

Newspaper Clips

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IIT alumni may move court over joint engg test

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IIT Delhi alumni president Somnath Bharti said the group was considering legal recourse. "We are looking at legal options," he said, adding that the new format would increase dependence on coaching institutes and would be subject to the varying standards of different class XII boards, bringing down the standard of the premier institute.

Sources in IIT said several directors were unhappy with the decision to bring these changes but were left with little option but to comply. P 12

New IIT test format draws fire

IIT-Delhi Alumni May Go To Court To Stop Combined Exam

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: The combined entrance test for admission to central engineering institutes, including Indian Institutes for Technology (IITs), has come under fire from the institute's alumni and students, with the IIT Faculty Federation shooting off a letter to PM Manmohan Singh strongly opposing the move.

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All India IIT Faculty Federation secretary A K Mittal said, "We feel cheated. Despite promising us that no steps



The new IIT selection rules part of government's 'Can't make new A-grade institutions. Let's destroy what we have' policy

Chetan Bhagat | AUTHOR & EX-IITIAN

will be taken if there is any dissent, the HRD minister has gone ahead." Mittal said they had written to the PM highlighting the practical problems of introducing a new format in 2013. Five out of the seven IIT senates had opposed the move and are opposed to academic control being taken away from IIT.

Author Chetan Bhagat, an ex-IITian, tweeted, "It makes me extremely sad to see an institution that gave me so much being destroyed by politicians." Describing the decision to have a new exam as "disastrous", Bhagat said, "The new IIT selection rules part of government's 'Can't make new A-grade institutions.

Let's destroy what we have' policy."

In a sharp criticism about weightage being given to Class XII board exam, Bhagat said, "In my Class XII practicals, people who knew the teacher got full marks. Now that will count in the IIT entrance."

He was joined by Super 30's Anand Kumar who said the decision would tilt against rural students. "Students who come from rural backgrounds manage to pass by studying on their own. They will not be able to compete with others," he said.

"If there can be one test for more competitive AIIMS examination, which has fewer

seats and more candidates, and IIMs, why can't there be such a similar test for the IITs", Kumar said, adding that the pressure of three tests, especially the JEE advanced that is expected to be tougher, will increase mental stress on children.

Anand also opposed the move to introduce the new system by next year. His Super 30, set up a decade ago, has been lauded by Time magazine as the best in Asia. The institute provides free residential coaching to 30 meritorious students from the underprivileged sections of society and so far 263 students have made it to the IITs.

Maintaining that there was uncertainty still about the mechanism of the proposed two-tier test, a worried parent Sanjiv Malhotra said if JEE-mains and JEE-advanced were held the same day, it would be psychologically draining for the students. "If the student is not able to give the test on the assigned day, he stands to lose one precious year," he said.

Economic Times ND 31/05/2012 P-2

IITs, Parents Criticise Sibal's New Engg Exam Formula

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU
NEW DELHI

HRD minister Kapil Sibal's 'one nation, one examination' formula for engineering colleges is not going down well. The minister came under attack from IITs, 'Super 30' coaching institute founder Anand Kumar and even some parents.

Sibal had on Monday announced a 'unanimous' decision of the Councils of IIT, National Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Information Technology to move to a common entrance examination for all engineering colleges from 2013. As a concession to IITs, which had put up strong resistance, it was agreed that these engineering schools could use a different formulation for selecting students.

The minister had said the common gate-

way examination for engineering examination was adopted to reduce pressure of multiple exams on students restore the importance of school boards and reduce the importance of coaching schools. Many now question the new system's ability to actually address these issues.

'Super 30' founder and math wizard Anand Kumar doesn't think that Sibal's common examination formula will address the deficiencies in the current system. Kumar said, "The process being adopted is more cumbersome and it will only add more pressure on students."

Parents too are concerned, echoing much the sentiment. Sanjiv Malhotra, the father of a prospective engineering student, says, "The new examination is complicated, as it adds another hurdle in a three-stage race. It will definitely cre-

Move to make the advanced examination mandatory for all is part of a larger design to limit IITs' autonomy: IIT faculty

ate more stress levels on students instead of reducing it." Malhotra felt that it was "totally illogical" to make it mandatory for every applicant to appear for the advanced examination, given that it was primarily meant for admission to IITs.

The IIT faculty argues that this move to make the advanced examination mandatory for all is part of a larger design to limit IITs' autonomy. A K Mittal, secretary of the All India IIT Faculty Federation, said, "The minister said that the IIT system will have complete control over the advanced examination. Now, if it has a limited number of students, as it is now, the IIT

system can manage. But how can it handle some 15 lakh students?"

Kumar is of the view that this system will end up giving coaching schools a bigger role. "Students will now be under more pressure trying to deal with the challenges on three fronts — preparing for plus two, the main paper of the new joint entrance and the advanced examination. The coaching schools will make more money." IITs too argue that this system will not stem the coaching tide.

