

Newspaper Clips

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Two Roorkee profs barred from JEE role for 5 years

Ramaninder K Bhatia | TNN

Chandigarh: The IIT Roorkee has been ordered to debar two of its professors and one member of the clerical staff from any role in the Joint Entrance Exams (JEE) for the next five years by the Joint Admissions Board (JAB).

The decision came following reports of unfair means being used to assist a candidate at a Bathinda college during the IIT-JEE exam on April 10.

S G Dhande, chairman of JAB and the director of IIT Kanpur, has also advised the IIT Roorkee director and JEE chairman to get an FIR registered to investigate the "nexus among the college authorities, certain invigilators and an employee of the Giani Zail Singh college of Engineering and Technology, in Bathinda.

Heenu Bansal, the beneficiary of the assistance, has been permanently debarred from appearing in any of the examinations conducted by the JEE, GATE, JAM and CEED, in future, according to the orders issued on June 7. The order follows an inquiry conducted to find out what transpired in the examination hall at the Bathinda college where the two Roorkee professors were posted.

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China sets up national gene bank: China has established a national gene bank in southern Guangdong province's Shenzhen city to safeguard the country's genetic information, a media report said Saturday. Qi Chengyuan, the chief of National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC), said the establishment of the national gene bank will help China "better protect, research and utilize its precious genetic resources, boosting the genetics industry and safeguarding the country's genetic information".

Business Standard ND 19/06/2011

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IT'S GETTING ABSURD

High cutoffs for college admissions are a reflection of supply-side shortages

The 100 per cent cutoff for school-leaving science and humanities students who hope to gain admission to the B.Com. (Honours) course at Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce has caught the nation's attention on account of its dramatic absurdity. While the SRCC case has permitted a key point to be raised about the way our education factories go about their business, it should not be overlooked that SRCC is not quite alone in raising admission stakes to mind-boggling levels. Another college has fixed a cutoff of 99 per cent for a different course, and any number of other Delhi University institutions are also playing with fire when they ask for nothing less than 96 per cent even for the BA (Pass) course, leave alone requirements for an honours course in any discipline. At this rate, very soon we might be looking at numbing statistics of youth unemployment within our system, which is already groaning under the impact of Naxalism and other ills that plague an unhappy society. The plain truth is that in this country we have singularly failed to provide good colleges in enough numbers that can take on the rush emanating from school-leavers of quality. In other words, we are looking at a



supply side constraint. The question is: where will all the toppers go? To America obviously, in droves, and also to fairly ordinary institutions in Britain, Europe, Australia or Singapore, to name a few popular destinations.

Human resources development minister Kapil Sibal would do well to look at the totality of the picture when he speaks of the need for changes in both policy and present-day rules to cope with the bizarre situation being encountered at Delhi University. Quite clearly, if we don't invest enough in education by opening more quality colleges, we cannot sustain the demands of a rising economy and will fall behind in the knowledge stakes, which is the stuff that will make or break nations in the 21st century. The case of Delhi University is important as students come to this centre of learning from all corners of India in large numbers. And if the pond is brimming over at DU, other universities in the country too would be catching the disease sooner or later for the rising overflow is bound to hit them.

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Minus forms, varsity goes paper-free

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: The admission process at Delhi University has been eco-friendly this time around.

By not giving out forms this year, the university has saved a large amount of paper while some colleges also cut down on the number of prospectus they printed.

Contributing to the environment may not have been deliberate, but the university is riding high on this initiative, which has been a sort of eye-opener.

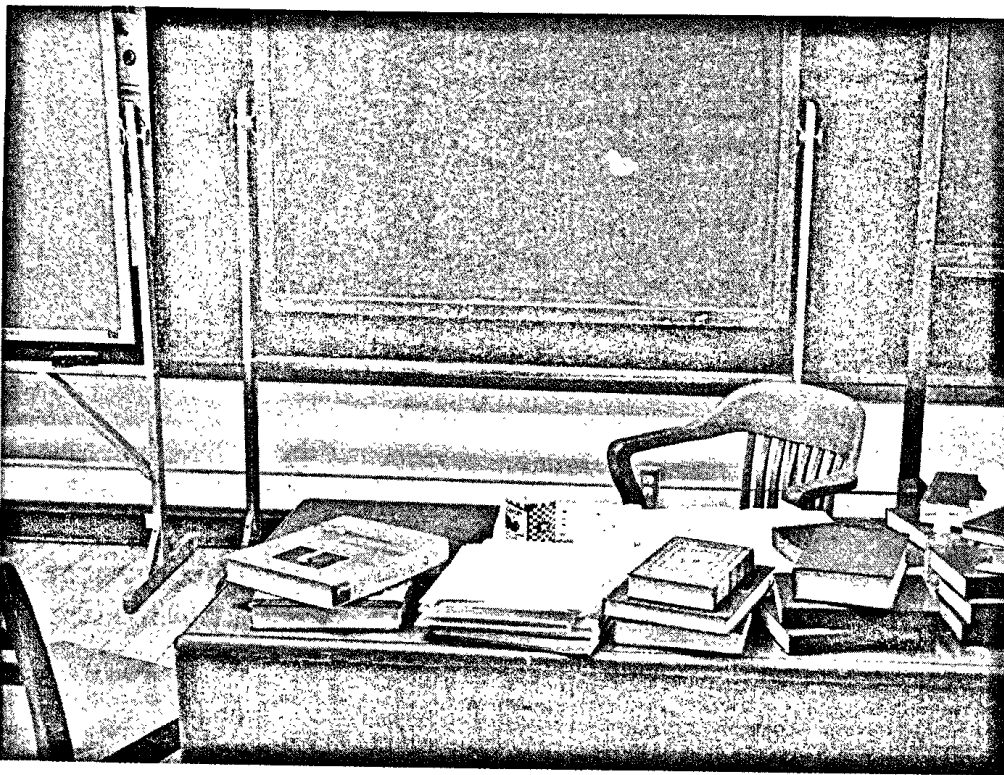
"We used at least 2 lakh sheets of paper to print forms till last year. All that paper has been saved this time.

