

Newspaper Clips

November 8-9, 2015

November 8

Times Of India ND 08/11/2015 P-1

New IIT-JEE format mooted, stress on innovative thinking

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The two-stage Joint Entrance Examination for admission to IITs/NITs will undergo major changes in future if the Centre accepts a series of recommendations of a high-powered committee.

The panel has proposed starting an exam to test scientific aptitude and innovative thinking of the candidates. Its format will be such that coaching centres won't be able to help a student crack it.

The existing two-tier JEE,

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Online exam to test students' scientific aptitude & innovative thinking
- 4 lakh candidates will then be shortlisted for JEE to be conducted solely by IITs
- Mock test format may be developed to help students shun coaching centres

though, is set to continue in 2016 and 2017 with the HRD ministry making it clear that it will seek opinion of stakehold-

ers before taking any decision on the panel's proposals.

The Committee of Eminent Persons, headed by IIT Bombay ex-director Ashok Mishra, has recommended starting a National Testing Service (NTS) by early 2016. The online exam can be taken twice or thrice a year. Four lakh candidates will then be shortlisted for the JEE to be conducted solely by IITs. JEE (Main) is now overseen by CBSE and JEE (Advanced) by IITs.

► Continued on P 18

New test to focus on phy, chem & maths

► Continued from P 1

As per the Mishra Committee recommendations, the proposed JEE will be on the lines of the current JEE (Advanced) and designed to specifically test one's knowledge of physics, chemistry and mathematics. Over 40,000 students will then be ranked before they seek admission to IITs and NITs based on common counselling.

The panel has asked the IITs to develop a system so that they can take mock JEE exams and needn't study in coaching institutes. The possibility of using the Massive Open Online Courses platform can also be explored, the committee said.

The HRD ministry has been asked to take measures for the improvement of



RENEWED APPROACH

school education and the method of examination of various Boards so that students with aptitude for science are well prepared in the concepts by the time they reach Class XII without depending on the coaching classes.

The current system is being slightly tweaked. JEE 2016 will have an enhanced intake from 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh students into the JEE (Advanced) stage. The weightage given to Board marks in JEE (Main) will not continue for 2016.

Panel suggests single IIT, NIT entrance exam, aptitude test

HRD Ministry maintains there will be no change in JEE format for next year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THREE YEARS after the UPA 2 government made sweeping changes to the admission process at top engineering institutes of the country, an expert panel appointed by its successor government has recommended another set of changes, including a single entrance examination for both IITs and NITs, no weightage to school board marks, and a compulsory aptitude test.

The committee, headed by academic Ashok Mishra, has suggested that JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced) should be merged into a single entrance exam, conducted by the IITs and intended to test a candidate's knowledge of physics, chemistry

and mathematics. Currently, JEE (Main), meant for admission to the NITs, is conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and JEE (Advanced) by the IITs.

The recommendations were made public on Saturday for further consultation with stakeholders. The HRD Ministry has not announced a timeframe to decide on the matter, but has clarified that JEE 2016 will be conducted in the same way as now, and that the 40 per cent weightage for Class 12 marks for admission to NITs would continue. The only change would be that the top 2 lakh candidates, instead of 1.5 lakh, in JEE (Main) will qualify to sit for JEE (Advanced).

The process of admissions to IITs and NITs was overhauled

completely in 2013 after then HRD Minister Kapil Sibal persuaded engineering institutes to give weightage to a candidate's school performance. This was done to help students focus on their school education, and to wean them away from coaching classes. A review by the institutions three years on has shown that this decision has made little difference to the tuition industry, whose hold on aspirants has, in fact, increased.

The IITs and NITs are in favour of scrapping the weightage to board marks. The Ashok Mishra committee was set up to study this proposal, and examine the feasibility of a single entrance test for IITs and NITs.

The aptitude test suggested by the committee is intended to test candidates' inclination for

science and innovative thinking. Passing the test will be a prerequisite for appearing for JEE, the report states. The aptitude test, designed to weaken the coaching culture, could be offered two or more times in a year, and a National Testing Service should be set up next year to conduct it, the panel has suggested.

Based on their performance in the aptitude test, about 400,000 candidates shall be shortlisted to take the JEE, which will be on the lines of the current JEE (Advanced). Ranks will be issued to 40,000+ students who can seek admission based on a common counseling, it said.

It also suggested that IITs be requested to develop mock JEE exams to help students prepare, and to wean them away from the coaching industry.

Times Of India ND 08/11/2015

P-8

These IIT grads to start biz with 'safety net'

Eight Final Year IIT-Delhi Students To Work On Their Own Startups, Can Join Placement Process After 2 Yrs If Business Fails

Shreya Roychowdhury
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New Delhi: "In two years," says Kanav Singla, his tone suggesting that he has given this some thought, "we'll be coming to IIT-Delhi to hire." He's in the final year of the civil engineering programme at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and is one of eight students who have opted out of the placement process in the very first year of a new policy's implementation.

