

Newspaper Clips

November 20, 2012

Times of India Kochi 19-11-2012 P-6

Engg colleges oppose AICTE norm

Association Wants Annual E-Journal Subscription To Be Made Optional

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Private engineering colleges in the state, already burdened with vacant seats, are unwilling to shell out money on annual subscription of national and international e-journals. The All-India Council for Technical Education has made it mandatory for colleges to subscribe to e-journals for approval in next academic year.

The Kerala Self-Financing Engineering College Managements' Association (KSFEEMA) has, at a meeting, decided to approach Union



Kerala Self-Financing Engineering College Managements' Association has decided to approach Union minister of state for human resources development Shashi Tharoor

minister of state for human resources development Shashi Tharoor with a request to make the subscription optional.

"Each college will have to shell out nearly Rs 17 lakh an-

nually to subscribe to the e-journals recommended by the AICTE. Most journals are not required by colleges that run only B'Tech courses. Also, we will have to renew subscription every year," association

president Younus Kunju said.

"Access to quality education to all will be the slogan for 2013-14 to give more impetus to quality in technical education. The role of AICTE as a regulator will be further geared up to weed out the institutions not fulfilling the norms and standards," the AICTE's approval process handbook says.

An expert committee will verify the actual availability of equipment, computers, software, internet, printers, subscription of national and international e-journals.

"Mere presentation of purchase orders/payment records for subscription, without actual availability, shall not be considered," it says.

The AICTE has warned of action against those failing to meet requirements. "Any failure in meeting requirements will attract either suspension of approval for supernumerary seats, if any for an academic year; no admission status in one/more courses for an academic year; withdrawal of approval for programme/course and withdrawal of approval of the institution," the handbook says.

Deccan Herald, ND 20/11/2012

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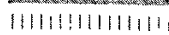
Needed reforms

The University Grants Commission's proposal to link central funding under the 12th Five-Year Plan, the granting of mandatory accreditation to universities and colleges and their rating with their implementation of academic and administrative reforms must be welcomed. This could put pressure on educational institutions to shake off their lethargy in implementing reforms recommended by the UGC in 2008. These reforms include introduction of the semester system, choice-based credit system, curriculum development, transparency in the admission procedures and examination reforms. The reforms aim at improving the quality of education being imparted in our universities. With regard to the curriculum, for instance, the UGC made revision of the syllabus mandatory every three years at least. It also provided a model curriculum to guide this revision. Sadly, most colleges and universities across the country failed to implement the reforms, forcing the UGC to crack the whip.

Few Indian educational institutions figure among the best in the world. The reasons for this are not hard to find. Our educational institutions burden students with outdated syllabi, archaic testing and grading methods,



UGC hopes to improve the quality of education.



and uninspiring teaching. The reforms will demand more of the students as well as the teachers. Students will have to study throughout the academic year in the proposed semester system rather than cram just before the annual examination in the existing system. An important obstacle in the way of implementation of reforms is the teaching fraternity. Under the reformed system, teachers will have to update their knowledge. They can be expected to protest the implementation of the reforms. The board of management of colleges have not been let off the hook. The reforms demand greater transparency in the admission process. This will address

the corruption and profit-oriented education that has become the norm across the country.

The UGC reforms must be implemented as we owe our youth meaningful education, one that excites them to think in new ways and motivates them to aspire for excellence, even as it prepares them for the challenges and changes of the 21st century. Unfortunately most educational institutions - driven as they are by profit - have not prioritised students in their imparting of education. By linking funds to reforms, the UGC has provided educational institutions with self-interest as a motivator for ushering in the changes. Hopefully this will work. Colleges will have to pull up their socks quickly as the UGC has given them until end-November to get their act together.

Times of India ND
20/11/2012 P-15

Now, control the computer cursor with thoughts

Washington: Researchers led by Indian-origin scientists claim to have designed the fastest and most accurate mathematical algorithm yet that can help disabled people manoeuvre computer cursors with their thoughts.

The algorithm's speed, accuracy and natural movement approach those of a real arm, researchers claim.

Researchers from Stanford have developed the algorithm for brain-implantable prosthetic systems, known as ReFIT, that vastly improves the speed and accuracy of neural prosthetics that control computer cursors.

In demonstrations with rhesus monkeys, cursors controlled by the new algorithm doubled the performance of existing systems and approached performance of the monkey's actual arm in controlling the cursor.

