

Newspaper Clips

May 11, 2012

Times of India, ND 11/05/2012 P-4/2

Only 200 choose to go over IIT-JEE papers ^{lit}

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IIT-Delhi received less than 200 responses from JEE candidates after it posted their answer scripts online for six days that ended on Thursday. IIT-D, which organized JEE this year, had give an opportunity to candidates to go through their evaluated answer scripts and point out if there was any technical error in reading the optical responses. Nearly 4.8 lakh aspirants had appeared for JEE this year of which 101 complaints were received for

the first paper and just 95 for the second paper. The representatives of all IITs will go through the complaints before declaring the final result on May 18.

"We were confident of not receiving too many complaints. In fact, more than half of the com-

plaints received are not about any reading errors but are instead appeals to check the evaluation again. All representatives are now likely to meet on May 14 to consider

the genuine complaints," said professor G B Reddy, chairperson, JEE 2012. He said that images of nearly 9.6 lakh answer scripts—two per candidate — were uploaded as sometimes the optical mark scanner fails to detect an answer if the bubble has not been darkened properly.

This was for the first time that IITs had shown evaluated ORS to candidates. Reddy said IIT-D wanted to make the evaluation process transpar-

ent and error-free. Though "mercy-appeals" are not going to be considered, the officials will revise the total score of a candidate if a correct answer was not picked up. A candidate could lodge his complaints only once. Reddy said that JEE office has received feedback from candidates through letters too, however, they will not be considered. "Many aspirants called us on the phone too seeking help to access their answer scripts. We guided them through but did not accept any complaints over the phone." Reddy said.

**FINAL RESULT
ON MAY 18**

IMPLEMENTATION WOES

Higher education outlay under-utilized during 11th Plan

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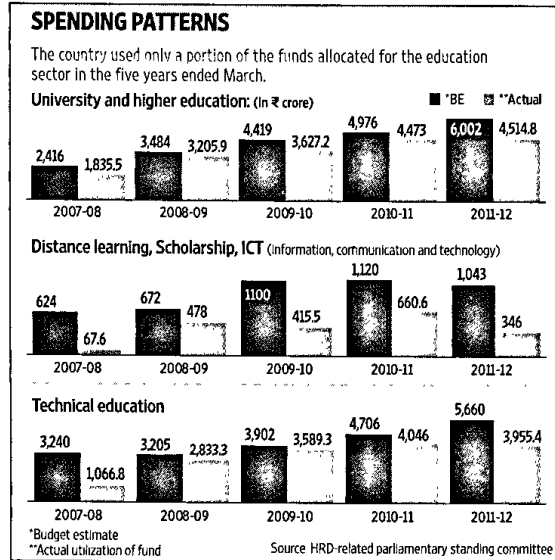
NEW DELHI

Despite a serious lack of capacity in higher education and insufficient trained people to fuel growth, India used only a portion of the funds allocated for the sector in the five years ended March, a parliamentary panel has found.

The country aims to spend ₹4.13 trillion on higher education during the 12th Plan period (2012-17), about four times more than the ₹84,943 crore allotted during the preceding five years, according to the panel's report, but the substantial under-utilization can mar its intention.

"Not only the allocation at the BE (budget estimate) stage was below the projected outlay, but it had to be brought down further at the RE (revised estimate) stage with utilization status at the year remaining even lower," the parliamentary standing committee on human resource development said in its report, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

The panel said annual spending on higher education in the previous plan period



was in some instances as low as 10%.

Distance learning, scholarship and ICT (information, communication and technology) was allocated ₹624 crore for 2007-08 but only ₹67.66 crore was spent. In 2011-12, the sector was allocated ₹1,043 crore but used only ₹346 crore.

The technical education segment spent only about ₹1,066 crore of the ₹3,240 crore allocated to it for 2007-08.

The university and higher education segment spent ₹4,514.86 crore against a budgetary allocation of ₹6,002 crore in 2011-12. During the entire 11th plan period, this

segment spent only about ₹17,656 crore of the planned outlay of ₹47,444 crore.

This, when India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) at 20% is below the global average of 26% and far behind that of some developed countries. GER is a measure of the number of young people in the 18-23 age group pursuing higher education in any country. Brazil's GER is 34% and the US's enrolment ratio is 83%.

