

Newspaper Clips

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IIT alumni write to PM, Sibal claims senates' nod

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A section of the IIT alumni wrote to PM Manmohan Singh on Tuesday opposing the common IIT-JEE exam from next year even as the government said that facts were being misrepresented.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal said that the decision had been taken by the joint council of the IITs, NITs and IIITs and had the support of four of the seven IIT senates. Sibal said that he had categorically said at the IIT council meeting that if "there is a single dissent" he will not go ahead with the proposal. "The council consists of the IITs, the IIITs and the NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward," the minister said.



FRESH CONTROVERSY

"I had also said the views of the senate would be taken into account. And will not move forward till their views are taken into account. Their views were taken into account," he said.

Last week, Sibal had said that from 2013, aspiring candidates for IITs and other central institutes like NITs and IIITs will have to sit under new a format of common entrance test which will take plus two board results into consideration.

This was not a government decision and all directors of IIT, NIT, and IIIT sitting together said that "this was a right decision", Sibal said.

"There is a statute. Under the statute, there is a council. And a decision is taken under the statute by the council. I, as the minister, happened to be the chairman of the council," he said. Sibal said out of seven, four senates agreed to the decision. Senates points were taken into account.

"Guwahati, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkie were the four supporters of it. Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported," he said. IIT Delhi and Kanpur are opposed to the move. Incidentally, over 50 senate members from IIT Delhi have written to their director asking for a special meeting.

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IIT-DELHI ALUMNI WRITE TO PM OVER JOINT TEST

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

The IIT-Delhi Alumni Association has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, attacking HRD minister Kapil Sibal over the national entrance test for engineering courses. In its letter to the PM, the association has said that "IITs are being destroyed by mindless tampering by people in the HRD ministry."

The association has warned that decisions like forcing a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges not only affect the autonomy of IITs, but its world-renowned brand as well. The association has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister in resolving the issue. However, reacting to the letter HRD minister Kapil Sibal said, "I have not failed on my promise. This is a misrepresentation of facts."

"I had said even if there is one dissent in the IIT Council, I will not take the proposal forward. This is not a government decision. It was a unanimous decision taken by the council," he added. He said the council also had the approval of four of the seven IITs senates Kharagpur, Guwahati, Roorkee and Chennai who are in favour of the new exam. "Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported," Mr Sibal added.

The association has been threatening to take the government to court for impeding upon the autonomy of IITs and introducing a national entrance test for engineering courses.

Centre rejects critics over new JEE test format

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

GOVERNMENT today rejected criticism of the decision to have a common IIT-JEE examination from next year, saying it was approved without dissent at the IIT Council meeting and had the backing of the senates of four of the seven Indian Institutes of Technology.

As IIT alumni wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh complaining against the move, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal termed it as "complete misrepresentation of facts" by them.

He told reporters that he had categorically said at the IIT council meeting that if "there is a single dissent" he will not go ahead with the proposal.

"The council consists of the IITs, the IIITs and the NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward," the Minister said.

"I had also said the views of the senate would be taken into account. And will not move forward till their views are taken into account. Their views were taken into account," he said.

Last week, Sibal had announced that from 2013, aspiring candidates for IITs and other central institutes like NITs and IIITs will have to sit under new a format of common entrance test which will also take plus two board results into consideration.

This was not a government decision and all directors of IIT, NIT, and IIIT sitting together unanimously said that "this was a right decision," Sibal said.

"There is a statute. Under the statute, there is a council. And a decision is taken under the statute by the council. I, as the Minister, happened to be the chairman of the council," he said.

New JEE got council nod: Sibal

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday rejected criticism of a decision to have a common IIT-JEE examination from next year, stating that it was approved without dissent at an IIT Council meeting, and had the backing of the senates of four of the seven IITs.

Even as IIT alumni wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh against the move, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said, "The

SOME MINISTERS SAID THAT IITs, IN THE LONG TERM, MUST ADOPT THE SAME FORMAT AS OTHER CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS

council consists of IITs, IIITs and NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward."

According to sources, some ministers even opined that IITs,

in the long term, should adopt the same format as other central educational institutions.

The states have been used to convey their decision on the year of joining in the common admission process and the relative weightages to normalised Class XII Board marks, performance in JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced by June 30.

Sibal, however, was non-committal about a demand to make the selection criteria for IITs the same as that for other institutes.

WITH PTI INPUTS

Hindu, ND 7/06/2012 P-14

JEE will hurt IIT autonomy, alumni tell PM

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Technology alumni association here has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh seeking his intervention in keeping the IITs out of the purview of the joint entrance examination (JEE) lest it "undermine the autonomy" of the premier institutions and also "adversely impact" standards of students.

"Since you are the executive head of the country, we feel we shall be failing in our duty to the nation should we not apprise you of our concerns on this matter and earnestly expect a solution to the same in a democratic and transparent manner," said Somnath Bharti, coordinator, IITians for IITs Autonomy and president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

On May 28, Human Resource Development Kapil

Sibal announced a JEE for admission to all undergraduate courses in engineering including the IITs, claiming all IIT Councils had agreed to the proposal. The IIT alumni and faculty, though, have been opposing it.

