

Newspaper Clips May 31, 2014

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IITs invite queries on JEE answer key

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NEW DELHI: In an bid to bring more transparency and acting on a directive of the Delhi high court, the IITs will for the first time, invite queries from candidates and stakeholders regarding answer keys before evaluating the Optical Response Sheets (ORS).

The change comes two days after a Delhi HC ruling on a petition by an IIT professor, Rajeev Kumar, seeking more transparency in the system. Nearly 1.2 lakh students had appeared for the JEE (Advanced) exam on May 25 for admission to 16 IITs and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

IIT Kharagpur — the organis-

ing institute for JEE (Advanced) 2014 — will upload the answer keys on June 1. Queries and clarifications will be allowed free of cost from June 1 to June 5 till 5 pm.

The aim is to make the corrections, if needed, before loading the ORS on June 8. The ORS would be available till June 11 and candidates can apply for a review till June 15 on payment of ₹500 per question.

“We have a rigid review system and each paper is thoroughly reviewed by more than 20 IIT professors. In total, around 60 professors have a look at the questions and the answers before we upload them. But this time we will make the system even more transparent,” says an official associated with the JEE exam.

Times of India ND 31.05.2014 P-19

Take queries before JEE evaluation: HC

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: In a big step towards transparency, Delhi high court has directed IIT Kharagpur, the organizing institute for this year's JEE (advanced), to entertain queries and clarifications on the answer keys for five days before starting the process of evaluation of optical response sheets of students.

Immediately after the court order, the JEE website announced the changes. Now, the answer keys will be made public on June 1 and stakeholders – students, parents, teachers and others – will till 5 pm of June 5 to submit their queries, post which evalua-

Till last year, IIT disclosed answer keys only after evaluation and no feedback was taken from students, which resulted in errors going uncorrected

tion will begin Results will be announced on June 19.

Before the HC order, JEE allowed students to get their answers reviewed at Rs 500 per question. But it was limited to challenging wrong scanning of their ORS. Since the answer bubbles are marked by pen it is unlikely there

would have been any mistake. Till last year, IIT disclosed answer keys only after evaluation and no feedback was taken from students. As a result, errors went uncorrected.

The court order, which came on a PIL by IIT professor Rajeev Kumar, will help students across the board. In the past, wrong questions/evaluation has resulted in a huge loss to students: worth 23 marks in chemistry (2006), 18 marks in mathematics (2008), 30 marks due to question setting errors in 2011 and 14 marks in 2012.

The HC order is the latest in a long series of reforms in JEE being undertaken over the past few years.

HC directs IITs to seek student feedback before evaluating JEE papers

Kalpana Pathak | Mumbai

May 31, 2014 Last Updated at 00:38 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hc-directs-iits-to-seek-student-feedback-before-evaluating-jee-papers-114053100138_1.html

In what could have far-reaching implications for students and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), [Delhi High Court](#) has directed IITs to seek objections and queries from candidates about correctness of the answer keys before evaluating [JEE\(Advanced\) optical response sheets](#).

The high court passed the order dated May 28 in response to a PIL filed by an IIT-Kharagpur professor, Rajiv Kumar, about wrong/ambiguous questions, which are routinely found in every years' JEE. Kumar could not be reached for a comments.

The order directed [IIT Kharagpur](#), the organising institute for JEE (Advanced) 2014 to - invite objections from candidates/public (stakeholders) regarding correctness of the answer-keys before evaluating the Optical Response Sheets ([ORS](#)) and then consider the objections by subject experts so that corrections, if any, could be made in the answer keys before initiating the evaluation of the ORS of JEE (Advanced) 2014.

Pramod Maheshwari, CEO, Career Point, an IIT-JEE coaching institute, said, "This order is positive for students and puts a question mark on the credibility of IITs revealing the manner in which they set up question papers."