The coaching industry doesn't appear to be worried. Meanwhile, Ajay Antony, vice-president at TIME institute, an IIT-JEE coaching centre, described the new system as fair. Antony said that the new pattern will not make much difference and it is like old wine in a new bottle. "All the difference is that they will now in-

clude board exam marks. Other than that, it is the same entrance exam if you see it closely." According to him, coaching industry following the Kota model could be affected as students in those set ups tend to neglect regular school work.

Kumar argued if the government was keen to reduce the importance of coaching, then it should ensure better secondary education, so that people had faith in the school system. "Students are running for coaching institutes not because they have extra money to spend. It is because they look for whatever quality they can get from the institutes, which is not available in schools." The man, credited with helping over 300 students from marginalised classes to get admission to IITs, is all in favour of reforming the entrance procedure to make it more inclusive.

Joint Entrance Examination for engineering admissions to commence from 2013

Better system, relief for students

The move to have a common entrance exam for admissions to all centrally-funded engineering colleges, including the IITs, is a welcome step. Under the existing system, students have to prepare for a plethora of entrance exams to various engineering institutes. This not only puts enormous pressure on them but also makes their academic development patchy. A common Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) would significantly lessen the burden on engineering aspirants.

normalised across the various school boards on a percentile basis, to correct for differing marking standards at different boards.

Contrary to the perception that the JEE would straightjacket the elite IITs, the 'one

■ TIMES VIEW ■

This streamlining of engineering admissions has other benefits too. Thanks to the wide gap between class XII and entrance exam syllabi, students often ignore the former to prepare themselves for the latter. This in turn has led to a mushrooming of commercial coaching institutes and created a nexus between schoolteachers, coaching tutors and college administrators, who fleece students and their parents for providing quality education that should have been available in the schools themselves. However, under the new system, significant weightage is to be given to class XII board results. This will be first-

nation, one test formula leaves ample scope for separating the wheat from the chaff. While all engineering aspirants would be sitting for the two-step JEE - mains as well as advanced tests - it is only those who are shortlisted on the basis of their main scores and class XII board results - 50% weightage for both - whose advanced test scores would be considered for admissions to the IITs. For reducing the burden on students and yet providing a competitive platform for engineering admissions, the new system needs to be commended as long as the tests are well-designed with sufficient input from the IITs.



This will ruin the IITs

The decision to change the admission process of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is a big mistake. The government's move to provide performance in class XII examina-

The move is like replacing one central and proven filter with almost two dozen filters of varying qualities. And this can change results significantly in a process where even a decimal point change in marks can change the merit rankings rather dramatically.

Similarly, though it is true that a common entrance test will help students to cut down on the time and resources spent for applying to different institutes the move is unlikely to secure the

■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Pyaralal Raghavan

tions of the various state boards, almost half the total marks used for drawing the first list of the IIT admissions, substantially dilutes the autonomy the IITs enjoyed in devising the criteria for admission, a prime reason for the success and brand value of IITs. Even if one assumes that the plan to normalise marks secured by the students passing out from different states can work (a very big if), different state board exams are still a poor replacement for the IITs' own rigorous admission tests, which have so successfully identified the best students for so many decades.

broader aim of whittling down the importance of the increasingly expensive coaching classes, which tilt the playing field in favour of the more affluent groups.

In fact, such a change can be even counterproductive because it ensures that students would now have to spend more time and resources for both board and the JEE, which expands the business opportunities of the coaching classes. So it would be best that the current IIT admission procedures are continued with some incremental improvements.

Passes the test

The Centre has done the right thing in deciding on a common two-part joint entrance examination (JEE) for the undergraduate engineering programmes in all the 60-odd institutions under its jurisdiction. From 2013 onwards, there would be a JEE (main) and JEE (advanced) paper to select candidates for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) as well as the National Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology and other Centrally-funded engineering educational institutions. Moreover, candidates will be assessed not only based on JEE 'main' and 'advanced' performance, but also their Class XII Board marks, with these accorded respective weightages of 30, 30 and 40 per cent. Even for the elite IITs, while the final rankings are to be based on JEE (advanced) performance, there would, however, be a prior screening stage where the JEE (main) and Class XII Board results will form the basic eligibility criteria for selection.

Both these moves — having a common JEE system and taking into account Class XII performance — are laudable. The first one saves students the bother of preparing and writing multiple entrance exams, often in different locations. Considering the school-leaving exam results, apart from that of the main and advanced JEE, would mean assessing students on the basis of their scores in three papers, rather than one 'knock-out' exam. That probably will translate

into a much better measure of merit.

It would also be fairer: Not all parents can, after all, send their children to private tutorial centres that would 'prepare' them for entrance exams. Besides

addressing the inherent inequity in students from less affluent backgrounds not being able to compete with those undergoing special coaching in such centres, the weightage to Board results would restore to the teaching of science subjects at the secondary school level, the primacy that it has sadly lost in recent years.

