

Newspaper Clips

March 13, 2013

Hindustan Times ND 13/03/2013

P-15

Crores wasted as IIT-Madras pays illegal, excessive pensions

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HOW IT PLAYED OUT

NEW DELHI: India's fund-strapped treasury is bleeding crores of rupees to unauthorized, excessive pensions doled out by Indian Institute of Technology Madras to retired staff and faculty for over three years.

IIT-Madras made the excessive payments despite repeated concerns raised by the ministries of finance, HRD, the department of personnel and training and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), a series of documents, letters, emails and audit reports reveal.

But the documents don't cover the ministry in glory either.

IIT Madras is continuing the exaggerated pensions because the Madras High Court has ordered a stay on a directive from the HRD ministry to recover the excess payments. But the ministry has not yet challenged the stay order, at a

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2011: CAG finds losses worth ₹6 cr, excess payments being made to 204 retired

time when it is struggling for funds to finance critical education programmes. "We are just following the HC order," a senior IIT administrator told HT, requesting anonymity.

The controversy stems from the 6th Pay Commission, which in 2009 raised pensions for all employees who retire after 2006. But IIT-Madras also hiked pensions of those who retired before 2006.

In 2011, the CAG concluded that 204 retired faculty mem-

bers were benefiting from excessive pensions worth ₹5.4 cr. The ministry ordered IIT-Madras to stop excessive payments and recover the extra money.

May 5, 2011: HRD ministry orders IIT-Madras to stop excess payments, recover money.

July 1, 2011: IIT-Madras stops excess payments, but does nothing to recover money. Pensioners obtain Madras HC stay on ministry order.

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But while IIT Madras did stop excess payments, it set up no mechanism to recover the extra amount already paid. Pensioners approached the HC and obtained a stay on the order.



FOR FULL STORY

hindustantimes.com/iitpensions

HT Lucknow

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Mumbai Mirror 12-03-2013 P-4

IIT students waiting to hear Kalam get police thrashing

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam's visit to IIT-Bombay in Powai left a bitter taste on the campus, where students got a first-hand experience of the Mumbai Police's rough and ready methods. The former President was chief guest at the 54th Foundation Day of the institute.

Mumbai Mirror learns that the students had been instructed to take their seats inside the Convocation Hall, where Kalam was to speak, by 10.45 am. However, many students were left stranded outside, despite queuing up for more than an hour. They, however, kept on waiting, hoping to be allowed in to listen to the iconic scientist.

Things took a turn for the worse when a security guard ordered them to disperse, resulting in the students shouting slogans. As this face-off was going on, a Mumbai Police officer landed up and reportedly threatened the students with arrests if they didn't disperse at once. A police van reportedly drew up and lathi-wielding



Kalam at IIT-B campus on Monday

cops got off.

Seeing this, some students left, but others began arguing with police. Sources on the campus told Mumbai Mirror that one officer, alleging that a student had abused police, chased him on a motorbike, and slapped him repeatedly, even as the student pleaded innocence. He was then pushed into a passing auto and slapped some more.

Till late Monday evening, the angry students were discussing the incident. This was their one chance to meet Kalam, said some. "Why could

we not have been allowed to stand in the aisles, even if the seats were occupied? Why couldn't the authorities have kept a session with him after the talk?" one of them asked.

Students were angry at the cops being allowed to take control of the situation, instead of their own security guards, or their professors. IIT-Bombay director Devang Khakkar told Mumbai Mirror that he had no knowledge of the incident.

WHAT KALAM WANTS

In his address, Kalam called for an education system that created job providers rather than job seekers. "In the present context, the education system has to be designed to see that we generate a large number of employment generators and not employment seekers," he said.

"The education system should prepare students to get oriented towards setting up enterprises, which will provide them creativity, freedom and ability to generate wealth," he said.

