

Newspaper Clips

March 26, 2012

Economic Times ND 26/03/2012 P-3

Fresh Hurdles to Common Science Test

IIT Faculty Federation and Senates of IIT Kanpur and Delhi question HRD move to replace IIT-JEE

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The government's proposal to put in place a common entrance examination for engineering and science has run into a roadblock.

The Senates of IIT Kanpur and Delhi, and the IIT Faculty Federation have questioned the decision to replace the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE). They have decided to ask the human resources development ministry to hold on and further debate the issue of examination reforms. Their objection come soon after states like Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry and West Bengal sought more time to study the proposal.

The ministry hopes to make the common entrance examination, Indian Science Engineering Eligibility Test (ISEET), operational from 2013. This

single national entrance test for admission into engineering and science courses would be applicable for all centrally-funded institutions, such as IITs, National Institutes of Technology, IISER, IIIT, IISc (Bangalore), IIST (Shibpur) and NERIST (Itanagar). It will replace the IIT-JEE—used for admissions by the 15 IITs, Institute of Technology, Benaras Hindu University and Indian School of Mines. It will also replace the AIEEE (All India Engineering Entrance Examination) used by the National Institutes of Technology.

The common eligibility test will consist of two parts. The first will be an aptitude test which will be objective type testing the students' abilities of comprehension, critical thinking, and logical reasoning. The second is an advance test based on the students' problem solving abilities for basic sci-

ence subjects. The aim of both tests would be to indicate the student's scholastic level and aptitude for science and engineering. The new system would also give weightage to the School Board Examination or class XII results. The proposal considered by the Central Advisory Board on Education set 60:40 weightage ratio for the eligibility test and class XII results, respectively.

The Senate has disapproved the manner in which the HRD ministry is pushing through these changes. The Senate is the highest decision making body in the IIT. The IIT Faculty Federation has opposed the proposed reforms, arguing that the new examination system wouldn't be able to assess whether students have either the aptitude or knowledge to be admitted to the country's top engineering schools. The Senate of IIT Kanpur is under-

stood to have differed with the proposed single entrance test with weightage formula for admission into IITs. The senate members said the method suggested for factoring in Class-XII score in selection would not help the IITs to ensure that the best students were admitted. Their argument is that since the assessment system varies among school boards, it would be not be possible to assess all students by the same scale and weightage. The IIT Faculty Federation is also opposing the weightage formula.

In its proposal the ministry has suggested a statistical method for normalisation of school board scores. This is based on a pilot testing carried by the Indian Statistical Institute in respect of the evaluation made for 3-4 years for the four selected Boards (CBSE, ISE, Tamil Nadu Board and West Bengal Board).

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ND

26/03/2012 p-6

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

Summit organised at the Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi

The Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, recently organised its flagship leadership summit 'Building India Inc'. Themed 'Developing Synergy', this year's edition brought together experts from academia, corporate, government and media. The event was inaugurated by Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag and the Head of Department, Prof Sudhir K Jain. The event also saw the commencement of Anushthana—a DMS student initiative championing the donation of education to less privileged children.

isplay.com - 4 city innovators in MIT technology list - 26...

http://library.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/services/Print...

4 city innovators in MIT technology list

BELOW 35 PhD students to share stage with scientists and academics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology at conference in Bengaluru

Snehal Rebello

snehal_rebello@businesstimes.com

MUMBAI: In 2008, VSK Murthy Balijepalli, a doctorate student at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B), would predict the prices of shares by analysing the stock market merely as a hobby.

Over the years, the hobby turned into a profession. The only difference being, Balijepalli replaced the stock exchange with the power industry and developed a technology to forecast the price and load of electricity.

The 26-year-old's technology has found him a spot among the 20 technology innovators in the country selected by the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Technology Review India. The magazine announced the names of the young innovators, all below the age of 35, on March 10.

This year, IIT-B has emerged as India's hottest technology innovation centre with three of its researchers in the list. Of the 20 innovators, five belong to Maharashtra - four of which are from Mumbai (See Profiles).

On March 27, these young innovators will share the stage with eminent scientists and academics from MIT at the MIT Technology Review's emerging technologies conference at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

In its third year, MIT Tech Review India received 250 nominations from those below the age of 35 years. Last year there were 200 nominations, while in 2010 there were only 110 entries. In 2011, 18 Indian innovations made it to the final list.