Responding to the developments, Mr. Sibal said five of the seven IIT Senates — the highest decision-making bodies — had supported the proposal. The only dispute was over IITs having control

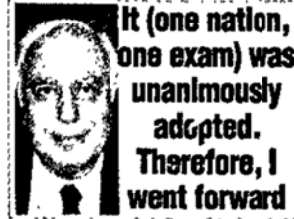
over the entrance examination, which has been agreed upon. The demand that school marks be not counted in the final assessment for IIT admissions was also accepted. The IITians for IITs Autonomy, the support group by the IIT alumni, pointed out in the letter to Dr. Singh that the institutes were created by Jawaharlal Nehru to bring technological excellence and leadership for India.

IITs being destroyed by HRD Ministry: Alumni

Seek an urgent appointment with PM on JEE

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

The alumni association of the IIT has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, attacking HRD Minister Kapil Sibal over his one-nation-one-exam policy for engineering entrance. The association writes: "IITs are being destroyed by mindless tampering by people in the HRD Ministry." It also warned that decisions like forcing a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges not only affected the autonomy of IITs but also its standing as world-class brand.



The alumni association drew the PM's attention to Jawaharlal Nehru's vision and dream to bring technological excellence and leadership to India for which he set up the IITs as autonomous institutions. "But surely their autonomy is being destroyed because of the short-sighted approach of MHRD, which is not headed by an educationist, a problem which you may in your wisdom like to address urgently," the letter said.

"Instead of working to improve school education, its standards have been lowered by eliminating Board examinations for Class X and now to improve the commitment of students to school education, steps are being taken which would in fact further lower the standard of intake to the IITs. The MHRD initiatives in 2005 lowered the standards of intake to the IITs. None of the reasons outlined for making these changes were achieved. Without analysing the same, changes now being pushed through, in great haste, even though the Senates of IITs have opposed the same, will further create serious problems for maintaining the standards expected from IITs," the letter of the association said.

Continued on Page 4

IITs being destroyed...

From Page 1

Targeting Sibal, the association complained to the PM that the HRD Minister in a recent meeting with the associations had agreed he would not go ahead with the new format even if there is one dissent. "But he went ahead in an autocratic manner," the letter said.

Seeking an urgent appointment with the PM for a solution in a democratic and transparent manner, the association said that IIT alumni across the world were deeply aggrieved with this situation and have given them the mandate to do all that is necessary to remedy the situation.

Sibal rejected criticism of the decision to have a common IIT-JEE examination from next year, saying it was approved without dissent at the IIT Council meeting and had the backing of the senates of four of the seven IITs. "The council consists of the IITs, the IITs and the NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward," the Minister

said on the sidelines of the CABE meeting the Capital.

"I had said that the views of the senate would be taken into account. Their views were taken into account," he said. Sibal

added out of seven, four senates agreed to the decision formally. Senates points were taken into account. "Guwahati, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkie were the four supporters to the plan. Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported," he said.

Common entrance exam

- Respect IITs' autonomy

OUR roads remain workable, thanks to the patchwork done here and there to avoid catastrophes. So can our higher education system, believes Human Resource Development Minister (HRD) Kapil Sibal, who is adamant about implementing the common entrance examination for all engineering colleges from 2013. This insistence on his part ensures that premier institutions like IITs resort to patchwork in a rush to implement his will. The faculty for 14 IITs, barring Guwahati and Patna, their administrative bodies and powerful alumni associations have opposed the decision of the minister, stating they are not prepared to implement the new one-nation, one-exam policy in a rush.

Every year over five lakh students take the entrance exam for 10,000 seats in IITs. The proposed common entrance exam will have two steps — 'main' and 'advanced'. The results of class 12 board exams will also play a decisive role. The ministry had proposed a 40:30:30 formula - with class 12 board results counting for 40 per cent, and the two stages of the entrance exam counting for 30 per cent each. However, IIT officials objected and won the right to form their own formula. Starting next year, IITs will give equal weight (50 per cent each) to class 12 results and to the performance of the candidate in the main exam. Some 50,000 short-listed students will then move on to the advanced exam.

The assurance given by Sibal that the common entrance exam will reduce the pressure on students and discourage coaching centres has met with resistance from the faculty of IITs. They say both the processes and content of the new examination will not be clear to them any time soon and insist that in no case the new system should be introduced before 2014. The HRD Ministry should at least respect the wisdom of existing institutions of excellence by not meddling in their autonomy to implement its 'political will.'

COMMON AMBITION

States' call for common entrance exam is a welcome move for both students and student quality



FOLLOWING the IITs' May 28 decision to alter the structure of their entrance exam to include a subjective component, and taking into account the recommendations of the T Ramasami committee, calling for a common engineering entrance exam, all Indian states (barring two) have backed the new IIT Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) format

and have called for a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges in the country. This proposed solution to the problem of falling standards of IITs and implementing a fair and equitable test, all the while trying to reduce aspiring students' stress, is a good one. A uniform national test will certainly make life easier for the students—at present, prospective engineering students have to sit for a large number of tests at national (eg, BITSAT, AIEEE), state (eg, Karnataka CET, CEE Delhi) and institutional (eg, IIT-JEE, Manipal UGET) levels. In total, there are around 150 different engineering entrance exams to choose from. Further, the renewed emphasis on the class XII board exams will undermine the growing influence of coaching centres—a key reason given for IITs' falling standards, and in favour of a subjective exam, is that coaching centres teach students to crack the multiple-choice exams without demonstrating their knowledge or ability.

