

Newspaper Clips

March 27, 2011

Indian Express, ND 27/03/2011

p-1

From this year, two B.Techs from IIT-K in just one more year

KAUTILYA SINGH
KANPUR 1 MARCH 26

ALLOWING students more flexibility as lines between disciplines get blurred in frontier research, the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) is set to become the first in the country to allow students to complete B.Tech. programmes in two different streams in just five years.

At present, a B.Tech programme in one stream is completed in eight semesters over a period of four years. But from the new academic year (2011-12), students will have the op-

portunity of completing B.Tech. programmes in two different streams in five years.

A student wishing to pursue B.Tech course in an additional stream will have to inform the IIT-K authorities between the second and sixth semesters. Depending on the student's performance, the authorities will decide whether to approve the request or not. If approved, the student will get an additional year — after completing the four-year B.Tech course in one stream — to pursue the degree in the second stream.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Now, get two B.Techs from IIT-K in one more year

Confirming this, IIT-K director Sanjay Govind Dhande said there have been many students who find out that they have better opportunities in a different stream. "Our initiative will definitely come as a major boost to such students," he said.

"This change will be applicable only for new students who get admission from 2011-12," he said. "This will be the first time when an IIT will be awarding B.Tech. degrees to a student in two different streams in a span of five years," Dhande added.

At present, the institute offers B.Tech. programmes in nine different streams: Aerospace Engineering, Bio Sciences and Bio Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial and Management Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Materials and Metallurgical Engineering.

In another major move, the institute has cut down the M.Tech. course by a year. This means that B.Tech. students who wish to pursue the masters' degree in the same stream can do so by spending just one additional year. At present the institute runs a two-year M.Tech. course.

Moreover, the five-year integrated M.Sc. course will also be replaced by a four-year inte-

grated B.Sc. course from the new academic sessions. Students who wish to pursue M.Sc. will have to spend an additional year.

According to Dhande, the IIT-K has formed an Academic Programme Review Committee (APRC) comprising of senior faculty and staff members to keep in touch with the changing education trends across the world.

"On the APRC's recommendations, we bring about the required changes in our educational format once every decade," he said. The changes

Answer-sheets of JEE online

KANPUR: In an effort to ensure transparency, IIT-K director Sanjay Govind Dhande said that all aspirants for the IIT JEE 2011 will get a separate password with which he/she can view his/her answer-sheet and marks online. Within 48 hours of the exam, the correct answers will be posted online. After the results are declared, the scanned copies of the answer-sheets will be uploaded, which can be accessed with individual passwords. **ENS**

announced by IIT-K in the B.Tech., M.Tech. and M.Sc. courses will be applicable till 2020. "Following the concept of integrated engineering, we have brought about the changes in different courses," said Dhande.

"Students are given credit points for attending lecturers, completing assignments on time, attending

practical classes and extra-curricular activities. Only those students who live up to our expectations will be given permission to pursue B.Tech. in two courses or complete M.Sc. and M.Tech. in five years," said Dhande. "The requests of student getting between 390 credits and 430 credits during their course will be entertained. The selected students will be asked to collect additional 100 credits before they get our final nod."

Hindustan Times Chandigarh 26.03.11 p-7

Check IIT-JEE marks online

Charu Sudan Kasturi

charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Students appearing for the highly competitive entrance examination of the Indian Institutes of Technology this year can for the first time see their answer scripts after evaluation and compare their scores with their answers.

The IITs will place on the net scanned copies of answer scripts of each of the estimated 4.85 lakh students appearing for the IIT Joint Entrance Examination on April 11, IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande told HT on Friday. IIT Kanpur is in charge of organising the IIT-JEE this year. The move is among three dramatic admission process reforms the IITs will formally

announce, possibly on Saturday, to regain any loss of faith in the IIT-JEE, ravaged by repeated controversies since 2006. "The answer scripts can be accessed by a student-specific password," Dhande said. Apart from making answer scripts available, the IITs will announce the correct answers to all questions in the IIT-JEE within 48 hours of the test, Dhande said. Students at present have to rely on coaching centres in the immediate aftermath of the IIT-JEE for answers to questions.

Each student will also receive marks at the time of result declaration — irrespective of whether the student has qualified, he said. Only students who qualify receive marks at present, and that too much after the exam

results are declared.