Till date, Technology Review India has identified 37 young innovators, most of who repre-

MIT TECH REVIEW INDIA

THE MAGAZINE BEGAN in 2010 to help identify young talent in India the field of science and technology.

IT RECEIVED 250 NOMINATIONS from those below the age of 35 years this year.

LAST YEAR there were 200 nominations, while in 2010 there were only 110 entries.

IN 2011, 18 innovations made it to the final list.

TILL DATE, the magazine has identified 37 young innovators, most of who represent small and medium-sized private research institutions.

sent small and medium-sized private research institutions.

"Two decades of economic liberalisation has unleashed the innovative energies of Indians in private sector firms in the technology sector. But seeing the presence of technology innovators from the country's public institutions in this edition is a matter of pride," said Narayanan Suresh, editor, Technology Review India.

Mumbai is second to Bengaluru, which had five innovators that made it to the prestigious list.

Bangalore-based executive, Anirudh Sharma, 24, has been named Indian Innovator of the Year under the age of 35. Sharma designed a shoe that guides the vision impaired in the direction that they need to go.

winning innovations

Chemotherapy through an inhaler

NITIN JOSHI, 28

Moving away from the painful method of administering chemotherapy intravenously, Nitin Joshi has developed a way to inhale anti-cancer drugs.

He has developed a dual compartment nano particle - a microscopic particle containing two anti-cancer drugs that lung cancer patients can inhale during chemotherapy sessions.

"In advanced cases of lung cancer, doctors prescribe a combination of drugs that create a lot of toxicity in the body.

Conventional chemotherapy is limited because of its non-specificity, poor pharmacokinetics (study of how the body reacts to the drug) and multi-drug resistance," said Joshi, a PhD student. "We have developed a mechanism that increases the effectiveness of the drug and decreases toxicity and side-effects."

In liquid form, these multi-compartment nanostructures with anticancer drugs - pacli-

FIELD: Biomedicine
INNOVATION: Non-invasive chemotherapy
INSTITUTE: Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, Powai

taxel and curcumin - can be balanced for accurate release into the lungs. "Administering non-invasive chemotherapy means aerosol delivery of drugs, similar to the inhalation system used by asthmatics. The solution has to be put into a nebuliser and when the patient inhales the drug, the mist will directly reach the lungs," said Joshi, who started his research three-and-a-half years ago. The dual compartment technology has been patented. The animal trials are complete and it is in the clinical trials stage.



There is no polluting smoke with this fire

VANTERU REDDY, 30

Concerned about global warming and its effects on humans, Vanteru Reddy has achieved flameless combustion with liquid fuels that are used in aircraft engines and industrial furnaces. Using kerosene as fuel and air as oxidiser, Reddy has developed a laboratory-scale flameless combustor that can reduce nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions. "Global warming can be controlled by bringing down the levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. Nitrogen dioxide can cause acid rains and bio-depletion of oxygen," said Reddy, PhD student. "Therefore, it was important to develop a system that can operate in flameless combustion mode with liquid fuels and reduce emission levels." While researchers have achieved flameless combustion with gaseous fuels, there has



FIELD: Energy

INNOVATION: Flameless combustion with liquid fuels

INSTITUTE: Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, Powai

been very little work reported on flameless combustion with liquid fuels. Burning of liquid fuels flamelessly is more difficult compared to gaseous fuels because of several processes involved. The Aeronautics Research and Development Board, Bengaluru has tested Reddy's technology.

Betting on the price, load of electricity

VSK MURTHY, 26

This technology on predicting accurate electricity price and load can improve energy efficiency in distribution networks across India. Called km-stochastic error correction technique (km-SEC), VSK Murthy Balijepalli's patented innovation is customised for Indian players to provide an accurate forecast of electricity price, effective load, and grid frequency. The technology will help private players predict the cost of electricity which will help them bid at the Indian Energy Exchange market.