According to the new proposed system, which most states say will be implemented by 2014, selection will be based on three parameters—the class XII board exam, the JEE main exam and the JEE advanced exam, with a 40:30:30 weightage, respectively. This might prove to be a rigorous and equitable solution, since the board exam ensures uniformity, and the multiple-choice main exam and subjective advanced exam both should ensure a high quality of students selected.

States 'fail' Sibal's no fail policy

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

THE 'No Detention' rule under the Right to Education (RTE) came under attack from the states on Wednesday as they blamed the policy of unhindered promotion till Class VIII for adversely affecting the interest of students in academics.

The issue was raised during the 59th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest consultative body advising state and central governments on education, where the education ministers of several states such as Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Chhattisgarh used the platform to inform HRD minister Kapil Sibal that their students, especially from backward and rural areas were not studying seriously as the Act forbids detention.

"Parents in our rural and tribal areas are not taking the initiative to teach children at home as they know the child won't fail," Chhattisgarh education minister Brijmohan Agrawal said.

However, it seemed that the min-

isters had misunderstood some of the provisions of the Act as they revealed that the government schools have stopped conducting examination, although the RTE Act does not mandate so.

"There's no reason why they should stop conducting exams when nowhere in the Act this is forbidden. The law only states that you cannot fail a student on the basis of an exam. It's worrying if education officials are interpreting it wrongly," CABE member and educationist Vinod Raina said.

Nevertheless, the dissent spurred Sibal into setting up a committee under Haryana edu-

cation minister Geetal Bhukkal to "review the implementation of the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)" in the context of the 'No Fail' policy.

"There seems to be a gap between the states' under-

Say students not studying seriously

standing of the Act and how we want it to be implemented. The committee will look into that," Sibal said after the meeting.

Commenting on the states' misgivings, Arun Kapur, CABE

member and Vasant Valley School director said, "Today we were reminded that policies are implemented by bureaucrats and politicians, not educationists. Maybe the ministry should train them."

The CABE members also endorsed the concept of meta university and the initiative to create a credit guarantee fund with a corpus of ₹5,000 crore to ensure better flow of credit to students. Under this scheme, up to ₹4 lakh will be given without any collateral security and third party guarantee, only parents have to execute the loan documents as the co-borrower.



'There seems to be a gap in states' understanding of the Act...'
— HRD minister Kapil Sibal

ANGRY IITs WRITE TO PM

A RATHER caustic letter written by the alumni of IIT-Delhi to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday forced HRD minister Kapil Sibal to break his silence over the backlash from the IIT fraternity regarding the introduction of the common engineering entrance test from next year. Dismissing allegations levelled against him, Sibal said the alumni and certain members of the faculty were "misrepresenting" facts and that everyone's views were taken



IIT alumni criticised the HRD ministry in the letter.

into consideration before the joint meeting of the councils of the IITs, NITs and IITs arrived at a decision.

In the missive sent to the PM, the IIT-Delhi alumni has asked him to intervene, alleging that 15 premier engineering institutes "are being destroyed by mindless tampering of people in the HRD ministry". It further states "changes are now being pushed through, in great haste, even though the senates of the IITs have opposed the same".

Mail Today

Entry point: Will a common entrance exam mean reduced chances of getting into India's premier educational institutes?



COMMON ENGINEERING EXAM

New and improved?

Here's a look at the proposed format of the common engineering entrance exam 2013 that will cover centrally-funded technical institutions in its first year

Gauri Kohli
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The first edition of the common engineering entrance test will be introduced next year. Instead of appearing for the Indian Institutes of Technology Joint Entrance Examination and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination separately, aspirants will now sit for just one test which is likely to cover Central government-funded technical institutions in its first year.

These include 15 IITs, the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, 20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), five Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), architecture schools and other leading engineering colleges.

The candidates will now have to take the test that will be conducted in two parts on the same day — JEE-main and JEE-advanced. IITs would screen candidates on the basis of the school board marks, normalised on percentile basis, and the marks obtained in the JEE-main examination — with equal weightage.

Only a fixed number of candidates (five times the number of the seats for admission in the IIT system) screened on the basis of merit would be eligible for admission.

The merit list would be prepared on the basis of a collective score of normalised school board marks and performance in the JEE-main examination.

The ranking for admission to undergraduate programmes in IITs would be

In a nutshell

IITs would screen candidates based on the 'normalised' school board marks and the marks obtained in the JEE-main exam, with equal weightage

JEE-main shall be multiple choice objective type paper whereas the nature and modalities of the JEE-advanced will be determined by the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of IITs

JEE-main and 30% weightage for performance in JEE-advanced.

JEE-main shall be multiple choice objective type paper whereas the nature and modalities of the JEE-advanced will be determined by the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of IITs.

The proposed changes will be effective from 2013, with both IITs and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) working jointly to implement it.

The JAB of the IIT system would have complete control over the academic components of the national test such as paper setting, evaluation and preparation of the merit list, etc.

The CBSE will provide the administrative and logistic support for the conduct of examination across the country.

What experts feel



As far as conducting the test is concerned, the new format will take away the autonomous status enjoyed by IITs

Sanjeev Sanghi, president, faculty forum, IIT Delhi



The formula to normalise Class 12 marks from different boards is not appropriate

Somnath Bharti, president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association



If at all the new system is to be implemented, it should be from 2014

Anand Kumar of Super 30, Patna

CCE, no-detention policy attacked, panel to review

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE no-detention policy for school children right up to Class VIII under the Right to Education Act as well as the CBSE's Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system came under attack from state education ministers Wednesday at a meeting of the newly reconstituted Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal announced that a CABE committee under the leadership of Haryana Education minister Geeta Bhukkal would assess implementation of the CCE in context of the no-detention provision in the RTE Act, hold talks with experts, and submit a report in three months.

