

## Newspaper Clips June 4, 2014

**Hindustan Times ND 4/06/2014 P-10**

# IITs admit error; four questions in JEE (advanced) had two answers

**Vanita Srivastava**

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**NEW DELHI:** The IITs have admitted that four questions — one of Physics and three of Chemistry — in Paper 1 of its Joint Entrance Examination (advanced) had two answers.

More than 1.19 lakh students had appeared for the exam on May 25 for admission to 16 IITs. The answer key was uploaded on the website on June 1.

Question 18 of Physics and question 33 of Chemistry in

paper 1 should have had a single-value answer between 0 and 9. Instead, two values were correct. Additionally there were ambiguities in the correct answers for questions 26 and 29 of the Chemistry section. The error in question 29 occurred because of translation in Hindi.

The 'afterthought' on the correctness of the four questions came after more than 60 professors reviewed the papers.

"There are no errors in answers. But we found that more than one answer was correct for four ques-

tions so we have decided to give marks to both," said a JEE official.

"After the exam, I had mentioned that some of the questions had more than answers depending on how the students perceived the problem. This has encouraged a parallel process of thinking among students," said RL Trikha, director, FIITJEE.

However, a student who took the exam said: "I wasted a lot of time on these questions and was perplexed since it was having two answers. I could have used the time in some other problems."

**Deccan Herald ND 4/06/2014 P-1**

# Goof-up in 4 questions of JEE-Advance test paper

**Prakash Kumar**

**NEW DELHI:** There has once again been goof-ups in the questions for the JEE-Advance test: Four of the 60 multiple-choice questions listed in the Paper-1 of the test had alternate correct answers, which were not originally proposed.

Ambiguity in the answers has been discovered in question number 18 of physics as well as question numbers 26, 29 and 33 of chemistry in paper-1 of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advance, conducted by the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs.

The JEE-Advance is conducted for select candidates for admission to the IITs as well as the Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad. IIT-Kharagpur was

in charge of conducting the nationwide test this year.

According to sources, the board has decided to expand the scope of these four contentious questions and give marks to candidates who attempted them and gave correct answers, including the alternate ones, which were not initially proposed. Each of these four questions carry three marks for a correct answer.

"No student will be affected. Candidates will be given marks for giving the correct answer including the alternate ones, which was not originally proposed for these questions," JAB sources told Deccan Herald.

The ambiguity in the answers of the questions came to light after the JAB uploaded the answer keys on its website.

## Surfeit of solutions

- One physics question and three chemistry questions in Paper-1 had alternate correct answers
- IIT-Kharagpur was responsible for nationwide test this time
- Joint Admissions Board to give marks for alternate answers too
- Last time, six questions had similar problems

For the first time, the board officially allowed queries on answers from students and stakeholders regarding the answer keys before evaluating the optical response sheets (ORS). This came after a recent order of the Delhi High Court on a petition seeking more transparency in the system.

"The correct answer for question number 18 of physics

was initially proposed to be a single-digit integer while it had two correct answers—2 and 8. There could be one or more than one choices amongst (A), (B), (C) and (D) as correct answer for question number 26 of Chemistry," said an expert who analysed the questions and answers, requesting anonymity

JAB sources said there was

a mistake in translation of question number 29 of chemistry into Hindi, which led to ambiguity in its answers.

"After the examination every year, as many as 21 experts from all the seven IITs review and analyse the questions and their answers. It was found that there were alternate correct answers possible for the four questions in paper-1. The board decided to give marks for those alternate answers too," said the sources.

This is not first time ambiguity in the answers of the JEE-Advance questions have been discovered after the test. Answers of as many as six questions were found to be ambiguous in the nationwide test conducted last year.

**DH News Service**

# IIT admits to errors in 4 questions in JEE

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** With two days still left for students and other stakeholders to send their queries on answer keys of JEE (advanced), IIT Kharagpur has conceded errors in four questions worth 12 marks.

It is likely that by the time the deadline of giving queries gets over on Thursday, some more inaccuracies will be found.

In physics, the correct answer to question number 18 is a single-digit integer. However, due to ambiguity in the question, IIT has announced two correct answers.

In chemistry, for question number 33, IIT has announced two correct answers.

The third error is in chemistry question number 26. In the answer keys released last week, IIT said there are two sets of correct answers: 'A' and 'C', as well as 'C' only. Says one student, "It took me a lot of time to find out if 'C' is right or wrong, which I could not do due to ambiguity of the question. Ultimately, I could not darken any of the correct answer."

Fourth error, again in chemistry, is due to printing error. Answer key to question number 29 shows two sets of correct answers: ABD or AD.

Due to printing error, option B is shown as both right and wrong.

## Rajasthan Patrika ND 4/06/2014 P-10

### आईआईटी कानपुर को सुपर कंप्यूटर

कानपुर. आईआईटी कानपुर सुपर कंप्यूटर पाने वाला देश का पहला शैक्षणिक संस्थान बन गया है। उप निदेशक एससी श्रीवास्तव ने मंगलवार को सुपर कंप्यूटर का अनावरण किया। आईआईटी को प्राप्त हुआ ये सुपर कंप्यूटर दुनिया भर के टॉप-500 में से 130 वां है। इसके माध्यम से जटिल गणनाओं व डेटा संधारण में मदद मिलेगी।

## FUND CRUNCH

# Escalating costs may force govt to delay setting up new IITs

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

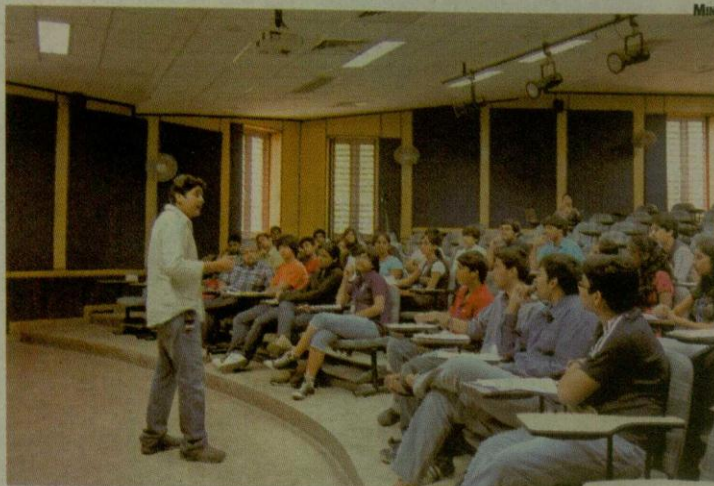
Before it can set up any new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the human resource development (HRD) ministry needs more funds to manage the escalating costs of engineering and management institutes that were set up in the last five years, officials in the ministry said.

