

Newspaper Clips

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Admission: IITs up ante against govt proposals

AMENDMENT Students, faculty say admission process is IIT senates' job, ask govt to put its proposals on hold

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NEW DELHI: Students and faculties of IITs have opposed the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry's proposal to change the format of IIT-JEE examination from 2013 and give 40% weightage to board examination marks.

Sources said many IITs, including those in Kanpur, Delhi, Mumbai and Khargapur, have not supported the proposed changes in the current form.

The All India IIT Faculty Federation has sent a letter to HRD minister Kapil Sibal and its copy to the Prime Minister's Office stating that the academic issues, including the admission standards and process, were primarily the sole responsibility of the senates.

"The views of IIT senates must form the basis for the final formulation of admission process. It is shocking that till today the views of the senates have not been invited," the federation said.

Maintaining that the faculties were initiating discussions at the institutional platforms, including senate or general body meetings, the federation said the opinion that had emerged didn't support the proposals.

The federation has demanded that the proposal be put on hold till the senates of IITs come up with their own views and recommendations.

The IIT Kanpur Students'

Views of IIT senates must form the basis for formulation of admission process... Shocking that the views of senates have not been invited so far

IIT FACULTY FEDERATION

Senate, which met recently, stated that the Ramasami committee targeted certain problems in the current system, including commercialised coaching classes, rural-urban and gender disparities, negligence of school education and increased stress on students. However, it said, the report did not clearly mention how its recommendations would solve these problems.

Observing that normalisation of marks of students, belonging to more than 30 different boards, was a complex and non-trivial task, the senate said the board exams lacked transparency and uniformity. It also said each institute should get freedom to decide on its own admission process.

Stating that any decision of such magnitude should involve consultation with all stakeholders, the student senate said the panel report had suggested interactions with IIT faculties and students. But, it said, no interaction on the proposals had been conducted among the panel members and students and faculty of IIT Kanpur so far.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ND

28/03/2012 p-8

Expandable education

Community colleges provide one possible solution

The dismal state of Indian education, be it primary, secondary or tertiary, is well documented by now, with the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) report, being but two of the more prominent studies on the Indian education sector, both showing that India lags far behind the developed, and most of the developing, world in terms of gross enrolment ratio, quality of education and access to it. Now, the TeamLease India Labour Report 2012 lays the blame for the low employability of India's working-age population squarely on their lack of relevant education. The picture it paints of India's education sector is much the same as ASER or the PISA report did—India's GER in higher education is 11%, half the world average and way lower than that in developed countries (54%). But rather than stick to the general conventional advice of 'increase government funding, improve quality of education and incentivise attendance', the report has some specific fixes that are worth looking into. First of all, the report says that a major problem with higher education in India is accessibility—universities and colleges are unevenly distributed across the country, and there aren't enough. The second is that vocational training is more or less absent in any formal sense, especially since the diplomas handed out by vocational institutions that exist are regarded as inferior by employers or not recognised at all. Towards this, the report says, community colleges could go a long way. Offering what the report calls 'vocational education on steroids', these community colleges, along with providing the required skills in two years, also provide vertical mobility, which is the opportunity to upgrade diplomas/certificates into two-year associate degrees or even three-year standalone degrees. Coupled with pushing the growth of such institutions across the country, promoting distance education would also go a long way in expanding the reach of relevant, vocation-based education across the country.

It is perhaps pertinent to say that along with allocating resources for initiatives like Aakash—noble, but ineffective given the current framework—the government should spend more on technology that enables distance learning (educational portals, internet connections, etc) that would make the Aakash all the more useful as a learning tool.

Hindustan Times ND 28/03/2012 P-8

Engg student burnt during ragging?

MYSTERY Ajmal first alleged ragging but later changed statement – raising police doubts

HT Correspondent

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BANGALORE: Mystery continues to shroud the circumstances in which an 18-year-old aeronautical engineering student suffered severe burns in his hostel bathroom in north Bangalore last week.

Ajmal PM, a student at the Sha-Shib College of Engineering in Chikkaballapur, had gone to his room to take a bath after playing tennis on March 22.

After a while, he started screaming for help. His friends rushed in and found Ajmal on the

There was some thinner in the bathroom. His cigarette must have set off the fire

POLICE OFFICER
On condition of anonymity

floor with burns all over his body. He was immediately taken to the government-run Victoria Hospital and is in a critical condition.

Ajmal initially told the police that senior students who were ragging him threw him into the bathroom and set him afire. Later, he said students smoked inside the hostel and he had no

We suspect foul play. A matchbox went missing from the bathroom...

ABDUL FATHA
Ajmal's uncle

idea how the fire broke out.

An attempt to murder case has been registered against the accused seniors.