"At present, tools to predict price and load of electricity have to be customised for Indian players. A 0.5% improvement in price forecasting will save billions of rupees for a utility with 600 megawatt capacity and monthly savings of 18% to 22% in elec-



FIELD: Energy

INNOVATION: Forecasting the price and load of electricity

INSTITUTE: Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, Powai

tricity bills for commercial buildings," said Balijepalli, a PhD student IIT-B. Since last year, Balijepalli has been receiving royalty for this technology after it was commercialised through licensing by Kalkitech, a Bangalore-based company working on smart grid solutions.

Putting city's carbon emissions to good use

VIVEK NAIR, 23

He uses polluting carbon emissions as a raw material and converts them into carbon nanotubes - a black powder, which can be used to make products such as steel and rubber more durable.

Vivek Nair's one-year-old start-up, Damascus Fortune, has tied up with rice mills to capture their carbon emissions and make carbon nanotubes.

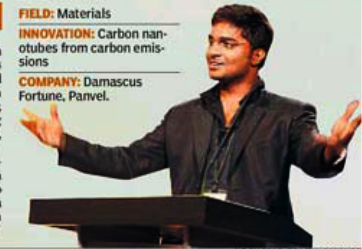
"The traditional approach of producing carbon nanotubes matches with conditions found in industrial furnaces and even vehicular exhausts," said Nair, a PhD student at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

The challenge is to manufacture carbon nanotubes on a mass scale. His work has also won him the National Research Development Corporation Building Innovations Award.

FIELD: Materials

INNOVATION: Carbon nanotubes from carbon emissions

COMPANY: Damascus Fortune, Panvel.



यूनिवर्सिटी ही नहीं, कोर्स की भी रेटिंग

यूजीसी ने तैयार किया 5 साल का प्लान, डिपार्टमेंट को भी मिलेगी रैंकिंग

भूपेंद्र ॥ नई दिल्ली

यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमिशन (यूजीसी) ने 12वें फाइव ईयर प्लान का जो प्रपोजल तैयार किया है, उसमें यूनिवर्सिटियों के 'प्रोग्राम अक्रेडिटेशन' को प्रमुखता से शामिल किया गया है। अभी यूजीसी की स्वायत्त संस्था नेशनल असेसमेंट एंड अक्रेडिटेशन कार्डसिल (नैक) यूनिवर्सिटीज व कॉलेजों को अक्रेडिटेशन देती है, लेकिन यूजीसी चाहती है कि स्टूडेंट्स को यूनिवर्सिटी के हर डिपार्टमेंट व वहां पर पढ़ाए जाने वाले सभी कोर्सेज की क्वालिटी के बारे में भी पता चल सके।

इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए फैकल्टी/ डिपार्टमेंट के अक्रेडिटेशन यानी रैंकिंग का प्रपोजल भी तैयार किया गया है। इस नियम के लागू होने के बाद स्टूडेंट्स को एडमिशन के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी या कॉलेज चुनने में काफी आसानी हो जाएगी। उन्हें पहले से ही पता होगा कि यूनिवर्सिटी व वहां के कोर्सेज का क्या स्टैंडर्ड है? यूजीसी के मुताबिक सभी यूनिवर्सिटी को नैक से मान्यता मिलेगी और डिपार्टमेंट का अक्रेडिटेशन 'नेशनल अक्रेडिटेशन अथॉरिटी' से करवाया जाए। अक्रेडिटेशन को अनिवार्य बनाया जा रहा है।

अभी तक नैक पूरी यूनिवर्सिटी को ग्रेड देता है। यूजीसी के मुताबिक यूनिवर्सिटी का अक्रेडिटेशन तो जरूरी है ही, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ डिपार्टमेंट अक्रेडिटेशन भी लागू होना चाहिए, क्योंकि यूनिवर्सिटी के अक्रेडिटेशन से यह पता नहीं चल पाता कि वहां की अलग-अलग फैकल्टी व डिपार्टमेंट की



नया फॉर्म्युला...