At least ₹25,000 crore is required for IITs and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) alone—nearly three times more than what was estimated during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12), said one official, requesting anonymity.

Costs have escalated because of inflation and delays in land acquisition and construction.

Since 2009, at least eight new IITs, 10 new NITs, six new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and 16 central universities have been set up in various parts of India. Most of them are functioning from make-shift campuses.

For the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), the government had allocated a little over ₹6,000 crore for the new IITs but construction delays and rising costs have pushed the funding requirement to around ₹14,000



**Ripple effect:** Costs have escalated because of inflation and delays in land acquisition and construction.

crore, said another official in the ministry who also didn't want to be named.

When the new NITs were approved by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2009, the initial cost of one NIT was pegged at around ₹250 crore, but in 2014, the real requirement has gone up many-fold, said the first official quoted above.

Besides, the ministry requires funds for the Seemandhra education package—former HRD minister M.M. Pallam Raju had recommended a ₹8,400-crore package to manage the higher education challenge the region will face

after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh into Seemandhra and Telangana, effective from Monday.

Most education institutes are located in Hyderabad, which will serve as a joint capital of the states for 10 years before being transferred exclusively to Telangana.

"Similarly, there is need for more funds for new IIMs and new central universities. We should not allow the IIT and IIM brand value to deteriorate and any fresh attempt to establish new IITs should only come after required physical and intellectual infrastructure are in place," said a third official,

who also declined to be named. "While the older IITs need to take the next step of growth and brand building, including improved international rankings, new IITs have to consolidate and live up to the brand value," the official added.

Smriti Irani, the new HRD minister, had explored the possibility of opening new IITs in states that don't have one (like Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh) during her first meeting with senior officials, but that plan will have to wait.

After assuming office on 27 May, Irani told reporters that she would strive to increase public spending on education to 6% of gross domestic product (GDP) from around 4% currently.

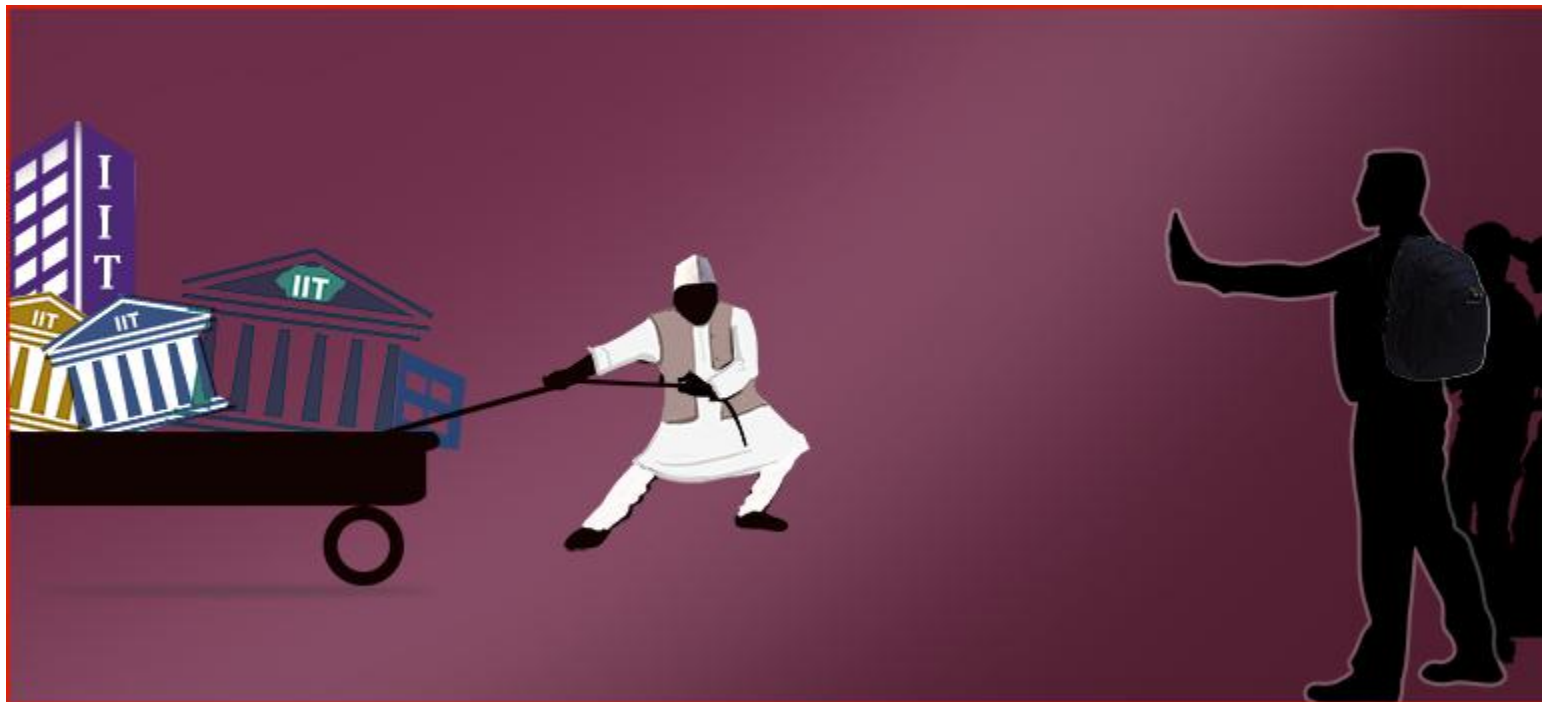
The HRD ministry is hopeful that more funds would flow into education, said the second official. The first stop would be the annual budget, likely to be presented in July.

The new government has to set a clearer policy direction on education and involve more private entities to take care of both access to and quality of education, said Narayanan Ramaswamy, head of the education practice at consulting firm KPMG.

While building education brands, the government also has to look at ways to improve the ranking of the country's leading institutions. None of India's top universities are in the top 200 best universities list published by either QS World University Rankings or Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

## No More IITs, Please

<http://www.newslandry.com/2014/06/03/no-more-iits-please/>



Smriti Irani, the new Union Minister For Human Resource Development [is pushing for eight new Indian Institutes of Technology \(IITs\)](#). The move exhibits the inept understanding of the higher education sector by our political class. The United Progressive Alliance government went about making eight new IITs in their tenure and also advertised the same in their *Bharat Nirmaan* advertising campaign. A [well-researched article](#) in *Open* on September 14, 2013 tells us that IIT Indore has no hostels, IIT Mandi runs from a temporary premise, land acquisition is proving difficult for IIT Ropar and construction at IIT Gandhinagar and IIT Patna have been severely delayed. The faculty supply to these new IITs is low in numbers and wanting in standards. [Latest reports](#) do not indicate much progress either.