However, Ajmal's changing statements have led the police to suspect that the boy either tried to commit suicide or got burnt in a fire that started accidentally because he was smok-

ing inside the bathroom.

"There was some thinner in the bathroom. It is possible that a spark from his cigarette ignited the fire," said a police officer. "The boy could be lying about ragging because he does not want his parents to know about his smoking habit."

However, Ajmal's parents and friends alleged that seniors used to rag Ajmal and extort money. "We suspect foul play because some students told us that a matchbox which was in the bathroom has gone missing after the incident," said Abdul Fatha, Ajmal's uncle.

Hindustan Times ND 28/03/2012 P-7

Who says migration is by merit at Delhi University?

REALITY College rejects top scorers, admits three students with lesser marks

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NEW DELHI: Merit, it seems, will not get you where you want in Delhi University.

While B Com (honours) students with high percentages failed to migrate to second year at Sri Venkateswara College (SVC), three others with relatively lower percentages were given admission, a reply to an RTI (a copy of which is with the HT) report has revealed.

Migration is a provision whereby students of first year can apply for admission to another college of DU in the second year. If vacant seats are available, colleges accept applicants who have a good academic record.

An RTI revealed that 48 students had applied for migration in September, 2011, but the top-

Migration in all university colleges has become a sort of back-door entry, as no one scrutinises them. It is also unfair to lesser known colleges

PRINCIPAL, DU COLLEGE

scoring student with 77% marks in his first year was not allowed to migrate. And neither were the other 28 students who secured higher marks than 67% — the marks at which a student finally got admission. The other two who secured admission scored 62.36% and 62%.

What is even more absurd is that SVC already has more than 140 students in B Com second year, whereas the sanctioned strength is 92. The college did

We usually give admission to migration case students on the basis of merit, but there are no clear cut guidelines

HEMLATA REDDY,
Principal, SVC

not have any vacant seats when it took the three students in.

University officials and experts maintained that this was not a one-off case. "Migration in all university colleges has become a sort of back-door entry, as no one scrutinises them. It is also unfair to lesser known colleges, which prepare students with good marks, who then migrates to a better college. The college then loses out on a potential topper," said the principal of

a top DU college.

The high powered committee for admissions — a committee of 16 DU principals that suggested reforms in admission — has also suggested that migration be done away with completely as it is discriminatory towards lesser-known colleges.

"Apart from this, everyone knows that these admissions can turn into back-door entries to prestigious colleges," said a member of the committee.

SVC, however, maintained that it had not done anything wrong. "We usually give admission on the basis of merit, but there are no clear guidelines," said Hemalata Reddy, principal, SVC.

A senior DU official, however, said, "When it is said that migration on the basis of marks will be allowed, it is implicit that merit will be the basis on which admission will be."

Mail Today, ND 28/03/2012

P-10

At last someone challenges the mining mafia's might

IT IS perhaps a coincidence that two graduates from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) seem to be emerging as heroes against the rampant illegal mining that has wreaked havoc in different parts of the country.

The new chief minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar, an IIT Bombay alumnus has asserted his commitment to crack down on the illegal mining of iron ore in the state, by stating that he would cleanse the mining department by March 31.

Mr Parrikar, who took over as the chief minister a few weeks back, must be commended for his seriousness, especially as he heads a state where officials at every level are said to be in collusion with the mining mafia.

An IIT Kanpur alumnus, the Superintendent of Police in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, Vikas Kumar, has shown what can be achieved if only the administration has the will to act.

In a massive raid last Friday, Mr Kumar and his team dealt a major blow to gravel stone mining in the district by arresting 97 lower level operatives and seizing equipment worth crores of rupees.

It has been barely five months since Mr Kumar took over as the Bharatpur SP and he has already conducted a number of raids against the illegal mining of pink and red sandstone, in addition to Friday's raid which, was the first against gravel stone miners.

If Mr Kumar continues with his success against the mining mafia and Mr Parrikar is able to achieve what he has promised, it would be a fit-

ting way of honouring another IIT alumnus, the late IPS officer Narendra Kumar, who lost his life trying to stop a tractor-carrier carrying illegally mined stone in the Morena district in Madhya Pradesh.

TISS ties up with AICTE for vocational education project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as more than a dozen Education sector Bills of HRD Minister Kapil Sibal's are held up in Parliament, his much-hyped proposal of vocationalising education has finally seen some movement.

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on Tuesday entered into an MoU with the AICTE on National Council of Skill Development.

According to sources in HRD Ministry, the National

Vocational Education Curriculum Framework (NVEQF) of HRD Ministry and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be taken forward by TISS on the basis of a pilot project.

This would involve certain sector specific programmes in IT, media, entertainment, telecommunications amongst others covered under NVEQF.