Together, these measures will for the first time allow reach student to evaluate his or her own performance and point out any problem in their marking by the IITs before the admission process is over and it is too late for corrective action. The reforms will also enable students who do not qualify to identify areas of weakness, and whether they are close enough to qualifying to appear for a second time next year. The IITs failed to explain the cut-offs they used for the JEE in 2006 till last year. They offered three explanations for the cut-offs that they subsequently changed, once it was exposed that explanations cited did not yield the cut-offs used. Over 1,000 students suffered.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Mar 27, 2011;Section: Times Nation;Page: 17;

Pitroda calls present edu system obsolete

Bhubaneswar: Pushing for a change in the teaching system, chairman of Innovation Council Sam Pitroda said the present model has become “essentially obsolete.” Delivering the 43rd convocation address of Utkal University, Pitroda said, “Only innovation and technology can save higher education in India.”

“A lot of graduates are not well-equipped to meet the challenges at the work place. Much of the skilled manpower is not qualified. We have to focus on the mismatch. Our universities have to innovate locally,” he said, adding, “our universities produce IT graduates but they don’t use IT.”

Pitroda suggested to university authorities set up incubation centres and work for longer shifts. **TNN**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Mar 27, 2011;Section: Times Nation;Page: 17;

V-Cs throw weight behind semester system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi University is still struggling to put the semester system in place but that did not stop more than 200 vice-chancellors of central and state universities to recommend the system and even assessment of teachers by students.

The other recommendations made by the V-Cs at the end of their two-day conference were no less lofty.

At a time when even a slight fee increase becomes a political issue, the V-Cs said the central and state universities should be allowed to revise the fee structure by at least 10% for every three-year period. The meeting also recommended that number of colleges attached to a single university should not exceed

more than 40 or 50. It is unlikely that the recommendations will ever get implemented.

Realising the difficulty in implementation, HRD minister Kapil Sibal told the V-Cs to get back to the ministry within a month stating the recommendations which are doable. Sibal said he would take up recommendations with the state education ministers and even put them on the agenda of the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

Strangely, there was no recommendation on reform in the examination and admission system. In fact, Sibal had to remind the V-Cs about the big miss. The V-Cs also suggested a credit-based system and said external assessment of colleges/universities/institutions was a must.

What ails engineering education

Sriram Balasubramanian

Engineering education in Tamil Nadu, which is the best in the nation, produces brilliant students but does not necessarily produce path-breaking research in the country that can cause global difference.

The reasons are deep and fundamental in nature. The crux lies in the structure, the syllabi, and the attitude of the entire system.

Starting from the top, the structure needs a change. Engineering colleges in the State come under one major university. Essentially what happens is that there is hefty lobbying for the pristine post of Vice-Chancellor and, as a result, numerous obligations are present for the man at the top post, as such, objectivity in policy-making is almost non-existent.

The man at the helm is given a mere three years and while a three-year term is a good barometer of one's performance, there does not seem to exist structured processes which check the level of performance, the level of corruption, if any, and the level of personal gains from any of the policies undertaken. If the committee to choose the top post is monitored by the Supreme Court (since such a huge set of colleges are under it), then there would be more transparency within the system. Furthermore, more continuity and independence should be given to the VC's so that he/she can implement policies without hindrance. The engineering syllabus barring the IIT is outdated and needs a revamp. For example, there is a course called professional ethics. This is crucial but if you ask any engineering student, he will laugh at what goes on in this class. The person teaching the subject is clueless and would be reading a bunch of rhetorical monologues from a book throughout the course. On the contrary, the coursework should be more interactive and not just theoretical in nature, aiming at showing the student how much he/she could relate it to his or her future profession. The emphasis should be not on how much you memorise, but on how much you apply what you memorise. Courses should be based on industry-student interactions and have a broader outlook on life, not the narrow mindset of passing an exam. One of the major changes that can be done is to bring young professors in the university on the review committee for syllabus change. A perfect amalgamation of the young and the old would help revamp the syllabi in such a way that it fits into the youthful dynamics of today and yet retains the wisdom of yesteryear.