The government has drawn a scheme to improve the skills of 500 million people by 2022, aiming to bridge the education-employability mismatch and provide enough foot soldiers to Indian industries and help grow the economy. India wants to improve its GER to 30% in a decade.

At a skill council meeting on 19 January, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said India will need about 260 million skilled people by 2018. Skill training in India is a \$20-billion business annually, according to a July report by **Kotak Securities Ltd.** Around 475 million people will need training by fiscal 2022, it said.

"This makes it clear beyond doubt that there are no fund constraints so far as allocation for higher education sector is concerned. What is required is well-constructed and co-ordinated approach for optimum and judicious utilization of allocated funds," said the parliamentary panel, which is headed by Congress leader and Rajya Sabha legislator Oscar Fer-

nandes. Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi is a member.

The committee said state governments "have to play very critical role in this regard". It also advised the Union government to "sensitize the concerned authorities for successful implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes".

A human resource development (HRD) ministry official said the ministry was aware of the problem and wants all states "to come on board for making higher education a more impactful" sector. "Since the states play a key role in implementing schemes, they should be active in spending allocated funds," the official said, requesting not to be named. "We will take this up during the (state) education ministers meet next month."

Commenting on the Planning Commission's 12th Plan approach paper, which states that about 18% of all government education spending, or 1.2% of the gross domestic product, be spent on higher education, the panel said the funding should be raised to 25% of all government education spending. "Higher education being an important sector for the development of the nation the committee feels that focused attention in terms of resources and funds should be made available for development and quality research and innovation," the panel said in its report.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi,Date: May 11, 2012,Section: Times Nation,Page: 11;

Govt go-ahead for 3 key bills on education

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Thursday cleared three crucial legislations in the education sector, allowing for mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions, setting up innovation universities as hubs of excellence in research and innovation, and the copyright bill.

The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2012 will improve the quality of higher education in the country as it will make accreditation of higher educational institutions mandatory and provide for an institutional structure for registering, monitoring and auditing accrediting agencies.

The Cabinet also cleared the Universities for Research and Innovation Bill that provides for establishment and incorporation of universities for research and innovation which would be at the forefront of making India a global knowledge hub. **TNN**

all for wrong questions unfair, illog... <http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper>

HPSC EXAM BLUES

'Marks to all for wrong questions unfair, illogical'

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CHANDIGARH: The decision raises several questions.

The Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) has decided to award marks for "inaccurate or erroneous questions" to candidates who appeared in the Haryana Civil Services (Executive Branch) and other allied services preliminary examination held on March 25, 2012.

The commission's controversial move, which seems to be against the tenets of fair play, is likely to be challenged in a court of law.

UNFAIR PLAY

For instance, suppose if five questions of the political science (optional subject) paper were incorrect or inaccurately framed, then the candidates appearing in the preliminary exam with political science as

**We could not have
scrapped the entire exam.
There was no other way.**

MANBIR BHADANA
HPSC chairman

optional subject would get five grace marks, according to the commission's logic.

In comparison, if there was no error (or fewer errors) in the question paper of another optional subject, say physics, then the grace marks given in political science would seriously affect the interests of candidates appearing with physics as optional subject.

"This would adversely affect the fortunes of many as there are several candidates having same marks at the cut-off. These grace marks for inaccurate questions will give an unfair advantage to many," said a candidate who appeared in the preliminary examination.

HPSC chairman Manbir Bhadana, however, said this was the best way the commission could have settled the issue. "Nothing unusual has been done. We could not have scrapped the entire examination," Bhadana said. "We adopted a uniform pattern to satisfy all candidates. There was no other way."

Sources in the commission said most mistakes and inaccuracies, at least seven, were in the general studies paper. Question papers of several optional subjects also had inaccurately framed or erroneous questions. The HPSC chairman, while defending the decision to give marks for erroneous questions, said that since all papers had such questions, grace marks were given to all candidates. "This brought parity for everyone," he said.

However, many candidates beg to differ:

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'Marks to all for wrong questions unfair'

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"Even the benefit given to all candidates for wrong questions in the general studies paper, which was common for all the candidates, is discriminatory," said a candidate who did not wish to be named. "If there were no wrong or inaccurately framed questions, then all candidates would not have got the same marks."