"These findings could lead to greatly improved prosthetic system performance and robustness in paralysed people, which we are actively pursuing as part of the clinical trial at Stanford," said researcher Krishna Shenoy. The system relies on a sensor implanted into the brain, which records "action potentials" in neural activity from an array of electrode sensors and sends data to a computer. ■

Mail Today, ND 20/11/2012 p-4

By Ritika Chopra
In New Delhi

WITH increasing instances of racial attacks and fake universities duping Indian students studying abroad, the central government now wants to ensure that there is help at hand for those falling prey to such scandals.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry in consultation with the ministry of external affairs (MEA) is working on establishing a direct link with Indian students studying overseas through an online portal.

The HRD ministry, which along with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be responsible for maintaining the website is hoping to launch it by January 2013.

According to HRD officials, the MEA has agreed "in principle" to have a nodal officer in each mission abroad to attend to the student complaints that come through the online portal.

"It was after the attack on Indian students in Australia that the government started thinking of ways to help them. Depending on the nature of the complaint, we (HRD ministry) will route them to the concerned agencies," a senior

THE SPREAD

70,000
Indian students
in Australia

1,00,270
Indian students
in the US

51,556
Indian students
across Europe

36,105
Indian students
in the UK alone

HRD ministry official said on the condition of anonymity.

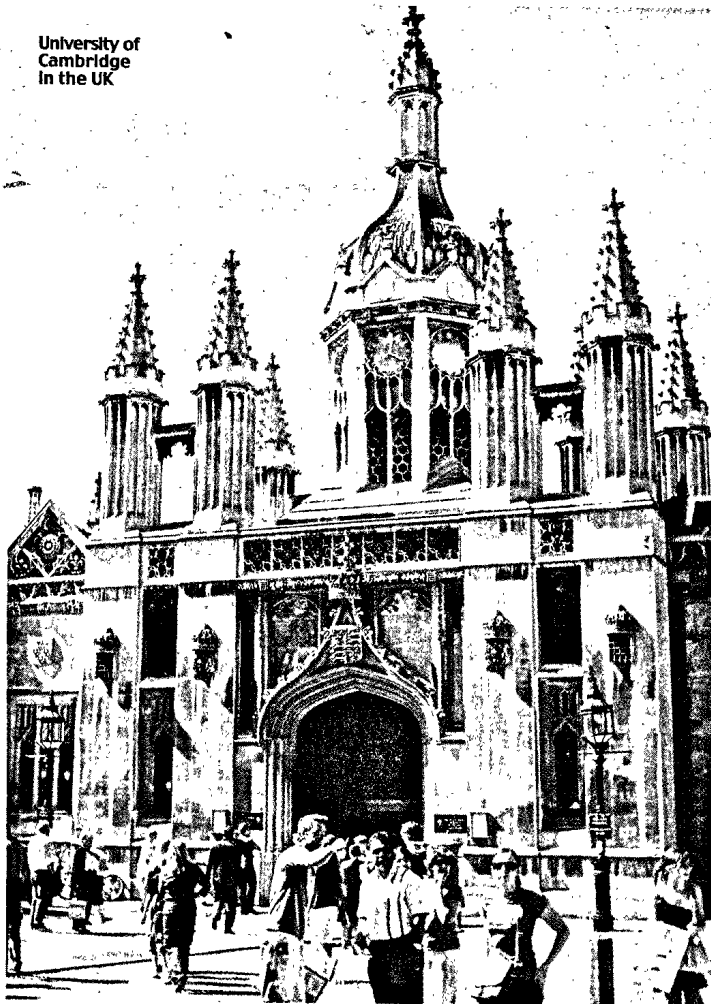
Currently, Indian students approach the missions and embassies directly in the country they are studying in. "If they speak to us directly the HRD ministry can build more pressure on the MEA to address the problem quickly," he added.

According to studies, the number of Indian students going overseas for higher education has been steadily increasing over the last decade. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of Indian students in foreign countries has grown by 256 per cent or three-and-a-half times, according to a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore.

At the same time, there is also an increase in cases of Indian students falling victim to fraud and racial attacks. The instance of hundreds of Indian students

Helpline to rescue of students abroad

University of
Cambridge
in the UK



OVERSEAS TROUBLES

OCT 2012: Australia has decided to close down three vocational colleges for non-compliance of training standards, a move that will impact more than 500 Indian students

AUG 2012: Britain's higher education sector, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) stripped the London Metropolitan University (LMU) of its licence to admit



International students, putting the future of its Indian students in serious jeopardy

2011: Hundreds of Indian students were conned by the California-based Tri-Valley University. Some of the students were RFID-tagged (radio frequency identification) to keep track of their movements by the US federal authorities

JAN 2010: Two Indians students were attacked in Australia. The attacks were believed to have been motivated by racism

JULY 2010: An Indian student attacked by a group of teenage boys who tried to snatch his money

MAY 2009: Four students from India were assaulted by a group of teenagers in Melbourne

being conned by the California-based Tri-Valley University in 2011 is probably the most famous of them all. The university, which was not accredited by the California Department of Consumer Affairs and Bureau for Private and Postsecondary Education, was raided and shut down indefinitely by the federal agents on January 19, 2011.