The eight are among those working on startups that have been deemed viable, a condition for students to be eligible for the "deferred placement policy". Meant to serve as a "safety net" for budding entrepreneurs, the scheme allows final year MITech, dual degree and BTech students to postpone participating in placements. They can join the exercise two years later in case their businesses don't take off.

Four startup projects were selected by the committee appointed to consider the applications this year. They include a marketing agency, an app-based concierge service,

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS BECOME THEIR OWN BOSSES

STARTUP: RUNNERBEE

Students involved: Karanvir Sofat (civil), Nitin Agrawal (mechanical), Mohit Mittal (chemical dual)

What it does: Just 45 days-old, RunnerBee takes errand-running out of your schedule. A mobile application-based concierge service, it works on much the same principles as app-based cab services. It can be used to buy vegetables, submit documents, pick up laundry. The firm is headquartered in Gurgaon and an online payment system is in the works

STARTUP: ADLOID

Students involved: Karan Singla (civil), Shubham Gupta (chemical dual)

What it does: Adloid brings advertising-subsidised notebooks. With a target age-group of 12-25 years, it helps businesses sell notebooks to young buyers, mostly

ce, a virtual personal chat assistant and a health-care solution provider. Singla and Shubham Gupta,

STARTUP: HOODOO.IN

Students involved: Siddharth Jain (electrical)

What it does: It's a virtual personal chat

students. It began in January 2014 as 'Banana Notebooks'. Businesses reach their target audience; distributors and sellers get a wider profit margin; kids get slightly cheaper notebooks and lots of coupons. More than 6 lakh notebooks have been supplied since 2014

versus fitness for patients and also be a one-stop healthcare solution provider to consult for various laboratory tests and speciality doctors

* Those seeking deferred placements

STARTUP: MEDICRUX

Students involved: Bakshinder Pal Singh and others

What it does: It will help patients and doctors manage track medical histories, prescriptions, test results analysis. It will provide access to e-prescriptions and analytics to account for trends in lifestyle

add around 150 students, the students felt more confident and decided to tie up with notebook manufacturers in seven states.

Opting out of the placement process was a major decision for Singla and Gupta considering that some of their seniors got jobs with salaries crossing the crore mark last year when market conditions weren't favourable.

However, ADLOID's founders found it easier to forego the placement because they had started earning a bit. It wasn't quite so for the parents, though. While Singla's businessman father was amenable to the idea, his mother, a schoolteacher, took some convincing, as did Gupta's folks, both government employees and firm believers in financial stability. "It would've been very difficult to convince our parents if IIT hadn't started this," says Singla, "But it's like a marketing gig. You convince your parents like you convince your clients." The duo also talked the parents into providing the initial funding for ADLOID.

Kanavvir Sofat's parents,

doctors both, were more supportive of their son's decision to defer. He was working with four others on an application-based concierge service called RunnerBee, and everyone around told them it was a great idea that needed meticulous execution. "We weren't sitting for placement anyway," says Sofat of himself, Nitin Agrawal and Mohit Mittal. "Preparing for placements and running our startup would have ruined both."

Rather than earn enviable salaries in companies, the five founders are at work in RunnerBee's Gurgaon office all seven days of the week, where they oversee 15 policed boys run errands, buying vegetables, delivering documents or picking up laundry. With 300 individual clients already in their roster, "we are scaling up pretty fast," says Sofat. His decision to defer might just prove the correct one.

"Though Siddharth Jain comes from a business family—a stock that understands the "entrepreneurial spirit"—he confesses that deferring was "a very big deci-

sion". His shopping app, Hoodoo.in, has been used to ask for everything from a puja table, a Hollywood mirror, a bunk bed, a crate of Monster energy drink for personal use after the government banned its production, even a monkey!

It's just been around five months since the launch, and Hoodoo isn't generating much revenue just yet. Jain's room mainly acts as the operation headquarters for its services in Gurgaon and south Delhi.

"Sometimes even I have to run out to get something," he says. He is confident, but says, "Everyone around me is talking about placements. This does make me nervous, but people are responding positively to our startup, and most visitors are converting into orders."

With a strong spirit of enterprise, the eight have chosen the tougher path out of IIT-D and the future is challenging for them. But as Singla says, "If this doesn't work, we'll do something else. India being a tough market, we are in any case constantly evolving and innovating."

Major IIT-JEE changes aim to end coaching

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

A committee constituted by the IIT council recommended major changes in entrance examination structure for these prestigious institutes, including setting up of a national testing service which would hold tests on the basis of which around 4 lakh students would be shortlisted for the joint entrance examination (JEE).

Many of the recommendations of the committee of eminent persons under the chairmanship of Professor Ashok Misra, which submitted its report to the government on November 5, are aimed to wean IIT aspirants away from the dependence on coaching institutes.

The ministry has decided that since this process would take some time, the JEE 2016 shall be conducted in the same manner as 2015, with an enhanced intake from 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh into the JEE (Advanced) stage. The weightage given to board marks in JEE (main) would continue for the year 2016, the ministry said.

The ministry of human resource development has

decided to put the recommendations of the committee in the public domain for wide consultations.