The proposed reforms in the engineering entrance examination system would have greater impact if they force State Governments to also follow suit. Ideally, they should bring their own engineering colleges under the purview of the JEE, so that students writing it are eligible to apply to these institutions as well. True, education being a concurrent subject, the Centre cannot impose anything on the States. The fact that there are reservation quotas, varying from State to State, poses added complications — though it may not be difficult really to use the scores from a common exam for admission to engineering colleges across the country, even while adhering to the quotas fixed by the respective States. But the fundamental point is that we need to move to a system of standardisation in entrance exams, whether it is for engineering or medicine. By taking the initiative for its own institutions, the Centre may set the right example for not just State Government-run, but even private engineering and medical colleges to emulate. The market, too, would ultimately place more value on students selected from a common nationwide exam.

► We need to move to a system of standardisation in entrance exams, whether it is for engineering or medicine.

'CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON 4.5% SUB-QUOTA IS AN OPTION'

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: With the Andhra Pradesh high court scrapping the 4.5% sub-quota for minorities, the government may explore various possibilities to ensure that those under this category are not affected.

First of all, the government will move the Supreme Court for an interim stay, sources said, adding: "Only if that does not work in the government's favour will it think of exploring other options. An amendment in the constitution could be just one of the options. After all, amendments have been made in the past also."

The Andhra Pradesh high court had on Monday passed an order scrapping the 4.5% minority sub-quota. More than 300 students had been shortlisted under this sub-quota for the IIT-JEE this year. The selection of these students could be affected in the light of the ruling.

This year, the IITs had allowed a 4.5% sub-quota within the 27% seats reserved for other backward classes (OBC) – the non-creamy layer-OBC (NCL). Though as many as 445 seats were reserved for this category, 335 students qualified.

All quota options on table, including amending statute

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE government may consider amending the Constitution to retain the 4.5 per cent minority subquota in Central educational institutions and government jobs in case the Supreme Court delivers an unfavourable verdict, highly placed sources said.

The government has announced it will challenge this week's Andhra Pradesh High Court verdict striking down the quota on the ground that it is based on religion. A special leave petition in the Supreme Court could be filed as early as next Monday, the sources said.

The HRD Ministry has asked all Central educational institutions to allocate 4.5 per cent of the 27 per cent OBC quota for non-creamy layer minority students from this academic session. The IITs are already halfway

through their admission process, and have shortlisted 325 candidates under the 4.5 per cent quota. Following the HC order, some IITs have held back on announcing admissions to these seats. "We are a little confused. We have, therefore, not announced admission to seats under the 4.5 per cent subquota. We have some time because the first semester starts only in July, but we are looking for directions from the HRD ministry," an IIT director said.

The Centre had notified the subquota in December 2011 ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. On May 25, the HRD ministry wrote to all Central educational institutions saying that they should clarify on the eligibility criteria under the subquota "well in time" so that "sufficient number of eligible OBC candidates are available for selection on the basis of inter-se merit against such reserved seats".

अल्पसंख्यक कोटे के लिए संविधान संशोधन पर गौर कर सकता है केंद्र

नई दिल्ली, 30 मई (ईएनएस)। केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों और सरकारी नौकरियों में अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए 4.5 फीसद आरक्षण पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का प्रतिकूल फैसला आने पर सरकार इस कोटे के लिए संविधान संशोधन पर विचार कर सकती है। आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट की ओर आरक्षण का यह प्रावधान नामंजूर करने के बाद केंद्र सरकार इस दिशा में संजीदगी से विचार कर रही है। भरोसेमंद सूत्रों ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी।

सरकार ने घोषणा की है कि वह हाई कोर्ट के इस फैसले को चुनौती देगी। पिछले दिनों आंध्र हाई कोर्ट ने पिछड़ों के 27 फीसद आरक्षण में 4.5 फीसद अल्पसंख्यक कोटे को ठुकराते हुए कहा था कि धर्म आधारित आरक्षण की संविधान में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। सूत्रों ने कहा है कि इस फैसले को चुनौती देने के लिए सोमवार तक एक विशेष अनुमति याचिका सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दाखिल की जा सकती है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने सभी केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों को निर्देश दिया है कि पिछड़ों के लिए 27 फीसद आरक्षण के भीतर

4.5 प्रावधान या कोटा पिछड़े अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए इसी अकादमिक सत्र में रखा जाए। कई आईआईटी में प्रवेश की प्रक्रिया आधी पूरी हो चुकी है और उन्होंने 4.5 फीसद कोटे के तहत 325 उम्मीदवारों के नाम छांट लिए हैं। हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के बाद कुछ आईआईटी ने इन सीटों पर दाखिले को रोक रखा है।