However, Sibal emphasised: "The no-detention policy is probably not understood by schools as understood by us. Everyone agrees that not having board examinations is a good idea, but no examinations at all is not acceptable. Some people think no detention and CCE mean no exams — that is not the case."



HRD Minister Kapil Sibal with Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav on Wednesday. RENUKA PURI

IIT EXAM: SIBAL REGRETS 'COMPLETE MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS'

CABE MEMBER and activist Shabnam Hashmi alleged that schools in Gujarat have been refusing admission to Muslim children since the 2002 riots. Gujarat Education Minister Raman Lal Bora was quick to dismiss her allegations. Sibal refused to comment, asking Hashmi to send him data on the issue.

SIBAL REGRETTED that there was "complete misrepresentation of facts" on the new JEE format of common entrance exam and that it was "not a government decision" but one taken unanimously by the IIT Council. Speaking on the sidelines of the CABE meeting, he said that at the core were two points raised by IIT Senates — ensuring that the test for admission to IITs was controlled by IITs alone and that school board weightage should not be part of the final assessment. "These were their core demands and we have agreed to them. The only area where there was variance was that the Senates wanted the new exam format to come into effect only in 2014 while the IIT Council said they were ready to hold it in 2013 itself."

Several ministers argued that not "failing" students as a matter of policy was affecting the quality of students and must be reviewed. Bihar Education Minister P K Shahi felt that the reading habit of students had suffered as a result,

while Chhattisgarh's Brij Mohan Agarwal contended that the impact was being seen in the "dwindling intellectual quality" of those clearing school. Shahi said this system should be abolished and more attention given to exams.

While educationist Vinod Raina clarified that no detention did not mean no examination, Secretary, School Education, Anhsu Vaish pointed out that detentions resulted in increased school dropouts.

Others, like Assam Education Minister Himanta Biswas, raised the issue of CCE implementation in the context of lack of teachers in rural areas. So there was little scope of implementing the CCE format—involving year-round assessment of student performance—Biswas said.

CABE, the apex educational body, also deliberated on the proposed National Mission on Teachers and finally resolved to set up a committee under HRD, MoS, D Purandeshwari to develop the mission framework. Sibal rued that even candidates with B.Ed and D.Ed qualifications were unable to clear the Teachers' Eligibility Test.

The Purandeshwari committee will especially look at ways to train teachers for inclusive education and for children with special needs. Disability activist Mithu Alur, who is a CABE member, had pointed out that its agenda had no mention of disabled children.

आईआईटी को बर्बाद करने पर तुला मंत्रालय

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय बिना सोचे समझे आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता में हस्तक्षेप कर इन संस्थानों को बर्बाद करने पर तुला हुआ है। आईआईटी एलुमनाई एसोसिएशन ने इंजीनियरिंग के लिए 2013 से कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा को लागू किए जाने के फैसले के विरोध में प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह को भेजे पत्र में यह आरोप लगाया है।

एसोसिएशन ने कहा कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय स्कूली शिक्षा के स्तर को सुधारने के स्थान पर आईआईटी जैसी संस्थाओं की स्वायत्तता को अवैधानिक तरीके से प्रभावित कर रहा है। उसे यह तक पता नहीं है कि इस तरह के संस्थान कैसे शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में एक्सीलेंसी हासिल करते हैं। पत्र में आरोप लगाया गया है कि हाईस्कूल में बोर्ड परीक्षा की अनिवार्यता समाप्त किए जाने से शिक्षा का स्तर गिरा है और अब जो कदम (कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा) उठाए जा रहे हैं उससे आईआईटी के स्तर में भी गिरावट आएगी।

एलुमनाई एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में क्यों

आईआईटी एलुमनाई एसोसिएशन ने की प्रधानमंत्री से हस्तक्षेप करने की गुहार

कहा, कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने से आईआईटी के स्तर में आएगी गिरावट

परिवर्तन करना चाहती है इसका कोई तर्क उसके पास नहीं है। आईआईटी सीनेट के विरोध के बाद भी वह प्रवेश परीक्षा के पैटर्न में बदलाव करने जा रही है। यही आईआईटी के स्टैंडर्ड को भविष्य में प्रभावित करने वाला साबित होगा। एसोसिएशन ने पीएम से अनुरोध किया है कि हम आईआईटी के लिए जहां ज्यादा स्वायत्तता की उम्मीद रख रहे हैं जबकि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय इसकी स्वायत्तता खत्म करने पर तुला हुआ है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री शिक्षाविद नहीं होने के कारण इस मामले में दूरदर्शिता नहीं दिखा रहे हैं इसलिए आप हस्तक्षेप कर इन संस्थाओं को बचाने का प्रयास करें।

देश में पहली मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी को मंजूरी, डीयू, जेएनयू, जामिया और आईआईटी दिल्ली करेंगे संचालन

