

Newspaper Clips

May 23, 2012

Mint, ND 23/05/2012

P-2

IITs pitch for subjective JEE to improve student quality

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

NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are planning to switch to a subjective question-based test from the current multiple-choice-based joint entrance examination (JEE) after criticism over the deteriorating quality of students.

The new test will seek to evaluate the knowledge and analytical ability of aspiring students. Critics of the current format, which comprises two multiple-choice papers, include Infosys Ltd chairman emeritus N.R. Narayana Murthy and other executives and alumni.

The move is also being seen by some academicians as a compromise between the government and the IITs over a common entrance exam for all engineering schools. The government wants to conduct a nationwide objective-type selection test for millions of students aspiring for such colleges, including the IITs.

The IITs themselves now favour a two-tier selection process, where the top rank holders in the objective test will be eligible to appear for a final

TURN TO PAGE 2 ▶

IITs pitch for subjective JEE to improve student quality

▶ FROM PAGE 1

subjective question-based evaluation.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has been informed about the proposal to change the selection process by the senates of at least the five older IITs. The senate is the highest decision-making body at an IIT and comprises senior professors, the director and some outside experts, including former students and executives.

"Selecting students through an objective test is not the best way to get quality students for institutes like IITs," said Sanjeev Sanghi, president of the IIT Delhi faculty forum. "We need to go back to the subjective format."

Murthy said at an IIT alumni meet in New York in October last year that JEE coaching centres had led to the deteriorating quality of students entering the colleges. "But their performance in IITs, at jobs or when they come for higher education in institutes in the US is not as good as it used to be," he said. "This has to be corrected. A new method of selection of students to IITs has to be arrived at."

While the top 20% of IITians can "stand among the best anywhere in the world", the quality of the remaining 80% wasn't as sound, Murthy had said.

Pramod Maheshwari, chief executive of Career Point, an education company that prepares students for the JEE examination, said it wasn't fair to blame the coaching institutes.

"They should ask why students go for coaching in the first place," said Maheshwari, him-

self an IIT alumnus. "The quality of questions when we gave JEE (in 1989) was much tougher than what it is today."

But Maheshwari said the suggested change would be a good move. "If you make the entrance subjective, it will help for sure," he said.

On the other hand, Maheshwari suggests that blaming the coaching centres is to ignore other ills in the system. "The standard of many IIT faculties is not very good and they need to do self-audit without blaming coaching centres, who have no say on the entrance," he said.

The IITs insist though that changing the entrance format will have a significant impact on student quality.

The decline in quality is linked to the switch in the format to objective-type questions in 2005-06, said a senior IIT Bombay professor who didn't want to be named. Coaching centres' methods are geared towards helping students spot the right answer out of multiple choices, allowing the undeserving to do better than more gifted aspirants with higher powers of understanding, he added.

The IITs seem to regard the coaching centres with some amount of distrust, even going to the extent of scrapping the JEE centre at Kota, Rajasthan, although it isn't clear why exactly this had been done. The town is reputed as a hub for coaching centres.

In the new format being proposed by the IITs, the top 50,000 performers will be culled from the applicants that sit in the initial multiple-choice test. Those

selected will be subjected to an in-depth, three-paper evaluation, according to IIT professors who declined to be named.

"Mathematics, chemistry and physics need to be tested in three different papers, maybe over two days. Papers will be checked manually by senior professors of the older IITs to create the rankings," said an IIT Delhi professor. A senior IIT Kanpur professor confirmed this. Both declined to be named.

The JEE is currently the common admission test for the 15 IITs, the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad and the Institute of Technology at Banaras Hindu University, which jointly admit at least 9,600 students every year. This year, 480,000 appeared for the JEE.

An IIT Bombay senate member expressed resistance to the HRD ministry's proposal for a common entrance examination for all engineering schools starting next year. "We want a thorough trial in 2013 and then go for it in 2014. (But) the common entrance (exam) should not be the sole basis for the IIT selection process," he said.

