

Newspaper Clips

November 30, 2013

HT Indore

Now, engg course aspirants need to take only one test

SINGLE WINDOW Admissions to colleges in state through JEE of CBSE; PET scrapped

HT Correspondent

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BHOPAL: From the upcoming academic session, engineering courses aspirants would require to appear for only single entrance test to be able to seek admission to premier institutes like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) or any of the engineering colleges in the state.

The state technical education department has recently scrapped the pre-engineering test (PET) that was used for enrollment on engineering seats in state colleges. Instead, it has decided to use the scores of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) main -- the national-level engineering entrance test conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) -- for the purpose.

On the basis of a separate JEE-main merit list for Madhya Pradesh to be issued by the CBSE, the state directorate of technical education (DTE) could conduct the centralised online counselling to allot seats to eligible candidates. Using the same scores, the students would be able to take admission to NITs, too, if they get suitable high scores.

Also, if the scores of the candidates fall in the top 1.5 lakh bracket, they would become eligible for appearing in the JEE-advanced -- through which they would be able to compete for the seats of the IITs and certain other premier engineering colleges in the country like the University Institute of Technology of the Benaras Hindu University, the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and so on.

Director of technical education Arun Nahar told HT that since last two years, the department was trying to ensure that

BOARDS ASKED TO DECLARE RESULT BEFORE JUNE 30

The DTE has written to the MP Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) as well as Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to declare the results of higher secondary (Class 12) exams conducted by them respectively before June 30. Director of technical education Nahar told HT that one of the pre-conditions of the JEE main is that the result of Class 12 should be announced before the given date as the JEE main result is a combination of 60% score of the JEE and 40% score of the qualifying exam. "We have thus asked the boards to ensure timely declaration of results," Nahar said.

the engineering and MBA aspirants in the state had to appear for minimum number of entrance tests possible and this year, it had succeeded in the attempt by deciding to use the JEE-main scores.

He said the other rules of engineering admissions would remain more or less the same in the state and would be finalised within short time. However, the issue of admission to students on the basis of qualifying examination (Class 12), in case there are seats available, is still under consideration.

"We would like all the interested students to take the JEE so that such situation does not arise," Nahar said.

Practically, since there are over one lakh seats available in state colleges and about 40% of them remained vacant this year despite enrolling students on the basis of qualifying examination, the DTE is likely to face problem on this front and have to think of a provision to deal with it.

HT Lucknow

Govt may rope in MIT to assess free laptop impact

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: The state government on Friday showcased its vision to boost the information technology (IT) sector and hinted that the Poverty Action Lab (PAL) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) may consider a project to study the impact of its free laptops distribution scheme for 12th class pass students in Uttar Pradesh.

"We are in discussion with the PAL to consider a study to assess the impact, advantages and positive effects of the laptop distribution scheme. This will establish that the state government's vision behind formulating the laptop distribution scheme was noble," said chief secretary Javed Usmani in his inaugural address at the two-day conference 'e-Uttar Pradesh' that commenced here on Friday.

The chief secretary's observations came soon after one of the panelists quoted a study saying the laptop distribution scheme had benefited the students.

"About 83% students given the laptops have improved their grades," said one of the panelists at the inaugural session on "Uttar Pradesh: Land of Unlimited Potential."

"This was the biggest ever purchase order for laptops across the world," said chief secretary as he spoke on the challenges that the state government faced to turn things around in Uttar Pradesh. "Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav had asked the officers to work out policies that could turn Uttar Pradesh to a favoured destination for the investors. The state government thereafter framed six policies for various sectors including the IT sector," he said.

The chief minister was, however, conspicuous by his absence at the two-day conference that the officers said was organised at his behest. The chief secretary also referred to chief minister's ambitious project – the Information Technology (IT) City in Lucknow and announced that the centre had



■ Chief secretary Javed Usmani speaking during the two-day conference 'e-Uttar Pradesh' that commenced in Lucknow on Friday.

HT PHOTO

PROGRAMME TO MAKE YOUTHS COMPUTER SAVVY

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: As a part of national digital literacy mission and to make the students computer friendly, the state may see rolling out of a new scheme called "Students Internet World Program" next year. Efforts are on to promote ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) among government school students in the coming few months.

"Microprocessor company Intel will power this initiative and drive the exercise as an extension to its just concluded UP Vigyan Yatra.

