

Newspaper Clips

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JEE may be tinkered to placate irate IITs

HRD ministry to soft sell its one-test plan for engineering

NEW DELHI: With the Senates of two Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) - Kanpur and Delhi - opposing the government's 'one nation, one test' proposal for admissions, there are indications that some changes may be affected in the new format of the joint entrance examination (JEE) to end the impasse.

According to highly placed sources, the Human Resource Development Ministry is re-visiting the proposed 2013 test format for the selection of students for IITs, to incorporate "suitable" changes and end the logjam. Two alternative test formats have been suggested for incorporation in the proposed IIT-JEE.

According to the IIT council's decision, the proposed test has to be conducted in two parts—JEE-Main and JEE-Advance. A suggestion has been made that only those students, who are screened for IITs after JEE-Main, be allowed to take JEE-Advanced. This was discussed at the meeting of vice chancellors of deemed to be universities held here on Monday.

Another suggestion was that instead of giving equal weightage to class XII board marks and performance of candidates in JEE-Main, top 20 percentile holders of various school boards and their performance in JEE-Main should be

screened for taking JEE-Advance test, which will be solely for admissions to IITs. This would mean that students who score less than 79 per cent may not qualify to apply for admission to IITs.

The argument is that this system fulfills the goal of giving importance to the school boards, while avoiding the pitfalls of normalisation. However, the Ministry is not very comfortable with this suggestion as it would create barriers.

The Ministry, after examining both suggestions, would place it before the IIT council meet on Wednesday. The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 has empowered the IIT council as the final deciding authority on matters related to IITs, including admission to the elite technical institutes. But, the Ministry is not willing to precipitate a situation that could break up the IIT system, sources said.

More the merrier

The HRD Ministry is also reaching out to private technical institutions to bring them on board the 'one nation, one test' plan. At a meeting with vice chancellors of the deemed to be universities here, the Ministry urged them to participate in the JEE to be conducted next year. It mooted the idea of admitting students on the basis of the school board results and the JEE-Main.

DH News Service

'IITs misusing autonomy'

Academicians are divided on the issue of Common Entrance Test

TANIA AMEER KHAN

NEW DELHI: As the battle between the Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) rages on, a special meeting to resolve the issue of the proposed Common Entrance Test (CET) will be held on Wednesday. Sibal's move is supplemented by his vision of conducting this CET for the IITs, NITs and IIITs, which have caused IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Delhi to break away and hold their own entrance exams instead.

Academicians are divided on the issue. Slamming the IITs, Professor PB Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University says: 'The IITs are misusing the autonomy for forcing for the separate examination for them. It is unjust to million Indian candidates and parents. Too many entrance examinations become a problem for the youth of India who spent all their energy in them.' A private player in the field, Amity University, however agrees with the CET formula. Professor

Balvinder Shukla, Vice-Chancellor at the university says, 'The CET is a good idea. It will save a lot of time



NEW DELHI: The warring sides are getting ready for a showdown on the government's policy of the one nation, one test at the IIT Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday. In the run up to the meeting, a group of 130 deemed engineering colleges met the human resource development minister Kapil Sibal on Monday and pledged support for the proposed Common Entrance Test (CET).

While, on the other hand, there are indications that IIT, Delhi, and IIT, Kanpur, may soften their stand and hear the

for the students.'

While countering this view, former Vice-Chairman of National Knowledge

Commission, Dr PM Bhargava says, 'I am with the IITs on this issue and not with Kapil Sibal. The minister

minister out once again.

The crucial meet on 27 June, aims at discussing the CET proposal recommended by the HRD especially with the background of IIT-Kanpur followed by IIT-Delhi rejecting this plan and announcing that they would hold their separate entrance examination instead. As per sources this meeting will be an ice-breaker between the two warring sides, and will serve the purpose of the IITs laying their perspective before the minister so this issue can be amicably resolved.

wants class 12 marks to be taken into account and that is unfair. It would be better if the IITs conduct their own

exam. The objectives for IITs and NIITs are different, while all IITs have virtually identical objectives. A student who wants to go to IIT doesn't necessarily want to go for IIIT or NIIT.'

Professor Anil Gupta, from the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad said: 'CET itself may not be a problem so long it is designed, implemented and managed by the IIT faculty, while the scores of this exam can be used by similar institutions.'

In an earlier report Millennium Post had highlighted the nexus of coaching centres and IIT teachers.

Chandan Agarwal Director, Educomp says, 'The institutes are only seeking an entrance procedure which is transparent and statistically sound. The initially proposed system had some flaws which the institutes were dissatisfied with. Hence the controversy. Also its in students' benefit to have one exam as it reduces the stress of giving many exams. But some thought needs to be given to ensure that a student doesn't spoil his chances because of one bad day. Perhaps multiple attempts can address this.'

Yes Minister! You've got it right

Kapil Sibal needs to be commended for upholding the importance of Class 12 marks for admissions to institutes of higher education

Pradipta K. Mohapatra

After visiting New Delhi in the mid-1970s, the editor of an important American newspaper, the story goes, wrote that only in two places are Indians not permitted to have a drink at a five-star hotel — South Africa, and India!