Subsequent to high court order, IIT-Kharagpur updated the JEE (Advanced) 2104 web-site and appended the schedule for submitting queries/clarification about answer keys to the chairman, JEE, IIT Kharagpur (chairjee@adm.iitkgp.ernet.in) by June 5, 2014.

The answer sheet of JEE (Advanced) 2014 is a machine-readable ORS. These sheets are graded and scrutinised with extreme care. Candidates can view the answer keys of JEE (Advanced) 2104 on Advanced 2014 website from June 1, 2014.

ORS of all candidates would have appeared both in Paper-1 and Paper-2 and will be on display on the website from June 08 to June 11, 2014 along with the machine-read responses and the marks scored.

Candidates can submit requests online to review in case of any perceived errors in the machine read responses.

Candidates will be charged at rate of Rs 500 per questions to be reviewed.

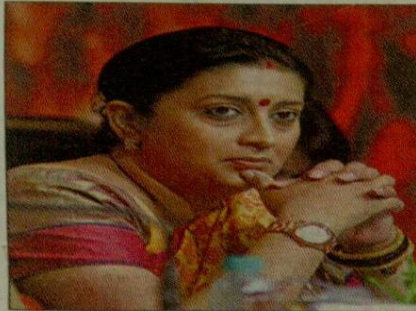
Smriti starts working on new IITs

BJP manifesto promised institutes in all states

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on Friday started work on implementing the Bharatiya Janata Party's election promise of setting up IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) in every state.

Ministry sources said Smriti met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and discussed the financial requirements for doling out new premier technical institutes to the states which do not have any.



Smriti Irani

The minister was also learnt to have discussed with Jaitley about the financial requirements of setting up of a central university on Himalayan technology and a national e-library for school teachers and students.

While campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls, Narendra Modi had promised setting up of IITs in every state. The BJP in its poll manifesto had pledged setting up of a central university on Himalayan technology and a national e-library.

Under pressure since Congress questioned her capability to hold the HRD Ministry portfolio raising the issue of her educational qualification, Irani is now pushing hard to implement the poll promises of her party.

Smriti is moving ahead for setting up new IITs in the unserved states, even as the ministry officials strongly disfavoured the idea during her first meeting with them on Tuesday.

According to sources, the officials were of the view that no new higher educational institution should be announced unless land is made available by the states concerned and necessary infrastructure including campus is built on them.

To drive home their point, the official gave examples of the new IITs set up during the United Progressive Alliance regime. Except IIT Mandi, all the seven IITs set up by the previous government are still operating from temporary campuses. The shifting of these technical institutes got delayed mainly because the states concerned failed to allocate land on time.

As a result, the cost of shifting of the new IITs has almost doubled from about Rs 750 crore per institute estimated at the time of the clearance of the proposal by the Union Cabinet in July, 2008.

The NDA government will now have to approve the revised estimates of about Rs 14,000 crore for shifting of these institutes to their permanent campus as the UPA government had rejected the HRD Ministry's proposal due to financial crunch.

Ministry officials also referred to the 12th Five Year Plan which stresses on consolidation of the existing institutions, their capacity and improvement of quality of education, instead of putting focus on further expansion, sources said.

Smriti, however, remained unconvinced with the views of her officials and asked them to work on the plan to roll out more IITs across the country.

DH News Service

HRD moves on audit indicting UGC

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: HRD ministry has sought details from the University Grants Commission on an audit report by director general of audit, central expenditure, that has severely indicted the regulator for financial mismanagement and not even having an internal audit mechanism.

In fact, follow up action on the audit report will be one of the first things that new HRD minister Smriti Irani will be confronted with.

Highlight of the audit by the director general of audit, central expenditure, is the manner in which UGC has created its own fee structure of payment to advocates resulting in excess payment of Rs 84.88 lakh. The report said UGC hired senior advocates without following proper procedure in arbitrary manner.