It is amply clear that UPA government faced huge infrastructural and logistical challenges in setting up new IITs. Major opposition to the move of the new HRD Minister is coming from bureaucrats made wiser from these experiences. The fact that the economy is in doldrums and requires huge expenditure cuts to remain afloat also does not support any such initiative. However, this does not form the bedrock of my opposition to the supposedly noble cause of setting up new IITs and letting more of our youth get the highest standards of technical education available in the country.

What if the next government can fix all infrastructure and resource challenges with a magic wand and set up new IITs seamlessly? Let us try to understand why this is not desirable – even if possible as well as affordable.

The Indian Institutes of Technology remain a top brand, but their standing as centres of excellence can no longer be stated as convincingly. The brand has also taken a hit with the increase in the number of IITs. Still more fledgling IITs would tarnish the brand further. Ask any current student (or a recent alumnus) of an “old” IIT, he/she will make the necessary distinction between the “new” and “old” IITs. The demographic dividend and our target of achieving 30% enrolment in higher education till 2020 (set by the UPA government) implies that we should look toward building a many more engineering colleges and not just some IITs in order to cash in on their brand name. Just like we had a private school revolution in primary and secondary education even in

states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, we require a private higher education revolution to ensure that we prepare a lot of skilled graduates ready to assume their role in the Indian economy.

The private higher education revolution does not merely mean building a lot of private colleges, it also means ensuring a modicum of quality. For that, we would need a firm regulator bereft of political predilections and interferences. The University Grants Commission in its current *avatar* fails to meet the required criteria. The exclusivist nature of private higher education can be tackled by introducing loans and scholarships on a large scale. We can borrow elements from the Browne report of Britain. Professors Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya quote the Browne report in their book, *India's Tryst with Destiny*.

“The Browne report recommended that Britain eliminate the existing tuition fee cap of £3,000 altogether, with two key provisions to ensure access. First, students have to pay no upfront fees, with the government paying it to the university up to £6,000 per student. Institutions charging more than £6,000 should be required to pay a progressively rising tax on the margin. The tax should then be used to finance grants to students from low-income background to meet the living expenses. Second, after graduation, students should be required to begin paying back the costs paid by the government once their income reaches a threshold recommended to be £12,000.”

Those who remember the implementation of Other Backward Classes quota in IITs and IIMs introduced by the then HRD Minister Arjun Singh might also remember the resignation of Pratap Bhanu Mehta and André Béteille from the National Knowledge Commission following the contentious decision. Try to remember a little more and you would recall the words of Pratap Bhanu Mehta in his [resignation letter](#) asking for more intelligent targeting for the disadvantaged sections of society. While the context is different, measures such as allowing foreign universities to open campuses in India, permitting greater and cleaner proliferation of quality private higher education institutions when implemented in tandem with measures enunciated by Bhagwati and Panagariya, will amount to a more intelligent targeting of the youth of the nation.

Now consider the egregious fact that Seemandhra [has been promised](#) an IIT as a part of the Andhra Pradesh bifurcation package. It is high time politicians realise that IITs are institutions that help build the character of the nation. IITs are not tools to be offered in appeasement packages and political trade without evaluating the costs and benefits of such expedient measures.

There are some private medical colleges which compete with government medical colleges on relatively similar footing. However, there is only one private engineering college, that is, [Birla Institute of Technology and Science](#) that comes close to competing with the IITs. The lack of domestic competition has resulted in depreciation in the output of the IITs both in terms of research output and “finishing” of the students. The core industry demands have remained low which has resulted in engineering students ending up as investment bankers and management consultants. The big packages that IITians bag every year is just one side of the story. [The other side of the story](#) is the IITs having to resort to ersatz media publicity to build salubrious market images for themselves. The only good story that has emerged is the proliferation of entrepreneurs out of IITs. This has also happened despite the system, and not because of it. Overall, brand IIT, though still on a high pedestal, is on the way downhill. We need to create enough quality private engineering colleges that give IITs a run for their money. Increasing the number of IITs, I am afraid, is not just a wrong prescription but also an inability to think beyond the obvious.

## What Challenges Will Smriti Face in HRD?

<http://www.theindianrepublic.com/tbp/challenges-will-smriti-face-hrd-100038291.html>

Ever since she was declared BJP's candidate in Amethi, Smriti Irani has had the political spotlight firmly trained on her. Her spirited fight against Rahul Gandhi and excellent (though not adequate to win) performance in the General Elections has made the country take notice of her. Irani was not exactly either unknown to the masses (thanks to her role as Tulsi Virani in the highly-watched and tremendously long-running serial, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* even before her candidature in Amethi. At the same time, she wasn't a novice to politics either. She joined BJP in 2003 and has been with them since. She got known to be highly articulate and often appeared as BJP's face on television.



However, since the swearing in ceremony of the New Cabinet on May 26<sup>th</sup> where she took oath as the HRD Minister of India it is like floodgates of brickbats against her have opened. Attacking her educational qualifications, Congress is venting their rage against her gutsy action of contesting against Rahul Gandhi in Amethi.

While Party colleagues like Uma Bharti responded to Congress' attack on Irani by counter-questioning the educational credentials of Sonia Gandhi. Irani maturely released a statement asking to be judged on her work. Instead of getting into a attack-and-lunge or strike-and-duck situation, Irani truly needs to let her actions speak for her.

In his criticism, Ajay Maken of Congress tweeted: 'What a cabinet of Modi? HRD Minister (looking after education) Smriti Irani is not even a graduate!' Not to downsize the importance of education, but as HRD Minister in charge of education, Irani is not expected to conduct classes and give lectures. Her job is to create an enabling atmosphere and infrastructure that encourages education in the country. To this end, she has released a list of 60 priority areas for her department which includes plans to have a IIT in every State.

The previous well-educated HRD Ministers have toted up an impressive list of negative achievements which the youngest minister of the current Cabinet will have to grapple with. Some of the most glaring challenges:

1. An international study returned the result that Indian students in the secondary level couldn't read or perform simple arithmetic operations like subtraction, division and multiplication of primary levels. Improving the quality of education should be one of the priority areas for Irani.
2. The current dropout rate is a staggering 40%. Irani will have to create an atmosphere where the dropout rate decreases and the high level of illiteracy goes down. This is not the job of the HRD Minister alone, but the current government will have to work synergetically. Inflation and mindsets are important contributing causes for the high dropout rate combined with access to educational institutes.
3. India remains one of the most illiterate countries in the world. The huge number of young in the country represent an incredible people-power – possibly the highest in the world. However, the illiteracy has changed the high people potential from a asset to a liability. To reap the dividend of this vast potential, Irani will have to strive for higher literacy.
4. When "education" is mentioned, it automatically means creating a force that can work in offices. Agriculture is still the mainstay of the country. Sadly, so far education initiatives have ignored this important field of work. The advancements in agriculture have been by-passed thus dwindling the workforce and the possible output from the land under cultivation. For wholistic growth, Irani will need to tap the field of agriculture. Bring in the knowledge, tools and technology from around the world and be a catalyst to making agriculture and farming a viable career option.