- ▶ अब तक केवल पूरी यूनिवर्सिटी और कॉलेजों को ही मिलता है अक्रेडिटेशन
- ▶ इससे यूनिवर्सिटी में कोर्सों या विभाग की अच्छी-बुरी स्थिति नहीं पता चलती
- ▶ नई स्कीम में विभाग व कोर्सों को मिलेगी मान्यता, छात्रों को होगी सहूलियत
- ▶ अमेरिका समेत कई दूसरे देशों में इस सिस्टम को अपनाया गया है

क्या स्थिति है? हर यूनिवर्सिटी में कुछ डिपार्टमेंट बहुत बेहतर होते हैं, जबकि कुछ डिपार्टमेंट में सुधार की काफी गुंजाइश होती है। केवल यूनिवर्सिटी को ही मान्यता देने से ऐसे कमजोर डिपार्टमेंट की वास्तविक स्थिति सामने नहीं आ पाती। लेकिन डिपार्टमेंट की मान्यता से यह समस्या दूर हो जाएगी। कोर्स वाइज ग्रेडिंग से छात्रों को फायदा होगा। यूजीसी के मुताबिक अमेरिका और दूसरे कई देशों में यह तरीका अपनाया जा रहा है। जैसे इंजीनियरिंग साइंसेज, मैनेजमेंट साइंसेज, फिजिकल एंड केमिकल साइंसेज, लाइफ साइंसेज व सोशल साइंसेज एंड ह्यूमैनिटीज को ग्रेड दी जाती है। इसी तरह से देश की यूनिवर्सिटियों में भी यही सिस्टम फॉलो किया जा सकता है।

यूजीसी ने जो डॉक्युमेंट तैयार किया है उसमें बताया गया है कि नैक से अक्रेडिटेशन का प्रोसेस पिछले 17 सालों से चल रहा है, लेकिन अभी तक 534 यूनिवर्सिटियों में से केवल 75 ने ही नैक से मान्यता ली है। वहीं 31,324 कॉलेजों में से केवल 1415 ने ही मान्यता ली है। अब यूजीसी नैक से मान्यता के नियम को सख्ती से लागू करने की बात कह रही है।

यूजीसी का मानना है कि यूनिवर्सिटी और कॉलेजों में एजुकेशन के स्टैंडर्ड पर खास ध्यान दिए जाने की जरूरत है। जून, 2010 तक केवल 25 पर्सेंट हायर एजुकेशन संस्थानों ने ही नैक से मान्यता ली है और इनमें से 30 पर्सेंट यूनिवर्सिटी व 45 पर्सेंट कॉलेजों को ही 'ए' रैंकिंग मिली है। यानी बाकी इंस्टिट्यूशन में एजुकेशन की क्वालिटी में सुधार की काफी गुंजाइश है।

Edu grievance cell on cards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: From the next academic year, students seeking admissions to courses in universities and affiliated colleges or technical and management institutes will have a grievance redressal body.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will soon issue a notification directing all professional and technical institutes across the country to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal.

“Every institute will need to appoint an ombudsman with legal experience,” said AICTE chairman SS Mantha.

“If there is paucity of eligible people, then one ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges. For example, colleges in an area can be considered as one cluster. The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitation fee issues,” he added.

Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including a retired high court judge, an “eminent social personality from the education sector” and academician, said sources.

“During admissions, a student does not belong to any institute as he/she has passed out from school or ju-

Class Matters

▶ AICTE to issue a notification directing professional and technical institutes to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal

▶ One ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges in an area

▶ Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including an HC judge

▶ The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitation fee issues

nior college and is yet to enrol in a degree college. The ombudsman or the grievance redressal body will help the students if they face any trouble during the process,” added Mantha.

The ministry of human resources and development initiative will also be implemented by the University Grants Commission in all universities and affiliated colleges. The ombudsman will hear grievances like non-refund of fees on cancellation of admissions, discrimination, non-compliance of rules and withholding of documents. Mantha was speaking at a seminar organized by a B-school in the city.

Police probe ‘firing’ after road rage in Powai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The police are probing into a brawl between two persons when their vehicles brushed each other in Powai on Wednesday night.

The accused, Shekar Puranik (36), stepped out of his car and pulled out a starting pistol, which is used to flag off races, and started firing in the direction of biker Mohammed Ansari (19).

“Both of them had a heated exchange. Puranik then



‘ACCUSED HAS GUN LICENCE’

pulled out a gun and fired, which locals believed to be real bullets. A passing patrol brought both of them to the police station,” said Bhajirao Bhosle, senior inspector of Powai police station.

