

Newspaper Clips

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p-24

IITs mull 80% hike in annual fee

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

India's premier technical institutions, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), are considering a revision of the annual student fee for undergraduate courses by 80 per cent. The 15 IITs, which together have 9,618 seats, plan to increase the fee from Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000.

The agenda will come up for discussion at the upcoming meeting of the standing committee of the IIT Council, which will meet at the IIT, Bombay, on November 5 to discuss wide-ranging changes, including exemption from GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) for

engineering graduates wanting to pursue PhD.

The revision of tuition fee structure at the Central technical institutions has been pending for over a year and postponed twice already.

Sources in the HRD Ministry today said the revision was overdue and was required to bring the IIT fee structure on a par with other top Central government institutions like the Indian Institutes of Management, which charge at least three times the fee of the IITs.

Even second-rung deemed universities have fee structures ranging from Rs 1.2 lakh to Rs 2 lakh annually. The IITs on the other hand continue to charge Rs 50,000 for an

intensive course.

"Most top private technical colleges like SRM University had been charging Rs 60,000 as tuition fee way back in 2002. The fee revision in IITs will not impact as many students as is being believed. So many Central government scholarships like merit and means scholarships and others for the minorities and Backward Classes are already available. The idea behind this revision is that those who can afford to pay should pay," a source in the HRD Ministry said.

The standing committee will only firm up the decision, as the final call on fee revision will be made by the IIT Council, which is chaired by the HRD Minister. The council meeting is due in January.

Any fee revision, if

approved, will be applicable from the next academic session.

The IITs were also working out the modalities for a tripartite arrangement to provide loans to students who can repay these when they land jobs after their studies.

"The arrangement will have three parties - the students, the IIT and the financing institution. The details of this scheme are being worked out," an HRD Ministry official said.

HT Mumbai

JEE for all engg colleges in state from 2014-15

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MUMBAI: From the academic year 2014-15, students wanting to join engineering colleges will only need to give the national joint entrance exam (JEE) for a seat in all state engineering colleges.

So far, students had been giving a separate Maharashtra common entrance test (MH-CET) conducted by the state government for state institutes apart from multiple entrance exams for centrally funded colleges and technical institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

The higher and technical education department on Friday

WHAT THE NEW SYSTEM MEANS

TO BE APPLICABLE, students seeking admissions to state engineering colleges will have to only give the national joint entrance exam

THIS EXAM WILL BE COMMON for admissions to centrally run colleges and technical institutions such as IITs, NITs, NIITs

THE WEIGHTAGE OF MARKS will be distributed equally— 50% for JEE score and 50% will be allotted for the state board exam scores in physics, chemistry and maths

FOR CBSE, ICSE, IGCSE AND IB BOARDS, 50% weightage will be worked according to a formula drawn up by Indian Statistical Institute



PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

issued a government resolution (GR) accepting the JEE. The entrance test aims to reduce the burden on students and test their

aptitude as well as theory.

From 2013-14, the government will have the MH-CET, which will be conducted by the state. This

decision was taken at the state cabinet meeting on September 12. The GR states that the weightage of marks for admissions

would be distributed equally – 50% weightage to the JEE score and 50% to the state board exam scores in physics, chemistry and mathematics. Also, the Class 12 eligibility to take the exam is an aggregate of 50% in these three subjects.

For the CBSE, ICSE, IGCSE and IB board, the Indian Statistical Institute is working on a formula for normalisation of marks, which will be applied, the GR stated. Only the first and main part of the JEE exams, which are in two parts, will be considered for admissions.

Higher education minister Rajesh Tope said the department will redesign the Class 12 state board syllabus to cover topics that will be questioned in the JEE.

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Kalam gets Peking varsity offer

Beijing: China has invited India's "missile man" and former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam to teach at the prestigious Peking University here, offering him a laboratory of his choice to work with students.

He was invited to teach once a year, the subject of his choice and stay as long as he wanted. The

subject could be science and technology or humanities. The invitation came on Kalam's first-ever visit to China at the invitation of the reputed Beijing Forum, a Chinese government backed intellectual body.

He appeared happy, to receive the offer to teach but said it all depends on his schedule. ■

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Engg colleges fail industry link test: AICTE-CII study

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NEW DELHI: Only one in every five established engineering colleges in India is in synergy with industry, a joint survey by CII and the government suggests, fuelling fears of a disconnect that threatens the employability of the country's youth.

On a score of 100, only 19% of participant engineering schools secured even 46 marks in the survey conducted by the industry chamber and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), India's apex technical education regulator.

"It is a big worry," AICTE chairman SS Mantha said, calling the findings a "benchmark."

The survey is the first comprehensive effort to analyse the quality of linkages between the country's engineering schools and industry, he said.

Mantha added, "The results will help us understand where we need to intervene."

India has over 3,000 engineering schools, and the survey looked at those which have existed for at least 10 years. Of the

1,070 schools, which are at least a decade old and are approved by the AICTE, 156 responded to the online survey conducted in September.

The findings buttress evidence that is fuelling a growing concern within the government, and a theme that Rahul Gandhi has identified as key — how to find jobs for India's youth.

India has the largest under-25 population in the world (540 mn) which the government has long spoken of as a demographic dividend. But of late, concerns are growing over if this number could turn into a curse.

"Finding gainful employability for the youth is a priority to prevent them from picking up guns," junior minister for human resource development (HRD) Shashi Tharoor said on Friday.

HRD minister MM Pallam Raju and Jitin Prasada, other junior HRD minister, have also spoken about bridging the gap between higher education and employability.

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No consensus yet on new IIM-A director

Ajay Umat | TNN

Ahmedabad: Outgoing director of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Prof Samir Barua has got a three-month extension following differences among members of the selection committee over the choice of his successor. Barua's term as IIM-A director was to end on November 7.

L&T's chief A M Naik, also the chairman of IIM-A board of governors, has asked Barua to continue for three more months. The board will consider the search committee's choice on December 28 before forwarding it to the HRD ministry, which will take the final call.

The search committee was supposed to submit three names out of the 11 shortlisted candidates for the IIM-A top job before September 28. It is learnt that there is no unanimity over the choice of the three contenders.

"The members of the committee are divided over the three names. One set of people is against suggesting names of any existing IIM-A faculty and wants to bring somebody from outside. Hectic lobbying is taking place with emails being exchanged among faculty members and even alumni," said a member of the board who did not wish to be named.