

Newspaper Clips

May 24, 2012

Financial Express ND 24/05/2012

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SUBJECTIVE OBJECTIONS

Adding a subjective component to IIT entrances is a good first step towards addressing falling standards



THE IITs' plan to add a subjective component to their selection process is a welcome move, in line with the systems adopted by international standardised tests like the GRE and GMAT. Since 2005-06, the IIT Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) has been in a multiple-choice format, which many experts and professors say is much easier to crack by students. The argument is that the numerous coaching centres opened to help

students crack the JEE teach them tricks to pick the right answer without really demonstrating their knowledge or ability. So, the IITs argue, the quality of students being admitted has been falling, something that has been mentioned before by several education experts in the light of Jairam Ramesh's comments that it was the faculty that was lacking. The new format the IITs are planning to introduce is of two parts: an initial multiple-choice test followed by an in-depth, three-paper evaluation of the top 50,000 performers who clear the first test. Even the earliest forms of the GRE did not have a subjective component, but they fixed that by 2002, when they introduced an analytical writing section. Similarly, the GMAT is also predominantly multiple-choice, but a clear emphasis is made on the essay writing component.

The multiple-choice format offers a standard method of testing students (much needed in India), but it is the subjective component that sets the best apart. However, the IITs must keep in mind that most business schools abroad don't stop testing their applicants with just the GMAT, they conduct interviews to further gauge their quality. The IITs should consider this for their admissions process. Also, the weaknesses of the JEE aren't the only reason behind the IITs' falling standards; a paucity of teachers (between 15-40% in different IITs) adds to this, another area that needs to be addressed. But this is definitely a good first step.

Amar Ujala ND 24-May-12
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सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा पर आईआईटी के छात्रों की राय ली जाएगी

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। मानव



संसाधन
विकास मंत्री
कपिल सिब्बल
बृहस्पतिवार को
सिंगल
इंजीनियरिंग

प्रवेश परीक्षा के प्रस्तावित प्रारूप के संबंध में आईआईटी के पुराने छात्रों के साथ बैठक कर उनकी भी राय व सुझाव हासिल करेंगे। उल्लेखनीय है कि आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई तथा एनआईटी आदि के लिए होने वाली प्रवेश परीक्षा एआईईईई को एक ही परीक्षा में शामिल किए जाने तथा प्रवेश के लिए इंटरमीडिएट के प्राप्तांक को भी महत्व दिए जाने के मुद्दे पर लंबे समय से विभिन्न स्तर पर चर्चाओं का दौर चल रहा है। सबसे ज्यादा विरोध आईआईटी की ओर से ही हो रहा है।

Indian Express ND 24-May-12 P9

Kapil Sibal, then and now

His bills stuck since 2009, here's how much he has now accommodated to push some of them through

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

LAST week, when HRD Minister Kapil Sibal gave in to offended parliamentarians objecting to political cartoons in NCERT textbooks and ended up agreeing with them and ordering the withdrawal of the textbooks, it completed the image of a minister who believes in taking people along, in going the extra mile when politics demands it.

There had been a time when he had been criticised for not being accommodating enough of the views of others. When he took charge in May 2009, he came across as one who would brook no opposition. He took little time setting off a series of reforms in the education sector, booting out the entire top brass of AICTE after they were found engaged in corruption, getting scores of deemed universities blacklisted, reviewing the performance of practically every institute under his ministry and churning out legislation after legislation to usher in reforms in higher education.

Announcing the big shift from marks to grades in CBSE schools and then doing away with the Class X board exams altogether, Sibal ruffled many more for trying to avoid long-drawn consultations and red tape. How much resentment this caused became apparent when one of his key reforms bills—the National Education Tribunal Bill—was deferred by the Rajya Sabha with his own party men leading the attack and bringing much embarrassment for the party and the minister. The Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Congress veteran Oscar Fernandes lambasted Sibal and his ministry for hastily rushing in bills without adequate homework or consultation. The ministry rejected each one of the standing committee's recommendations for this bill, alienating still more MPs.

One by one, his bills ended up being questioned and held up in Parliament. Until the beginning of this Parliament session, the HRD minister had as many as 14 education legislation stuck in Parliament. Resigned to the situation, Sibal had in fact also asked his ministry to look at non-legislative reforms to push through his reforms.

This session, five of his pending 14 bills have got through. To do that, the Sibal of today has had to consult others and incorporate the changes that he would not have three years back. Sources close to him reveal that the minister has personally met MPs across party lines to convince them to support his Bills.

The once unyielding Sibal has gone ahead and accepted as many recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee as he could. The formerly upset standing committee has said in its latest report that the Parliament should pass the pending education Bills, evidence of just how much lobbying the minister has had to do.