Just three months ago, Britain's higher education sector, the UK Border Agency

stripped the London Metropolitan University (LMU) of its licence to admit international

Website likely to be launched by Jan 2013

students, putting the future of its Indian students in jeopardy.

To begin with, the online portal will be designed for Indian stu-

dents in 22 countries. It will also host a list of institutes abroad which are functioning without accreditation or approval to alert students beforehand.

"We have created 12 categories such as theft and racial attack under which the complaint can be lodged. We are now working with the MEA to find out who are the concerned people and authorities in different countries to address student grievances," said S.S. Mantha, head of

AICTE, which will be responsible for capturing the grievance and forwarding it to the appropriate agency.

"This is definitely a good start because I know that the Indian missions abroad are not very helpful to students coming with individual problems," said Amrit Sujan, founding partner of Career Smart, a career counselling firm that also helps students applying to foreign universities.

Indian Express ND 20/11/2012

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Info block at competitive exams

SHYAMLAL YADAV

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

ENGINEERING aspirants have started registering online for JEE (Main) while aspiring teachers have submitted forms for this year's second UGC-NET, part of an estimated 20 lakh who appear every year for a number of competitive exams. Year after year, for candidates left wondering which of the objective-type questions they got right, there has been little help from the authorities conducting the exams. Some put only the questions online, some don't do even that, and few upload both questions and answers. The result has been a number of RTI queries for answer keys, and the mushrooming of private publications and coaching centres.

A look at key competitive exams, and how much information on questions and answers is available after they have been taken:

UPSC EXAMS

The country's highest examination authority organises the Civil Services Exam, besides Combined Medical Service, Combined Defence Service, Indian Engineering Service, Indian Forest Service and various other exams. After a number of court cases, the UPSC has posted online the question papers for the 2009-12 exams — except those for the Civil Services mains. And even for the Civil Services prelims (now called CSAT) and all the other UPSC exams, the answers are not yet being provided. This is despite repeated RTI applications, Central Information Commission orders and court cases. The UPSC is, in fact, fighting disclosure orders in higher courts.

UGC EXAMS

The UGC is inconsistent between two key exams it conducts. For UGC-NET, held twice a year for aspiring university teach-



Which authorities post answers online, which upload only questions, which do neither

ers, the UGC has put online all question papers since 2009, but the answer keys have not been provided. For CSIR-UGC NET, on the other hand, both the question papers and the answer keys for the June 2012 exam are on the website.

ICAR-NET

It is organised by Agricultural Science Recruitment Board. Neither the question papers nor the answer keys are available in the public domain. Close to 25,000 students candidates appear every year and many of

them are fighting for this information under the RTI Act.

JEE (MAIN)

JEE (Main) has become the first-level eligibility test for admission to undergraduate courses at IITs, apart from NITs, IIITs, government-funded technical institutes, and several others. In its previous format, it was known as AIEEE. The CBSE is the authority and till last year it had not been providing either the question papers or the answer keys. The CBSE once informed an RTI

applicant that it "has made provision to provide the answer keys of AIEEE after depositing the prescribed fee of Rs 500" once a certain number of days has passed following the declaration of results. For the X and XII finals, in contrast, the questions at least appear on the CBSE website.

JEE (ADVANCE)

Under the new format, this is the second stage for admission to IITs. A candidate can take it only if he or she clears JEE (Main). Earlier known simply as JEE, this is one exam for which details are readily available — all question papers along with the answer keys from 2007 to 2012 are online. Yet within the same IITs, details of postgraduate exams — either the questions or the answers — are not online.

MEDICAL ENTRANCE

The entrance test will now be called National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test, or NEET. Following a Supreme Court directive, it will be conducted from 2013-14 by the CBSE with the help of the Medical Council of India. The CBSE has issued a circular and the MCI website has put the syllabus online, but there is no mention of question papers. In AIPMT, the earlier form of NEET, neither the questions nor the answers were provided.

CLAT

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is an all-India entrance examination, conducted since 2008 by 14 national law universities and institutes for admission to a five-year integrated undergraduate and postgraduate programme. The authorities have announced now that the previous four years' question papers can be bought at Rs 100. They are, however, silent on the answer keys.