Sadly, some 40 years later, that story could well be about Indian degrees and diplomas. India's Class 12 certificates issued by the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and various State Boards are accepted as a qualifying score for an admission to undergraduate classes in more than half of the top 200 universities in the world. The only country where these certificates are not accepted (or scores not recognised) is India itself. Why else would we run a plethora of entrance tests for admission to universities or institutes, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) included? It is well recognised that there is great discrepancy between boards. The Odisha Board of Secondary Education may not be comparable to say, Delhi. But going by the number of students from Odisha crawling around Delhi University, this may not be entirely correct.

Coaching industry at Kota

Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) Kapil Sibal has now got it right by recognising that the Class 12 score must be considered, at least in part, for admission into higher education including the IITs. This, I hope, is the first step towards abolishing all entrance tests and recognising the certificates that are in any case issued by the government. By not recognising the Class 12 score we have created what we would call "Kota style education," which at the last count was a Rs.50,000 crore industry.

To elaborate: some 1,00,000 students on completion of Class 10 carry their bag and baggage, and at times, along with one of their parents, and travel to Kota, Rajasthan. The back-breaking two years involve admitting themselves to one of the several hundred coaching classes for the IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NIT) or medical colleges, where they



RAT RACE: Students start preparing for the competitive entrance exams much before their school leaving year. A file picture of students at an IIT coaching centre in Chennai. — PHOTO: V. GANESAN

work for about 18 hours a day. Neither the soaring temperatures in Kota nor the appalling living conditions bother them. As passing Class 12 is mandatory to get into the IITs, these students get admitted to one or another board as distance learners. They need only a pass certificate — the scores are unimportant.

"Kota style" education now thrives in the backstreets of Bethia, Berhampur and Tirunelveli. It is a \$10-billion industry, and is now run by many public limited companies, some hugely funded by overseas private equity funds — \$10 billion is more than the government's annual funding to the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Mr. Sibal needs to be complimented for bringing sanity into higher education by recognising that our own degrees and diplomas must be counted in admissions to our own colleges and universities.

As for the hue and cry created by IIT alumni associations about the Minister's proposal to democratise IIT admission, you don't have to be a genius to appreciate and understand the sentiments of the IIT alumni. Let us not forget that they are all born and brought up in the same country as us and have grown up in the same feudal culture. They are the neo-Brahmins. After all, how can they

permit children of lesser castes to get into their temples? This is the overriding sentiment. The purported line is that we must protect quality of education of the IITs. But the real need is to protect the IITs from "Kota style" coaching classes.

Five-point agenda

Here is a five-point agenda to improve higher education, particularly technical education, in India.

- Create capacity: Permit private institutions to significantly increase capacity. It is well known that the school to college dropout ratio is 70 per cent. The moment we say this, the bogey raised is that quality will fall. Therefore, what is required is a strong autonomous regulator that will certify the quality of education, like in all developed parts of the world. Encouraging quality, removing bottlenecks, and enhancing capacities should be the cornerstone architecture of the regulators rather than "control."

Government managed (read controlled) technical education is now about 10 per cent of the total number of seats. Increase the capacity of the IITs and NITs by 5x. People ask, where are the teachers (of "quality")? The answer is to increase the compensation package of teachers by 5x. Many corporate orga-

nisations are willing to sponsor chairs in much the same way as it happens in the western world, to pay deserving teachers.

- Introduce for-profit higher education: The best kept secret is that the currently structured trust managed educational institutions are truly not "not-for-profit." We must acknowledge that and ask the regulator to grant, say, a 12 per cent equated return to investors in these institutes and universities.

- Create a band of adjunct faculty: Top educational institutions all over the world operate with a strong partnership with industry and business. The starting point is to get a large list of volunteers from industry who are willing to devote time as adjunct faculty. Clearly there are issues of consistency in education delivery but industry bodies like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) can very well be motivated to provide this thrust. We need to work on a model of how academics can work hand in hand with practising managers.

- Privatised some IITs and NITs: privatising a non-profit organisation is bound to stir up a hornet's nest. But some IITs and NITs can be privatised on an experimental basis.

- Create competition: Before the private universities bill has even been passed, the HRD Ministry is already talking about controls. The anti-competition lobby is already working to eliminate future competition. If our objective is to create capacity, let us welcome any registered university from any respectable part of the world. Competition will decide whether the students want to go to Delhi University or Hawaii University's campus in Delhi!

Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate, said when asked about the large number of rural schools in India that have only one room and one teacher, "I will have a school with only one room and one teacher rather than no school at all." We can't change overnight our higher education to match MIT, Harvard or Oxford. Let's start with capacity creation as the top most agenda. In the meanwhile, congratulations Mr. Minister for the first, forward-looking step.

(Pradipta K. Mohapatra is a Chennai-based executive coach for corporates.)

Key issues likely to come up at IIM directors' meet today

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: Directors of all the 13 IIMs are expected to arrive in Lucknow on Tuesday for a high level meeting to be chaired by Kapil Sibal, minister of human resource development (MHRD).

Industrialists like Mukesh Ambani, JJ Irani, Vijaypath Singhania are chairmen of various IIMs but it's still not clear whether all of them would come to Lucknow.

