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IIT aspirants may get priority in Class 12 recheck

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NEW DELHI: State education boards have been asked by the HRD ministry to give priority to the revaluation applications of aspiring engineers so that they get a fair shot at country's top colleges including IITs, sources said.

Most of the state boards, a ministry official said, were open to the idea. Class 12 marks have a huge bearing on admissions to Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology as 40% weightage is given to board scores when entrance tests are evaluated.

According to officials, there have been cases where students' scores have improved dramatically after revaluation, affecting their overall ranking.

"It is yet to be finalised but the ministry has suggested the boards to give such students priority so that their results can be finalised before submission to JEE," the human resources development ministry official said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Education is a state subject and the Centre will need a written consent of the boards for the suggestion to be implemented.

Millions of students take the joint entrance examination, or JEE, every year for admissions to NITs and other centrally-funded colleges. Those aspiring for IITs go on to write JEE-advanced.

JEE is almost like a screening test for IITs.

Sources said there were many examples of students missing the test after failing Class 12 only to be cleared after a recheck.

"If revaluation results are declared on priority, we can save a student's year. Boards were requested to look into the matter during a recent meet," the HRD official said.

During the meeting with school education boards and the Central Board of Secondary Education CBSE, the ministry also asked the states to declare Class 12 results before May 31 so that admissions to engineering colleges were not delayed.

In the past, counselling – the process during which students are assigned colleges and courses – for IITs and NITs has been delayed because of late submission of rank lists as state boards were late in declaring their results.

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IIT-Mandi gets US firm's research project

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, NOVEMBER 3

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, has got a research project worth \$ 1,00,000 (Rs 70 lakh) from Purdue Pharma, a USA-based pharmaceutical company.

Dr Varun Dutt, assistant professor, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT-Mandi, said a three-member delegation, including Larry A Pickett, vice-president and Chief Information Officer, Sayee Natarajan, director, Systems Development and Business Analytics, and Nataraj Dasgupta, data scientist from Purdue Pharma, had visited IIT-Mandi in July this year.

He said the firm signed a project worth USD 1,00,000 with IIT-Mandi. "The project deals with machine learning and data mining for sales and analytics in pharma," he said.

The objective of the project was to study how social network analysis, patient journey and social media information could be used for finding prescribing histories and relationship among doctors in order to improve and provide the best health care for patients, he added.

At present, the project is running under three themat-

ic areas. First, to find the most influential doctors in a geographical area and how network of doctors changes as a result of medication prescribed, geographical distance between doctors, and doctor demographics.

Second, to find the journey of patients between doctors, hospitals, pharmacy, and diagnostic centres and also how these journeys are different for different medicines and patient demographics (age, gender and insurance plan). Third, visualisation of big data in pharmaceutical industry concerning patients, doctors, and medicines and to develop new visualisation tools using parallel 3D coordinates and allied technologies.

Dutt said he was assisted by Abhinav Choudhury, Shruti Kaushik, Anzer Moid and Kaustubh Mallik in the three-year project. "Abhinav is dealing with part one of the project, Shruti with part two and Anzer and Kaustubh with part three," he said, adding the data was provided by the US firm for the project.

The delegates highlighted the potential of using technologies like KDB+, which could allow companies to reduce time, cost, and effort on IT projects involving large amounts of data, he said.

शोध कार्यक्रम में आईआईटी जुटेंगे

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रपति भवन में बुधवार से शुरू होने जा रही विजिटर कांफ्रेंस के दौरान आईआईटी कानुपर के नेतृत्व में एक बड़े शोध कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत होने जा रही है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी इस कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करेंगे। इसके तहत 16 आईआईटी और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस बेंगलुरु मिलकर 10 प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में शोध करेंगे।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार यह शोध कार्यक्रम इमप्रिंट यानी इंपेक्टिंग रिसर्च इनोवेशन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी के नाम से होगा। कार्यक्रम के तहत ये चुनिंदा संस्थान दो कार्य करेंगे। पहला, इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा नीति बनाएंगे। दूसरे, 10 प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में शोध का रोडमैप तैयार कर नए शोध शुरू करेंगे। कार्यक्रम को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से धनराशि दी जाएगी। (वि.सं.)

Kalam's last book launched at IIM-A

AHMEDABAD: Former president A P J Abdul Kalam's last book about how new initiatives like 'Make in India', 'Swachh Bharat' can be used to unleash country's vast potential, was on Tuesday launched at the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) here.

The book 'Advantage India-From Challenge to Opportunity' has been co-authored by IIM-A alumnus Srijan Pal Singh, who along with IIM-A director Prof Ashish Nanda were present on the occasion.

According to Singh, who had earlier co-authored 'Target 3 Billion' with Kalam in 2011, Kalam had completed 99 per cent of the book before he died in July this year.

Singh has spent many years with Kalam after passing out of IIM-A.

In this book, Kalam tried to provide insight into how new initiatives, such as 'Make in India', 'Swachh Bharat', skill development and 'Smart Cities', can be used to unleash the country's vast potential, Singh said.

"This book also contains his last lecture which he was supposed to give at IIM-Shillong, but died while giving it. This book contains his thoughts and views about how India can surge ahead.

Kalam sir also used some imaginary and humorous conversations in the book to put forward his point on difficult subject matters," he added.

As a tribute to the former president, Singh also announced to start a library project titled 'Kalam Library'.