This endeavor is fuelled by the belief that the Internet has the power to transform the lives of citizens and open a host of opportunities that would not have been otherwise accessible to them," said Debjani Ghosh, managing director, sales and marketing group of Intel South Asia while speaking to HT at e-Uttar Pradesh meet on Friday.

She said, "It has just finished in Karnataka and next stop is UP. We have already done the basic programme through UP Vigyan Yatra

in which more than 22,000 students were given training on how to use computers and laptops. Through Students Internet World Program, we intend to train students in advanced version of technology so as to create a scientific temper. We are looking forward to improve in science, mathematics and research."

Not just in secondary education, Intel has tied up with IIT Kanpur to develop higher education curriculum on parallel computing and embedded computing.

given the proposed IT City project a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status. "The bidding process to select the developer has been already initiated. We will soon be able to select the developer," said Usmani.

After Lucknow's IT City project the state government would undertake similar projects in Agra, Meerut and Allahabad etc.

Speaking on the occasion, managing director South Asia of Intel Corporation Debjani Ghosh announced that the company was coming up with the largest university collaboration in the country with the Mahamaya University. "We are also coming up with faculty development programme at IIT Kanpur," she said.

Managing director Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd. Karan Bajwa said, "Currently we are in the final phases of setting up centers of excellence in Lucknow with focus on applications and programmes. We are going to train 8 lakh primary school teachers across the country," he said.

HT Chandigarh/Kolkata

Baba Farid college is resource centre of IIT

BATHINDA: IIT, Bombay, has registered Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology as first resource centre with two-star rating under the spoken tutorial projects in the region. The college will act as resource centre for the self-learning and open source technology on behalf of IIT, Bombay. Under the same project a workshop was organised at BFCET, Bathinda, on "LaTeX", in which 17 faculty members from different streams attended this self learning workshop.

HTC

'INDIA MUST BE PART OF GLOBAL MEGA SCIENCE PROJECTS'

Agencies

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KOLKATA: Stressing the importance of critical research relevant to the country, eminent physicist and principal scientific adviser to the government R. Chidambaram said the nation needs to be a part of global mega science projects.

Speaking at CU's annual convocation, Chidambaram referred to the studies regarding the recent path-breaking discovery of the Higgs Boson, and advocated India's participation in projects relating to origins of the universe. "We need excellence in basic research...including directed basic research that is directed towards needs of industry and society in long term," he said.

"As a civilised country, we must also participate in global mega science projects aiming to find out, for example, the ultimate structure of matter or the origin of the universe," said Chidambaram. "India must make its contribution to the origin of universe studies."

Earlier this year, researchers operating the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) particle accelerator at Centre for European Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva confirmed that a particle discovered in it is indeed the so-called Higgs Boson, a key element in scientists' theories explaining the makeup of all the matter around us.

Alluding to India's role in the discovery, Chidambaram said the nation, through the department of atomic energy's RRCAT-Indore contributed \$40 million worth of high-tech equipment, numerous components and some advanced grid software. Chidambaram, a noted nuclear scientist and metallurgist, has been closely associated with India's nuclear energy programme, including the second series of nuclear tests at Pokhran (Rajasthan) in 1998.

The scientist batted for use of alternative sources of energy, including nuclear energy, to combat the threat of climate change and depleting natural resources. "India has to go for nuclear energy in a big way...all energy based options are important for India. There must be a balance between environmental protection and imperatives of economic development." Enhancing academia-industry interactions, use of virtual classrooms and bettering manufacturing skills need to be addressed, he said.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 30, 2013; Section: Times Business; Page: 21;

Govt clears internet, wi-fi plan for rural India

Pankaj Doval | TNN

New Delhi: Months ahead of the national elections, the government has doled out an internet bonanza for rural India as it cleared a proposal to provide three internet connections and one wi-fi hotspot in each of the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats spread across the country. The project, which is expected to be completed by March 2016, will ride on the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) being developed by the government and provide internet connectivity across the rural belt of the country, linking crores of villagers to the worldwide web.

The measure was mooted by the Department of Telecom (DoT) and received a go-ahead by the inter-ministerial Telecom Commis-



BHARAT ON THE WEB

sion (TC) on Friday, official sources said.

The total cost of the broadband project has been pegged at Rs 3,750 crore, a source said, adding that this will be funded by the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. Operating expenses are estimated at Rs 1,860 crore. "An in-principle approval has been given to the proposal and the project will be spread over three phases, with final completion envisaged on March 31, 2016," the source said.

A detailed project report

(DPR) will now be prepared to work on the modalities of the rollout.