Bhosle said the two settled their differences and didn’t lodge a complaint. “It was found that Puranik possessed a starting pistol for which he had a licence. It has been confiscated and will be returned after completion of the probe,” Bhosle added.

Hindustan Times, ND
26/03/2012

P-9

First hybrid business management, law course at IIM-Shillong

Vanita Srivastava

■ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: IIM-Shillong is all set to become the first management institution in the country, and the second in the world, to offer a programme blending business management and law. According to officials, it will launch the course in collaboration with the National University of Juridical Sciences-Kolkata (NUJS-K) from July this year.

An institute in Germany is the only other educational institution in the world that provides a course hybridising law and management, said programme chairman Prof DK Agarwal.

The PG executive diploma programme will have 30 seats, and the institute is in the process of working out the fee component. Like other executive programmes, this one will also require work experience.

A formal advertisement for the course will be published in May.

The initial period of the 15-month course will be devoted to courses on law and management, and the last few months will stress on synchronisation of law and management. While teachers from the NUJS-K will teach subjects pertaining to law, IIM-S faculty will handle the management side of the syllabus.

Stating that the course will strive to meet futuristic requirement of the corporate sector, Agarwal said the institute's broader objective was to innovate on new fronts.

"This course will provide managers with a working knowledge of the law, especially that pertaining to businesses. During our discussions, we realised this course could help judicial officers inculcate managerial acumen and improve managers' legal prowess," he added.

Mint ND 26/03/2012

P-1

138 professional colleges to shut shop

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

As many as 138 institutions offering professional courses in engineering, computer applications and management studies will soon stop functioning due to low admission rates and poor campus placement.

This might be the beginning of the end of the so-called mom and pop education shops that mushroomed across the country at the turn of the century as India's economy expanded at a frenetic pace and professional training fetched an immediate premium.

Although the growth has slackened a bit, the demand for skilled personnel hasn't. What seems to have changed is that professional institutes now need to deliver on quality or perish.

Students are attracted towards these technical institutions essentially because they hope to secure a job on graduation, said S.S. Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education, the regulatory body for technical education. "Clearly, that's not happening."

"We have received applications from 138 colleges, including management, engineering and MCA (master in computer applications) institutions, for closure of operation," said Mantha.

Between October and February, 60 business schools, 30 MCA colleges and 15 engineering colleges have applied for closure, official data shows. Many of these are located in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The number may increase before the start of the next academic session, the regulator said.

The interaction between many such institutes and the industry is poor and teaching standards are often questionable, Mantha said, adding that the professional education space in India might also be showing signs of consolidation.

"Industry interaction and in-campus placement is largely limited to major cities and top institutions in technical education," said Rahul Dhandhania, consultant, education practice at consulting and auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. "The consolidation is starting, and once foreign institutes are allowed to set up (independent) campuses, the poor performers will either close down or change hands."

A draft legislation on allowing foreign universities to open Indian campuses is pending in Parliament.

"The entire technical education system in the country is in

138 professional colleges to shut shop

▶ FROM PAGE 1

the doldrums," said Rajan Saxena, vice-chancellor of Mumbai-based Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies. "Nearly 60% of the engineering and 40% of the management seats are going vacant."

According to a 1 February note from credit rating firm Crisil, the average occupancy rate declined in 2011-12 to around 67% for engineering colleges and about 65% for business schools.

"Occupancy levels are under

pressure due to the significant increase in the number of seats across colleges, shortage of skilled faculty, absence of industry link-ups, (and) increasing awareness among students about the quality of education imparted by colleges," Crisil said.

R. Panickar, director general of Indo Global Colleges, a chain of private colleges in Punjab, said: "Students are now conscious that college management cannot lure them without providing quality teaching and a relatively good job."

B.S. Baswan, a former secretary with the ministry of human resource development and a former senior advisor with the Planning Commission, said

that when the Indian economy has seen a downturn, placement has been affected and this must have contributed to professional colleges opting to close down. "Industry punishes the inefficient and it becomes visible during a downturn," he said.

Although colleges closing down is not a good sign, it will

not affect India's long-term plan to create large numbers of skilled professionals, according to Mantha.