"Also, no post-registration documentation was required. Through the admission process we have contributed to the environment in a small way," said Gurpreet Singh Tuteja, deputy dean, students' welfare. Kirori Mal College did not print any prospectus this year though the number of prospectus sold last time was more than 15,000, principal Bhim Sen Singh said.

"We didn't print it because we thought it was unnecessary this time. Who would have bought them when there were no forms for registration?" he said. VK Srivastava, principal, Hindu College, said, "Last year we had printed 5,000 copies of the prospectus. As we knew we wouldn't be selling many of them this time, we got only 2,000 copies printed. There were hardly any visitors to the campus before the admissions began thus saving on petrol too."

The Crisis in Indian Business Education

Better salaries, a research environment and funding to create databases are a few steps B-schools should take to attract bright students to be part of the faculty, says Sanjay Kallapur



To get a sense of the imbalance, US immigration data compiled by the National Science Foundation show that as of 2009 there were only 390 Indian students in business PhD programmes, compared to 1,260 from China. The imbalance in the top 25 schools may be even worse.

This is a crisis for Indian business education. But because business PhD programmes are fully funded, I do not think government intervention is necessary. What is needed instead is to create awareness about the academic profession, so that our best and brightest students give it serious thought.

I urge professors to communicate to their academically inclined students how exciting academic life is – the pleasure of working at the cutting edge of knowledge, thereby never having to get bored; and the ability to influence the next generation of scholars and business leaders. Academic life offers autonomy. Being in beautiful campus environments around bright colleagues and enthusiastic students are some of the other perquisites of the job. Those students who like engaging in intellectual yet practical pursuits should definitely consider this career. The salary, while not comparable to industry salaries at the higher levels, is not bad – starting CTCs for fresh PhDs at research-oriented US schools range from \$175,000-250,000.

We at ISB started a doctoral-level fellow programme in management this year using knowledge and best practices from Insead, the only non-US school in the Top 10 in the UT Dallas ranking, and whose PhD programme is regarded as the best outside North America. But India's needs far exceed the capacity of ISB's programme.

Having increased the supply of PhDs, we still face the problem of getting them to accept positions in Indian schools. This is a challenge given the shortage of research-oriented faculty worldwide, and the high salaries elsewhere. Academic salaries in Indian schools must increase – today professors earn less than their MBA students' average salary, and this must change.

Along with better salaries, a research environment is necessary to attract good faculty. Funding (primarily for databases and conferences) is necessary. Business research differs from research in science and engineering in this regard – it does not require huge laboratories with lots of equipment. In addition to funding, a research culture is necessary. The school must demonstrate through words and action that the highest respect is reserved for research-active faculty. As is universal among research schools worldwide, ISB follows the tenure system which involves a long probation period followed by a rigorous up-or-out evaluation at its end. At the end of our seven-year probation period we thoroughly evaluate the teaching and research performance of candidates, with letters solicited from outside experts in the area. If the quality and quantity of their published research output is inadequate, the candidates must leave.

Who is ahead in business research – China, or India with its advantage in English, and a history of business education beginning from before China's Cultural Revolution?

According to a UT Dallas website containing data about publications in 24 top business journals, China is way ahead. For the period 2008-11, the list of top 500 universities worldwide has 25 universities from China, and only three from India. For the curious, they are the Indian School of Business, IIM (presumably Ahmedabad and Bangalore combined, a result of some data limitations), and IIM Calcutta. China's lead is increasing. In the period 1990-95 (the UT Dallas data begins in 1990), there were only seven schools from China (including four from Hong Kong) and none from India.

These 24 journals tracked by UT Dallas are the cream of the cream. They reject 80-90% of the papers they receive. In my field, accounting, for instance, only about 5% of doctorally qualified faculty in US schools publish in these journals in a given

year. Even at the top schools, a faculty member on an average publishes in these journals only once in three years. The National Knowledge Commission, Yashpal Committee, Kapil Sibal, Jairam Ramesh and several others have eloquently made the case for high-quality research, so I will not elaborate here on the advantages of research.

How can we bridge the gap? Issues pertaining to business research differ from those of science and engineering; I will restrict myself to the former. The biggest reason for the difference is that Indian students are simply not going for PhD in enough numbers. PhD programme directors from top US schools tell me that beginning in the 1990s, the supply of good PhD applicants from India just dried up, and it was the opposite with Chinese applicants. (Experience shows that to publish in one of the 24 journals a student has to train under faculty members who themselves do so. Typically that means having to get a PhD from a top 25 or 50 schools, most of which are American).



Sanjay Kallapur is a professor of accounting and senior associate dean for faculty and research at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.