However, most of the 13 directors from IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore, Kashipur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Shillong, Tiruchirappali and Udaipur are expected to be here. The exact agenda of the meeting is not known but with the government having reportedly approved the amended memorandum of understanding (MoA), some old IIMs are set to enjoy greater autonomy.

So issues like faculty appointment, salary structure, setting up new campuses and satellite campuses could be discussed.



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■ However, most of the 13 directors from IIM Ahmedabad,

Senior officials of the MHRD too are expected to arrive for the day-long high profile meet, that would be held on the IIM-Lucknow campus.

This is the first time when IIM-L would be playing host for a meeting of all IIM directors and chairmen. Such meetings, that have earlier been held in Bangalore and Delhi are now being held every six months on Sibal's initiative, to meet and

IN A NUTSHELL

Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore, Kashipur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Shillong, Tiruchirappali and Udaipur are expected to be here.

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jointly discuss issues relating to IIMs.

The host institute, among the four oldest IIMs (IIM-A, B and C) of the country has last year inked a pact with the prestigious Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Indiana USA under which both institutes have agreed to mutually support each other and closely collaborate for research and faculty and student exchange programme.

IIT-Delhi gets court notice for denying seat under handicapped quota

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on a petition by a student challenging denial of admission to him under the physically-challenged reservation quota following his medical test conducted by a board declaring him unfit for the benefit.

According to the petition, Amit Kumar has been ranked 113rd in the merit list of this year's IIT-JEE under the reservation quota for the physically challenged.

According to the rank, he was directed to IIT-Delhi for pre-admission formalities.

The petitioner submitted he was called for a medical

examination by IIT-Delhi to check his disability claim. The medical board which conducted the test on him said that he was not 40 per cent orthopedically handicapped which is mandatory to claim the benefit under the reservation quota, the petition stated.

'Only 24% disability'

Following the test report, IIT-Delhi refused him admission saying that he was not a physically-challenged candidate under The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, as his disability was only 24 per cent, the petition said.

The petitioner challenged

his medical examination submitting that when he had presented to the institution the medical certificate declaring him 40 per cent disabled issued by the Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital which is a competent authority to issue the certificate under the Act.

The petitioner hails from Bihar.

He urged the Court to direct IIT-Delhi to immediately consider his candidature for admission under the physically-challenged quota and grant admission to him to a suitable college to which the petitioner was duly entitled to.

The Court asked IIT-Delhi to file reply to the petition by July 2.

Denied admission, disabled student takes IIT to court

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Monday issued notice to the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi for denying admission to a student under the handicapped category on the ground that his disability was less than 40 percent. Justice Pratibha Rani sought the response of IIT-D by July 2, the next date of hearing.

Petitioner Amit Kumar's advocate Ashok Aggarwal said that the student underwent a medical examination at the instance of the IIT June 5 and the institute disqualified his admission saying that he was 24 percent disabled instead of the 40 per cent required to qualify under the category.

He is orthopedically disabled due to stiffness of knee and hip, Aggarwal said.

"It is pertinent to mention herein that the procedure adopted by IIT-Delhi is absolutely illegal, unjustified and unwarranted in as much as the petitioner was already having a valid certificate saying that

the petitioner is suffering from 40 per cent disability," said the petitioner.

It said the board of doctors which examined the petitioner at the instance of IIT, was not validly constituted for the purpose of issuance of disablement certificate under the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act.

The procedure adopted by the board was unreasonable, non-transparent and unjust, said Aggarwal. The petition claimed that the petitioner possessed a valid disability certificate from Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital in Bihar which said that he was 40 per cent disabled. Counsel claimed once a child had been issued a certificate of 40 per cent disability by a competent authority, he could not be called upon to undergo any medical examination as a pre-condition for admission to IIT.

IANNS

Disabled challenges IIT rejection in court

New Delhi, June 25: The Delhi high court on Monday issued notice to the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) for denying admission to a student under the handicapped category on the ground that his disability was less than 40 per cent. Justice Pratibha Rani sought IIT-D response by July 2, the next date of hearing.

Petitioner Amit Kumar's advocate Ashok Aggarwal said that the student

underwent a medical examination at the instance of the IIT on June 5 and the institute disqualified his admission saying that he was 24 per cent disabled instead of the 40 per cent required to qualify under the category.

He is orthopaedically disabled due to stiffness of knee and hip, Mr Aggarwal said. "It is pertinent to mention herein that the procedure adopted by IIT-Delhi is absolutely illegal, unjustified and unwarrant-

ed inasmuch as the petitioner was already having a valid certificate saying that the petitioner is suffering from 40 per cent disability," said the petition.

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The procedure adopted by the board was unreasonable, non-transparent and unjust, claimed Mr Aggarwal.

The petition claimed that the petitioner possessed a valid disability certificate from Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital in Bihar which said that he was 40 per cent disabled.

Mr Aggarwal claimed that once a child had been issued a certificate of 40 per cent disability by a competent authority, he

could not be called upon to undergo any medical examination as a pre-condition for admission to the IIT.