Here's how four of the five bills went on to be passed:
RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2010 (AMENDMENT): The Act promises free and compulsory education to



everyone aged six to 14. The amendment Bill now includes children with all disabilities under the ambit of the disadvantaged sections. The Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended that the bill spell out the option of home-based schooling for severely disabled children.

COPYRIGHT BILL, 1957 (AMENDMENT): The legislation now factors in changes proposed by the parliamentary panel with regard to disabled persons, and includes greater access to reading material for the visually disadvantaged by allowing them to convert books to any format and not just Braille. A clause that included the principal director as author of a film along with the producer had been opposed by the parliamentary panel; it has now been dropped. Other suggestions incorporated include keeping the provisions for compulsory licensing in line with the terms of international agreements and statutory licensing for radio and TV broadcasters, though with differential pricing.

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010: It amends the 1961 Act and declares the eight new IITs—Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna, Ropar—as institutes of national importance, and also includes within its purview the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University. The parliamentary panel had raised concerns on the lack of clarity about the zone in which IIT-BHU would be operating and the need to preserve the autonomy of the IITs.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010: It amends the Act of 2007 and adds five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) as institutions of national importance. The standing committee had suggested the 16-member board of governors be downsized, an expert be nominated to it, the ministry reduce its own nominees, and one member from the engineering field be nominated by the NIT Council. All recommendations have been accepted.

Hindustan Times, ND 24/05/2012 P-4

Puzzled by DU admission process? Seek expert advice during Open Days



HT Correspondent

hitreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: If you will be applying to Delhi University this year, but have questions about the admission process, you will be able to get answers from experts on the upcoming Open Days.

"Open Days are held to provide counselling to candidates seeking admission in various undergraduate courses of Delhi University colleges. The counselling sessions will be addressed by some heads of departments, principals of various colleges and subject experts," said JM Khurana, dean, Students' Welfare.

Student counsellors will also be present at all centres to help

WHERE & WHEN

North Campus

Venue: Conference Centre (Opposite Botany Dept)

Dates : May 26, 27, 31 and June 1 and 2

Time : 9.30 am to 1 pm

South Campus

Venue: S P Jain Centre (Opposite Arts Faculty, South Campus)

Dates : May 28, 29, 30

Time: 9.30 am to 1 pm

students out.

These counsellors will also give a 40 minute multimedia presentation to explain the process of filling up forms and applying to different colleges.

The presentation will also cover various queries pertaining to courses, reservations and eligibility criteria.

"Open Days go a long way in helping clear students' doubts.

Take CATE for Eng (H) in 21 colleges

STUDENTS ASPIRING to pursue English (honours) at Delhi University will have to appear for the Combined Aptitude Test for English (CATE).

With 21 colleges, including the Lady Shri Ram College, Kirori Mal College and IP College, opting enrollment through the common test, the university is expecting a large number of applicants this year.

The forms will be available from May 25 till June 4 at all the 21 colleges. In morning colleges, forms will be sold between 10am

and 1pm and 2 pm and 4 pm, while in evening colleges, the timings will be between 4 pm and 7 pm.

Students will have to get a demand draft of ₹350 in favour of the registrar, University of Delhi. The bank draft should be drawn on either State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, ICICI Bank or HDFC Bank and should be payable in Delhi.

Last year, the university had failed to inform applicants that forms could be bought only against demand drafts. **HTC**

Many a times, we have helped students choose a career path that they are best suited for. Students get to meet teachers and can ask them whatever they

want about courses and colleges. Interaction with student volunteers also gives them a good idea about the university," said a senior university official.

Asian Age ND24-May-12

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Scientists turn skin cells into heart muscle

KATE KELLAND
LONDON, MAY 23

Scientists have for the first time succeeded in taking skin cells from patients with heart failure and transforming them into healthy, beating heart tissue that could one day be used to treat the condition.

The researchers, based in Haifa, Israel, said there

were still many years of testing and refining ahead. But the results meant they might eventually be able to reprogram patients' cells to repair their own damaged hearts.

"We have shown that it's possible to take skin cells from an elderly patient with advanced heart failure and end up with his own beating cells in a laborato-

ry dish that are healthy and young — the equivalent to the stage of his heart cells when he was just born," said Lior Gepstein from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, who led the work.

The researchers, whose study was published in the *European Heart Journal* on Wednesday, said clinical trials of the technique

could begin within 10 years.

Heart failure is a debilitating condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood around the body.

It has become more prevalent in recent decades as advances in medical science mean many more people survive heart attacks.

At the moment, people

with severe heart failure have to rely on mechanical devices or hope for a transplant.