आर्ट्स वालों को मिलेगी बीटेक की डिग्री

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

कल्पना कीजिए आप कोर्स तो फैशन डिजाइनिंग, पत्रकारिता या मार्केटिंग का कर रहे हों और आपको डिग्री मिले बीटेक (मानविकी) की तो कैसा लगेगा। यह बात अटपटी जरूरी लगती है, लेकिन एक नए किस्म की यूनिवर्सिटी देश में खुलने जा रही है जिसमें भिन्न-भिन्न कोर्स पढ़ाई होगी। विभिन्न विषयों में समावेश करते हुए बदलते जरूरतों के हिसाब से कोर्स तैयार किए जाएंगे। इसके लिए मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की अध्यक्षता में बुधवार को केंद्रीय शिक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड (केब) की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी गई। इससे पूर्व दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रोफेसर दिनेश सिंह ने मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी को लेकर एक प्रजेंटेशन दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी के पीछे मकसद एक ही है कि किस्म-किस्म के कोर्स प्रदान करना है जो वर्चुअल होंगे। देश की पहली मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी दिल्ली में खुलेगी। इसके बाद कई मेटा कालेज खुलेंगे जो इससे संबद्ध होंगे। उन्होंने उदाहरण देकर कहा कि जैसे बीटेक (मानविकी) कोर्स शुरू

क्या है मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी

यह एक तरह से वर्चुअल विश्वविद्यालय होता है। जिसमें सभी कुछ ऑनलाइन होगा। विभिन्न किस्म की शिक्षा दे रहे संस्थान मिलकर नए किस्म के कोर्स तैयार करते हैं। जिन्हें मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी के जरिये चलाया जाता है। इसमें छात्रों के लिए मौका यह है कि एक कोर्स करते हुए भी वे नए किस्म के दूसरे कोर्स भी एक कैम्पस में बैठे हुए कर सकते हैं।



किया जाएगा। लेकिन इसमें लोग पत्रकारिता, मार्केटिंग, फोटोग्राफी, पब्लिक हेल्थ, फिल्म, मल्टीमीडिया जैसे वे तमाम विषय पढ़ सकते हैं जो अभी विश्वविद्यालयों में मानविकी या आर्ट्स में पढ़ाए जाते हैं। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय, जामिया मिल्लिया और आईआईटी दिल्ली मिलकर यह मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी स्थापित करेंगे।

उन्होंने मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी के कांसेप्ट को स्पष्ट करते हुए कहा कि उपरोक्त चार संस्थान जो विभिन्न किस्म की खूबी



रखते हैं, सभी के पास भिन्न-भिन्न किस्म के कोर्स हैं। इनकी विशेषज्ञता का लाभ मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी के जरिये दूसरे छात्र भी उठाएंगे। मसलन, कोई छात्र दिल्ली विवि में कंप्यूटर पढ़ रहा है तो मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी में एडमिशन लेकर वह साथ में बीटेक (मानविकी) भी पढ़ सकता है।

सिंह ने कहा कि मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी शोध कार्य को भी बढ़ावा देगी। इसके जरिये पीएचडी डिग्री भी दी जाएगी, जबकि पब्लिक हेल्थ में डिप्लोमा और डिग्री कार्यक्रम शुरू किए जाएंगे। केब में चर्चा के बाद इस मंजूरी प्रदान की गई।

‘छोटे बच्चों के लिए उचित नहीं है कंप्यूटर शिक्षा’

नई दिल्ली। यदि आप बच्चों को उस स्कूल में भर्ती करना पसंद करते हों जहां केजी और नर्सरी से ही कंप्यूटर की शिक्षा दी जाती हो तो सोच लें। यह शिक्षा प्राइमरी के बच्चों के लिए उचित नहीं है।

केंद्रीय शिक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड ने अपनी सिफारिशों में प्राइमरी स्तर पर कंप्यूटर शिक्षा देने का विरोध करते हुए इसे गलत बताया है। बोर्ड का कहना है कि यह शिक्षा अपर प्राइमरी स्तर से दी जानी चाहिए। क्योंकि प्राइमरी स्तर पर बच्चे के हाथों तथा आंखों के बीच होने वाली हकरतें पूरी तरह विकसित नहीं होती हैं। ऐसे में बच्चा यदि माउस पकड़कर स्क्रीन पर आंखें गड़ाएगा तो उसका मानसिक विकास बाधित हो सकता है। शोध अध्ययनों में पता लगा है कि बहुत छोटी अवस्था में बच्चों को कंप्यूटर शिक्षा देना उन्हें तेज नहीं बनाता। इसलिए बेहतर होगा कि उन्हें कंप्यूटर शिक्षा अपर प्राइमरी स्तर पर दी जाए, ताकि छात्र

जताया विरोध

- शिक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड ने कहा अपर प्राइमरी से दी जाए यह शिक्षा
- बोर्ड ने कहा, स्कूलों में जो साफ्टवेयर प्रयोग होता है वह भी अपर्याप्त है और ठीक नहीं है

स्वतंत्र रूप से सूचना की दुनिया का जायजा ले सके।

सलाहकार बोर्ड ने कहा कि हे स्कूलों में जो साफ्टवेयर प्रयोग होता है



वह भी अपर्याप्त है और ठीक नहीं है। इन साफ्टवेयर में गैररचनात्मक प्रणाली होती है जिनसे बच्चों को सीखने का मौका नहीं मिल पाता। बोर्ड ने रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि स्कूलों में छात्रों की संख्या के अनुसार पर्याप्त संख्या में कंप्यूटर भी नहीं हैं। इसके कारण एक कंप्यूटर पर कई छात्र जुट जाते हैं और उनका कंप्यूटर माध्यम के साथ सीधा संवाद नहीं हो पाता।

Business Line ND 7/06/2012 P-1

PayPal zooms in on IITs for 'hi-tech' hires

T.E. Raja Simhan
Chennai, June 6

PayPal is on a hiring spree from the Indian Institutes of Technology. During its first campus recruitment, it hired 80 graduates from the country's premier institute.