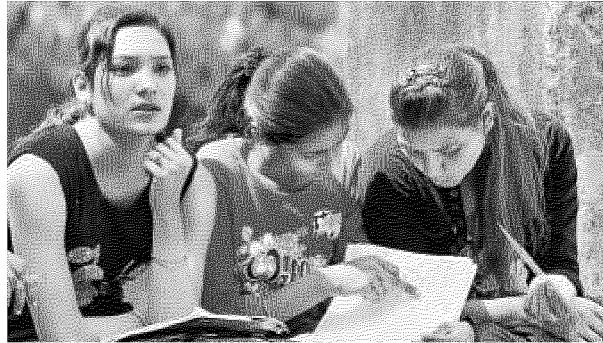
सात को आईआईटी-जेईई की परीक्षा

कॉम्पिटिशन सीबीएसई की वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं एडमिट कार्ड, शहर से दस हजार विद्यार्थी देंगे एग्जाम

भास्कर न्यूज | जमशेदपुर

बोर्ड एग्जाम समाप्ति की ओर है, लेकिन विद्यार्थियों को परीक्षाओं से फुर्सत मिलने वाली नहीं है। अब प्रतियोगी परीक्षाएं शुरू होने वाली हैं। सबसे पहले सात अप्रैल को इंडियन इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, ज्वाइंट इंट्रेस एग्जामिनेशन (आईआईटी जेईई) है। इसके लिए सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ सेकेंडरी एजुकेशन (सीबीएसई) ने जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा का एडमिट कार्ड अपनी वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करा दिया है। जहां से जेईई मेन-2013 परीक्षा के लिए पंजीयन कराने वाले विद्यार्थी इसे डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

सीबीएसई ने इसकी सूचना प्रकाशित कर दी है। सीबीएसई के अनुसार, उसकी वेबसाइट पर एडमिट कार्ड परीक्षा तक उपलब्ध रहेगा। बोर्ड की ओर से जेईई मेन के परीक्षार्थियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे समय रहते अपना एडमिट कार्ड डाउनलोड कर उसे जांच लें। एडमिट कार्ड में किसी तरह की भूल होने की स्थिति में सुधार किया जा सकता है। एडमिट कार्ड को www.jee-main.nic.in पर जाकर डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।



देशभर में 14 लाख विद्यार्थी देंगे एग्जाम

जेईई-2013 परीक्षा में शामिल होने के लिए देशभर से 14, 32, 212 आवेदन जमा किए गए हैं। सीबीएसई के अनुसार, छात्र-छात्राओं की संख्या को देखते हुए ही उन्हें दो तरह की परीक्षा में शामिल होने का विकल्प दिया गया है। इसमें ऑफलाइन और ऑनलाइन परीक्षा शामिल है। परीक्षार्थियों की अधिक संख्या को देखते हुए सभी कार्य ऑनलाइन किए जा रहे हैं। जानकारों के अनुसार, इस बार शहर से लगभग दस हजार विद्यार्थी परीक्षा देंगे।

परीक्षा पर एक नजर

- ऑफलाइन परीक्षा : 7 अप्रैल
- ऑनलाइन एग्जाम : 8 से 25 अप्रैल के बीच
- शहर से परीक्षा देंगे : 10 हजार परीक्षार्थी
- देशभर से शामिल होंगे : 14 लाख से अधिक परीक्षार्थी
- राज्य में सेंटर : जमशेदपुर, रांची, बोकारो व धनबाद
- और यह भी जानें : आईआईटी, जेईई और एनआईटी के लिए एडवांस टेस्ट जरूरी

भूल होने पर दें सूचना

सीबीएसई ने सूचना प्रकाशित कर जैसे छात्र-छात्राओं से जानकारी मांगी है, जिनके एडमिट कार्ड में किसी तरह की गलतियां हुई हैं। जैसे छात्र-छात्राएं डाउनलोड किए गए एडमिट कार्ड को जेईई मेन के इमेल आईडी jeemain@nic.in पर भेज सकते हैं। मुख्यतः एडमिट कार्ड में फोटो, हस्ताक्षर संबंधित गलतियों को सुधार के लिए भेज सकते हैं।

7 अप्रैल को परीक्षा : परीक्षा के लिए छात्रों के सामने दो ऑप्शन, ऑफलाइन (पेपर-पेंसिल बेस्ड) और ऑनलाइन रखा गया है। पेपर-पेंसिल बेस्ड परीक्षा सात अप्रैल और ऑनलाइन परीक्षा आठ से 25 अप्रैल तक विभिन्न सेंटर पर होगी। ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के लिए परीक्षार्थी अपने सुविधानुसार परीक्षा का ऑप्शन चुन सकते हैं।