5. Education in the country is not standardised. Every State (and almost every University) has its own curriculum and syllabus. This means that the quality of students coming out of each Board and University (and deemed university) is very different from each other. A 10<sup>th</sup> standard pass student from Mumbai would be different from one in Chattisgarh. This creates disparities and limits the students from pursuing education in an institute of their choice in other parts of the country. Results of common admission tests would indicate the State disparities.
6. As per newspaper reports there are glaring errors in textbooks all over the country. Standardisation of syllabus will ensure that textbooks are of better quality.
7. Poor salaries deter the best minds from the profession of teaching. This in turn results in poor quality of teachers and the teaching imparted. This also results in severe understaffing in educational institutes – particularly municipal schools. The ultimate outcome is that students from the less privileged sections of the society are unable to go beyond their birth circumstances. Attracting good teachers into the profession should be a part of the priority areas for Irani. It is not by accident that Japan is considered to be amongst the best in education in the world. A teacher in Japan is paid as well as an equivalent in a private sector company.
8. There are a multitude of educational institutes in the country that turn out degree and diploma holders in lakhs every year. But as per studies and feedback from various sectors only about 20% to 25% of these degree/diploma holders are employable.

One of the biggest challenges that the HRD Minister will have to tackle is the employability factor of students. It is not enough to open a huge number of institutes imparting education (like IITs) but it is more important to ensure that the graduates from these institutions are employable. Effective use of technology by the tech-savvy government can make a marked difference in the employability status of students.

If Irani can deal with these challenges she would do far, far better than the post-graduates who have held the same post before her.

- See more at: <http://www.theindianrepublic.com/tbp/challenges-will-smriti-face-hrd-100038291.html#sthash.GtL2VIKN.dpuf>



Indian Express ND 4/06/2014 P-10

# 2 IIT-Bombay courses to feature on global online platform soon

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

TWO courses from IIT-Bombay will make their way to edX, a popular Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform, next month. MOOCs offer people access to information free of cost via the web, and it is for the first time that courses from India will make it to the global platform.

Co-founded by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University in May 2012, edX offers high quality varsity level online courses from across disciplines free of cost. Currently, 47 global institutes, corporates and non-profit organisations are associated with the edX initiative to bring learning to everyone who

has access to a computer. IIT-Bombay is the only institute from India involved in edX, which offers 176 courses online to 2.1 million users.

The courses from IIT-Bombay — one on 'introduction to computer programming' by Prof Deepak B Phatak from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and another on 'thermodynamics' by Prof Uday N Gaitonde — will go live on edX on July 28, sources said.

India is also looking to tap into MOOCs. The University Grants Commission has set up a committee under former IIT-Kanpur director Prof S G Dhande to assess the possibility of MOOC-based learning in India. The HRD Ministry is also looking at ways to set up a platform similar to edX.

Amar Ujala ND 4/06/2014 P-13

# ऑनलाइन शिक्षा पहली बार जुलाई से होगी शुरू

बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। दुनिया के विकसित देशों की तर्ज पर अब भारत में भी विषय विशेष में छात्र आईआईटी जैसे नामीगिरामी संस्थाओं से भी ऑनलाइन पढ़ाई कर व परीक्षा देकर सर्टिफिकेट हासिल कर सकेंगे। देश में पहली बार आईआईटी मुंबई दो विषयों में 28 जुलाई से आनलाइन सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स शुरू करने जा रहा है।

शिक्षा में सूचना तकनीक को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की ओर से चलाए जा रहे मिशन (एनएमईआईसीटी) के तहत ई कंटेंट के लिए बहुस्तरीय प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। केंद्र में नवगठित भाजपा सरकार ने भी शिक्षा में तकनीक के अधिकतम प्रयोग की नीति को आगे बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया है। आईआईटी मुंबई ने अभी दो विषयों कंप्यूटर इंजीनियरिंग तथा थर्मोडायनमिक्स में आनलाइन सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स शुरू करने जा रहा है। इसमें छात्रों को कुछ महीने के लिए ऑनलाइन प्रवेश देकर शिक्षा दी जाएगी।

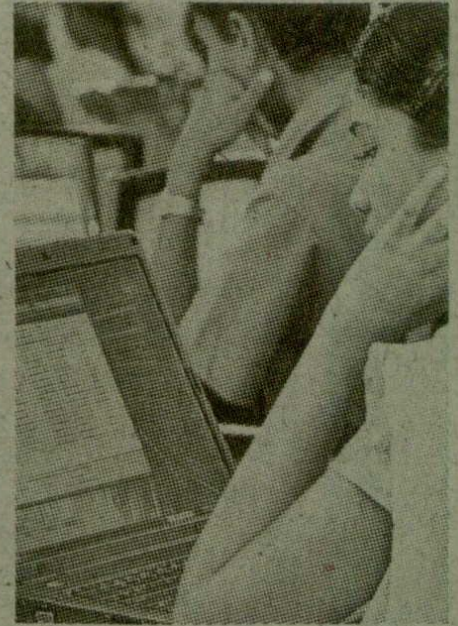
इस योजना में छात्र विषय में

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई दो विषयों में शुरू कर रहा है सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स

योजना के पहले चरण में कॉमर्स, एग्रीकल्चर, कानून, मैनेजमेंट तथा स्किल डेवलपमेंट जैसे विषयों को दी जाएगी प्राथमिकता

इससे ऑनलाइन ट्यूटोरियल क्लास के अलावा विशेषज्ञों से अपनी शंकाओं का समाधान भी कर सकेंगे छात्र

ऑनलाइन ट्यूटोरियल क्लास के अलावा विशेषज्ञों से प्रश्नोत्तर के माध्यम से अपनी शंकाओं का समाधान भी कर सकेंगे। बाद में उन्हें ऑनलाइन ही विषय में परीक्षा देनी होगी। परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण होने वाले छात्रों को सर्टिफिकेट जारी किया जाएगा। मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की ओर से सभी केंद्रीय शिक्षा संस्थानों से कम से कम दो विषयों में ऑनलाइन सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स शुरू करने को कहा गया है। आईआईटी मुंबई के अलावा कुछ केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय भी



ऑनलाइन सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स की तैयारी कर रहे हैं। मंत्रालय ने एनएमईआईसीटी के तहत शुरुआती चरण में इंजीनियरिंग व साइंस की तुलना में कामर्स, ला, एग्रीकल्चर, मैनेजमेंट तथा स्किल डेवलपमेंट जैसे विषयों को बढ़ावा देने की नीति तय की है। ऑनलाइन सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स के लिए फीस समेत बाकी मसलों पर अभी फैसला नहीं हुआ है। मंत्रालय का मानना है कि यह फैसला पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने वाले संस्थान को ही करना है।

# Business Standard

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## IIT-B to develop tool for Guj power utility

Press Trust of India | Mumbai June 03, 2014 Last Updated at 19:17 IST

IIT-Bombay will develop analytics to provide Gujarat Electricity Transmission Corporation (Getco) real-time load data, which will help avoid a repeat of the major power breakdown of July, 2012.