"The impugned action on the part of the IIT in rejecting the candidature of the petitioner for admission on the ground that the petitioner does not fulfil the requisite qualification of 40 per cent disability is arbitrary, incorrect, discriminatory, unreasonable and unconstitutional," the petition said.

— IANS

Dainik Jagran ND

26/06/2023

आइआइटी दिल्ली पर दाखिले में भेदभाव का आरोप

जासं, नई दिल्ली : एक विकलांग युवक ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में आइआइटी दिल्ली के खिलाफ याचिका दायर कर दाखिला प्रक्रिया में भेदभाव का आरोप लगाया है। जस्टिस प्रतिभा रानी ने आइआइटी दिल्ली को नोटिस जारी कर दो जुलाई तक जवाब तलब किया है। मूलतः बिहार निवासी अमित कुमार ने अपने भाई सितेश कुमार के माध्यम से याचिका दायर की है। अमित का कहना है कि आइआइटी दिल्ली ने उसे यह कहते हुए दाखिला देने से इन्कार कर दिया कि वह शारीरिक रूप से केवल 24 प्रतिशत विकलांग है, जबकि 40 प्रतिशत शारीरिक विकलांगता वाले छात्र को ही उनके यहां दाखिला देने का प्रावधान है। जबकि उसके पास 40 प्रतिशत शारीरिक विकलांग होने का प्रमाणित सर्टिफिकेट है। अमित की ओर से अधिवक्ता अशोक अग्रवाल और अनुज अग्रवाल ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि अमित ने 12वीं की परीक्षा में 74 प्रतिशत अंक प्राप्त किए हैं और वह होनहार छात्र है।

IIT to advise on drainage plan

New Delhi: The Delhi government has decided to appoint IIT Delhi as a consultant to draft the drainage master plan for the city. It will replace the 1981 plan.

Delhi State Spatial Data Infrastructure and Geo Spatial Delhi Limited will provide data to IIT free of cost. These will also assist the consultant and the stakeholders in implementing the project.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting on Monday, with chief minister Sheila Dikshit pointing out that the master plan has been in the making since 2007 and the drainage system needs an overhaul due to new colonies and unplanned growth. "A master plan is essential as the existing system has become too old to be repaired or revived," Dikshit said. TNN

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IIT to help prepare drainage master plan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The state cabinet on Monday gave its nod for appointing Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, as a consultant to prepare the drainage master plan for the Capital. The cabinet also decided to take a holistic approach while preparing the master plan.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by chief minister Sheila Dikshit.

She said the last drainage master plan was finalised in 1981. Since then a sea change

has taken place in Delhi as population and habitation have reached saturation levels, she added.

According to Dikshit, the drainage master plan prepared by the irrigation and flood control department was supposed to be reviewed to integrate it with the DDA's master plan of 2001.

But instead of reviewing it, the drainage system has been upgraded in a piecemeal manner from time to time by re-modeling some existing drains

and building a few drains by civic agencies as per their requirements, said Dikshit.

"The Delhi Development Authority has now notified Master Plan Delhi 2021, which takes a fresh approach to drainage problems. It incorporates provisions of effluent treatment plants at outfall of drains and a time-bound programme for augmentation and capacity revision of existing drains," said Dikshit.

According to her, it was decided in 2007 that a new

drainage master plan must be prepared, keeping in view the fast-changing urban scenario due to mushrooming colonies, unplanned growth and expansion of multi-storey buildings.

"A realistic drainage master plan will take shape to take care of future drainage needs of the capital," said Dikshit.

A new drainage master plan has become essential as the current system has become too old to be repaired. The cabinet will also appoint Delhi as a consultant for preparing a

drainage master plan for all areas under the National Capital Territory.

Official moves court

Mahender Nagpal, leader of the House in North Delhi Municipal Corporation, has appealed to the Delhi High Court to instruct the government to ensure cleaning up of major drains, reports IANS. He said the inaction of the public works department and the irrigation department was nullifying the civic agencies' efforts.

IIT Delhi to plan city's drainage

SYED ALI AHMED
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

The Cabinet today gave its nod for appointing the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi as a consultant for preparation of master plan of drainage (MPD) for the capital city.

While talking to mediapersons after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit said that the earlier Master Plan of Drainage was finalised in 1981. It was prepared by engaging the departmental staff.

Since then a sea change had taken place in the scenario of Delhi as population and habitation had reached a level of saturation.

The MPD prepared by the irrigation and flood control has to integrate it with the Master Plan 2001 of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), but instead of reviewing it, the drainage system has been upgraded in piecemeal manner from time to time by way of remodeling of some existing drainage and construction of a few new drains by various civic agencies.

The DDA has notified the

MPD 2021 in which a fresh approach to drainage problem is suggested, which incorporate provision of effluent treatment plants at outfall of drains, a time bound programme for augmentation and capacity revision of existing drains and proposing new drains due to fast urbanisation of the city.

Dikshit said that keeping in view the fast changing scenario due to coming up of the new colonies, unplanned growth and multi-storey characteristic of expansion, in 2007 it was decided to prepare a new MPD. Further,

preparation of the new drainage master plan had also become essential as the system had become too old to be repaired or revived. The instances of choking of drains were being regularly noticed.