जेईई एडवांस के लिए चार शहरों में सेंटर : सीबीएसई ने आईआईटी की जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा के लिए चार शहरों में केंद्र बनाने का निर्णय लिया है। इसमें जमशेदपुर, रांची, बोकारो व धनबाद शामिल हैं। आठ से 25 अप्रैल के बीच होने वाली ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के लिए झारखंड के किसी शहर में केंद्र नहीं बनाया गया है।

EARLY GATE 'RESULT' BAFFLES CANDIDATES

HT Correspondent

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BHOPAL: A suspected hacking of the official website of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, the coordinator for Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2013, caused a big confusion among the candidates as GATE 'result' surfaced late on Monday night – four days ahead of the official schedule of the result.

On Tuesday, the IIT-Bombay clarified on its website (www.gate.iitb.ac.in/gate2013) that the result of GATE 2013 has not yet been announced and that it would be announced according to the schedule at 10am on March 15.

Meanwhile, candidates who had appeared for the test grew tensed, searched through the internet and called up the coaching centres to confirm whether the results were actually announced. Candidates who could see their 'result' online late on Monday night were foxed to find the IIT-B GATE result link blocked and the clarification flashing instead.

A candidate from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology was placed second on All India Ranking for the test. But the happiness did not last long.

IIT INDORE'S THREE-DAY FEST FROM MARCH 15

HT Correspondent

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INDORE: Fluxus, the three-day annual techno-cultural festival of IIT Indore, would begin on March 15. The event has two areas -- technical and cultural.

The technical events are conceptualised on various disciplines like robotics, mechanical and civil modelling, electronics and electrical design and computer science and programming. Logic-building as well as Maths and Physics trivia would form the core of these events. These include Robo- 1, Robo Sumo, M-Armada and a plethora of exciting events.

The technical events would be complemented by a cultural fest. The events include Model United Nations, Quizooka and dance and drama competitions along with an essay-writing event for the school students. There would be some professional shows to conclude every day of Fluxus.

The professional shows would have classical performance by percussionist artistes on March 15, a DJ night on March 16 by Dualist Inquiry. The finale of Fluxus would be a live concert on March 17 by contemporary singer Sona Mahapatra.

HT Lucknow

IIIT-A bans Facebook access on campus

K Sandeep Kumar

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ALLAHABAD: The Indian Institute of Information Technology-Allahabad (IIIT-A) has barred its students and staff from accessing social networking site Facebook. The action comes after complaints of threaten and abuse on the social networking site by three of its students.

“The restriction has been imposed with effect from March 1 and will remain in force for an unspecified period,” said a notice issued by dean (student affairs) Prof RC Tripathi.

The premier institute has also warned its students against maintaining web blogs. Insisting that offensive messages on social

officialspeak

Some students are indulging in activities that are against the code of conduct. Explanations have been sought from three students and based on their reply action will be taken. Though access to Facebook has been barred, students will have free access to the Net. MD TIWARI, director, IIIT-A



networking sites and blogs by students are detrimental to the institute's image, the IIIT-A has asked students not to blog and post offensive material as they violate the code of conduct of the institute.

The notice, also sent on e-

mails to teachers, students and other staff members, says that it has been a matter of concern due to the offensive postings against students, faculty members and administration by some of IIIT-A's own students.

It also listed names and

batches of the three students against whom specific complaints had been received in this regard.

While a BTech (IT) 2011 student has been accused of putting up posts threatening a girl student of biomedical engineering, two BTech (IT) 2010 batch students have been charged with using "abusive language".

Meanwhile, the ban on Facebook has not gone down well with both the students as well as faculty members. Though they agree that anyone violating the code of conduct should be punished, majority of them maintain that banning all and sundry for actions of a few was simply unfair.

HT

Cruise missile test aborted mid-flight



- India's first indigenously developed sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' being launched at Chandipur in Odisha on Tuesday.