For instance, if wrong questions were from general science, grace marks would give undue advantage to candidates weak in that particular subject, he explained.

While declaring the results of the preliminary examination on May 4, the HPSC had said: "This is also for the information of the candidates who represented to the commission with regard to any type of error in the question papers, that their representations have been duly considered by the commission and benefit of marks has been given to all the candidates in their respective subjects as per recommendations of the paper setters."

COURT ORDERS IN SIMILAR CASES

The Patna high court in January 2012 set aside the preliminary tests of the 53rd to 55th common combined competitive examination conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) in 2011, directing the BPSC to publish fresh results of unsuccessful candidates after deleting their papers. The Bihar court had directed the BPSC to re-evaluate the papers of unsuccessful candidates after deleting nine questions found to be wrong by an expert committee constituted by the BPSC in accordance with the court's earlier directive of September 2011.

The Delhi high court had also in April 2012 ordered fresh evaluation of answer scripts for a

QUESTIONABLE QUESTIONS (IN HPSC'S GENERAL STUDIES PAPER)

Literacy rate (%) in Haryana is:

- a) 70.75
- b) 68.60
- c) 62.50
- d) 58.25

Glitch: None of the options is correct. According to Census 2011, the state's literacy rate is 76.64 %

Part-V of the Constitution deals with

- a) Union executives
- b) Parliament
- c) Supreme Court and High Court
- d) Comptroller and Auditor General

Glitch: All are in the Part-V of the Constitution

Population density according to 2011 census is

- a) 1,002 people/per sqkm
- b) 642 people/per sqkm
- c) 573 people/per sqkm
- d) 945 people/per sqkm

Glitch: Not clear whether population density of India or Haryana is being asked

Arrange the sectoral growth in Haryana

- a) Service-Agriculture-Industry
- b) Industry-Service-Agriculture
- c) Agriculture-Industry-Service
- d) Service-Industry-Agriculture

Glitch: Not clear whether to be arranged in ascending or descending order

Who among the following has been honoured the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals Award for

2010 for their work in using innovative approaches for poverty and hunger alleviation?

- a) BRIC
- b) WHO
- c) ISBA
- d) G-20

Glitch: None. Award was given to IBSA not ISBA

Haryana is a landlocked state lies between:

- a) 28 Degree 37 Minutes to 31 Degree 35 Minutes North
- b) 24 Degree 26 Minutes to 27 Degree 28 Minutes North
- c) 29 Degree 20 Minutes to 31 Degree 30 Minutes North
- d) 27 Degree 37 Minutes to 30 Degree 35 Minutes North

Glitch: None of the options is exactly correct (27°39' to 30°35' N is the correct answer)

How many divisions the state is divided for administrative purpose?

- a) 5
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) None

Glitch: Which state?

The Haryana Special Economic Zone came in the year

- a) 2005
- b) 2006
- c) 2007
- d) 2008

Glitch: An absurd question. A similar question - The Haryana Special Economic Zones Act came in which year - is also in the paper

Scaling and moderation

Several candidates appearing in the preliminary exam told HT that since majority of the candidates who qualified for the mains examination had particular optional subjects, it was time that HPSC started scaling and moderation of scores as is done by the Union Public Service Commission. This would provide a level-playing field to each candidate since some may be disadvantaged by opting for a particular subject whose question paper was difficult as compared to that of another subject.

The principal bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), while quoting a Supreme Court directive in its orders, said the methodology of moderation and scaling was the most unexceptional method available to bring about as much objectivity as possible in the system of examination. "For civil services, it seems that the method being followed by the UPSC has served well and without discrimination. We are convinced that it would serve no purpose for the tribunal to peruse the answer sheets, as prayed for, and come to any conclusion. It is the work for the experts, which should best be left to them," the CAT said.

who had set the wrong questions.

A better way out could have been to constitute a panel of experts for seeking advice on the matter.

preliminary test for the Delhi Judicial Services Examination after 12 wrong questions out of 200 were deleted from the paper.

WHAT HPSC COULD HAVE DONE

The commission sent the representations of candidates to the very paper setters