The government had cleared the Rs 20,000 crore NOFN project in October 2011 to provide connectivity to the gram panchayat level. At present, optical fibre cable connectivity is available in all state capitals, districts, HQs and up to the Block level. The idea of the NOFN project was to connect the blocks to the gram panchayats.

This will be done by utilizing existing fibres of PSUs (BSNL, Railtel and Power Grid) and laying incremental fibre to connect to Gram Panchayats, wherever necessary. Dark fibre network thus created will be lit by appropriate technology, thus creating sufficient bandwidth at the gram panchayats.

Fizzy Foodlabs: IIT-grads start-up sells ready to cook packaged food

Three IIT Mumbai students have turned their passion of entrepreneurship and brought in innovation of portion packing concept to the world food segment. Nipun Katyal, Manish Tirthani and Varun Jhavar, three of them from IIT Mumbai alumnus banked on the potential foreign restaurants offered to customers and started Fizzy Foodlabs which sells ready to cook packaged food under the brand name "Chef's Basket".

"Portion packing as a concept is the biggest innovation that Fizzy Foodlabs has been able to successfully do in the world foods segment. As a concept, portion packing is prevalent in other categories but we are first player in the Indian Market to introduce portion packs of ready-to-cook ingredients. Given that the world foods space in India is yet-to-mature, the concept of ready-to-cook recipe kit provides the perfect trial proposition for the end consumer," said Nipun Katyal, one of the three founding directors of the company, adding, "Food service is getting more popularized by the day in cities like Mumbai - Italian and Mexican Cuisines getting more popular. The taste profile of the popular dishes offered in restaurants like Sancho's, Little Italy, Spaghetti Kitchen, Mainland China, etc. are all tweaked as per the Indian taste palate. However the imported FMCG products

available in the market are not customized as per the Indian taste palate and fail to meet the expectations of the consumers when compared with Food Service.

We have a panel of select chef's on-board who have developed the recipe in a way that it is restaurant-like and more suited as per the palate."

"Though the world foods category has been clocking a steady growth, the reach and acceptability was still confined to metros and that too very select set of consumers. With this innovative concept, we have been able to disrupt the world foods category to capture consumers with their varying current consumption habits:

a) Consumers who are already purchasing products for Italian/ Mexican Cooking at home - as Chef's Basket offers them with a great deal of convenience and a better taste! - This is a relatively small fraction

b) Consumers who aspire to cook world food at home, but have been skeptical so far due to recipe know-how, ingredient availability, costs associated (due to no portion packs) and certainty of outcome - as Chef's Basket value proposition is highly suited for new trials giving the consumers the confidence to be able to cook these recipes conveniently at home - This is a relatively large fraction. Our organized retail (our customers) have been very supportive of this kind of a disruptive proposition as they see this as the perfect 'trial' opportunity for new consumers to start entering the world Foods space. A couple of them (can't name them) have also approached us for considering private label for them. However at this stage, our priority is to expand the portfolio and establish Chef's Basket brand in the market," said Manish.

The market for such products promises huge potential "The overall packaged foods market in India is projected as \$25 billion in 2013," according to Euromonitor Packaged Foods in India Report 2012.

World Foods is a very small fraction (less than 5%) of the overall pie. However, there are pockets within this segment (like Dry Pasta, Olive Oil, etc), which are rapidly growing at more than 20% per annum.

The company has partnered with sourcing partners like Global Green, Signature foods and Vimal Agro.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/fizzy-foodlabs-iit-grads-start-up-sells-ready-to-cook-packaged-food/articleshow/26582165.cms?adcode=101&utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

iTexico's Founders Present at the 2013 IIT Conference to Inspire Innovation for Tomorrow with Mobile Applications

Austin, Texas (PRWEB) November 29, 2013

iTexico, a nearshore web and mobile app development company based in Austin Texas, announced today that they will be supporting the IIT 2013 Global Conference, the 11th annual global conference hosted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). The IIT, considered one of the top engineering and management programs in the world, is bringing the IIT Global Conference to Houston for the first time on December 6-8.

"As alumni of the IIT, we are excited and honored to be part of this fantastic event. Founding iTexico has been an adventure filled with learning and nurturing all the valuable knowledge we got from being part of this

stupendous university. We are continuously revisiting the wonderful experiences we had and making sure that innovation is our legacy as proud alumni,” said Anurag Kumar, CEO of iTexico and IIT Alumni.