Memorial for Kalam

"I believe that there should be a memorial of Kalam sir, and what could be better than a library as a memorial for him.

I am planning to launch this project with 25 libraries across India, which will provide books to those children who can not afford to buy it" Singh added.

PTI

Action against unspecified degrees

While UGC's own secretary has started questionable degree programmes, UGC itself has asked many universities to either rename or scrap programmes which don't adhere to its mandatory provisions. A few months ago, UGC issued a show cause notice to Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) for offering master's in computer management, personnel management and marketing management. As per the notice, these are not specified degrees under Section 22 (3) of UGC Act 1956.

"Should a university fail to submit an explanation within the prescribed time, it will be presumed that the university doesn't have any explanation to offer and UGC will initiate action against the university as it deems fit, including

THE DECISION OF THE EDUCATION REGULATOR, UGC, HOWEVER, IS FINAL AND UNIVERSITIES SHOULD COMPLY WITH ITS RULING

stoppage of payments of grants to the university," the notice states.

When contacted, Professor WN Gade, vice chancellor of the SPPU, said that the matter was resolved after the nomenclature of all three degrees was changed in accordance with UGC norms. Other universities such as Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) etc are also offering degree courses which

are not valid.

When this correspondent filed an RTI inquiring about the status of the agri-business management course run by BHU and master's in agriculture economics and business management run by AMU, UGC replied that these were unspecified degrees. Both the universities did not respond.

Commenting on the degree specification process, Professor Gade says, "If the nomenclature of any degree course of any university varies from those in the consolidated list of UGC, the matter should be resolved by consultation. The decision of the education regulator, UGC, however, is final and universities should comply with its ruling."

— Jeevan Prakash Sharma

Doctoral Fellowships to be Offered by IISc in Collaboration with French Defence

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/doctoral-fellowships-to-be-offered-by-iisc-in-collaboration-with-french-defence-1446551240-1>

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has signed an agreement with the French Defence major Thales under which the two of them would jointly supervise a doctoral fellowship scheme. This will initiate at the end of this year. This MoU is expected to boost industry research and establish strong inter-academic connections amongst the Indian and French laboratories.

According to Antonie Caput, VP & Country Director, India, Thales, “We are proud to associate with IISc, Bangalore, to facilitate and promote research and development (R& D) in India. Though this significant MoU, we look forward to contribute to the Indian government’s mission of skilling and up-skilling people, and its focus on enhancing the R& D fields in India.”

In the first phase of this newly launched programme, funding for four IISc-CNRS fellowships will be done by the French body Thales and IISc jointly. Centre national de la recherche scientifique or French National Centre for Scientific Research is a governmental research organization that works in France. The candidates who would be benefiting from this programme and receive the supervised fellowships would get PhD supervisor in India and a co-supervisor would be provided from France. The co-supervisor would be from identified CNRS laboratories.

Among these two Indian and French institutions a joint Degree programme will be thought in future. The collaboration is expected to bring overall academic excellence in both the institutes through their research and development expertise in the concerned field of study.

Controversies dogging HRD Minister

<http://gulfnews.com/news/asia/india/controversies-dogging-hrd-minister-1.1611607>

New Delhi: With its two departments of higher education and school education, the Human Resource Development Ministry oversees more than 40 central universities, 16 IITs (Indian Institute of Technology), 13 IIMs (Indian Institute of Management), 30 National Institutes of Technology and more than 1.4 million schools.

Amid the recent controversy over replacing German with Sanskrit as the third language in Kendriya Vidyalayas, HRD Minister Smriti Irani had strongly defended the decision, saying the existing arrangement was in violation of the three language formula. The three language formula as enunciated by the National policy on Education and subsequently by the National Curriculum Framework 2005 states that Sanskrit may be studied as a modern Indian language apart from Hindi and English.

However, she said German would continue to be taught as an “additional subject of hobby class”. The minister said “an investigation” has already been launched into the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2011 enabling German being taught as the third language.

“It violated the constitutional right of the child and the state. It is not about promotion of Sanskrit but about safeguarding constitutional rights,” she had told reporters at that time.

In the past, Irani has routinely hauled up senior officers for allegedly leaking negative stories to the media. She has had three Press Information Bureau (PIB) media officers removed in the last six months.

Last month she sought an explanation from Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) over the spelling mistakes in a congratulatory letter sent on her behalf to a school teacher for the good results in the Board exams. The letter sent by CBSE went viral soon after teacher Richa Kumar of Delhi Public School, Bhilai posted it in social media, prompting instant reactions from cross sections of the society. The Minister's name is spelt incorrectly in Hindi as well as the words "minister" and "sansadhan (resource)".

In 2013, Delhi University started the much-debated four-year under-graduate programme and only a year later, rolled it back after a tussle with the University Grants Commission (UGC). Later there were reports that Irani had forwarded paperwork to President Pranab Mukherjee's office questioning Delhi University (DU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Dinesh Singh's conduct and requesting his ouster. This was followed by reports of a 1,000-page show cause notice being issued to Dinesh Singh and a 15-page response by the VC.

The decision to celebrate former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday as Good Governance Day in schools probably became her biggest controversy. That also happened to be Christmas day and suddenly Irani was accused of stealing Christmas.

Recently, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury expressed concern over reports that non-vegetarian food had been taken off the menu of IIT-Delhi canteen and sought Irani's intervention in the matter. Irani rejected allegations that she was promoting vegetarian food in IITs, contending that such meals had already been stopped during Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government's rule.