एक आईआईटी निदेशक ने कहा कि इस मामले में हम थोड़ा संशय में हैं। इसलिए 4.5 फीसद उप-आरक्षण के तहत सीटों के बारे में अभी कोई घोषणा नहीं की है। हमारे पास अभी काफी वक्त है, क्योंकि पहला सेमेस्टर जुलाई में ही शुरू होता है। फिर भी हमें मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के निर्देशों का इंतजार है। इस बीच पिछड़े वर्ग के लिए आरक्षण कोटे में अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए 4.5 फीसद के प्रावधान को आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट की ओर से रद्द किए जाने के बाद विपक्षी दलों के निशाने पर आई कांग्रेस ने बुधवार को कहा कि वह पार्टी के चुनावी घोषणापत्र में किए गए वादों को पूरा करने को लेकर प्रतिबद्ध है।

Won't dump quota promise: Congress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Wednesday dubbed 4.5% sub-quota as its commitment to minorities, betraying concern that judicial veto to its outreach measure may leave it vulnerable to political sniping.

In a suo moto statement, AICC spokesman Rashid Alvi said, "The progress of minorities is our commitment and responsibility. We will fulfill promises made in our election manifesto. The law minister has already said the government will move the Supreme Court against the Andhra Pradesh high court order. We have a commitment to minorities."

The Congress's bid to strongly own up the 'minority quota' came amid palpable resentment among Muslims over the quashing of the 4.5% quota and indications that quota-facilitated success in elite exams like IIT in its inaugural year could be set aside. The community leaders have also termed the order as unfortunate.

Though the Andhra HC has

in the past struck down quota given to religious minorities, sections of Congress are worried that scrapping of 4.5% quota could leave it susceptible to attacks from rivals from both sides of the ideological divide.

While BJP has already gone on the offensive to dub the measure as driven by communal considerations, quoting the court order to back its charge, Congress's "secular" rivals have adopted a curious silence but could target the party soon. After Congress struck a loud pitch in UP campaign over the quota to woo Muslims, Samajwadi Party rubbished it as a decision meant only for electoral gains. The quashing has given the Samajwadis the perfect opening to target Congress, though they have preferred to keep quiet just yet. The same is true for other 'secular' parties.

Congress's concern to ring-fence the party was evident in its independent move to reassure minorities even though law minister Salman Khurshid had earlier announced the decision to move the apex court.

'Gangajal medicine' casts shadow over key hydel projects

PRANAB DHAL SAMANTA
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

A STUDY by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI) claiming that water in the Ganga has unique "anti-bacterial" properties has put a question mark on at least three important hydel projects on the Alaknanda in Uttarakhand. And forced Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to depute an official emissary to explain matters to environmentalist and former IIT professor G D Agrawal — later rechristened as Swami Gyanswaroop Sanand — of the Ganga Seva Abhiyanam who claims that the river will lose these properties if hydel

projects come up on its upper reaches.

The PM's initiative comes amid fears of a major agitation building up to coincide with next year's once-in-12-years Mahakumbh on the banks of the Ganga. Anna Hazare has already come out in support of the cause and even shot off a letter to the PM in March.

Such is the concern that Uttarakhand is not letting Swami Sanand enter the state. On Monday, Sanand attempted to go towards Alaknanda but was stopped at the Uttarakhand border by the state police and brought back to Delhi, where he was admitted to AIIMS

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'Gangajal medicine' casts cloud on key projects

and later discharged. Insiders said the state fears his presence may stoke religious sentiments on an emotive issue.

The NEERI study, commissioned by the Tehri Hydel Development Corporation and submitted last November, has become a key document for the protestors. It states: "The present study confirmed that the uniqueness of the River Bhagirathi/Ganga lay in its sediment content which is more radioactive compared to other river and lake water sediments. It has bactericidal properties and can cause proliferation of coliphages that reduce and ultimately eliminate coliforms from overlying water column. Investigations revealed that particulate matters of Alaknanda have identical anti-bacterial property as that of Bhagirathi."

Protestors claim that these projects change the

course of the river which leads to the loss of its "unique properties". The Ganges, they argue, acquires these properties because of the sediments it gathers along this path. Any obstruction in the form of a dam or a barrage impedes the river's course. The group's demand is that of an "Aviral (obstacle-free) Ganga".

A worried PMO is learnt to have asked the consortium of seven IITs to validate the NEERI's claims. The consortium, which has been tasked to draw up a Ganga River Basin Management Plan, will now have to look into this first. Incidentally, the NEERI study gives a clean chit to the Tehri project, stating that it does not obstruct the course of the river.



include the World Bank-assisted project in Vishnugad Pipalkoti, where the rehabilitation plan is complete and the Singoli-Bhatwari project.

A few years ago, the Centre gave in and scrapped three projects on the River Bhagirathi amid heightened protests

in Uttarakhand. Now, armed with the NEERI study and increasing clout, the group feels the action on the projects along the Alaknanda is only a logical sequel.