Attitude needs a change everywhere. One of the major drawbacks with government colleges is that they have a sloppy administration. Professionalism and accountability need to be brought in in the form of having a private organisation monitor the administration till it reaches a certain level of efficiency. One of the ways to inculcate professionalism and make the staff accountable is to pay them more.

Fortunately, after the Sixth Pay Commission the professor earns a creditable Rs. 80,000 a month and this would help change the attitude of some faculty who are grudging the lack of a decent salary. Their grudge is justified considering the disparity in pay with graduated students profitably employed in the private sectors. Having said this, if this grudge gets translated into being lethargic at work and grading students with a personal vendetta, this trend can get dangerous. An increase in pay also results in more quality faculty coming into the system within the engineering colleges and thus following the law of cyclic reactions, the knowledge imparted to the students also increases.

(The writer is a Graduate Student in the Engineering Management University of Southern California, Los Angeles. His email is: rams7777@msn.com)

IF YOU SUCCEED IN INDIA, YOU SUCCEED ANYWHERE: PM AT IIM-A

BS REPORTER
Ahmedabad, 26 March

Motivating management graduates to become global leaders at the 46th annual convocation of the country's premier B-school, the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today emphasised the country's significance as a training ground for managers.

The convocation saw Gujarat Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal and Chief Minister Narendra Modi sharing the dais with the Prime Minister. In his convocation address to the 46th passing-



Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi (left) along with Governor Kamla Beniwal and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at IIM-A's 46th convocation. PHOTO: YASIN D

out batch today, Singh touched upon various issues including the progress after economic reforms, quality of the Indian

managers and the potential rural markets in the country. Taking note of the country's progress over the past 20 years, since the

Modi hands PM list of demands

BS REPORTER
Ahmedabad, 26 March

In a representation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi brought up the long-pending issues of the state. Modi raised the issue of gas allocation to the power plants in Gujarat as already ap-

proved and said the injustice suffered by CNG vehicle owners in the form of frequent increase in CNG prices should be addressed. He also said the move that nearly 130 items, exempted from central excise duty, had been proposed to be covered under the excise net would impose an extra burden on people.

economic reforms took place in the early 1990s, the Prime Minister said: "The path was new, the challenges were formidable, the outcomes were uncertain. But our resolve was strong and

our goals were clear: The reforms of 1991 were aimed at unleashing the animal spirits of Indian enterprise and the wellsprings of Indian creativity. Today, the success of the reforms is evident."

Hindu ND 27.03.11 p-14

Standards must be set for affiliation of colleges, says Kapil Sibal

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal on Saturday said there was a need to set standards for the affiliation of colleges to a university.

Speaking at the concluding function of the two-day meeting of Central and State university vice-chancellors here on Saturday, Mr. Sibal pointed out the absence of stan-

dards defining which colleges deserved affiliation to universities.

Advocating that colleges with a good track record be allowed to grant degrees, Mr. Sibal said such a move would also encourage other colleges to improve their performance. Stating that colleges needed to be given freedom regarding the hiring of faculty, he called for a "paradigm-shift in mindset from that of

control [to that] of flexibility."

Mr Sibal also felt that universities should move towards amending statutes which constrained their growth and that educational institutions should come together to set up knowledge parks.

Reports sought

The Minister asked the vice-chancellors of the State

universities to give their reports, within four weeks, on the recommendations arising from the meeting, adding that those recommendations which were implementable should be started off with immediately and those which required approval from the State governments should be pursued with the administration. The meeting was organised by the University Grants Commission.

Times of India ND 27-Mar-11 p-23

There's no magic pill to cure a bad cough

Washington: Prescribing antibiotics for patients with discoloured phlegm caused by acute cough has little or no effect in alleviating the symptoms or in helping recovery, a Cardiff University study found.