The analytics will help Gujarat maintain stable operation in the event of small disturbances.

"Dynamic stability analysis is necessary mainly because the grid is integrated. Any disturbance in one region can result in blackout in the other grid area as well," Getco Managing Director Surinder Negi told reporters here today.

He said IIT-Bombay is developing a system protection that will provide real-time data to the load centre, which can then take emergency control action in case of disturbances.

The state will also set up 29 phasor measuring units (PMUs) on the grid, across the state that will get the accurate time-stamped voltage and current information through the analytics.

"PMUs will get the information through the system protection that will be passed on to the state load dispatch centre, which can take immediate action in case of any emergency," he said.

IIT-Bombay is also working with PowerGrid for a similar system protection to prevent power outages in case of over-drawl of electricity.

On July 30, 2012, the country had faced its worst-ever power outage after three of its regional grids -- Northern, Eastern and Northeastern-- collapsed, leaving millions of people without electricity for several hours.

An estimated 32-gw of generating capacity was taken offline in the outage. Electricity supply was restored in the affected locations by August 1, 2012.

## Business Line ND 4/06/2014 P-21

# Getco ties up with IIT-B for grid security

## OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 3

The Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation (Getco) has tied up with IIT-Bombay to develop a dynamic stability analysis (DSA) programme for ensuring grid stability in the State.

The protection systems on transmission lines are the first level of security, which are quite robust. The DSA will form the second level of protection and ensure additional security for network stability,

said S K Negi, Managing Director, Getco.

Negi was in Mumbai to address a workshop on grid operation & monitoring, organised by Getco and ABB at IIT-B on Tuesday.

DSA is software-based and equipped with analytical tools to help correlate data received on parameters such as voltage, frequency and pha-

tor angle (the angle of the sine wave) real time, at the State load despatch centres.

Deccan Herald ND 4/06/2014 P-11

# 'Education doesn't guarantee good leadership qualities'

By CS Krishnamurthy

Congress leader Ajay Maken questioned the educational qualifications of Smriti Irani, who has taken over as human resources development minister. "Smriti Irani is not even a graduate!", Maken tweeted. The counter-attack by Union water resources minister Uma Bharti questioning the qualification of Sonia Gandhi only smacks of negative comparison and does not provide a fair equation.

Instances are plenty where the most academically qualified politicians have also failed to deliver. There cannot be a better example in the current political scenario than Dr Manmohan Singh, the scholastic politician, who had to wait for Sonia Gandhi's nod on vital issues. Also, that Sonia Gandhi can never claim to fully understand Singh's academic credentials, yet she commanded respect from the latter. Does it connote the 'less educated' can wield more power than the 'more educated'?

A politician cannot be measured by the 'qualification', but by the quality, skills and integrity s/he possesses. Writing the correct

answers in the exams may fetch marks. Application of education in life is altogether different, where education and intelligence don't go together. Credibility and honesty are not friendly epithets either in politics.

A minister mainly seeks advice from experts and tries to fulfill people's needs and expectations. As for degrees, it is common knowledge that our 'academic' qualifications have limited job value. Not to be a graduate is not a crime. When educated people can use their 'education' and evil brain to subvert the system and extort money and hide their huge crimes and get away with them, the mandatory need for education only makes a cruel joke. We need dedicated and patriotic persons, not qualified cronies. Unfortunately, there is no such 'degree' bestowed for exhibiting these qualities. This appears to be a non-issue in our country. Many ministers around the world are not qualified for the ministerial positions they hold, but can prove outstanding because of their unbiased outlook.

The fault lies with the Constitution makers and the party which ruled India for over 60 years. Why the relevant article



was not amended to specify the qualifications of the ministers, leave alone that of the elected members? We, as a country, are always lagging behind in primary education. The other democratic countries gave the right to vote and get elected to only those who attained certain qualifications. While in India, we overlooked it.

Can we judge the unschooled Thomas Alva Edison through his educational

qualification? The first American president George Washington did not hold any degree. Can we question the ability of Bill Gates? Again, highly educated people like Manmohan Singh have proved that education is not a guarantee for good governance and leadership. Certification does not necessarily make a person educated. It is something one learns on a daily basis. It is the demerit of our Constitution that it does not require any qualification for politicians.

### Vital quality

Leadership quality is vital to be a good politician, which means you need to take decisions, empathise with the people and have a vision for the future and be ready to handle unforeseen calamities and disasters. None of those things are taught at school or college. Literacy is necessary, but not a degree. Abraham Lincoln never had a full year of schooling and one cannot deny he was an amazing leader.

Logic also demands explanation for the other side. While a manager is appointed with minimum MBA qualification to run a small firm, why should our politicians

be allowed to run such a big country without any minimum qualification? Chartered Accountants, doctors, architects etc. have to study and train for their chosen profession in order to minimise mistakes, malpractices and unethical decisions and so on. For running public office positions, it is only sane to introduce a minimum set of subjects like communications, economics, management, political science etc.

In developing democracies, bulk of the population may not only be uneducated and ill-informed, but illiterate, and it is easy to fall into the trap of half-truths and half-baked ideas sold to them by some unlettered but charismatic dumbos. The relevant qualification for the selection of Indian cricket team is not attainment of degree, but the ability to do well. Here, insisting on educational qualification is ridiculous.