This year’s IIT conference in Houston will bring together over 1,500 engineers, technologists and scientists. The conference will feature an elite list of speakers, panelists and discussions focused on identifying and developing innovative solutions to build a better world for current and future generations.

More than seventy international, national and local speakers and thought leaders will participate. Some of these well-renowned personalities include: Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate Professor at Harvard University, Vicente Fox, Former President of Mexico, Andrew Gould, Chairman at BG Group. Blake Irving, CEO of GoDaddy.com, Andrew Ng, Co-founder of Coursera and Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University Anant Agarwal, President of edX and Nina Davuluri, Miss America 2014 among many others.

Approximately 60,000 IIT alumni currently live in the United States, with more than 4,000 of them residing in the Texas region. In 2005, the United States House of Representatives passed House Resolution 227 recognizing the contributions of IIT alumni to the U.S. economy.

“University is such a strong foundation for an effective entrepreneur spirit. We are so grateful for all the invaluable experiences that IIT has given us and that has led us to grow our business. We are ready to join the conversation for a better tomorrow where the mobile app revolution will definitely play a key role for younger generations. This is a very exciting time and at iTexico we know that the potential for change is so massive that the only limit is our imagination,” said Abhijeet Pradhan, CTO of iTexico and IIT Alumni.

Besides iTexico’s CEO Anurag Kumar and CTO Abhijeet Pradhan, notable IIT alumni in the U.S. include the Dean of the Harvard Business School, President of Carnegie Mellon University, EVP Technology and former EVP Operations at Schlumberger, former Chief Technology Officer of Halliburton, Chief Technology Officers of BP and Cisco, Past Dean of MIT School of Engineering, Chancellor/President of University of California at San Diego, Co-Founder of Sun Microsystems, former Senior Vice Chairman of Citigroup, former CEO and Chairman of The Hartford, former Managing Director of McKinsey & Company, former CEO of Rohm and Haas, former President of Chevron Global Manufacturing, Chief Business Officer, two Senior VPs Engineering, Senior VP Chrome & Apps at Google.

The 2013 IIT Global Conference will take place December 6-8, 2013 for the first time in Houston at the Hilton of the Americas. A group of Houston-based IIT alumni will host the 11th annual global conference. For more information about the conference please visit <http://iit2013.org>

About iTexico

iTexico is a fast-growing Austin based company with offices in Silicon Valley and a software delivery center in Mexico that helps technology and publishing companies bring their solutions to market faster at lower costs and high quality. The company does this by providing world class cross platform mobile development, outsourced software services, extended teams and world-class training courses. iTexico currently serves a large number of clients across the US and employs highly experienced professionals in a delivery center located in Guadalajara, Mexico. Please visit <http://www.itexico.com>.

Read the full story at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/12/prweb11380569.htm> Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/1615056#ixzz2m6l0fC24>

Business Standard

IIT-Kharagpur Most Likely To Bag NASA Project: Report

By [SiliconIndia](#) | Friday, 29 November 2013, 17:25 IST

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Bangalore: IIT-Kharagpur's growing prominence in radar technology and its years of flourishing association with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) may soon be rewarded on the global stage. It is currently on the verge of signing up a deal with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). And the presence of representatives from the coveted space research organization at the campus has spanned speculations that the institution is most likely to bag the esteemed tie-up, reports Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey of TNN.

The much anticipated NI-SAR (or Nasa-Isro Radar mission) is awaiting its final clearance and IIT-Kharagpur, with its state-of-the-art Kalpana Chawla Space Research Centre, is at the forefront of the critical radar-related research along with ISRO in India. In the words of Alok Chatterjee, a Nasa scientist who is incidentally a alumnus of the institute, "Such radar technology inputs can be utilized successfully for NI-SAR related research as well", reports the Times of India.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the HRD ministry said that any amendments to the act will take a long time before it is finalized. “There have been some talks about bringing a bill to amend the AICTE act. If it comes through, it will be the AICTE bill 2014, but we are still working on it and it will take time before the parliament approves it”, the official added.

AICTE, which had once been synonymous with corruption, has of late been advocating transparency and accountability. Set up in 1945 as a national-level advisory body, AICTE was given statutory status in 1987 by an Act of Parliament for regulating and developing technical education in the country.

The regulator is also now looking to provide vocational education in schools from the next year after the HRD ministry asked the regulator to provide a plan to ensure that school drop outs are reduced.

Govt may restore AICTE's powers

The council lost relevance after Supreme Court allowed private colleges to conduct MBA and MCA courses without its permission



The New Year is expected to bring some cheer for the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country's technical education regulator as the HRD ministry is expected to amend the AICTE act which could help restore its powers.