Sanand, meanwhile, met BJP leader Uma Bharti besides scores of other RSS sympathisers. The Centre, sources said, is worried about this campaign acquiring a feverish pitch by Dussheera and carrying on till the Mahakumbh.

The government has, in fact, conveyed to Sanand that it could consider modifying these projects to ensure that a part of the river continues to flow on the original course and the diverted portion joins the river later. But there has been no response yet.

If the government were to fully concede, the worst affected would be the 330 MW Srinagar hydel project being built by GVK that is 90 per cent complete. The others in-



उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा स्नातकीय पाठ्यक्रम में किए गए बदलावों का स्वागत कर रहे हैं डॉ. निरंजन कुमार

बारहवीं की परीक्षा के विभिन्न बोर्डों के परिणाम आने शुरू हो गए हैं। दूसरी तरफ विश्वविद्यालयों ने स्नातक में प्रवेश-प्रक्रिया की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। औपनिवेशिक विरासत की देन भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली, दुर्भाग्यवश आज भी ब्रिटिश पद्धति पर आधारित है। स्नातक स्तर की शिक्षा, उच्च शिक्षा का आरंभिक सोपान है और इसलिए बहुत ही अहम भी है। आज इस त्रिवर्षीय स्नातकीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था में एक आमूलतः परिवर्तन की जरूरत है। इस दिशा में सुगर का बिगुल बजाते हुए दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) ने 2013-14 से नवोन्मेषी स्नातकीय पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने की घोषणा की है, जिसके दूरगामी परिणाम हो सकते हैं।

भारत में स्नातक अर्थात् बीए, बीएससी, और बीकॉम या अन्य समतुल्य डिग्री ही वह न्यूनतम अर्हता है जिसके आधार पर कोई आइएएस से लेकर बैंक ऑफिसर अथवा असिस्टेंट तक के रोजगार के लिए योग्य हो जाता है। यह समझा जाता है कि स्नातक उत्तीर्ण व्यक्ति विभिन्न जिम्मेदारियों का वहन करने में सक्षम और समर्थ है। जबकि सच्चाई कुछ और है। एक उदाहरण से समझा जाए कि अगर किसी विद्यार्थी के बीए में संस्कृत, दर्शनशास्त्र और मनोविज्ञान विषय हों या फिर वह बीएससी पास हो, तो वह किस तरह से एक सफल बैंक ऑफिसर या पुलिस सब-इंस्पेक्टर या प्रशासनिक ऑफिसर बनने के काबिल हो जाएगा? यह ठीक है कि वह प्रवेश परीक्षा से चयनित होकर आ रहा है, लेकिन सवाल उठता है कि संस्कृत और दर्शनशास्त्र या भौतिकी या जीव विज्ञान जैसे ऐच्छिक विषयों में बहुत अच्छे अंक लाकर अगर कोई इन परीक्षाओं में सफल हो जाए, तो क्या उसे उस सेवा का भी श्रेष्ठ उम्मीदवार समझा जाए? फिर, ऐसे व्यक्ति सामान्य जीवन में भी एक संतुलित और जिम्मेदार व्यक्तित्व के रूप में उभर नहीं पाते हैं। स्नातक स्तर पर विज्ञान, कला या कॉमर्स आदि के अध्ययन से सिर्फ एक ही

वर्ग में अच्छा ज्ञान मिल सकता है। एक सामान्य व्यक्ति को दैनिक जीवन में कुछ और चीजों की भी आवश्यकता होती है। उसे पर्यावरण, स्वास्थ्य, राजनीतिक जीवन, पुलिस-कानून, आर्थिक परिस्थितियों, सांस्कृतिक समन्वय, इतिहास जैसे चीजों से रूबरू होना पड़ता है। इनके बारे में एक स्नातक व्यक्ति को सम्यक ज्ञान नहीं होगा, चाहे वह किसी भी वर्ग का हो। इसको एक अन्य उदाहरण से यूँ समझें कि उपरोक्त विषयों में से किसी भी एक से स्नातक व्यक्ति को अगर पुलिस किसी बात के लिए परेशान करे तो उसे पता ही नहीं कि उसके क्या अधिकार हैं। यहाँ तक कि हिंदी या अर्थशास्त्र या गणित के एक प्राध्यापक को भी संपन्नता पता नहीं होगा कि उसके कानूनी अधिकार क्या हैं, या एक जिम्मेदार नागरिक होने के नाते पर्यावरण रक्षा के लिए क्या करना या क्या नहीं करना जरूरी है।

शायद उपरोक्त बिंदुओं के मद्देनजर ही डीयू ने स्नातक संबंधी प्रणाली को तीन वर्षीय कार्यक्रम की जगह चार वर्षीय किया है, जहाँ आरंभिक वर्ष में सभी विद्यार्थियों को कुछ अनिवार्य विषय पढ़ने होंगे, जैसाकि अमेरिका, कनाडा आदि देशों में भी है। अमेरिका में इसे कोर करिकुलम कहते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए विश्व के श्रेष्ठतम विश्वविद्यालयों में से एक यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ शिकागो में पंद्रह कोर कोर्स हैं। इसी तरह हार्वर्ड या कोलंबिया यूनिवर्सिटी के अपने-अपने कोर कोर्स हैं।