Researchers have been studying stem cells from various sources for more than a decade, hoping to capitalise on their ability to transform into a wide variety of other kinds of cells to treat a range of health conditions. — Reuters

Business Bhaskar ND24/05/2012

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उम्माद ♦ 3-4 दिनों में ऑफिशियल गजट में नोटिफाई होने की संभावना

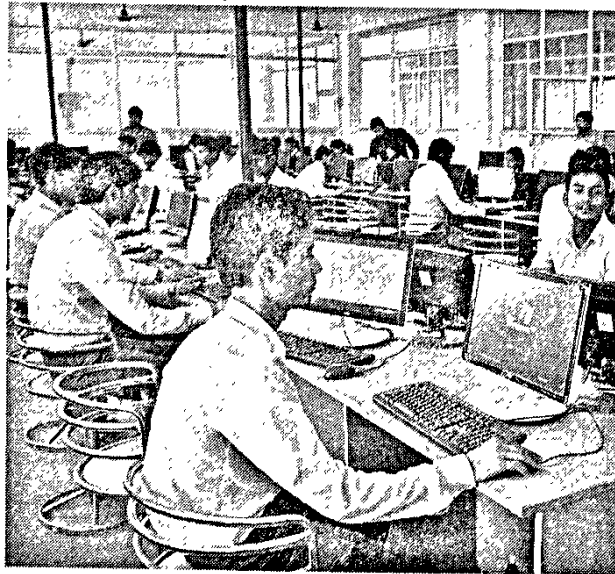
तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालयों में होगी ऑम्बुड्समैन की नियुक्ति

प्रिंसी शर्मा • नई दिल्ली

तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिले व अन्य तरह की धांधलियों को रोकने के लिए तकनीकी शिक्षा नियामक ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन (एआईसीटीई) ने कम्मर कस ली है। इसके तहत शिक्षण संस्थानों को संबद्धता प्रदान करने वाले तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालयों में एक ऑम्बुड्समैन की नियुक्ति की जाएगी।

एआईसीटीई ने (स्टेब्लिशमेंट ऑफ मैकेनिज्म फॉर प्रीवेंस रीट्रेसल) रेगुलेशंस, 2012 के तहत इसकी स्थापना का प्रावधान किया है। एआईसीटीई के एक चरिष्ठ अधिकारी के मुताबिक इन नियमों को एआईसीटीई की एक्जीक्यूटिव काउंसिल और मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की मंजूरी मिल चुकी है और इन्हें ऑफिशियल गजट में नोटिफिकेशन के लिए भेज दिया गया है।

अधिकारी के मुताबिक यह ऑम्बुड्समैन कम से कम जिला स्तर का रिटायर्ड न्यायधीश या फिर कम से कम 10 का अनुभव रखने वाला प्रोफेसर होगा, जो तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिला ले चुके और दाखिले लेने वाले छात्रों की शिकायतों का निवारण करेगा। यह नियम ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन



एक्ट, 1987 के तहत एआईसीटीई द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त सभी तकनीकी संस्थानों पर लागू होगा।

ऑम्बुड्समैन दाखिले की नीति में गड़बड़ियों, योग्य होने के बाद भी संस्थान द्वारा छात्र को दाखिला न देने, छात्रों को दाखिला देने में जातिगत भेदभाव, संस्थान द्वारा स्कॉलरशिप का भुगतान समय पर न करने, परीक्षाओं के

आयोजन और परिणामों की घोषणा में देरी, मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता के अभाव, छात्रों के शोषण, दाखिला वापस लेने पर फीस को रिफंड करने से जुड़े एआईसीटीई के निर्देशों का पालन न करने जैसे मामलों पर कार्रवाई करेगा।

इसके अलावा उन्होंने बताया कि ऑम्बुड्समैन की नियुक्ति स्टेट टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटीज और सेंट्रल टेक्निकल

कौन होगा ऑम्बुड्समैन

जिला स्तर का रिटायर्ड न्यायधीश या फिर कम से कम 10 का अनुभव रखने वाला प्रोफेसर होगा ऑम्बुड्समैन जो तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिला ले चुके और दाखिले लेने वाले छात्रों की शिकायतों का निवारण करेगा। यह नियम ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन एक्ट, 1987 के तहत एआईसीटीई द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त सभी तकनीकी संस्थानों पर लागू होगा। ऑम्बुड्समैन की नियुक्ति स्टेट टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटीज और सेंट्रल टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटीज में पांच सदस्यों की समिति द्वारा की जाएगी।

यूनिवर्सिटीज में पांच सदस्यों की समिति द्वारा की जाएगी।

इन सदस्यों में विश्वविद्यालयों के वाइस चांसलर समेत शिक्षा विभाग के अधिकारी शामिल होंगे। ऑम्बुड्समैन का कार्यकाल तीन वर्ष का होगा। उनके मुताबिक तीन-चार दिनों के भीतर ऑफिशियल गजट में इनके नोटिफाई होने की संभावना है।