Himangshu R. Vaish, a former president of the IIT Delhi Alumni Association and managing director of Instapower Ltd, told *Mint* last month that it would be preferable to have a subjective JEE exam. The ministry's common entrance may affect the IIT brand, he said.

The IIT Council and the ministry plan to hold a meeting on the issue on 28 May, said M. Anandakrishnan, chairman of IIT Kanpur. "We will resolve all issues on that day," he said.

Indian Express Pune 22.05.2012 P-3

IIT-B introduces deferred placement policy

MIHIKA BASU

MUMBAI, MAY 21

STUDENTS of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, keen on taking up entrepreneurial challenges over a secure campus placement process, now have a backup with the institute introducing a 'deferred placement policy' this year. The policy will be applicable for the current batch, which will graduate in 2013.

Such a scheme enables students to defer their placements to start their own venture and if the enterprise does not succeed in a stipulated period, they can join the campus placement process.

"Though students are often interested in starting their own venture, they are usually afraid to take the plunge due to the risks involved and end up opting for campus placements. This policy will henceforth ensure that they have a secure net to fall back upon if things go wrong. Hence, a student can come back

after a period of two years to be part of the placement process," said Ravi Sinha, professor-in-charge, placement, IIT Bombay.

According to the regulations drawn up by the institute, interested students will have to submit an application with an initial proposal, which will be scrutinised by a panel to gauge whether the student is serious about starting a venture. Subsequently, a detailed proposal on the proposed venture will have to be submitted after two months.

The detailed proposal will again be assessed by the committee of experts. They will evaluate aspects like whether the venture is likely to succeed and its commercial viability among others.

"Students will have to submit their application by May-end and the detailed proposal by end of July. After scrutiny, the panel will select the proposals, which should be part of the deferred placement process," said Sinha.

Hindustan Times ND 23/05/2012

P-1

RING IN THE NEW

Courses on Indian culture, politics and green marketing are set to add novelty to the IIM learning experience, says Gauri Kohli

Are you an aspiring management student who is game for innovation and is willing to think out-of-the-box? If yes, then there's good news for you. With courses on Indian culture, politics and green marketing set to be rolled out in the coming year at some of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), you can look forward to a great IIM learning experience.

Take, IIM Ranchi, for instance. The institute has started courses on Indian culture, inner development and the social aspects of business in the last few months. The compulsory programme on Indian culture will be taught by a Frenchman named Michel Danino. As a part of the course, students will be required to attend lectures at Nalanda. The course on inner development dwells on the need to draw from intuition instead of relying on the intellect. Then there's a programme on the social aspects of business at IIM Ranchi. "Students are divided into groups and attached to some NGO at the beginning of their first year. They study social problems and come up with innovative solutions during this year-long practical project," says MJ Xavier, director, IIM Ranchi.

In 2013, the institute will also start an 18-month part-time energy management programme in collaboration with a leading US university,

as well as a certified public health worker programme.

Besides these, there will be courses and workshops on neuromanagement and business analytics. "It is neuroscience with a management flavour. The study of biological reactions and people's instincts mixed with management theories will add a new dimension to management education. We have held workshops on this to apprise students of this concept," says Xavier. The B-school has set up a business analytics lab in collaboration with IBM.

It has also tied up with Central Institute of Psychiatry in Ranchi for research in neuromanagement. It is also mulling a certificate course on 'barefoot managers'. This video-based course, aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship among those who are not highly qualified, is likely to be launched this July. An energy management programme is also in the pipeline.

In another first-of-its-kind effort, IIM Bangalore and Delhi's Centre for Social Research have launched a certificate course in political

leadership for women called India — Women in Leadership. The course aims to equip them with knowledge and practical skills required to excel in the field.