यहाँ बता देना उचित होगा कि साइंस वालों को यहाँ सिर्फ साइंस के विषय ही नहीं, बल्कि अन्य विषयों का भी अध्ययन करना होता है। मिसाल के तौर पर अमेरिका की ही सेंट लुईस यूनिवर्सिटी में साइंस के छात्रों को भी इतिहास, साहित्य, कला, सामाजिक विज्ञान, संस्कृति के कोर्स पास करने पड़ते हैं। यही नहीं, इंजीनियरिंग की डिग्री प्राप्त करने के लिए भी कला, मानविकी या सामाजिक विज्ञान के कुछ कोर्स उत्तीर्ण करने पड़ते हैं। उसी तरह कला या साहित्य से ऑनर्स करने वालों को गणित, विज्ञान और सामाजिक विज्ञान के कोर्स भी पास करने होते हैं। इस प्रकार की शिक्षा प्रणाली में विद्यार्थी चाहे जिस विषय से ऑनर्स करे, समाज और जीवन के बारे में उसे एक अच्छे और संतुलित जानकारी हो जाती है, जिससे वह एक जिम्मेदार सामाजिक व्यक्ति बनकर उभरता है। डीयू द्वारा 2012-13 से 'मानविकी में बीटेक' के नवोन्मेषी चार वर्षीय मेटा कॉलेज पाठ्यक्रम के प्रस्ताव को इसी आलोक में समझा जाना चाहिए। जिसमें छात्रों को न केवल विभिन्न वर्गों से विषय चुनने का अवसर होगा, बल्कि उन्हें डीयू के विभिन्न कॉलेजों में जाकर पढ़ने की भी अनुमति होगी।

प्रस्तावित सुधारों में एक अन्य अभिन्न योजना है कि ऑनर्स के विषय का आवंटन शुरू में ही न होकर, जैसा कि हमारे अधिकांश विश्वविद्यालयों में हो जाता है, एक साल बाद होगा। इस कदम का महत्व इस अर्थ में है कि स्नातक में प्रवेश लेते समय

अधिकांश को पता नहीं होता कि किस विषय में उसे ज्यादा दिलचस्पी है या किस में वह अच्छा कर सकता है। लेकिन एक वर्ष तक विभिन्न विषयों को पढ़ने के बाद उसे यह समझ आ सकती है।

स्नातकीय कार्यक्रम के दौरान दो वर्षों निर्गमन, अर्थात् दूसरे साल के अंत में एसेसिएट डिग्री और तीन वर्ष पश्चात बैचलर डिग्री के विकल्प का प्रस्ताव भी अत्यंत क्रांतिकारी है। चार वर्ष की शिक्षा के बाद ऑनर्स डिग्री मिलेगी, जिसमें चौथा वर्ष शोध-अनुसंधान उन्मुख होगा। यह भी प्रस्ताव है कि एसेसिएट और बैचलर डिग्री छोड़ने वाले छात्र दस साल के अंदर अपनी शेष शिक्षा पूरी कर सकते हैं। इस अवधि को पांच से सात साल रखना चाहिए क्योंकि अपनी मानसिक ऊर्जा को बनाए रखने और नई वास्तविकताओं का सामना के साथ-साथ पूर्व हासिल ज्ञान को बरकरार रखने के लिए 10 साल का वकत कुछ लंबा है।

नियमित पाठ्यक्रम से एक साल की छूट लेकर ओपन स्कूल के द्वारा इसे पूरा करने देने का विकल्प कोर्स की एक अन्य विशेषता है। हार्वर्ड, एमआइटी, येल जैसे दुनिया के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों ने भी कुछ ओपन कोर्स चला रखे हैं और जो काफी लोकप्रिय भी हैं। लेकिन डीयू के प्रस्तावों का विरोध भी शुरू हो गया है। एक तो इसलिए कि यह अमेरिकी मॉडल पर आधारित है। लेकिन श्रेष्ठ विचार चाहे कहीं का भी हो, जरूर अपनाना चाहिए। यह अनायास नहीं कि चीन ने अपने पूरे उच्च शिक्षा को अमेरिकी पैटर्न पर ढाला है और एक शैक्षणिक महाशक्ति बन चला है। फिर, हमने अपने संविधान के अनेक तत्व क्या अमेरिकी संविधान से ग्रहण नहीं किए हैं? जरूरी है कि अन्य विश्वविद्यालय भी डीयू के नवशेकदम पर चलते हुए स्नातकीय शिक्षा की ओवरहालिंग शुरू कर दें। यही समय की मांग है।

(लेखक दिल्ली विवि में प्रोफेसर हैं)
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समय की मांग

• जरूरी है कि अन्य विश्वविद्यालय भी दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के नवशेकदम पर चलते हुए स्नातकीय शिक्षा की ओवरहालिंग शुरू कर दें। यही समय की मांग है

Education without skills will lead to unemployment

Business is concerned with the employability, potential of a candidate, and is not overly impressed by educational qualifications



MEETA W SENGUPTA

An educated person is not necessarily employable. This has been the cry from industry bosses. Much of the teaching community counters it with: Education is not just about getting job. Between employers who expect more and educators who cannot or will not focus on employability, our students are left adrift.