This is one of the largest number of hires by a multinational product company from the IITs this year.

The US-based company has around 2,250 employees in its Chennai centre. It plans to add another 900 people before the first quarter of next year. It has also announced the opening of a



Mr Anupam Pahuja, Head, India Development Centre, PayPal.

Bangalore centre; nearly 1,000 employees will be working there in the next 3-5 years, said Mr Anupam Pahuja, Head, PayPal's India Development Centre.

He did not reveal salary

details but industry sources said a fresher from an IIT would earn approximately Rs 7 lakh a year. The new recruits are 'high-end technologists' and will focus only on product development. This could be in areas such as payments, architecture and middleware, he said. "From now on, we will visit the IITs and other top engineering colleges every year," he said.

On Monday, the new recruits joined PayPal's centre at Sholinganallur on Chennai's IT corridor.

An electronic board at the reception displayed the

names of all the recruits, who also got laptops on joining.

They are on an eight-week 'boot' camp with 12/14-hour daily training before being associated with various centres of excellence in centres at Chennai, San Jose, Boston or Shanghai.

DIGITAL WALLET

The Chennai centre contributes nearly 60 per cent of PayPal's global product development work.

eBay acquired PayPal in 2002. With 110 million active accounts in 190 markets and 25 currencies globally, PayPal enables global e-

commerce. It acts as a digital wallet, where one can store all payment options, such as bank account and credit card.

Chennai used to be a delivery centre, taking orders from architects located in other centres.

However, things have changed now. The centre will now design, develop and deploy the products to be used globally.

On attrition, Mr Pahuja said it was 'unhealthily low' at around 4 per cent, while it is almost in double digits at other product companies. raja@thehindu.co.in

'We are also looking at tying up with Indian universities'

Resolution of the six-year battle between the US-based Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute and the All India Council for Technical Education has provided the much-needed relief to the former. **ASHVIN P VIBHAKAR**, its managing director, Asia Pacific Operations, tells Kalpana Pathak about the institute's expansion plans in India and how it is hoping for an early resolution of its case with ICAI University. Excerpts:

Did the AICTE verdict come as a surprise?

At AICTE, its a new committee and a new administration. We have been continuously making our case on who we are and what we are, and comparing that against the regulations that they have. We are very thankful to AICTE for re-examining the situation. And it was the executive committee of AICTE which concluded that what we do, does not fit into the regulations. Thus, there was no reason for the court case and it was resolved.

What does this mean for you?

There are multiple things. From a candidate's perspective, there is no uncertainty now. Earlier, when we opened the registration for exams, candidates had no idea if we would get the nod to take the exam in India or not, as the court waited until practically the last minute to let us know on the exam front. Our exam has a cost structure based on when you enroll for it. So, the impact on many Indian students was higher expenses. This change will allow them enroll early at a lesser cost and also they will have time to prepare for the exam. If you don't receive the material early enough, you will not be able to begin preparing early. Also, resolution of the case eliminates the problem of going to another country to write the examination.

This also means more investments in India?

One aspect is we are opening a test centre in Pune. This will take our test centres to six in India. We will continue to examine where candidates are coming from and add centres accordingly. The next potential centre could be in Gujarat.

On the academic front, we continue to work with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and we have an agreement with the National Institute of Securities Market. We will be making investments in India to provide a better market and better transparency for a stronger market. You will see many such engagements going forward.

Do you plan to work with Indian varsities?

Yes. Other than tying up with our local member society and Sebi, we are also looking at tying up with universities. We recognise

that universities as an academic entity cannot spend a lot on resources. One of the things we are trying to do is provide resources to faculty so they can see what CFA practitioners are thinking and how they can combine academic and practicing material. We want to offer faculty members scholarship to do CFA programme. They can look at it and combine that with their academic literature in terms of how they teach and what they teach. I think we can create

a better industry with better practice, and particularly emphasise on ethics which, is the last thing academics emphasise. That is an area we are looking at. We are also looking at engaging our practicing professionals with universities as

counsellors and mentors. We are also examining what we are doing in other countries.

So, we

will be bringing that to India. We would also be giving away scholarships. With resolution of the AICTE case, we will be offering 200-215 scholarships.

Enrollment numbers for the CFA programme have been going up in the past years.

Where do you see that going forward?

Well yes, the numbers should go up in the long run, but with some of the recent events in India, it is difficult for me to say what would happen.