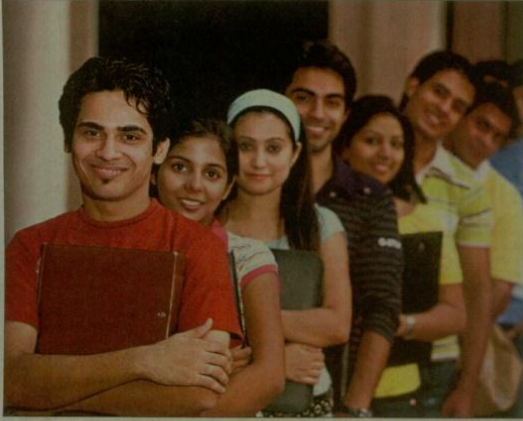
Politicians need to know the pulse of the society and the standing of the country in international stage. It is vital for them to ask the right questions in parliament. They must understand the gravity of the problem and the strategy that should be adopted to mitigate the problem. All these

warrant an analytical mind. Though there are bureaucrats, it is always better to have an intellectual leader rather than one who is heavily dependent on the former.

Why a politician, prior to taking office, should not be asked to take a basic education test? If they fail, they should undergo the basic education and repeat the test. If the politician does not have basic idea of finance, economics, history, political science, why would anyone in the society want that person representing them? The nation's destiny and the fate of the people are determined to a fair extent by the politicians. The role and responsibility of the legislators have far-reaching effect on the citizens of any country. For anything to be accomplished, it is important that it is done according to established procedure, and that takes some education, which is a benefit to a politician both in getting elected and in doing his job.

If not a formal education, a separate curriculum must be designed that would ensure a politician to think and analyse. After all, an educated person can look at a certain issue from various perspectives.

# Joint counselling for engineering institutions



Common counselling will prevent students from holding seats in two institutions at a time. IMAGESHAZAR

**THREE IN ONE** Delhi Technological University, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology and Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women will conduct common counselling for admissions

Gauri Kohli  
#gaurikohli@hindustantimes.com

There is big news for aspirants who wish to study in three of the major engineering institutions in the Capital. For the first time ever, admissions to the BTech programme of Delhi Technological University (DTU), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT Delhi) and Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) would be conducted through a common counselling process.

A joint counselling portal (jcdelhi.nic.in) will be activated by next week. Online registration will be done through the joint counselling website by the first week of July. The National Informatics Centre will develop the joint counselling portal. Candidates would be required to register online and fill a single online application form for

admission to DTU, IIIT Delhi and IGDTUW.

Candidates were earlier being admitted to these universities based on their JEE (Main) scores and counselling at each of these universities. Those declared eligible for central counselling by the CBSE and placed in the merit/rank list prepared by the CBSE based on the score in JEE (Main 2014) (with 60% weightage) and normalised score in Class 12 or other qualifying examination (with 40% weightage) would be eligible for admission to BTech programmes of IGDTUW.

About 88% of the total seats are reserved for candidates belonging to the Delhi region - which refers to students passing the qualifying examination from recognised board/college/institution located within the NCT of Delhi; 15% seats are for candidates outside Delhi region.

Until last year, candidates applying to DTU had to appear

## UNDER A COMMON UMBRELLA

For the first time ever, admissions to the BTech programme of Delhi Technological University (DTU), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT Delhi) and Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) would be conducted through a common counselling process

The common counselling of these three universities will save students and their parents from the bother of filing multiple applications for multiple admissions and paying fees at three universities

This will also prevent the holding of multiple seats by a single student and spoiling the chances of the others

for online counselling for BTech admissions on the basis of their all-India rank and performance in JEE (Main) examination.

"The common counselling of these three universities will save students and their parents from the bother of filing multiple applications for multiple admissions and paying fees at three universities. This will also prevent the holding of multiple seats by

a single student and spoiling the chances of the other students," says Professor SK Garg, pro vice chancellor, DTU.

The first merit list will be declared on July 16. Registrations will be done from July 1 to July 12. Students can choose from 15 streams on offer at IGDTUW, four at DTU and two from IIIT Delhi. "The decision was taken after several rounds of discus-

sion. Around 15,000 students will participate in the process. A male student can fill 17 choices whereas a female student can fill 21 choices. The final round of online counselling will be over by July 31, 2014. The process will also prevent students from holding seats in two institutions at a time. Students will also be able to auto upgrade their seats after a seat or stream is vacated or taken. A spot round of manual counselling will be held after August 20 for those who do not get admission till the last round of counselling," says Professor Vikas Rastogi, member of the joint coordination committee for the counselling, and faculty at DTU.

Aspirants have also welcomed this move saying it has multiple benefits. "After a lot of confusion regarding admissions to BTech courses in various institutions based on the ranks of JEE (Main), the news of common

CONTINUED ON PAGE 07

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

## Joint counselling for engineering institutions

counselling of these universities has eased the situation for us. This is indeed good news for us as it eliminates the need to apply separately to each of these institutions and provides a much greater scope of admission, especially for girls," says Prapti Alok, an aspirant who just finished her class 12 from Amity International School, Mayapuri Vihar.

"The combined counselling of the three universities is a good initiative of the department of higher education. Engineering aspirants of Delhi and outside can now apply for admission to these universities using a single portal instead of filling multiple forms for each institute univer-

sity separately.

The students will also be saved of the trouble of attending multiple counselling sessions in each university. Next year, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology are also likely to join the process of combined counselling, making life easier for engineering aspirants," says Professor Nupur Prakash, founder vice chancellor, IGDTUW.

Meanwhile, joint counselling of IITs and NITs has been ruled out for this year as the software for the process and other logistics are yet to be ready, says a member of the joint admissions board.

Nai Duniya ND 04.05.2014 P-3

# छात्रों के मेहमान बनेंगे कलाम

लोकेश सोलंकी >> इंदौर

आईआईटी के दीक्षांत समारोह में आ रहे पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डॉ.एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम ने होटल की मेहमानवाजी स्वीकार करने से इंकार कर दिया है।



मिसाइलमैन ने आईआईटी से कह दिया कि उन्हें सितारा होटल की सुविधाएं नहीं, बल्कि विद्यार्थियों का साथ चाहिए। आईआईटी अब अपने परिसर में कलाम के ठहरने का बंदोबस्त कर रहा है। आईआईटी इंदौर का दूसरा दीक्षांत समारोह पांच जून को आयोजित किया जा रहा है। समारोह में मुख्य

■ होटल में रुकने से इंकार, मांगा छात्रों का साथ

अतिथि के रूप में कलाम मौजूद रहेंगे। समारोह में आ रहे अतिथियों के लिए होटल रेडिसन में ठहरने की व्यवस्था की गई थी। कलाम के लिए भी उसी होटल में एक सुईट बुक कर दिया गया था।