"If you see, the overall scenario is improving. One hundred and thirty-eight institutes may have applied for closure, but many more new institutes are seeking our approval to run operations," he

said. "Net-net, it's a growth." In 2011, India had nearly 3,500 management schools and over 4,000 engineering colleges, official data show.

Between Oct and Feb,
60 business schools,
30 MCA colleges and
15 engineering
colleges have applied
for closure

TRIBUNE ND 26/03/2012 p-10

Divers bring out IIT student's body from Beas waters

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, MARCH 25

A pall of gloom descended on students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, today after divers brought out the body of Prahhar Shah, a second-year BTech student of the IIT, from the Beas here.

Shah, who belonged to Andhra Pradesh, along with his four friends, had gone to swim in the Beas from their hostel room at Sauli Khad to beat the heat in the afternoon. The river has lean discharge these days.

His friends said Prahhar dived into the river to swim across. However, he did not come out. He knew swimming, they said. They raised the alarm and informed the IIT administration, the police, the fire brigade and locals, who reached the spot, but failed to spot the boy.

Divers from Sundernagar were summoned. The rescue operation was carried out in the presence of IIT Director T Gonsalves and police and district officials.

The victim, Prahhar Shah, a second-year BTech student of the IIT, Mandi, belonged to Andhra Pradesh and had gone to swim in the Beas along with his four friends

He, along with the staff and students of the institute, have mourned the death of the student and warned the students not to venture near the river.

After a four-hou-long exercise, the divers spotted Prahhar's body on the river bed.

Diver Udham Singh said the boy had dived into a pool of water which was more than 50 ft deep. "There were no visible injury marks on the body," he said.

SP, Mandi, Ahishek Dular said the police had ruled out foul play in the incident. However, they were waiting for the postmortem report.

A spokesperson for the IIT said the administration had informed Prahhar's parents and they were expected to reach Mandi tonight from Andhra Pradesh.

INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR ISEET

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 25**

Intermediate students are preparing for the single national engineering entrance test, Iseet, which will replace IIT-JEE and AIEEE from next year as the qualifying exam for admission into the IITs, NITs and other reputed technical institutions.

Many coaching centres have come up across the city, drawing students who have completed the first year of the Inter course. Their emphasis is on the 10+2 exam since Iseet gives 40 per cent weightage to 10+2 marks.

But those who have completed the Intermediate course this year are worried: if they don't make it into the IITs this year, how will they prepare for Iseet next year? Currently, Inter students are allowed to appear for IIT-JEE twice, the first time immediately after completion of the Inter course, and the second the following year.

"In the old method, we focused only on IIT-JEE preparation," said P. Shank, who finished Inter this year. "We just aimed at 60 to 70 per cent marks in Inter exams. We will be at a loss if we attempt Iseet next year as there is 40 per cent weightage for Inter marks in it. Students who score more than 90 per cent marks in Inter will be at an advantage," he added.

He is hoping that the Centre will make changes in the exam for the fresh batch of Inter students taking admission this year.



BY INVITATION



Anuradha Kapur

There has been a history of theatre obituaries. First with the advent of cinema, and then with the emergence of television. However, theatre has survived it all, and the audience is only growing. What gives theatre its connect with the audience is actors performing live in front of and for the crowd.

For people choosing theatre, be it today or 30 years ago, the motivation has remained unchanged.

across the world, there are multiple specialisations and even schools to choose from, which include children's theatre, physical theatre, community drama, etc. With not many options available in India, the focus here is to try and give students as varied a vocabulary as possible so that they can then choose the area that suits them best. Therefore, the primary focus here is on practice. Practice-oriented institutes adopt an academic strategy of presenting different methodologies of acting, direction, design, etc, so that students have as many vocabularies and working knowledge in the field as possible.

WHAT IT TAKES

If one wants to make theatre a profession, one has to go



STAGE CRAFT

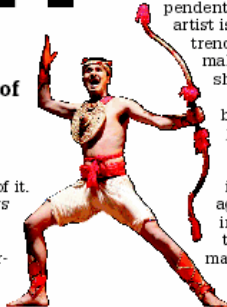
Even two decades ago, a full-time career in theatre was not viable. Now it is, says **Anuradha Kapur**, Director, National School of Drama, on the eve of World Theatre Day (March 27)

What has changed over time is the fact that theatre is today considered mainstream and a career as an artist is a viable option.