Further, the Delhi State Spatial Data Institute or Geo Spatial Delhi Limited will provide data available with them to consultant, free of cost.

Dikshit expressed confidence that new MPD would take shape to take care of the future drainage needs of the capital to make it a world-class city.

IIT Delhi to prepare Master Plan of Drainage

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 25 JUNE: Delhi cabinet today gave its nod for appointing IIT Delhi as a consultant for preparation of Master Plan of Drainage for the Capital city. It was also decided to expedite preparation of Master Plan of Drainage taking a holistic approach. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by the chief minister, Mrs Sheila Dikshit.

While briefing media after the cabinet meeting, Mrs Dikshit said that the last Master Plan of Drainage was finalised in the year 1981. It was prepared by the departmental staff. Since then a sea change has taken place in the scenario of Delhi as population and habitation have reached a level of saturation.

"The Master Plan of Drainage prepared by I&FC was supposed to be reviewed to integrate it with the Master Plan 2001 of DDA, but instead of reviewing it the drainage system

has been upgraded in piecemeal manner from time to time by way of remodeling of some existing drainage and construction of a few new drains by various civic agencies as per their requirements," said Mrs Dikshit.

The DDA has since notified MPD-2021 wherein a fresh approach to drainage problem is suggested, which incorporate provision of Effluent Treatment Plants at outfall of drains, a time bound programme for augmentation and capacity revision of existing drains, proposing new drains due to fast urbanization of the city and the reduction of rural area resulting increased run off, and thereby, necessitating review and upgradation of existing drainage system.

Mrs Dikshit further said that it was decided in 2007 that the new Master Plan of Drainage must be prepared, keeping in view, the fast changing scenario due to coming up of the new colonies, unplanned growth and multi storey characteristic

of expansion. Further, preparation of the new Drainage Master Plan has also become essential as the system has become too old to be repaired or revived. Moreover, the instances of choking of drains are being regularly noticed.

"The Cabinet has decided to appoint the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi as consultant for preparation of the Master Plan of Drainage for NCT of Delhi. Further, the DSSDI/Geo Spatial Delhi Limited will provide data available with them to the consultant, free of cost," added the chief minister.

Further, DSSDI/Geo Spatial Delhi shall continue to assist the consultant and all stakeholders for the implementation of this project on the ground. Mrs Dikshit expressed confidence that a realistic and most feasible Master Plan of Drainage will take shape to take care of the future drainage needs of the Capital city to make it a world class city.

IIT-Delhi to formulate Master Plan for Drainage

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on Monday directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to itself contact Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for formulating a Master Plan for Drainage in the Capital.

While the matter was listed before the Delhi Cabinet for a decision on allowing the study, the Chief Minister said for such routine matters as this, in which an amount of less than Rs. 1 crore was involved for the student, the Departments should take the initiative and act on their own.

As per the proposal, IIT-Delhi would conduct a study within 18 months detailing how Delhi should deal with its drains.

Ms. Dikshit had in 2011 directed outsourcing the maintenance of drainage system and the Department had then got down to preparing a Master Plan. For the job, IIT-Delhi was shortlisted and it is expected to be paid a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs for undertake the detailed study. The last Master Plan of Drainage was finalised in the year 1981 and was prepared by the staff of the department.

Incidentally, the Master Plan of Drainage prepared by I&FC Department was supposed to be reviewed to integrate it with the Master Plan 2001 of DDA but instead of reviewing it the drainage system was upgraded in a piecemeal manner from time to time by way of remodelling of some existing drainage and construction of a few new drains by various civic agen-

- IIT-Delhi is expected to be paid a sum of Rs. 80 lakh for undertake the detailed study
- It will conduct a study within 18 months detailing how Delhi should deal with its drains

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gramme for augmentation and capacity revision of existing drains, proposing new drains due to fast urbanisation of the city and the reduction of rural area resulting increased run off, and thereby, necessitating review and upgrading of existing drainage system.

'Students in coveted IIT B depts unhappy lot'

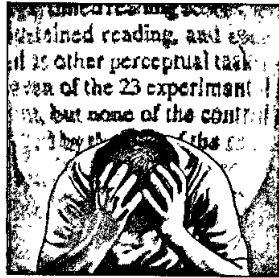
Other Students On Campus Too Score Miserably On Happiness Quotient, Finds Study

Yogita Rao | TNN

Happiness does not have anything to do with getting into the most-sought-after courses in IITs. Instead, it may have an inverse relationship.

A survey conducted at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT B) on the happiness quotient of students reveals that the ones in the computer science engineering and electrical engineering departments are not as happy as their counterparts in other departments. Incidentally, these two courses are most preferred by students in the first year at IIT B, almost every year.

This year too, IIT B's courses in these two branches were among the



highest preferred choices.

The survey conducted in the institute also shows that the students on the campus, in general too, are not happy as compared to the average individual's happiness score (4.3). While the average happiness on the campus is found to be 3.43,

girls are slightly on the better side, with 3.44, but boys on the campus are lower than average, with a score of 3.34.

The survey was conducted using the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire developed by psychologists Michael Argyle and Peter Hills at Oxford University as it is considered as the accurate technique to measure psychological well-being.