"The UGC is hiring other



Smriti Zubin Irani

senior advocates only on the recommendation of its legal consultant Amitesh Kumar without consulting other panel advocates," it said. From 2011-12 to 2013-14, it said, UGC spent Rs 5.51 crore on legal fees. It was also revealed that UGC paid Rs 50,000 per conference charge to senior advocates, incurring an expenditure of Rs 12.50 lakh for 25 conferences.

The audit report also said UGC hired contractual staff for various posts — clerks, as-

DU suspends 5 for leaking Smriti papers

The Delhi University (DU) on Friday suspended five officials for allegedly leaking documents related to educational qualifications of Union human resources development minister Smriti Irani, officials said. The documents, published in a Hindi daily, had revealed that Irani had taken admission in DU's School of Open Learning last year, but had not appeared for her examination. "Five of the non-teaching staff of the school of open learning have been suspended for accessing the confidential file and then leaking it," Malay Neerav, DU joint dean of students's welfare and media coordinator, told reporters. IANS

sistants, skilled/semi-skilled, consultants, driver, cook — that was in excess of their sanctioned strength for which it had to bear an extra burden of Rs 2.07 crore per year. "As per rule, the man-in-position cannot be higher than the sanctioned strength," report said, adding that UGC should immediately curtail this expenditure.

What has particularly caught the attention of auditors is the way consultants were hired by UGC. The re-

port listed consultants by name — S K Ray who retired as joint secretary from HRD ministry and A K Sharma who was earlier in NCERT — and said their appointment was irregular. The report specifically mentioned that honorarium of chief consultants was increased from Rs 35,000 to Rs 70,000 without their request. Every year, UGC incurred excess expenditure of Rs 70 lakh.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Centre will ensure 50% reservation to Goans at NIT

TNN | May 31, 2014, 01.35 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Centre-will-ensure-50-reservation-to-Goans-at-NIT/articleshow/35799415.cms>

CUNCOLIM: Expressing confidence that the central government would heed to his request of granting 50% reservation for Goans at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), chief minister Manohar Parrikar criticized the NIT Goa director for not cooperating with the state government.

Parrikar was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of the Cuncolim-Sanvorcotto bridge and touched upon the NIT issue which has seen strong opposition from locals.

Parrikar stated that the foundation stone for the NIT building in Cuncolim would be laid in December. He further criticized the NIT Goa director for delays in the land acquisition process and creating obstacles by demanding for 12 lakh square meters while promising only 25% reservation for locals. Parrikar added that he was capable of getting another NIT to Goa if there was such a requirement.

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Students, teachers take FYUP stir to HRD ministry

Soumya Pillai

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NEW DELHI: Students and teachers of Delhi University held a demonstration outside the ministry of human resource development urging the HRD minister Smriti Irani to roll back the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP).

“We had a detailed meeting with the minister where we discussed the problems in the functioning of the university and she has assured us immediate intervention,” said Nandita Narain, president, Delhi University Teachers’ Association (DUTA).

The demonstration however was mainly to bring to the fore the disparity between the degree from School of Open Learning (SOL) and the regular courses. SOL is still following the three-year undergraduate programme.

“The disparity in the degrees

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NANDITA NARAIN, president, DUTA

of SOL and the regular colleges heightens the risk of the centre getting derecognized. The university does not have the right to make students the guinea pigs of their experiments,” said a teacher of the university who did not wish to be identified.

The delegation also submitted a memorandum to make arrangements for the batch

admitted in 2013 to get an honours degree in three years.

The BJP in its campaigns had assured that FYUP would be rolled back by their government.

“We hope that we see some positive action before June 2 when the admission process will be initiated by the university,” said Saikat Ghosh, a teacher.

The university every year enrolls over 1lakh students at SOL. Around 54,000 students take admissions in regular college.

Dinesh Singh, the vice chancellor of the university however refused to comment on the issue. “We will do our job and the government will do theirs. Everything will go according to the rules of the university,” said Singh.

The sale of university forms starts on June 2 and the first cut-offs will be announced by the university on June 24.