TISS has set up a school of vocational education at Mumbai for creating sustainable sources of income for

marginalised youth in the country. It had approached AICTE with a proposal for seed capital for infrastructure development, studies on skill requirements and development in the country, building content for the trades concerned, developing teaching methodologies and pedagogy, etc.

As per the MoU, AICTE has agreed to support the school of vocational education with financial assistance up to ₹10 crore over a period of three

years from the date of signing of the MoU.

According to the programme, TISS proposes to incubate a national vocational training university, starting as a School of Vocational Education in the first phase. The school will offer a two-year certificate course and churn out as 'Technicians'. Advanced degree programmes certifying the worker as 'Master Technician' and 'Expert Technician' will also be offered later.

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p-11

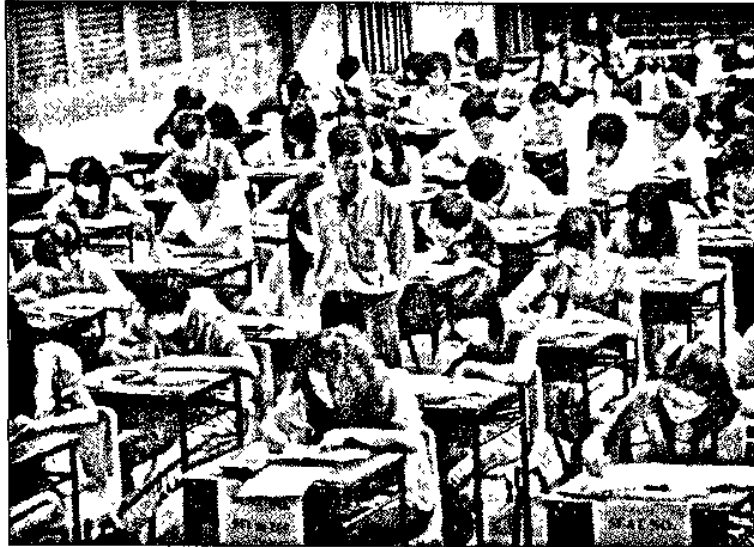
आईआईटी: बी पॉजिटिव, थिंक पॉजिटिव

एग्जाम को लेकर झुंझलाने से काम नहीं चलेगा बल्कि इससे समय की बर्बादी होगी। इन दिनों चुस्ती और फुर्ती से काम लेना भी जरूरी है। एकाग्रचित्त रहने और सकारात्मक सोच रखने की जरूरत है।

एग्जाम की सोच-सोच नींद खराब करने का कोई फायदा नहीं है। इसलिए हर रात कम से कम पांच से छह घंटे की नींद लें।

एग्जाम से तीन-चार दिन पहले तो हर हाल में अपनी आदत सुधार लें। नींद की कमी का आपके स्वास्थ्य और मानसिक शक्ति, दोनों पर बुरा असर पड़ता है। कभी-कभार हल्की नींद लेने का अलग फायदा है, लेकिन स्टूडेंट्स को दिन के समय देर तक नहीं सोना चाहिए।

पढ़ें, पन्ने न पलटें : पढ़ाई की बात करें तो कमजोर हिस्सों पर अधिक ध्यान देना चाहिए और 'कांसेप्ट' को समझने का पूरा प्रयास जरूरी है। पढ़ाई में मन लगाएं, पन्ने पलटते हुए समय



काटने से काम नहीं बनेगा। फिटजी के डायरेक्टर सीवीके कल्याण कुमार भी मानते हैं कि तीनों विषयों पर एक समान समय नहीं दिया जा सकता है। यह

नेचरल है कि स्टूडेंट अपने कमजोर विषय पर अधिक समय देंगे। दरअसल यह बात हर जगह लागू होती है। आप न हर काम अपनी पसंद का कर सकते

हैं और न ही उस काम से बच सकते हैं जो आपको पसंद न हो।

यह पाठ दुहराने का समय है जो आप पिछले दो सालों में पढ़ चुके हैं। किसी नये विषय को हाथ न लगाएं। हालांकि इनआर्गेनिक केमिस्ट्री के रिएक्शंस जैसी चीजों को नए सिरे से रटना होगा। कुमार का कहना है कि अब इस पर माथापच्ची न करें कि अब तक आप ने क्या किया, यह सोचें कि अब क्या कर सकते हैं। तो आगे बढ़ें और बेहतर से बेहतर करने की ठान लें। आपके इरादे बुलंद हों तो कोई रास्ता नहीं रोक सकता है। अपने सामने बेहतर से बेहतर प्रयास का लक्ष्य रखें, न कि परिणाम का। प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाओं में चयन की दर करीब तीन प्रतिशत होती है इसलिए अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ दिए बिना रिजल्ट की न सोचें।

एनबीटीी एजुकेशन