Governments across the world have been bringing out white papers on employability for over a decade. It has been established that skills that make people useful and productive need to be taught formally. This is true for both vocational and professional education. These abilities are the key to sustainable growth of progress for entire nations.

So, when your new recruit manages to get a job done without being told thrice — that is a sign of good training which augurs well for your productivity as a unit, and ultimately for the entire country. But most young recruits fail to deliver initially.

This inability is a cost to the business and to the recruit. The skills required by employers have been mapped often, and include seemingly simple things such as communication, initiative, reliability, presentability and most importantly — content delivery.

India's much vaunted demographic dividend is guaranteed to turn into a demographic disaster if our young people are not skilled and employable. The sheer mass of young people without adequate skills to develop themselves and their organisations is enough to create horrific scenarios for the near future. It is clearly acknowledged that there is not too much time — we need rapid upskilling networks to be in place in the next three to five years.

Or, we face the prospect of three to five million unemployables flooding our streets every year. Either they will need to invest in themselves to retain these jobs, or their employers will need to invest in them to ensure that their jobs get done with a reasonable degree of competence.

In either case, a part of the cost will have to be borne by the employer, either in inefficiency or in mistakes. Employers may also have to invest in tighter job descriptions, with clearer and simpler expectations to match the dumbing down of skills that they report.

This last option would actually be a shame, as most mechanical jobs can be done by machines. Globally, jobs now seek skills that cannot be transferred to machines, making them more challenging to predict and to deliver.

This is where the core challenge for skill-providers lies. They truly have no means of predicting what skills may be

required for the future, nor can they possibly estimate with much accuracy how long the need for those skills will last.

The best they can do is ask employers what they require in their employees and seek to train people to those requirements. India has decided to tackle this by setting up sector skills councils via its industry associations. Sector skills councils are designed to provide insights into skills requirements that will inform colleges and trainers, who in turn will be able to design courses appropriately.

The idea is both sound and is tested in many countries with some variations. It has proved to be a qualified success, which is why in India the model needs to evolve with usability and sustainability built into the design. The National Skills Development Corporation has done some stellar work, while other initiatives including the upgrading of the ITIs, languish.

One of the biggest hurdles in developing a strong skills building system is the funding. Everybody seems to think that the responsibility for developing these skills lies with another set of institutions. Employers blame colleges, colleges blame schools and schools blame societal attitudes.

To complete the circle, prospective employees are blithely unaware of the standards expected of them, and blame employers when a mismatch occurs. This gap between abilities and expectations is traditionally filled by employers only for their current employees as they groom them for growth within the organisation. They do this through in-house and external training, mentoring and coaching programs supplemented by appraisal cycles.

But they see no reason to invest in people they do not know yet. Schools and training colleges are stuck with ancient curricula. But more importantly, they do not see employability as an objective for the education they provide. Students and their sponsors may be willing to pay, but if there is a clear understanding of the benefits that will accrue — without proof they will not invest.

Skills development training needs cohesive investment from all — employers, educators and employees, and ultimately from the Government too. The need for cogent action is truly urgent, not only because of our youth that deserves to be groomed to its true potential, but also because the employment market is global.

If one country does not supply competent employees, the demand will rapidly move to another country. India cannot afford to allow others to steal a march on the employability of our youth. Without an honest and decisive push in our skills strategy — the youth of the country are due for a frustrating ride in the global job markets of the future.

(The writer is an education strategy consultant who has lived, worked and taught in London for over a decade. She is now based in New Delhi.)

UK rejects appeal on student visa curbs

London: The British government on Wednesday rejected an appeal by nearly 70 top university heads to review changes to the student visa regime that is likely to put off students from India and other non-EU countries from coming to the UK.

In a letter to PM David Cameron, university heads noted the economic and other contributions made by international students, and said Britain stood to lose out on the highly competitive international student market unless the recent changes were reviewed.

The curbs on student visas are intended to reduce the number of international students and prevent abuse, but critics say students should not be counted as immigrants since their stay is temporary.