Delhi University Suspends Five Officials for Leaking Smriti Irani's Documents

[All India](#) | [Indo-Asian News Service](#) | Updated: May 31, 2014 08:51 IST

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/delhi-university-suspends-five-officials-for-leaking-smriti-irani-s-documents-533606>

The Delhi University (DU) on Friday suspended five officials for allegedly leaking documents related to the educational qualifications of union Human Resources Development (HRD) Minister [Smriti Irani](#), officials said in Delhi.

"Five of the non-teaching staff of the school of open learning have been suspended for accessing the confidential file and then leaking it," Malay Neerav, DU joint dean of students' welfare and media coordinator, told reporters.

"These are officials below section officer level," he said.

DU took the action after a Hindi daily published the leaked documents. The daily had written that Ms Irani had taken admission in DU's School of Open Learning last year, but had not appeared for her examination.

Ms Irani is in the center of a controversy due to her educational qualifications that has led to a full-blown war of words between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Congress had alleged that Ms Irani had misrepresented facts in her election affidavits.

The Congress leaders have said that Ms Irani in her affidavit -- when she was contesting the 2004 Lok Sabha election -- mentioned her qualification as bachelor of arts (BA) which she passed in 1996 from Delhi University's school of correspondence.

But in her affidavit for this year's Lok Sabha election, the actor-turned-politician mentioned her educational qualification as "Bachelor of Commerce Part I, School of Open Learning (Correspondence), University of Delhi - 1994."

The Congress has protested against an "undergraduate" being appointed the HRD minister. ([Education Minister Smriti Irani 'Not Even Graduate!': Ajay Maken's Tweet Sparks Row](#))

The BJP countered it with questions about Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's academic background.

Ms Irani has meanwhile said that "extraneous circumstances" were created by the opposition to divert her and requested the people to judge her on the basis of her work. (['Judge Me By My Work': Smriti Irani's First Response To Controversy Over Her Education](#))

Smriti Irani urges DU VC to reinstate officials; Digvijay Singh says 'thanks'

http://zeenews.india.com/news/nation/smriti-irani-urges-du-vc-to-reinstate-officials-digvijay-singh-says-thanks_936216.html

New Delhi: In a bid to stop controversy over her education qualifications from flaring up further, Union Human Resources Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani on Saturday urged Professor Dinesh Singh, the vice-chancellor of Delhi University, to reinstate the officials suspended on Friday.

Irani, who has already urged people to judge her on the basis of her work, took to microblogging website Twitter to say that she is open to scrutiny and criticism.

An MBA doesn't mean big money, grads of 37% of schools start at ₹3L

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: A recent study has dispelled the myth that a B-school degree guarantees a fat pay packet. The average annual salary offered to students during placements in close to 40% of B-schools across the country is less than Rs 3 lakh, it has revealed.

Students from just 1% of the 4,500 institutes across the country — the top business schools that command Rs 12-15 lakh as course fees — are offered an annual salary upwards of Rs 9 lakh during campus placement.

The country's MBA dream, says the Crisil Research report, is fading fast as there is more awareness about the (lack of) quality, in-

PAY PACKET DATA



A recent study has graded B-schools into four categories on the basis of campus placements and salaries offered. Most of the **4,500** institutes in the country fall in the Tier-III and IV categories

Institute category	% of institutes	Occupancy rate (in %)	Annual salary (average, in ₹ lakh)	Number of students placed (in %)	Fees (average, in ₹ lakh)
Tier-I (top B-schools)	1	95-100	9+	98-100	12-15
Tier-II	10	80-95	5-9	80-98	8-12
Tier-III	52	70-80	3-5	60-80	5-8
Tier-IV	37	0-70	0-3	0-60	0-5

Crisil Research report

frastructure and decreasing return on investment.

Around 37% of the B-schools were placed in the bottom, with many failing

sometimes failing to place a single student. The average annual salary for those more fortunate is Rs 3 lakh.