Deviates from path

BHUBANESWAR: India's first indigenous sub-sonic (slower than the speed of sound in air) cruise missile Nirbhay failed to hit the target in its maiden launch after it was terminated mid-flight following deviation from the flight path.

Defence Research Development Organisation scientists, however, claimed the test was "a very big achievement". DRDO spokesperson Ravi Kumar Gupta said the mission's objective was not reaching the target in the Bay of Bengal, but proving various crucial technologies.

Nirbhay (fearless), with a strike range of 1,000 km, was launched from the DRDO's integrated test range in Chandipur, about 200 km east of Bhubaneswar, at 11.50am. The missile was terminated over the Bay of Bengal after it was airborne for about 25 minutes, but the wreckage fell on a cashew plantation in Jagatsinghpur district. There was no loss of life or property. It is unusual for wreckage from aborted missiles to crash on land. **HTC**

Pioneer , ND 13/03/2013 P-5

HRD Minister seeks Opp's help to clear edu-reform Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju on Tuesday reached out to Lok Sabha's Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj seeking the BJP's support to early passage of pending educational reforms bills. Some of these proposed legislations are pending before Parliament for more than three years. They could not be brought for discussion during the last Winter Session following objections from the Opposition.

Raju had taken over as the HRD Minister in October 2012 and since then he has been talking about taking the Opposition on board for clearances of the long pending bills.

Tuesday's meeting was significant in view of the fact that Raju's predecessor Kapil Sibal achieved little success in getting the Opposition along on the matter despite several attempts.

Raju had last month received letters from some Opposition members expressing their reservations on the Bills, contending that the Legislations

PENDING LIST

- ▶ Educational Tribunals Bill, 2010
- ▶ The Prohibition of Unfair Practices In Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010
- ▶ The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010
- ▶ The Indian Institute of Information Technology Bill, 2013
- ▶ The National Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2013

infringe on the rights of the States. Sources said the HRD Minister is likely to reach out to some other parties to develop a consensus as these Bills holds key to expediting reforms in the higher education sector.

Legislations which are listed for passage during the ongoing session include The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical

Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 and The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010.

The contentious Educational Tribunals Bill, 2010 is also listed for consideration. Sibal had to face some embarrassing moments during the 2010 Monsoon Session in Rajya Sabha when members from his own Congress party raised objections about some of the provisions in the bill.

LS had passed the Legislation which seeks at setting up tribunals to address problems related to higher education. The Ministry thereafter amended some provisions in the Bill for its smooth passage. In this session, the Ministry plans to introduce The Indian Institute of Information Technology Bill, 2013. The National Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2013 for upgrading of BESU in Howrah, West Bengal to the IEST was introduced last week in RS.

Mint ND 13/03/2013 P-6

GOVERNMENT DATA

Universities fail to utilize allocated funds

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

Amid a national debate about the insufficient funding of education and poor employability of students passing out of higher educational institutes, government documents show that several central and state universities have failed to utilize a sizable portion of their allocations, by as much as 66% in some instances. Improper communications to universities, uneven flow of funds, lack of ownership and hesitation in decision making are behind the problem, according to authorities and industry experts.

According to official data between 2009-10 and 2011-12, 23 of the older central universities have an unspent balance of ₹554 crore that's nearly 28% of the total allocation.

Others have fared worse. The Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and Nagaland University have a 40% underutilization record for the above period.

New central universities, which came up in the last four years, have done even more poorly. For instance, the Central University of Himachal Pradesh has only spent around one-third of the funds. In 11th Five-Year Plan ended 31 March, 2012, Delhi University could not spend ₹66 crore while Central University of Tamil Nadu had an unspent balance of ₹89.53 crore.

During the 11th Plan, the University Grants Commission (UGC), the apex regulator of universities, sanctioned just ₹688.76 crore to 131 state universities against an allocation of ₹1,139.63 crore as development grants. The universities were also told about the available funds only in 2009-10, two years after the 11th Plan began. Worse still, these universities utilized only ₹313.35 crore, or less than 28% of the total fund meant for the improvement of universities.

Amit Bhatia, chairman of Aspire India, an education and employability training company, said that "several universities, mainly government ones, don't take decisions. It's a clear case of

lack of ownership and initiative."