"We are bringing an act to restore the relevance of AICTE. We are currently working on it and we are hoping to get it approved soon. We had planned an ordinance, but we do not think we will go ahead with that", Pallam Raju, Union Minister for Human Resources development

told Business Standard,

The Supreme Court had in April this year allowed private colleges to conduct MBA and MCA courses without AICTE's permission, thereby rendering AICTE defunct. In their order, Judges B S Chauhan and V Gopala Gowda ruled that though MCA was a technical course and AICTE couldn't lay down the standards, an MBA course is not a technical course within the definition of the AICTE Act, and AICTE's approval was not required for obtaining permission and running an MBA course by the appellant colleges.

Following the order, AICTE was only expected to play an advisory role allowing it only to prescribe uniform standards of education in affiliated members of a university. AICTE filed a review petition against the order informing that the authority played the role of the regulator for as many years and it cannot suddenly become wrong.

"We do not want damage to the students. There could be tremendous amount of exploitation and unstructured growth. We do not want that to happen," Shankar S Mantha, chairman, AICTE had said. The review petition was later dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Following the order the HRD ministry was looking at a proposal to amend AICTE act through the ordinance route. Before the Supreme Court struck down its power, AICTE had made it mandatory for 3,858 management institutes (with 3.7 lakh seats) and 1,937 MCA colleges (with 1.9 lakh seats) across the country to seek its approval for the courses.

The Association of Management of Private Colleges and a few private colleges in Tamil Nadu, the appellants in the case, argued the AICTE Act being an enactment of Parliament could not be amended in year 2000 without being placed in the Parliament.

India, Australia sign 6 pacts on skill development initiatives

Strengthening partnership on skill development initiatives, India and Australian institutes today signed six agreements here, with HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju saying the cooperation will transform the lives of millions of young people.

The agreements were signed coinciding with the visit of a delegation from Australia's skills sector to explore how they can partner to meet India's burgeoning demand for skills development.

India envisages to train up to 500 million people by 2022, and projects to add 12 to 15 million workers to its labour force every year over the coming decades.

"It is for all of you to sit together, work together to be able to develop entrepreneurial and sustainable model that result in a great opportunity for training providers in both the countries," Raju said at the function where the agreements were signed.

He said the Australia India Education Council (AIEC), set up earlier, provides a good framework to do this across all levels in the education and skill training system.

"What could really be exciting is we could have 5 to 6 Australian training providers invest in India either in collaboration with Indian partners or directly to contribute to skill development efforts in India," he suggested.

"We support this partnership and I hope it will continue to expand in scope, scale and speed, and build cooperation that will transform the lives of millions of young people," Raju said.

The more than 100-member Australian delegation to India includes representation from Australia's government owned Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions, private skills training providers, industry peak bodies, Industry Skills Councils, and Commonwealth and State/Territory governments.

"Skills development is a central pillar of our strategic partnership with India," Australia's Acting High Commissioner to India Bernard Philip said.

CEO of National Skill Development Corporation Dilip Chenoy expressed confidence that India's engagement under the Australia India Education Council is contributing to novel skills partnerships that will help it leverage its favourable demographics for achieving faster and more inclusive growth.

Job offers raining at IIT- I

Indore: The volatile market situation may have reduced job opportunities, but at Indian Institute of Technology Indore the offers are raining even before the placements started.

Multi- national companies (MNCs) and big national companies are making beeline for students of this institute which had witnessed poor placement scenario last year.

The first batch of the IIT Indore could not be placed well due to adverse market conditions. But the talent pool of the institute this year managed to attract companies even before the students completes their studies.

The response from the companies has buoyed confidence of the students and faculty of the institute which are hoping to finish the campus placement by January end. A professor of the IIT Indore said that the students are even getting better pay packages this year.

” Two students have got job offer of Rs 20 lakh and Rs 18 lakh per annum, which is almost double than last year’s offer. Last year, Microsoft had given Rs 10.2 lakh per annum pre- placement offer to three students.” The professor attributed the overwhelming response to selection of the batch which meets the requirements of the companies.

Last year, the PPOs had begun to flow from December end and their year from October. By the time exams are over on December 5, the institute is expected to see nearly 40 per cent students placed. The rest would be placed during campus placement which is likely to begin by December 20.

<http://freepressjournal.in/job-offers-raining-at-iit-i/>