The largest chunk of B-

schools — around 52% — falls in the Tier-III category of the study with an average annual salary of Rs 3-5 lakh. That apart, just 60-80% of students in this category are offered jobs. For the study, Crisil categorized B-schools into four categories based on occupancy rate, number of students placed, average annual salaries offered and average course fees charged.

"The number of B-schools in the country swelled to around 4,500 in 2012-13 from 3,000 in 2009-10. However, in recent times, there are fewer takers for MBA programmes. Consequently, several institutes have had to shut shop," stated the report.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

9,752 Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education students clear IIT-Mains

May 31, 2014, 01.20 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Education/News/9752-Rajasthan-Board-of-Secondary-Education-students-clear-IIT-Mains/articleshow/35799134.cms>

JAIPUR: Students of Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (RBSE) have attained unprecedented success in IIT-Mains. The state board ranked fourth in the country with selection of 9,752 students out of 1.5 lakh applicants. CBSE ranked first with 64,481 students making the cut.

This new examination system gives 40% weightage to Class XII marks that means that performance of RBSE students in science is also significantly better than other boards. The overall pass percentage of RBSE students in science was 80.45% in 2014. CBSE was followed by Andhra Pradesh Board with 20,730 students being selected, Maharashtra Board 11,724 students, Rajasthan Board 9,752 students and 8,670 students of Gujarat Board cleared IIT-Mains exam.

The unusual success of RBSE students can be attributed to its curriculum which is considered the toughest. Most of the teachers in senior secondary level are highly experienced also contributing to their success.

"I stuck to the basics of RBSE textbooks. To my surprise RBSE textbooks cover a wide spectrum of subjects - Physics, Chemistry and Maths. I referred to both Class XI and XII textbooks for preparation," said Tarun Sharma, a class XII student of RBSE who made it to IIT-Advanced and is hoping to clear the finals.

Explaining the reason behind the achievement, Manoj Sharma, vice-president (business & development), Resonance Eduventures Pvt Ltd, in Kota, said, "The success of any board, especially Andhra Pradesh board and Rajasthan board, is also due to easy access of systematic coaching hubs-Hyderabad and Kota, respectively." Around 2,070 students in our institute who cleared IIT-Mains were from Hindi medium, mostly from Rajasthan board, Sharma claimed.

Jogeshwar Rao, director, Rao IIT, Kota, which has students from all boards including RBSE, said, "Rajasthan students' aptitude for science has been remarkable. Undoubtedly, they are among the most laborious students."

More than 2,000 from Chennai write JEE

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chen-society/more-than-2000-from-chennai-write-jee/article6046907.ece>

A total of 2,428 candidates from Chennai appeared for the second edition of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) – Advanced, held at eight centres in the city on Sunday, said an official.

The examination, conducted in 98 cities across the country, was attempted by 1,50,000 candidates who were competing for close to 10,000 seats in the 16 Indian Institutes of Technology, said an official.

In Tamil Nadu alone, 3,040 candidates who wrote the exam at 10 centres in Chennai and Madurai.

On Sunday, there were two papers that were to be written offline. Both papers had questions in physics, chemistry and mathematics, said the official.

Students can expect the results in the third week of June, he said.

IIT student cycles to put brakes on child labour



Ujjwal Chauhan sets out on 2,500-km bicycle journey from Kolkata to Mumbai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/iit-student-cycles-to-put-brakes-on-child-labour/article6056171.ece>

It was almost chaos when photographers jostled with each other to capture the movement when Tollywood superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee flagged off the 2,500-km bicycle ride from Kolkata to Mumbai undertaken by Ujjwal Chauhan, a student of IIT Kharagapur, at Kolkata Press Club here on Tuesday. State footballers such as Mehtab Hossain, Jose Ramirez Barreto, and yesteryear football icon Chuni Goswami were present.

The initiative known as 'Ride 4 Child Rights' is being undertaken by CRY (Child Rights and You), an NGO that works to tackle exploitation of children.