Three events

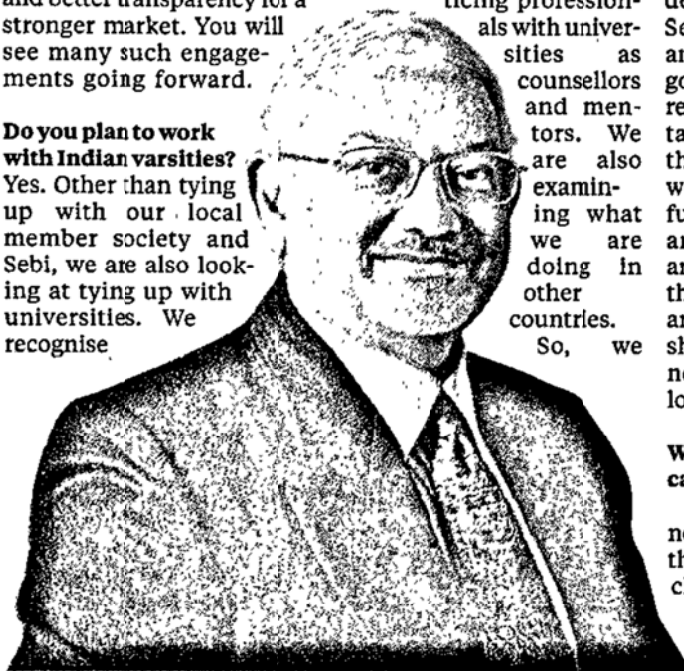
which have taken place in the recent past in India may be negative for our business. One is the exchange rate. Since our cost is in dollar terms, the cost for Indian students have gone up due to declining exchange rate. Secondly, India's inflation and unemployment rate has gone up dramatically in the recent times. Also, the recent tax regulation has shaken the finance industry with many of the hedge funds leaving India. So, we are not sure what kind of an impact that will have on the finance industry, and we are cognisant of that. In the short run, the numbers may not go up but it may in the long run.

What is the update on your case with ICAI University?

We hope to have some news. We continue to work on that. We are much and much closer to a resolution. Our legal side and their legal side continue to work together.



ASHVIN P VIBHAKAR
MD, CFA, Asia Pacific Operations



India, US can cooperate in education

WASHINGTON, JUNE 8

PTI/MP/12V

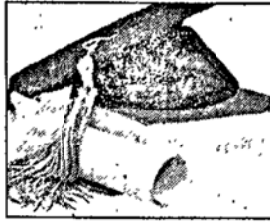
AHEAD of the next week's India-US education dialogue, the United States Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said there is chance to provide a much better education for thousands of young people in India.

"I think the challenges India faces dwarf ours and make ours look relatively simple. But I think there's a chance to provide a much better education for hundreds and hundreds and thousands of young people in India,"

Duncan told reporters at a White House news conference yesterday.

"Whatever we can do to help as they build the next system of community colleges, as they scale up what's working, as American institutions start to set up campuses in India, we want to be a great partner," he said.

"I just absolutely believe that a rising tide lifts all boats. And the more young people across India are getting a world-class education, that's a great thing for your country and for ours as well," Duncan said in



response to a question.

The Education Secretary praised his Indian counterpart, Kapil Sibal, the Human Resources and Development Minister.

"We have a great working relationship with my counterpart in India. He is a man, I think, of tremendous vision

and courage," Duncan said.

Next week, Sibal and the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would host the next round of India-US Education Dialogue.

The Education Summit will focus on two key areas: advanced research and innovation and workforce development, specifically, community colleges, the Assistant Secretary of

State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said at an event on Monday.

"With respect to higher education collaboration, I am delighted that we will

announce during the Dialogue the first eight partnership projects to be funded jointly by the United States and India through the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

These three-year, approximately quarter-million dollar grants will be used for joint projects between American and Indian universities in the areas of food security, energy, climate change and public health, among others," Blake said at the event organised by the US-India World Affairs Institute.—PTI

Singapore is new B-school hub

Nearly 3,000 Indian students go to that country every year to pursue management courses

DISHA KAMWAR & M SARASWATY
New Delhi/Mumbai, 6 June

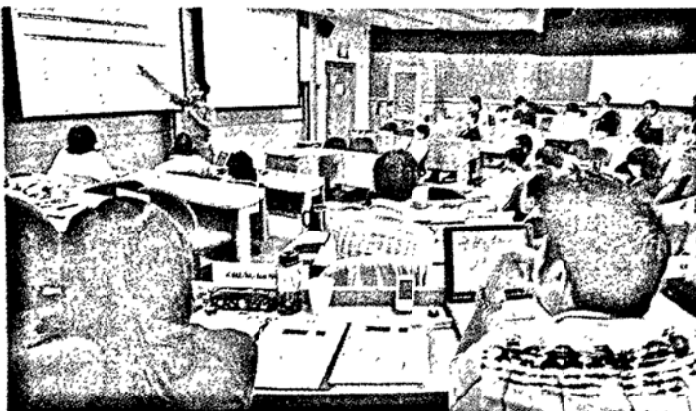
Singapore, a small island with a 682 sq km area, about half the size of Delhi, is becoming a hot destination for Indian aspirants of management education, and at the same time it is getting greater attention from the global educational fraternity.

Siew Kheng Kang, Regional Director, Singapore Tourism Board says, "In its totality, there are about 70,000 international students in Singapore. About 3,000 Indian students go every year to study in Singapore. The number of such Indian students has been growing steadily at 20 per cent year-on-year."

A report by the British research Institute, Observatory on Borderless Higher Education (OBHE) said education hub status has become an aspiration of many Asian governments, particularly in East Asia. "International branch campuses are the most visible and crucial element of this aspiration," the OBHE said, adding: "The new data suggests that Singapore is meeting its aspirations most successfully."