The 10-week course will include theory lessons at IIM Bangalore, a week-long stay in Delhi to witness Parliament's monsoon session, field work in the candidates' constituencies, and a seven-day programme in Singapore to understand public policies practised in developed countries.



Women leaders

IIM Bangalore and Delhi's Centre for Social Research have launched a certificate course in political leadership for women. The India — Women in Leadership course is aimed at equipping them with knowledge and practical skills required to excel in the field.

Green marketing

IIM Shillong students have the option of studying green marketing management. Part of the PG programme, the course is meant to enable individuals to make informed decisions about things that impact the environment.

Indian culture

IIM Ranchi has started courses on Indian culture, inner development and the social aspects of business. The programme is compulsory and will be taught by a Frenchman named Michel Danino. As a part of the course, students will be required to attend lectures at Nalanda.

PHOTOS: IMAGESBAZAAR

अब दाखिले के ज्यादा मौके, इंजीनियरिंग की 5000 सीटें बढ़ीं

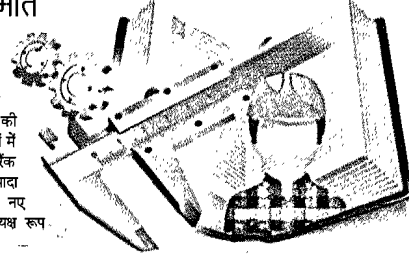
एआईसीटीई ने कॉलेजों को नए सेशन के लिए दी अनुमति

● अभित त्प्यागी

नोएडा। इस साल बीटेक के अच्छे कॉलेजों में दाखिले के ज्यादा मौके मिलेंगे। महामाया टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी (एमटीयू) से संबद्ध परिचमी उत्तर प्रदेश के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में नए सत्र 2012-13 से बीटेक की लगभग 5000 सीटें बढ़ गई हैं। ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन (एआईसीटीई) ने कॉलेजों को सीटें बढ़ाने की अनुमति दे

दी है। एआईसीटीई ने इस साल बीटेक की सीटें बढ़ाने में लचीलापन अपनाया है। आवेदन करने वाले अधिकांश संस्थानों को इजाजत मिल गई है। एआईसीटीई ने विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों में सीटें बढ़ाने के अनुमति पत्र संस्थानों को भेज दिए हैं। आदेश मिलने के बाद कॉलेजों ने एमटीयू में मान्यता के लिए आवेदन करना शुरू कर दिया है। विवि ने 25 मई तक बढ़ी सीटों की मान्यता हासिल करने का समय दिया है। अभी तक एमटीयू में

लगभग 23 कॉलेजों ने अपने आवेदन दाखिल किए हैं। विश्वविद्यालय के मुताबिक लगभग 70 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में सीटें बढ़ गई हैं। इंजीनियरिंग की सीट बढ़ोतरी तमाम बड़े कॉलेजों में हुई है। इससे छात्रों को अच्छी रैंक वाले कॉलेजों में दाखिले के ज्यादा मौके मिलेंगे। इसका नुकसान नए कॉलेजों को प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से होगा।



- 70 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में बढ़ गई है सीटें
- 23 कॉलेजों ने दाखिल किए हैं आवेदन

कॉलेज और सीटें 40% सीटें खाली

एमटीयू में 2010 में 387 कॉलेज थे, पिछले साल 21 नए संस्थानों को मान्यता मिली। इस साल भी दो दर्जन नए कॉलेजों को मान्यता मिलेगी जबकि 8 बंद होंगे। विवि में पिछले साल इंजीनियरिंग की 60 हजार सीटें थी, इस बार 65 हजार पहुंच जाएगी।

एमटीयू में हर साल इंजीनियरिंग की 40 फीसदी सीटें खाली बच रही हैं। एआईसीटीई सीटें बढ़ाने की अनुमति दे रहा है। ऐसा औसत और बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने वाले संस्थानों के लिए हो रहा है। पिछले दो सालों में खुले कॉलेजों को नुकसान होगा।