In the department wise survey, aerospace (3.76), civil (3.67), energy (3.64) departments managed to get a better average than the chemistry (3.40), chemical (3.34), electrical (3.29) and computer science (3.27) departments in the happiness survey. Metallurgical (3.49) and mechanical (3.45) departments take the middle positions. Students in the electrical and computer science

departments are the least happy on the campus. The survey also shows that 80% students agree to 'there is a gap between what I would like to do and what I have done' question.

Statistics taken of students from each year, revealed that students are happiest in their third year (3.56), though not happier than the average score. The lowest score was achieved by students in the second year (3.21). A student on the campus claimed that 'the pressure factor hits students only after clearing the first year, which could be one reason why they are not happy in their second year'.

The survey which was conducted by Akhil Srivatsan for the institute's in-house students' magazine had more than 200 respondents, with at least 10-15 on an average

from each department. "We wanted to conduct this survey at our institute to check the average lifestyle of an individual on the campus. On how the life is going on the campus. The Oxford questionnaire was already available to us, so we picked up specific questions which were also true for students on the campus and conducted the survey," said chief editor of the magazine, Sai-deep Sudi.

Some of the questions included how optimistic students feel about their future and how happy they are based on the departments they belong to. "Though we don't claim that the figures could be exact depiction of the reality, we tried to have quite a representation from each year and from each department.

Business Line, ND 26/06/2012

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Sibal inaugurates IIT Bombay workshop to train 10,000 teachers

Mumbai, June 25

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Mr Kapil Sibal, today inaugurated a training programme for 10,000 teachers conducted by IIT Bombay. The programme is under the 'Talk to a Teacher' project of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Mr Sibal joined through a video-link live from New Delhi and interacted with students and professors from colleges in Kanyakumari, Srinagar, Rajkot and Nagpur. Training for 10,000 engineering college teachers from across the country is being conducted leveraging the broadband network and ICT tools, a release said. This training programme is conducted through 168 remote centres located all across India. The lectures in this course are delivered from IIT Bombay by Professors of IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. — PTI

8 univ tie-ups picked for Obama-Singh awards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A series of institutional partnerships aimed at propelling research and training in the field of energy security, climate change, agriculture sciences and health services are part of the Obama-Singh Initiative announced recently.

As part of the bilateral education partnership, eight collaborative efforts have been awarded. Among the India-led partnerships include tie-ups between Rutgers University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to establish a national vocational school in India that will eventually train up to 1 million people every year.

The vocational school has been designed to assist up to 80% Indian graduates considered unemployable by multinational companies and to increase the number of young people taking part in formal vocational education and training (just 4% of the population).

For India, the most pressing need is to reform its higher education and widen the skill development system, developing scalable solutions that can rapidly enhance the quality and quantity of educational opportunities available to the 550 million Indians under the

THE CHOSEN ONES

► 8 partnership projects have been selected for Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative Awards

INDIAN-LED PARTNERSHIPS

► Mahatma Gandhi University partners with Brown University, Duke University & Plymouth State University

► BHU with Univ of Pittsburgh

► IIT Kanpur with Virginia Tech University

► IIT D with Drexel University

US-LED PARTNERSHIPS

► Rutgers, State University of New Jersey partner with Tata Institute of Social Sciences

► University of Montana with Bangalore University

► Cornell University with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut

► University of Michigan with Maharashtra University of Health Sciences

age of 25. US-led partnerships include University of Montana and Bangalore University addressing impact of climate change and changes in socio-economic structure on traditional agriculture and development of sustainable communities among indigenous populations. Cornell University with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, will work on implementing reformed curriculum in emerging areas of agriculture and food security.

University of Michigan has tied up with Maharashtra University of Health Sciences to jointly develop a masters degree for health profession faculty in the US and India. The programme will include public health, nursing, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and Indian systems of medicine.

Other India-led partnerships were between Mahatma Gandhi University and Brown University, Duke University and Plymouth State University to study an interdisciplinary and community oriented approach toward sustainable development. Banaras Hindu University will partner with University of Pittsburgh to research the par-

adigm shift in energy scenario for the 21st century toward renewable energy sources required for both India and the US. While IIT Kanpur is expected to join hands with Virginia Tech for an international programme on sustainable infrastructure development, its Delhi counterpart will work on resource building for ecosystem and human health risk assessment with special reference to microbial contamination with Drexel University.

According to the HRD ministry, each project will receive an award of \$250,000 that can be utilized over the three year grant period, with the aim of encouraging mutual understanding, educational reform and economic growth. PM Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama had committed \$5 million each as part of the endeavour to build an enhanced India-US partnership in education.

Apart from the Obama-Singh Initiative, India has also planned to establish 100 community colleges. It has also announced the C V Raman Fellowship with the first tranche of 300 junior faculty members to be placed for post-doctoral research in American higher education institutions in October. About 10,500 faculty members will be sent over five years.

DEEMED VARSITIES FOR SINGLE EXAM PLAN

NEW DELHI: A meeting of the vice chancellors of deemed universities was held under the chairmanship of HRD minister, Kapil Sibal on Monday to discuss the Joint Entrance Examination for admission to engineering courses and implementation of uniform accounting standards in these institutions. After detailed discussions, the deemed universities welcomed the proposal to have a single exam in engineering, giving weightage to school board marks. Sibal also suggested the setting up of a council for all the deemed-to-be universities to coordinate matters of common interest.