OBHE said the number of international branch campuses in Singapore 'shot up' from 12 to 18 in two years. Newcomers include EDHEC Business School of France, invited by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, UK's University College, London and Manchester and, from the US, MIT and Stanford research centres. Scotland's Glasgow and US's Yale are also planning campuses here.

Proximity to India is one of the crucial reasons for the popularity of Singapore, say industry experts. "Singapore is in close proximity to India. Being a drug-free and low-crime country, it is the favoured destination in the eyes of the parents," said Naveen Chopra, chairman, The Chopra's Consultant, New



Students at Singapore Management University. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

Delhi. He said the cost of living and tuition fee was approximately 20-25 per cent cheaper as compared to the other premium, sought-after destinations like USA and UK.

At East Asia Institute of Management, there has been a significant spike in the intake of Indian students over the past three years, especially in postgraduate programmes. Travis Kok, senior marketing & communications executive, East Asia Institute of Management, said that from an intake of 26 Indian students in 2009 in postgraduate programmes, the intake increased to 60 students in 2011. "At the Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh Business School, MBA is the programme of choice among Indian students," said Kok.

He said apart from being a metropolitan city and one of the safest countries in the world, a recent listing by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) had ranked Singapore as the top Asian city for university education and 12th in the world.

Another institute, Singapore

Management University (SMU), has also been a popular destination for students. "SMU is one of the youngest universities to have been awarded long-term, five-year AACSB & EQUIS accreditation. In addition, we have an interactive pedagogy, an intensive but well-balanced business education, high quality of faculty members, a campus located in the heart of the business city facilitating a close

Proximity to India is one of the crucial reasons for the popularity of Singapore, say experts

interaction with the business community and a diverse mix of nationalities," said S N Venkat, senior associate director, Office of Postgraduate Professional Programme, SMU.

SMU also signed three memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in May 2012 with IIM Bangalore, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and BSE Institute respectively. The one with the BSE Institute is for collaboration and conducting training programmes and research on Asia's financial and capital markets. The MoU with IIFT is to collaborate on conducting training programmes and research, while the one

with IIM-E is for conducting joint research and publication.

Venkat informed they had a 50 per cent increase in enrolment from 2011 to 2012, which includes Indian students as well. The exact figure for the number of Indian students on campus was not available. "Major Singapore companies recruit students in SMU. Some of our Indian students are back in India and are working for leading MNCs and Indian companies," he said.

He said Indian students have always sought SMU's programmes like MBA, Master of IT in Business (Financial Services). The fee for the full-time MBA programme is Singapore \$57,000 (₹24.5 lakh). He said, Indian students have also enrolled in new programmes like PhD in Business (General Management). As there is an overall growth in the number of masters programmes in SMU, there is an increase in number of students from India and other countries," he said. The fee for this PhD programme is Singapore \$1,26,000 (₹54.1 lakh), excluding 7 per cent service tax.

Industry experts believe systematic changes were also respon-

AN ISLAND OF KNOWLEDGE

- There are about 70,000 international students in Singapore
- About 3,000 Indian students go every year to study in Singapore, and their number is growing at 20 per cent year-on-year
- Research Institute Observatory on Borderless Higher Education says the number of international branch campuses in Singapore rose from 12 to 18 in two years
- A recent listing by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds ranked Singapore as the top Asian city for university education and 12th in the world
- Private education institutes, which want to take in international students, must meet even higher standards laid down by the EduTrust, a quality assurance mark of the CPE
- Singapore doesn't have a central authority that accords recognition to courses, certificates or qualifications issued by PEIs

sible for the country's popularity. "Singapore has undergone a dynamic change in its Private Education Act. It now requires all private education institutions (PEIs) to be registered with the Council for Private Education (CPE), a statutory board under the Ministry of Education, before commencing operations," said Chopra. The validity period of PEIs' registration status varies (one, four and six years) based on how well a PEI measures up to CPE's registration criteria. This provides private education institutions with the incentive to improve their standards to attain a longer period of registration.

Shivanjee Dewangan, coun-
try manager, International

Business of Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), said PEIs, which want to take in international students, must meet even higher standards laid down by the EduTrust, a quality-assurance mark of the CPE. "The EduTrust certification scheme awards three ratings — 'EduTrust Star' for excellent, 'EduTrust' for satisfactory and 'EduTrust Provisional' for minimum level of performance. Till date, no institute has been able to achieve the EduTrust Star certificate. Institutes' awards are made known publicly on the CPE website, to enable students to make a more informed choice when deciding which private education institution to enroll in," said Dewangan.

Another benefit from the introduction of EduTrust is the protection of students' fees. Private schools that are EduTrust certified can collect a maximum of 12 months' fees which have to be protected. The fees have to be either put into an Escrow bank account or the school will have to buy insurance from the insurance companies appointed by CPE. Over 600 private schools were forced to shut down over the past two years for not meeting the criteria stipulated by the Private Education Act. Now, only around 328 schools remain — one-third of the estimated 1,000 schools in December 2009 — according to CPE.

However, experts say what proves to be a deterrent to students is the fact that Singapore does not allow them to work while pursuing their studies. This is to keep dynamics of their labour market intact. Also, the curriculum is so intensive that there is hardly any time for students to take up part-time jobs. Singapore doesn't have a central authority that accords recognition to courses, certificates or qualifications issued by PEIs.