow the search panel constituted enough time to find a suitable candidate for the post. The joining date of Bhattacharyya as the vice-chancellor has not been decided yet. **HTC**

TWO LEOPARDS STRAY INTO IIT-B CAMPUS, DRIVEN AWAY BY GUARDS

HT Correspondents

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MUMBAI: Early on Tuesday morning, forest guards drove two leopards away from the Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay (IIT-B) campus at Powai.

According to officials, a male and female leopard had strayed into the campus last week reportedly to mate.

IIT-B and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli share a boundary.

"Going by their behaviour, the leopards must have strayed into the campus to mate. At around 5.30am on Tuesday, our guards managed to shoo them away from the campus border into the forest," said GT Chavan, deputy conservator of forests, Thane.

On June 28, the forest department received a call from the IIT-B staff saying they had spotted two leopards walking around the staff quarters. Since then, guards from the state forest department have been patrolling the campus.

"At around 7pm last Thursday, residents of the lake side building heard roars. We called forest officials and the police. While some residents said they saw two leopards, a male and a female, others said they also saw a female leopard with a cub," said professor Urjit Yajnik, dean of student affairs.