Asian Age ND 26/06/2012

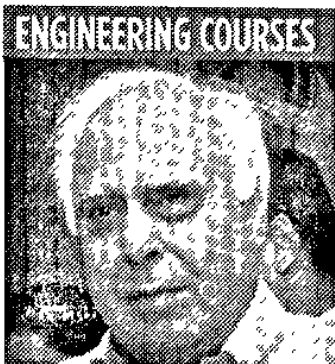
P-4

Deemed-to-be varsities give nod for single exam

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

Despite facing strong opposition from the IIT faculty and alumni associations, Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal on Monday met the representatives of deemed-to-be universities and secured their in-principle approval for the "one-nation one-examination" plan for engineering courses.

Sources stated that the HRD minister, who chaired the meeting, was able to secure the approval of deemed-to-be universities for adopting



Kapil Sibal

the new common entrance examination for engineering programmes from 2013.

Most of the approximately 130 deemed universities have engineering colleges and their approval of the

"one-nation one-examination" plan was considered important for its success. Presently, most deemed-to-be universities conduct their own entrance examination while some are part of the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination.

So far aspirants to an engineering programme had to appear for multiple examinations. "During the discussion the minister apprised them of the benefits of joining the common test and assured the institutes that they will have complete freedom in choosing weightages for Class 12 and JEE Main," sources stated.

Deemed univs get option of taking common entrance exam

fe Bureau

New Delhi, June 25: Even as clarity eludes the issue of a common entrance test (CET) for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other government funded engineering institutes, the ministry of human resource development (HRD) on

most of which have engineering institutes.

However, ministry officials said that the universities have given an in-principle approval for a CET. Most of these universities like VIT Vellore, BITS Pilani, Thapar University and Manipal University, among others have been conducting their own



Monday offered some respite to the deemed universities by giving them the option of accepting the scores of All India Engineering Entrance Examination or conducting their own test.

"The ministry has decided to setup a 13 member council to look into the matters related to deemed universities. Institutes who want to accept AIEEE scores, will have to give 40% weightage to class 12 marks. However, the minister has called for another meeting to discuss the entrance exams for those institutes which don't want to accept AIEEE marks," said G Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT University which is a deemed university. Almost 30 deemed universities met education minister Kapil Sibal to discuss the issue of CET for these universities

entrance exams.

"If a CET is conducted fairly, then it will not take away our autonomy. Moreover, it reduces the stress of multiple exams on students. We are open to what the government says," said a senior official Manipal University.

The meeting was also supposed to discuss a uniform accounting standards for these varsities in 2013 to bring in transparency regarding accounting and investments. "Though there was a presentation made on the accounting standards to be followed, the issue was not taken up in today's meeting," Viswanathan added.

Besides, T Ramasami, chairman of board of governors of IIT Ropar has been asked to give a presentation on the way class 12 board scores can be normalised for deemed universities.

Tablet Akash II launched, to hit colleges by Dec

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: A better, faster, longer-lasting low-cost computer tablet – the Aakash II – was launched at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) on Monday, three months after the institute took over the reins of the project from IIT-Jodhpur.

IIT-B has already developed applications for the tablet, and plans for several more. The institute will be responsible for procuring and distributing it, and aims to reach more than 250 engineering colleges by the end of December.

A stand-off between IIT-Jodhpur, and Datawind, which manufactures the tablets, had stalled distribution in February, after which responsibility for the project was transferred to IIT-B in April.

The tablet's usage is being planned alongside the institute's remote teacher training programme for teachers scattered across engineering colleges in the country. Aakash II has a longer-lasting battery, processing speed up from 366 mega hertz to 800 mega hertz and a "capacitive screen" which is easier to use.

The tablet was launched across several centres, with the human resources development minister Kapil Sibal officiating via video link from Delhi, and with several other colleges plugged in online.

"In three months there has been a sea change in our confidence in the project," said Sibal, while launching the device. "Aakash is no longer just a device that only consumes con-

HOW IS IT BETTER?

- The screen has been changed from a resistive screen to a capacitive screen, which is costlier but easier to use.
- The processing speed has been upgraded from 366 mega hertz to 800 mega hertz, which means all programmes on the tablet will work faster
- Battery life has been amped up from an average life of less than 2 hours to 3 hours.

tent... Through the efforts of IIT-Bombay, Aakash is a device that creates content and this will be of enormous value to our student community."

In its first phase the tablets, costing ₹2,276 per unit, will be distributed among engineering colleges, and enabled with applications including video lectures, online quizzes and course materials. The institute will procure, test and distribute one lakh tablets.

"The institute's mandate was to carry on the project and test the effectiveness of the tablet in engineering education," said Deepak Phatak, head of the project at IIT-B.

In the first phase of distribution set to begin in July, each of the colleges will get 100 tablets and funding for a local server. All the 'Aakash' servers will be inter-connected, and applications developed at any of the institute's will be available for use across the board.