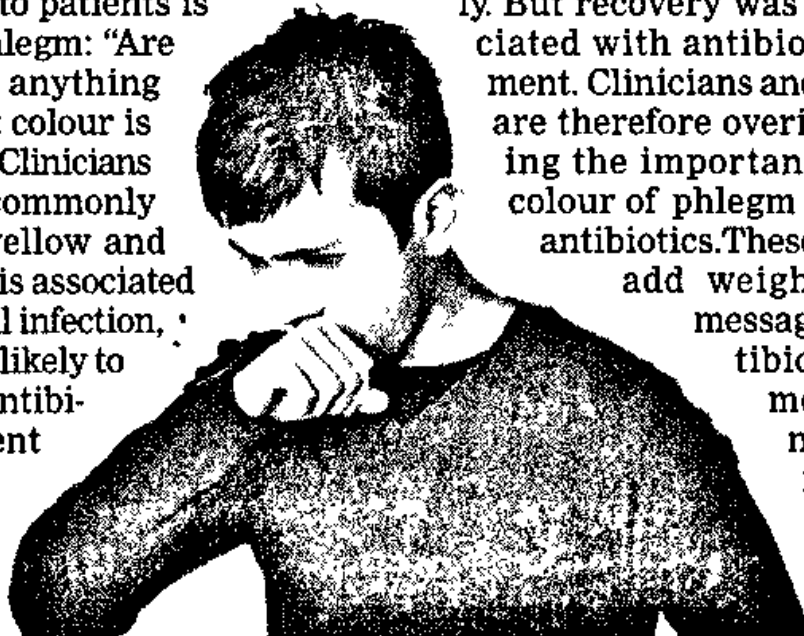
Acute cough is one of the common reasons why people visit their GP. One of the most common questions asked by GPs to patients is about their phlegm: "Are you coughing anything up?" or "What colour is your phlegm?" Clinicians and patients commonly believe that yellow and green phlegm is associated with a bacterial infection, which is more likely to benefit from antibiotic treatment compared with non-productive cough or

cough that produces clear phlegm.

However, Professor Chris Butler and his team from Cardiff University's School of Medicine, along with colleagues from 14 European centres studied 3,402 patients with acute cough. They found that patients producing discoloured phlegm are prescribed antibiotics more frequently. But recovery was not associated with antibiotic treatment. Clinicians and patients are therefore overinterpreting the importance of the colour of phlegm in taking antibiotics. These findings

add weight to the message that antibiotic treatment does not speed recovery, says Butler.

ANI



Business Standard ND 27/03/2011 p-4

PREMJI KEEN ON IMPROVING EDUCATION IN MAHARASHTRA

SANJAY JOG
Mumbai, 26 March

Maharashtra seems to be the next battlefield for Azim Premji Foundation, the not-for-profit entity promoted by Wipro Chairman Azim Premji, to improve elementary education at the grassroots level.

Premji met Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on Friday evening and expressed his intentions to work with the state government in this regard.

Maharashtra has 15.9 million students enrolled in 94,274 schools. Apart from 1,998 primary, 925 secondary and 285 higher secondary institutions exclusively for girls, the state has also 572 engineering institutions, with an intake capacity of 261,625 students.

"It was more or less an 'ice-breaking' meeting. Premji explained the foundation's work in various states towards improving the quality of education. The foundation has so far worked with over 25,000 schools, involving 2.5 million children since it was founded in 2001," a senior state government official present at the meeting told *Business Standard*.

Chavan agreed to give an



Premji's foundation focuses on elementary education in rural areas

appointment soon for a detailed presentation by Premji and his team on the foundation's plan for the state.

The foundation focuses on elementary education in rural areas and works with various government agencies

such as district institutes of education and training, district education office clusters and block resource offices to improve the quality of education. It also provides training to teachers and professors of engineer-

ing colleges.

Premji's plan to enter Maharashtra is crucial, especially when the foundation's current staff of 350 would eventually grow to 5,000 in 20 states, including Maharashtra in the next five years.

Hindustan Times ND
27/03/2011 p-10

THE STRATEGY



■ Sibal: Way ahead

■ The meet was called by the UGC and the HRD ministry to help formulate the country's education strategy for the next five years

■ Any fee hike will, however, be accompanied by adequate scholarship options to ensure that students admitted to a programme are not denied education because of a lack of resources.

VCs DEMAND LAW FOR 10% FEE HIKE EVERY 3 YEARS

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of over 200 central and state universities on Saturday asked the Centre to provide statutory backing for binding 10% hikes in student fees every three years to meet the financial demands of their varsities.

The VCs recommended "central and state universities may be statutorily required to adopt revision of fee structure payable by students by at least 10% every three years," during the 12th Five Year Plan starting next year.

The proposal for hiking fees was made at a national conference of VCs called by the University Grants Commission and the human resource development (HRD) ministry to help formulate the country's education strategy for the next five years.