To create awareness of the menace of child labour, Mr. Chowhan will embark on a month-long bicycle journey to Mumbai during which he will pass through Odisha, Chattisgarh, and Maharashtra and along the way, he will take pictures of various instances of child labour in these States.

When asked about the reason behind such an arduous task, Mr. Chowhan said, “I just wanted to create awareness of child labour and inspire the youth as they are the real agents of change.”

Across the street, diagonally opposite to the press club, in a nearby eatery, Sunil Mondal (14) was nonchalantly washing dishes. Hailing from Paschim Medinipur district, he has been working in this shop for the last three years.

When asked if he knows anything about the event at the press club, Sunil’s first answer was a blank stare.

Moments after, he said where he is from and how long he has been working in the shop when the owner intervened and said that he is not a worker and is at the shop just because summer vacations are going on. Sunil refused to say anything more in the fear of loosing his job.

Satyagopal Dey, associate general manager of CRY, told *The Hindu*, “It is not possible to pinpoint any immediate effect as a single initiative of a particular organisation cannot wipe out the nationwide presence of child labour.”

Wasps Give Newer Insights into Robotic Surgery

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/Wasps-Give-Newer-Insights-into-Robotic-Surgery/2014/05/30/article2253391.ece>

BANGALORE: Researchers from Indian Institute of Science have found that the egg-laying organs of wasps (ovipositors) have saw-like teeth coated with zinc. They lay eggs inside figs by drilling into the fruit. Insights gained from this study may help build tools that can aid in robot-assisted surgery, and novel mechanisms to bore through hard surfaces.

Boring into various surfaces to lay eggs is part of the female insect’s life. To successfully drill holes, and lay eggs in safe places, the insects have to overcome some key bio-mechanical challenges. Namrata Gundiah, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc and Lakshminath Kundanati, student, have shed light on how the egg laying organ of parasitoid wasps doubles up as a reliable drilling machine, says a press release from the IISc.

Each Fig, with a fleshy part in the inside called syconium, has its own wasp species, the pollinator wasp, which enters the syconium through a special opening and lays its eggs. The flowers get pollinated by the female wasp walking around inside. There are other wasps, called parasitoid wasps, which don’t pollinate or benefit the fig plant in any way. They sit outside the fig, drill a hole through the outer covering and lay eggs inside. The larvae of parasitoid wasps feed on the pollinator wasp larvae, making the inside of a fig a populated war zone.

A pollinator wasp has to enter the fig through a hole made for it, it has a smooth ovipositor. However, a parasitoid wasp that has to bore a hole through the fig needs to have a strong ovipositor. Through techniques like Scanning Electron Microscopy and Atomic Force Microscopy, researchers have deciphered what the two ovipositors are made of.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, the researchers say the parasitoid wasp is just 2 mm in length, with a 5 mm long ovipositor, which has teeth-like structures, similar to a double-edged saw; coated with zinc at the tips. Though the presence of such metals is suspected to make stronger tips, researchers are yet to find a conclusive evidence for that.

The pollinator wasp (*Ceratosolen fusciceps*), with much less demanding requirements, has a relatively smooth, spoon-like structure.

“There is a mutualism that exists between the pollinator fig and the wasps that has evolved over millions of years. The parasitoid tries to take advantage of this situation and this has evolved with her trying to access the pollinator larvae so that she may parasite them to ensure the evolutionary success of her offspring,” explained Namrata.

In both the wasps, the ovipositors are bigger in the tip region (‘big’ is comparable to the width of a strand of spider web silk). Similarly, the tip, one that should actually drill the hole, is much stronger than the inner regions of the ovipositor.

Though it is a study of an insect, it is completely relevant to engineering. “We are basically trying to understand material characterisation and mechanics of a biological system. The knowledge we gain here can be applied elsewhere like, for developing tools that aid in novel surgical methods,” says Laksmikanth Kundanati.