Maahi's death sparks debate among IITians for developing a robot

YOGINDER GUPTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 25

The tragic death of four-year-old Maahi after she fell into down a borewell in a Gurgaon village has led to a fierce debate among alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, on the social site, Facebook. The debate concentrated on what was technologically possible to avert such tragedies in future.

Ranjan Kumar, who did his B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) from IIT, Kanpur, in 1986, wrote that there were rescue robots. He suggested that a folded robotic arm with a camera could have been dropped with a rope that could be controlled from outside to strap up the body securely and pull out safely.

Bal Krishan Gupta found the idea "logical and doable". Gupta, who did his B.Tech in Civil Engineering in 1974 from IIT, Kanpur, said it was a great idea -- "quicker to execute, chances of saving life 100 per cent. Cost effective too."

He further suggested that such a robot could even be used during fires if it could be fitted with a human sensor and its outer body could withstand temperatures up to 300-400 degree C.

Ranjan Kumar suggested that one of the projects for developing such a robot could given to B.Tech stu-

dents in IIT, Kanpur. He further suggested that the robotic arm could have "pluggable" attachments for various purposes -- like audio communication, LED lights, food/medicine etc.

However, there were a few skeptics also. One alumni, Rawat wrote "when a child is stuck in the hole, how much space is left for something to go under the child from the child's sides, it would hold the key for the success of the equipment being designed. Something like a closed fist that..."

Savyasaachi Jain wrote, "Lovely ideas about robots and all that, but how about a simple frame to cover the bore hole and prevent such mishaps in the first place? I think this should be manageable in a few hundred rupees..."

Spurred by the debate, Haryana State Election Commissioner Dharam Vir, himself a Master of Science in Physics from IIT Kanpur has written to Director of the Kanpur IIT, Sanjay Dhande, that it would be a good idea if the IITK could explore the possibility of developing a technology-based rescue mechanism for such tragedies.

Dharam Vir, who retired as the Chief Secretary of Haryana before taking up his present assignment, has also written to the Union Cabinet Secretary on the issue.



Maahi

No lessons learnt, 'death holes' abound

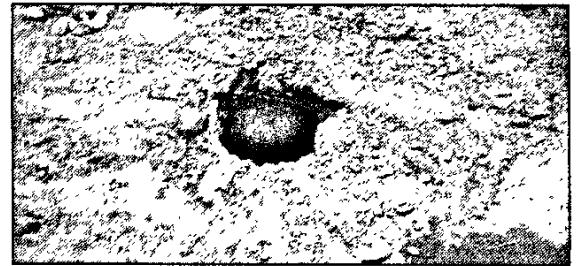
SUSHIL MANAV/TNS

SIRSA, JUNE 25

No lessons have been learnt in Sirsa from the tragic death of Maahi, who fell in a borewell in a Gurgaon village, as hundreds of "death holes" are giving an open invitation to unsuspecting children in the district.

The "death holes"—including abandoned bore wells and uncovered sewer manholes—have resulted in accidents, including the death of a boy who fell in an uncovered manhole, in the past. But these incidents have failed to awaken the authorities from their slumber.

Residents of Sirsa's Inderpuri Mohalla, who have been running from pillar to post for getting sealed of a 350-deep borewell left open by the Public Health Department, raised slogans against the slack attitude of the authorities after news of Maahi's death appeared in newspapers and on television channels. "The authorities have left this hole uncovered for months after they had to abandon this. Repeated requests to the



A borewell left uncovered at Inderpuri Mohalla in Sirsa. A Tribune photograph

authorities have failed to move them. We fear for the life of our small children who often play in the streets," said residents Sunita, Kiran, Manjit Kaur, Tilak Raj and others.

The functioning of the Public Health Department is so casual that scores of manholes in Sirsa town, Rania and Ellenabad are still lying uncovered for long despite death of a five-year-old child by falling in an open manhole on February 5, 2011.

Human life, it seems, is not very important for the authorities as no action has so far been taken against any official for the child's death despite agitations and demonstrations

on the issue.

"Our inquiries revealed that the child was he was looking backwards while running forward," reasoned Angad Bishnoi, Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Department in Sirsa.

He maintained that the department acted promptly when informed of unsealed borewells or uncovered manholes, but alleged that people stole the covers soon.

A leading district of Haryana in agriculture, Sirsa has nearly 58,000 tubewells.

Many farmers callously leave the bores uncovered whenever it fails to provide suitable water after digging,

Buried in pit, woman labourer dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

REWARI, JUNE 25

A migrant woman labourer Kashi Bai of Madhya Pradesh died while another male labourer Pearey Lal Kushwaha sustained serious injuries when they were buried in a 15-ft deep pit of

a toll plaza, which is under construction after the Earth abruptly caved in on the Rewari-Rohtak road at Jat Gangaicha village, 8 km from here, yesterday.

The injured Pearey Lal was admitted to the PGIMS, Rohtak.

The police has registered a case of causing death by

negligence against contractor Santosh Kumar of Madhya Pradesh and driver of the JCB Machine Dharamender, engineer of the construction company Mangat Ram, and the company's deputy manager Vikas.

A senior police official said the matter was being investigated.