**छात्रों का साथ:** कलाम की ओर से आईआईटी को संदेश भिजवाया गया कि वे होटल में नहीं रुकना चाहते हैं। उन्हें विद्यार्थियों से बात करना है इसलिए वे चाहते हैं कि उनके ठहरने का बंदोबस्त आईआईटी कैंपस में ही कर दिया जाए। आईआईटी ने कहा कि संस्थान का गेस्ट हाउस पूर्व राष्ट्रपति के स्तर का नहीं है। हालांकि कलाम को इससे फर्क नहीं पड़ा। अब आईआईटी अपने गेस्ट हाउस में ही

कलाम के ठहरने की व्यवस्था करवा रहा है। हालांकि आईआईटी के सभी बोर्ड मेंबर होटल रेडिसन में ही ठहर रहे हैं।

## पहले और बाद में बात करेंगे

अब आईआईटी कलाम के विश्राम की व्यवस्था अपने गेस्ट हाउस में कर रहा है। माना जा रहा है कि उन्हें आईआईटी के सित्वर स्पिंग टाउनशिप स्थित आईआईटी होस्टल और स्टाफ क्वार्टर के पास स्थित गेस्ट हाउस में ठहराया जाएगा। तय कार्यक्रम के मुताबिक दीक्षांत समारोह से करीब डेढ़ घंटा पहले कलाम आईआईटी कैंपस में पहुंच जाएंगे। कार्यक्रम के बाद भी वे कैंपस में ठहरेंगे। इसी दौरान वे आईआईटी के विद्यार्थियों के अलावा स्टाफ मेंबर्स से भी चर्चा करेंगे।

Times of India ND 4/06/2014 P-8

# Higher education must be made affordable to all

This refers to the article, "Too serious to be brushed aside" (June 2) by KG Suresh. The author has done an excellent study of the hallowed Jawaharlal Nehru University. Undoubtedly, JNU has become the ultras' den because of the indulgent attitude of the Congress and other 'secular' Governments at the Centre. He has given a list of organisations ensconced in JNU that indulge in anti-national activities, all under the guise of promoting human rights.

Reforming the JNU can be a priority of the Modi-led Government. But the greater problem is what Mr Narendra Modi had mentioned in one of speeches: That there should be a revolution in education where a student from the poorest sections can continue his/her education to potential, and money does not become a stumbling block. Teaching has become highly commercialised and it has become difficult for meritorious students with poor financial means to pursue quality education. This must change.

**SC Panda**  
*Bhubaneswar*



# Fall in Indian students alarms Cambridge VC

ADITI KHANNA

*Press Trust of India*

LONDON: The vice-chancellor of the Cambridge University has warned political authorities in the UK against the increasingly unwelcome image of Britain among overseas students, particularly Indians.

Leszek Borysiewicz admitted that Cambridge had not been affected by falling applications, but cautioned that there was an emerging perception, particularly in India, that Britain was not welcoming.

“When I think of how my parents were welcomed to this country, I find that actually quite saddening. I do feel we are an open, democratic country and we should be setting the standards for the rest of the world, not hindering them,” he said.

Most recent UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) data had indicated a sharp drop in foreign student numbers coming to study at UK universities, with Indians dropping by 38 per cent between 2011 and 2012, and those from Pakistan by 62 per cent.



Times of India ND 4/06/2014 P-20

# Cambridge warns against drop in no. of desi students

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

© Ed Bock/Corbis

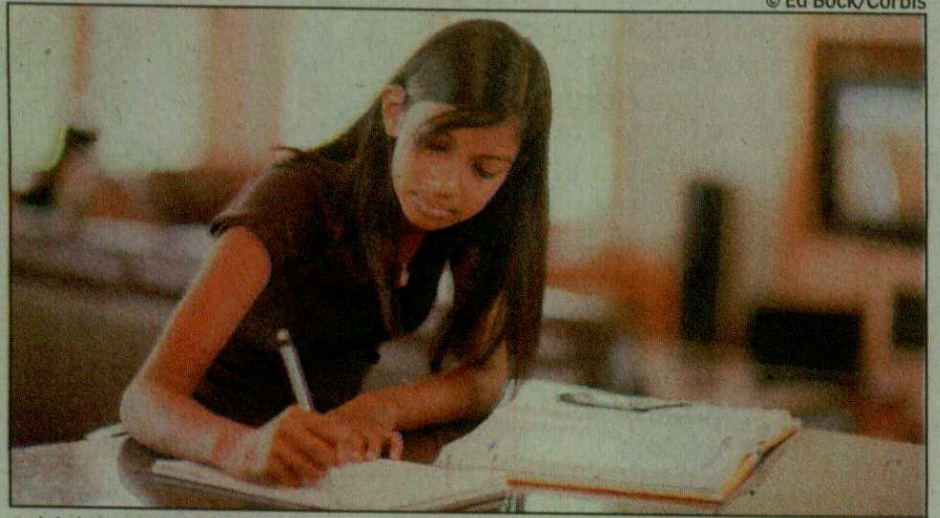
**London:** The vice-chancellor of Cambridge University has warned that Britain's stance on migration is making Indian students feel unwelcome.

Criticizing the government's crude numerical targets on immigration, Professor Leszek Borysiewicz said "there was an emerging perception, particularly in India, that Britain was not welcoming". Setting a target of 100,000 migrants a year hinders "the true potential benefit that people coming to Britain can actually have," he said.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of students to all universities coming to the UK from India fell by 38%, and those from Pakistan by 62%.

Professor Borysiewicz said "the most inspiring applicants come from children of immigrant parents who often valued education highly". "The whole academic sector brings back more to the UK than the resource that Britain puts into these areas," he said.

"These are very important sources of funding for our top institutions in this country. When I think of how my parents were welcomed to this country, I find that actually quite saddening. I do feel we are an open, democratic country and we should be setting the standards for the rest of the



Criticizing the government's crude numerical targets on immigration, professor Leszek Borysiewicz of Cambridge said "there was an emerging perception, particularly in India, that Britain was not welcoming"

world, not hindering them." He said a university such as Cambridge competed with Princeton, Harvard and Stanford, much more so than other UK universities, and "therefore anything that prevents us getting the very best students I believe would be to the long-term detriment of the UK. At a personal level I abhor the idea that we actually have a very strict migration target."

England has recorded a sharp dip in overseas students enrolling in its universities — the first fall in nearly three decades (29 years), thanks to Indians giving it a skip. Data revealed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England shows the number of Indian students fell from 18,535 in 2010-11 to 13,250 in 2011-12

and further to 10,235 in 2012-13. There was also a decline in the number Pakistani pupils, at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels — in 2010-11, the number was 4,580, which fell by 38% to 2,825 in 2012-13.

The number of international students who enrolled in England's universities in 2012-13 decreased by 4,595 in one year — the biggest fall in recent history. The declines in students from India and Pakistan has affected STEM courses (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) — entrants from India were down 64% and from Pakistan, 65%. The total international entrants to full-time PG taught STEM courses dropped by around 3,600 (20%) between 2010-11 and 2012-13.