NBT, New Delhi, Nov. 20

40 मुल्कों में इंडिया का ब्रैंड एंबैसेडर है डीयू

भूपेंद्र ॥ नई दिल्ली

म्यांमार में विपक्ष की नेता आंग सान सूकी सालों बाद भी लेडी श्रीराम कॉलेज (एलएसआर) को नहीं भूली हैं। 16 नवंबर को भारत यात्रा के दौरान जब उन्हें अपने कॉलेज जाने का मौका मिला तो पुरानी यादें ताजा हो गईं। अपने साथियों और टीचर्स को वह आज भी याद करती हैं। यह दिखाता है कि चाहे देश कोई भी है, स्टूडेंट ताउम्र अपने कॉलेज के दिनों को याद रखता है। इस समय दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में दो हजार से ज्यादा विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं। हर साल करीब 600 स्टूडेंट्स एडमिशन लेते हैं।

डीयू में विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स के लिए 5 पर्सेंट सीटें होती हैं। हर कॉलेज में ये सीटें रिजर्व होती हैं लेकिन एडमिशन करीब 600 स्टूडेंट्स को ही मिल पाता है। दरअसल विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स हर कोर्स में एडमिशन लेना पसंद नहीं करते। यूनिवर्सिटी अधिकारियों के मुताबिक जिस तरह से भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स की पहली पसंद बीकॉम ऑनर्स, बीकॉम व इकनॉमिक्स ऑनर्स कोर्स है, विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स की पसंद भी यही कोर्स हैं। इसके अलावा दूसरे देशों के ये स्टूडेंट्स कैम्पस कॉलेजों में ही एडमिशन लेना पसंद करते हैं। इसकी बड़ी वजह



हर कॉलेज में विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स के लिए 5 पर्सेंट सीटें, कॉमर्स है हिट

हॉस्टल फैसिलिटी है। अगर कॉलेज में हॉस्टल नहीं मिल पाता तो भी कैम्पस के आसपास किराये पर मकान मिल जाता है। आउट ऑफ कैम्पस कॉलेजों में विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या बहुत कम होती है। कैम्पस कॉलेजों में भी बीकॉम ऑनर्स व बीकॉम कोर्स की सीटें ही फुल होती हैं, बाकी कोर्सेज में कम एडमिशन होते हैं।



हाल ही में अपने भारत दौरे के दौरान म्यांमार में विपक्ष की नेता आंग सान सूकी अपने कॉलेज लेडी श्रीराम कॉलेज पहुंची थीं

डीन स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर प्रो. जे. एम. खुराना का कहना है कि डीयू में 40 से अधिक देशों के स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ रहे हैं। सबसे ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स नेपाल, अफगानिस्तान, ईरान, इराक, श्रीलंका, बांग्लादेश, मालदीव, मॉरीशस से आते हैं। यूरोपियन देशों से भी स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ाई के लिए डीयू आ रहे हैं लेकिन उनकी संख्या कम है।

सेंट स्टीफंस कॉलेज, श्रीराम कॉलेज ऑफ कॉमर्स, लेडी श्रीराम कॉलेज, हंसराज और हिंदू कॉलेज में काफी विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं। हर साल करीब दो हजार ऐप्लिकेशन आती हैं, जिनमें से 60 पर्सेंट ऐप्लिकेशन ग्रैजुएशन लेवल के कोर्सेज के लिए होती हैं, जबकि 40 पर्सेंट पोस्ट ग्रैजुएशन लेवल के कोर्सेज के लिए होती हैं। कॉमर्स में ज्यादातर एडमिशन होते हैं। साइंस कोर्सेज में 5-10 पर्सेंट एडमिशन होते हैं। इंग्लिश व इकनॉमिक्स ऑनर्स कोर्सेज को भी स्टूडेंट्स पसंद कर रहे हैं। प्रो. खुराना का कहना है कि हर साल विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या बढ़ रही है। एजुकेशन की क्वालिटी तो एक बड़ा फैक्टर है ही, साथ ही यहां पर एजुकेशन महंगी भी नहीं है। जनवरी में इन स्टूडेंट्स के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रोसेस शुरू हो जाता है।

समस्या
आज से
का

प्रस ॥
यूनिवर्सिटी
एजाम शुरू
पहले भी अ
अफराताफ
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के कर्मों
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इस बा
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HT Chandigarh

Narayana Murthy gets global accolade

NEW DELHI: Philanthropist and co-founder of tech giant Infosys N R Narayana Murthy has been honoured with the James C Morgan Global Humanitarian Award, which recognises contribution of people using technology to change human lives. “I believe that technology not only has the power to make a difference in health, nutrition and sheltering the poor, but it also can enhance one’s confidence and dignity,” Murthy said in a statement. **PTI**