Any fee hike will, however, be accompanied by adequate scholarship options to ensure that students admitted to a programme are not denied education because of a lack of resources, government officials said.

Fee hike proposals have earlier been made by the National Knowledge Commission too.

The VCs also reiterated all universities divide their academic year into semesters and shift from marks to credits in grading students, in order to facilitate mobility of students across varsities.

Though most VCs have earlier too supported these reforms, teacher unions have repeatedly opposed the move.

The Delhi University — the country's largest varsity — has witnessed a battle between teachers and administrators over introducing semesters for over a year now.

Times of India ND 27-Mar-11 p-23

Earth getting windier and waves higher

Scientists warn that gusts could cause severe hurricanes

© Newmann/Corbis

Washington: A new study has revealed that the world is getting breezier.

Although global warming is suspected to be the cause for it, researchers can't say for sure whether climate change is behind the growing gusts, reports Discovery News. The research has found a slow but steady increase in top wind speeds across the oceans over the last 23 years.

Ian Young, a physical oceanographer at the Australian National University in Melbourne and colleagues gathered data from seven satellites taken between 1985 and 2008. Then, they used five independent statistical techniques to combine, calibrate and calculate the records. All five produced the same result.

Despite large seasonal variations, the mean wind speed over the oceans hasn't changed much in the last two decades,



the researchers said. Speeds of the fastest winds, though, have risen by about half a per cent each year, and heights of

the biggest waves have risen between a quarter and half a per cent each year. Those trends have been strongest in

the southern hemisphere.

Over time, these kinds of small and incremental rises add up. Off the coast of Southern Australia, for example, the tallest one per cent of waves have risen from five to six meters. The most extreme winds are now blowing 10% faster than they used to.

Mark Donelan, an oceanographer at the University of Miami in Florida, said the ongoing changes in the most extreme conditions could have major consequences. If winds continue to get gustier at the same rate over the next 50 years, for example, the destructive forces of Category 5 hurricanes would multiply. "They would go from knocking over 90% of buildings to knocking over all them," Donelan said.

The findings were published in the journal *Science*. ANI

Amar Ujala ND
27/03/2011

p-16

बीएचयू से नहीं टूटेगा आईआईटी का नाता

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी बनने के बाद बीएचयू आईटी का नाता काशी हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय से टूट जाएगा, इस आशंका को वाइस चांसलर डीपी सिंह ने सिरे से खारिज कर दिया। कुलपतियों के दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन में भाग लेने यहां पहुंचे प्रोफेसर सिंह ने अमर उजाला से कहा कि वह विश्वविद्यालय और आईआईटी के बीच संपर्क खत्म नहीं होने देंगे।

● काशी हिंदू
विवि के
कुलपति प्रो
सिंह ने
दिया
भरोसा

लोकसभा में पारित संशोधन विधेयक में इस बात का स्पष्ट प्रावधान किया गया है कि पहले तीन साल तक आईआईटी बीएचयू के पदेन अध्यक्ष

विश्वविद्यालय के वाइस चांसलर होंगे। इसके बाद विश्वविद्यालय से नामित व्यक्ति उपाध्यक्ष होगा। इतना ही नहीं आईआईटी के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर और सीनेट में हमेशा बीएचयू का प्रतिनिधित्व बना रहेगा। जाहिर सी बात है कि विश्वविद्यालय और भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान को एक दूसरे से अलग नहीं किया जा सकेगा। बतौर वाइस चांसलर उनकी यह कोशिश होगी कि आपसी संबंध दिनोंदिन और मजबूत होता जाए। आईआईटी का दर्जा मिलने पर आईटी बीएचयू में पढ़ रहे छात्रों को भारी लाभ होगा। उन्हें हर वह सुविधा प्राप्त होगी जो आईआईटी को मिलती है। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों में शिक्षा के अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर को देखते हुए केंद्र से उन्हें भरपूर फंड मिलता है। बड़ी हुई सुविधाएं और ऊंचा दर्जा पाने की ललक लिए आईटी बीएचयू के छात्र इसके आईआईटी बनने का बेसब्री से इंतजार कर रहे हैं। अभी भी उन्हें यहां दाखिले के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) पास करनी पड़ती है।