Immigration minister Damian Green rejected the contention saying, "Public confidence in statistics will not be enhanced by revising the way the net migration numbers are presented by removing students. Students coming to the UK for over a year are not visitors — their numbers affect communities, public services and infrastructure. ❏

Army chief's Ph D guide faces probe for 'plagiarism'

CONTROVERSY First inquiry puts him in a fix

Ashutosh Shukla

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BHOPAL: In a strange twist of events, the PhD guide of Army chief General VK Singh, Kailash Tyagi, is all set to face a probe into the authenticity of his own research works for getting his Ph D and D Lit degrees.

In 2010, amid much fanfare, General Singh had registered himself with the Barkatullah University, Bhopal, for a Ph D under the guidance of the professor of military science at the Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya (MVM) here. The topic of General's proposed thesis was 'Geo-strategy of Wakhan'.

Two years on, the state higher education department has proposed an inquiry by the university into the authenticity of Tyagi's own works towards his Ph D and D Lit after a preliminary inquiry into a complaint. The complaint had accused him of plagiarising his thesis for Ph D and D Lit degrees, both.

The principal of Govt Benazir Science & Commerce College, Umakant Mishra, had made the preliminary inquiry into the complaint. The complainant, Dinesh Trivedi of Jhansi, had charged Tyagi on several counts, including grave financial irregularities. He had initially lodged a complaint with the economic offences wing (EOW) of the police, which forwarded the matter to the higher education department for appropriate action. Following this, an inquiry into the charges against Tyagi was initiated at the behest of



■ In this photo taken on May 28, 2010, Chief of Army Staff Gen VK Singh seen coming out of Barkatullah University with his guide Kailash Tyagi after appearing in the interview for his doctoral research.

PRAVEEN BAJPAI/HT FILES

the officer on special duty (OSD) with the education department.

On plagiarism charges, the complainant said, "Tyagi can't write a single paragraph correct in English, but his research papers for Ph D and D Lit, which has absolutely been plagiarised, are in English. Let alone English, the learned professor can't write correct Hindi either." When the inquiry officer put the question to Tyagi, he replied, "It's a canard spread by my detractors. It's the result of their jealousy. I don't have to say anything further."

Based on his reply, the inquiry officer recommended a detailed inquiry into the allegation by the university with an interesting comment: "His command over Hindi could well be gauged by his letter written on March 13, 2012. Some of the words

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Army chief's Ph D guide faces probe as probity of his own thesis comes...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

misspelt by the professor are Bindoo (point), Vibhagiya (departmental), mangadhant (baseless) and Vriddhiyaan (increase or increment)."

In fact, Mishra has found Tyagi prima facie guilty on eight of the charges, including collection of lakhs of rupees from fellow teachers and depositing the same in his joint account with his wife at the State Bank of India's branch in Shahpura here in the name of teachers' union that he runs, indulging in unnecessary litigation against the state government, buying three cars during the last five years, manipulating fixation of his salary in a manner which shows that he is the highest paid professor/principal in the state in spite of being recruited as late as in 1984, taking increments as the incentive for Ph D, D Lit degree and family planning several times over.

When contacted, Tyagi described the inquiry to be a conspiracy by his detractors. He said the person, who is said to have lodged the complaint against him, does not exist, and charged that Mishra, who has held the preliminary inquiry into the complaint, is himself the complainant. "It's his handiwork. There are more in my

fraternity who are jealous of me, and some officers of the department are also conniving with them. I am the Ph D guide of the Indian Army chief. This also does not go down well with some of my colleagues," he said.

HUNDREDS OF BKU ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN ANUPPUR

The arrested BKU workers were kept in temporary imprisonment at different places including a stadium. Earlier, Tikait, said that farmers must be given their rightful compensation. He said that their agitation was peaceful and it was a democratic right to hold demonstration anywhere in the country.

TREAT EVERY TIGER DEATH AS POACHING, SAYS NTCA

Maharashtra — taking the state's 2012 death tally to 12. Recently, the state allowed forest officials to shoot poachers at sight.

The NTCA has asked tiger reserves to carry out a detailed probe before declaring the reason for the deaths. Officials are required to scan nearby areas to rule out the presence of metal traps, snares and evidence pertaining to unauthorised vehicular movement. The

NTCA also wants officials to check for toxic elements in watering holes or livestock killed by tigers.

3-FOLD JUMP IN YOUNG URBAN WOMEN SMOKERS

One in three (35%) adults (274 million) use tobacco in India

Research has established that young women are more likely than men to get addicted to smoking and are at higher risk of developing heart disease and stroke.

The WHO links smoking with 25 women's cancers - lung, cervix, breast and colon to name a few. Even second hand smoke raises breast cancer risk in women. "More than in men, smoking increases risk of stroke and heart disease among young women, with those also taking contraceptive pills increasing their risk 10 fold" says Dr Ravi Kasliwal, chairman, preventive and clinical cardiology, Medanta.

And this upward swing will continue. "With cigarette being marketed with images of modernity, emancipation... the gender disparity among smokers will soon even out completely and you'll see as many women smokers as men in the next five years," said Dr Sam Parikh, director of behavioural sciences at Fortis Hospital