INDIA & THE WORLD
In theatre or drama schools

While every student is trained to the highest level in a specific discipline (acting, community drama, dance, management, music, theatre technology and design), we integrate these skills within an overall curriculum that places collaboration at its heart. The reason? Try and think of a single performing arts event where one person has done everything. Hard isn't it?

through the rigours of it. One of the first things an arts institute hopes to do is to make students understand that theatre is work.

**CAREER OPTIONS**

Today, actors are beginning to see themselves as the leaders of what they want to do, not necessarily just a part of a project. Hence, besides acting for groups or companies, an independently functioning artist is also a growing

trend where actors make their own shows.

There has also been a quantum jump in the allied careers in theatre, like lighting, theatre management, which involves running the show; event management, make-up, scenic design, sound design, and costume — opportunities in all of which are growing exponentially.

Even two decades ago, a full-time career in theatre was not viable. Now it is. Today there are remunerative careers in theatre.

PERFORMANCE, THE NEW THEATRE

Arjun Ghosh, theatre artist, and faculty, department of humanities and social sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, shares his view on some new trends in the study and practice of theatre

Academically, in the world of theatre, study of performance and drama is catching up as a trend. There are two kinds of performances — one, which is 'the' performance and second, an act in real life, for example, someone playing football.

The second kind is a performance, much beyond the stage experience. For example, the recent anti-corruption movement led by social activist, Anna Hazare, can be a perfect example of performances, which are in the moment of social change. This is also called political or protest theatre.

Performance studies are popular and are being taken up by many theatre students these days. However, nothing much has happened in India in the last five-10 years. Here, theatre as a career option is not lucrative. In contrast, globally, theatre is a viable profession in countries like Italy, France, Britain and Australia. This is because they get a lot of government funding.

But, on a brighter side, a lot of exciting work is happening outside the government ambit. Many independent theatre groups are coming up, which besides staging plays also run as training schools and are producing good artists.

MARK FEATHERSTONE-WITTY, FOUNDED PRINCIPAL/CEO, LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS (LIPA)

Continued on page 2

- As told to Vatsala Strangi

Edu grievance cell on cards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: From the next academic year, students seeking admissions to courses in universities and affiliated colleges or technical and management institutes will have a grievance redressal body.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will soon issue a notification directing all professional and technical institutes across the country to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal.

“Every institute will need to appoint an ombudsman with legal experience,” said AICTE chairman SS Mantha.

“If there is paucity of eligible people, then one ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges. For example, colleges in an area can be considered as one cluster. The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitation fee issues,” he added.

Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including a retired high court judge, an “eminent social personality from the education sector” and an academician, said sources.

“During admissions, a student does not belong to any institute as he/she has passed out from school or ju-

Class Matters

▶ AICTE to issue a notification directing professional and technical institutes to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal

▶ One ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges in an area

▶ Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including an HC judge

▶ The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitation fee issues

nior college and is yet to enrol in a degree college. The ombudsman or the grievance redressal body will help the students if they face any trouble during the process,” added Mantha.

The ministry of human resources and development initiative will also be implemented by the University Grants Commission in all universities and affiliated colleges. The ombudsman will hear grievances like non-refund of fees on cancellation of admissions, discrimination, non-compliance of rules and withholding of documents. Mantha was speaking at a seminar organized by a B-school in the city.

Police probe ‘firing’ after road rage in Powai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The police are probing into a brawl between two persons when their vehicles brushed each other in Powai on Wednesday night.

The accused, Shekar Puranik (36), stepped out of his car and pulled out a starting pistol, which is used to flag off races, and started firing in the direction of biker Mohammed Ansari (19).

“Both of them had a heated exchange. Puranik then



‘ACCUSED HAS GUN LICENCE’

pulled out a gun and fired, which locals believed to be real bullets. A passing patrol brought both of them to the police station,” said Bhajirao Bhosle, senior inspector of Powai police station.

Bhosle said the two settled their differences and didn’t lodge a complaint. “It was found that Puranik possessed a starting pistol for which he had a licence. It has been confiscated and will be returned after completion of the probe,” Bhosle added.