Even a parliamentary committee on human resource development last month expressed its displeasure over fund utilization by universities and the response of the UGC. "The committee is not happy with the response... What is required is pro-active action both on parts of the UGC and concerned universities."

Bhatia said teachers and authorities in many government-controlled universities are "not ready to take up administrative responsibility nor they are trained to do so. They hesitate to partner with the private sector. And those who take decisions often face criticism from their peers leading to cancellation of innovation initiatives."

Bhatia's company is currently engaged with 100 universities and colleges to bridge the education-employability mismatch.

He said the underutilization of funds hampers the growth of the institute and employability of students and suggested that a board akin to ones in place for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) could be a solution.

"Like IIMs, there needs to be an industry-academia council headed by a reputed industrialist. And the unspent money needs to be given to this council to utilize it in a manner that will change the curriculum, improve the quality of education, and boost employability," he said.

Even the government's Economic Survey last month pointed to the quality of education and said bottlenecks needed to be removed on a priority basis for better job creation. Raghuram Rajan, chief economic adviser in the finance ministry, echoed this sentiment in an interview with *Mint* last week.

The UGC chairman couldn't be reached.

K.B. Powar, a former secretary general of the Association of Indian Universities, said that it may not be fair to blame the universities. "Many private universities have been set up in places where teachers don't want to go. The infrastructure is not there and students, too, are relatively less. So, how will you spend the funds."

'Ancient Mars may have supported life'

Nasa's Curiosity Mission Finds Chemical Ingredients That Are Key To Sustaining Life

Srinivas Laxman | TNN

Mumbai: The 2.5 billion dollar Curiosity mission has attained a major breakthrough with the six-wheeled one tonne rover finally establishing that ancient Mars could have supported life in the form of living microbes, a Nasa announcement said on Tuesday.

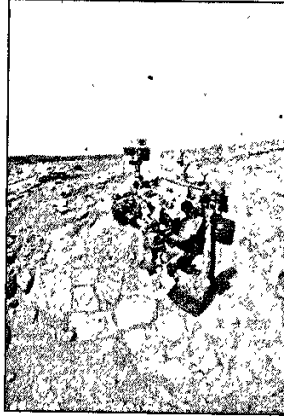
The announcement said that scientists identified sulphur, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and carbon which are some of the key chemical ingredients for life. These were found in the powder Curiosity drilled in February out of a sedimentary rock near an ancient stream bed in Gale Crater of the Red Planet.

It may be recalled that there

was considerable speculation that a scientific meeting at San Francisco sometime back would result in an announcement that the environment of Mars had once supported microbial life. But at a media briefing the scientists did not provide any specific answers to this question.

However, on Tuesday lead scientist for Nasa's Mars Exploration Programme, Michael Meyer was quoted as saying: "A fundamental question for this mission is whether Mars could have supported a habitable environment. From what we know now, the answer is yes."

According to Nasa, clues to this habitable environment came from the data returned by Curiosity's



MILLION-DOLLAR FIND

ty's Sample Analysis at Mars and Chemistry and Mineralogy instruments.

The data indicated that the Yellowknife Bent river system or an intermittently wet lake bed that could have provided chemical energy and other favourable conditions for microbes. The rock is made up of a fine-grained mudstone containing clay minerals, sulphate minerals and other chemicals. This ancient wet environment, unlike some others on Mars was not harshly oxidising, acidic or extremely salty, Nasa stated.

Nasa said that scientists were surprised to find a mixture of oxidised, less oxidised, and even non-oxidised chemicals, provid-

ing an energy gradient of the sort many microbes on earth exploit to live. "This partial oxidation was first hinted at when the drill cuttings were revealed to be gray, rather than red.

Principal investigator, Paul Mahaffy has been quoted as saying that "the range of chemical ingredients we have identified in sample is impressive and it suggests pairings such as sulphates and sulphides that indicate a possible chemical energy source of micro-organisms."

"We have characterised a very ancient, strangely new 'gray Mars' where conditions once were favourable for life," said John Grotzinger, project scientist for the Mars Science Laboratory.