Hindustan Times ND 4/06/2014 (HT Education) P-3

# Civil Service aspirants cheer UPSC notification

**MORE TO SCORE** The age limit and number of attempts for clearing the exam have both been increased to encourage more applicants

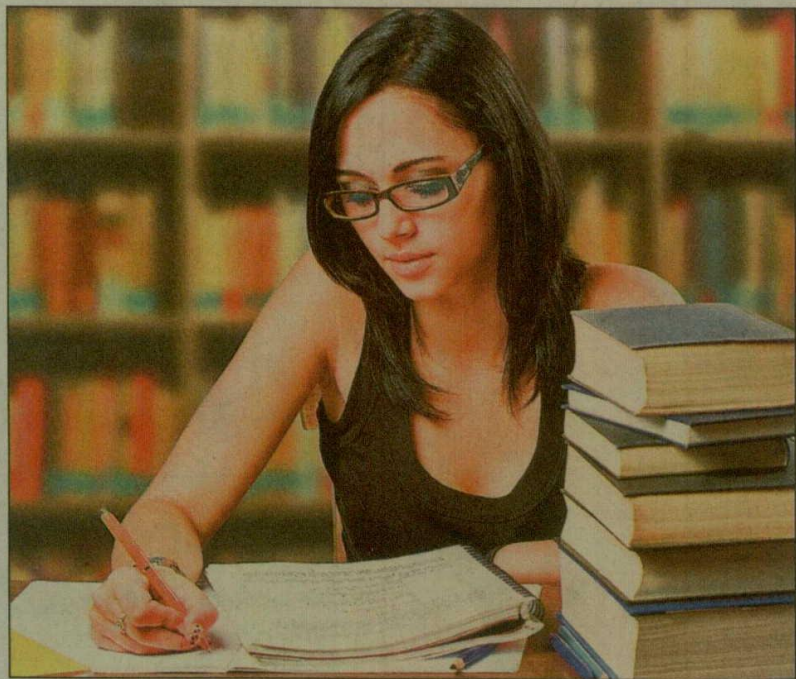
**Harini Sriram**

■ harini.sriram@hindustantimes.com

Civil service aspirants can now breathe easy as UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) has issued a notification clarifying a few points regarding the civil services exams. As per the notification, "Every candidate appearing for the examination, who is otherwise eligible, shall be permitted six attempts (two more than earlier four)." In the case of candidates belonging to the OBC category, the number of attempts now allowed is nine and for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories, there is no cap on the number of attempts.

The 2014 UPSC notification has further announced a two-year age relaxation. The earlier age limit for taking up the civil services exams was 21 to 30. However, now candidates in the age group of 21 to 32 years - as on 1 August 2014 - can take the exam. It states that "the candidate must have been born not earlier than August 2, 1982 and not later than August 1, 1993" to appear for the exam. This age limit of 32 years has been relaxed by five years for candidates belonging to the SC and ST categories.

Although most of these changes have already been out in the public domain, it was only on May 30, 2014, that UPSC issued a notification confirming the same. Abhishek Gupta from



■ The notification has cleared the air about issues such as exam format, age limit, number of attempts and so on. CREDIT / HT PHOTO

the editorial team of Rau's IAS Study Circle says that the notification has cleared the air about issues such as exam format, age limit, number of attempts, and so on. "The UPSC has also clarified the minimum marks required for the English and regional language papers," he adds, "While for English, the minimum score required is 25%, for regional language, it is 30%. That apart, there are no major changes."

A controversy ensued over UPSC's decision to introduce some changes to the exam format last year, with many

aspirants of the view that the format (of Paper 2) was biased towards engineering/management students who had a strong background in English. Siddhart Rao, a civil services aspirant in the city, says, "There is thankfully no significant change in the pattern as most of UPSC's decisions regarding the same were revoked. Students from rural, non-English/non-technical backgrounds would have found it difficult had the changes been carried out. The additional number of attempts is a boon to aspirants as it will give us more time to prepare better," he says.

Times of India ND 4/06/2014 P-19

# 'Godzilla of Earths': Planet 17 times heavier than our planet found

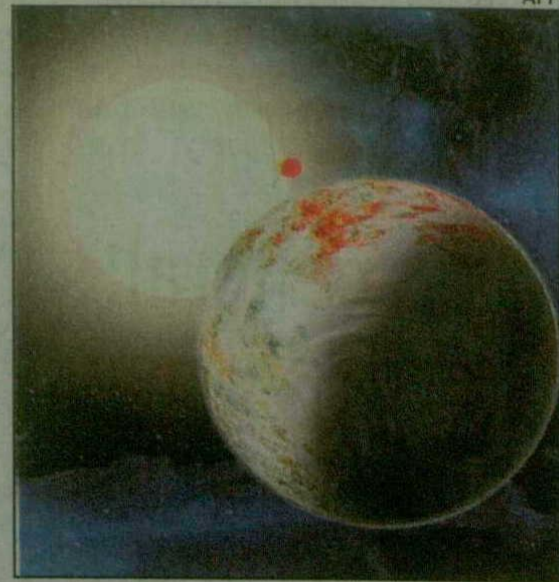
Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**London:** Astronomers have announced that they have discovered a new type of planet—a rocky world weighing 17 times as much as the Earth. Kepler-10c, as it has been scientifically named, circles a sun like star once every 45 days. It is located about 560 light-years from earth in the constellation Draco. The system also hosts a three-earth-mass lava world, Kepler-10b, in a remarkably fast, 20-hour orbit.

Theorists believed such a world couldn't form because anything so hefty would grab hydrogen gas as it grew and become a Jupiter-like gas giant. This planet, though, is all solid and much bigger than previously discovered super-earths, making it a mega-earth. "We were very surprised when we realized what we had found," says astronomer Xavier Dumusque of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA). "This is the Godzilla of earths," adds CfA researcher Dimitar Sasselov, director of the Harvard Origins of Life Initiative.

"But unlike the movie monster, Kepler-10c has positive implications for life".

Its sheer size puts it in the cate-



**SIZE DOES MATTER:** An artist's conception of the newly found 'mega-Earth' Kepler-10c. Its sibling, the lava world Kepler-10b, is in the background

gory of planets known as mini-Nep-tunes which have thick, gaseous envelopes. Kepler-10c was originally spotted by Nasa's Kepler spacecraft. Kepler finds planets using the transit method, looking for a star that dims when a planet passes in front of it. By measuring the amount of dimming, astronomers can calculate the planet's physical size or diameter. However, the Kepler can't tell whether a planet is rocky or gassy.