The CEP has also suggested that changes in the structure of JEE shall be effected from 2017 onwards. As per the recommendations, a national testing service shall be set up by early 2016, mandated to conduct an aptitude test, which should test the scientific aptitude and innovative thinking ability.

The aptitude test may be offered two or more times in a year and would be an online, it said.

Significantly, the committee has recommended that the testing shall test scientific thinking and cannot be "gamed through coaching". As per recommendations, based on this performance, about 4 lakh candidates shall be short-listed for taking the JEE, which will be on the lines of the current JEE (advanced) and designed to test the knowledge in physics, chemistry and mathematics and will be conducted by the IITs.

"From this, ranks will be issued to 40,000+ students who can seek admission in IITs and NITs based on a common counselling.

Deccan Herald ND 08/11/2015 P-6

Centre refuses to drop weightage for Class XII marks in JEE

NEW DELHI: The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has refused to accept the recommendation of a committee for scarping the system of giving weightage to Class XII board examination scores in JEE-Main examination from 2016.

The 2016 JEE Main examination will be conducted in the same format as it has been conducted so far, the ministry said on Saturday.

"The government has decided to place the recommendations of the report in the public domain for widespread consultation with the stakeholders.

Since this process would take some time, it was decided that the JEE 2016 shall be conducted in the same manner in 2015," it said

Besides, a total of 2 lakh candidates will be able to take JEE-Advance in 2016 as the ministry decided to enhance the number of candidates to be selected for the test, conducted for admission to the IITs and ISM. Till this year, the joint admission board of the IITs selected a total of 1.5 lakh students from the all-India merit list of JEE-Main for taking JEE-Advance.

The committee of eminent

New format soon

- It has also suggested for setting up of a National Testing Service by early 2016 to conduct an Aptitude Test, on the lines of SAT
- The aptitude test may be offered two or more times in a year and would be an online test.
- It shall test the scientific thinking and cannot be gamed through coaching
- The IITs will be requested to set-up a system for developing mock JEE examinations which will help students prepare for the JEE

persons, headed by IIT Roorkee Director Ashok Misra, submitted its report to the ministry on November 5, recommending major changes in the JEE

format, including single entrance for admission to technical institutes.

It has also suggested for setting up of a National Testing

Service by early 2016 to conduct an Aptitude Test, on the lines of SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) conducted in the US, for selection of candidates for admissions. "The aptitude test may be offered two or more times in a year and would be an online test. The testing shall test the scientific thinking and cannot be gamed through coaching. Based on this performance, about 4 lakh candidates shall be shortlisted for taking the JEE," the panel suggested. "The JEE itself will be on the lines of the current JEE (Advanced)," it added.

DH News Service

Navbharat Times ND 08/11/2015 P-1

JEE से पहले नया टेस्ट?

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी के एंट्रेंस एजाम (जेईई) में नया एप्टिट्यूड टेस्ट शामिल हो सकता है। इससे साइंटिफिक और इनोवेटिव स्किल्स परखे जाएंगे। इसकी सिफारिश आईआईटी काउंसिल की ओर से बनाई गई कमिटी ने की है। प्रोफेसर अशोक मिश्रा की अध्यक्षता में बनी इस कमिटी ने एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री को सौंपी रिपोर्ट में टेस्ट के लिए नैशनल टेस्टिंग सर्विस बनाने को कहा है, जो अगले साल से शुरू कर सकती है। यह टेस्ट साल में दो या ज्यादा बार ऑनलाइन होगा, जिसमें

एप्स से रखें नजर

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने शनिवार को स्टूडेंट्स, पैरेंट्स और स्कूलों के लिए एंड्रायड बेस्ड मोबाइल एप्स की शुरुआत की। ePathshala ऐप में एनसीईआरटी की किताबें हैं, जबकि CBSE Saransh ऐप से पैरेंट्स और स्कूल बच्चे की परफॉर्मेंस देख सकते हैं।

जेईई के लिए 4 लाख स्टूडेंट्स छूट जाएंगे। बोर्ड रिजल्ट के आधार पर रैंक नहीं देने की भी सिफारिश की गई है।

Dainik Jagran ND 08/11/2015 P-1

आइआइटी प्रवेश परीक्षा में बड़े बदलाव की सिफारिश

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : आइआइटी परिषद द्वारा गठित विशेषज्ञों की एक समिति ने इस प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान की प्रवेश परीक्षा में बड़े बदलावों की सिफारिश की है। प्रो. अशोक मिश्रा की अध्यक्षता में गठित इस समिति ने पांच नवंबर को अपने सुझावों से सरकार को अवगत करा दिया। इनमें से ज्यादातर सुझावों का मकसद कोचिंग संस्थानों पर छात्रों की निर्भरता को कम करना है। समिति ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान को खुद ही प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी कर रहे छात्रों के लिए मॉक-टेस्ट कराने का सुझाव भी दिया है।

केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने इन सिफारिशों पर विस्तृत चर्चा के लिए इन्हें सार्वजनिक करने का फैसला किया है। इसके

◆ आइआइटी परिषद की ओर से गठित विशेषज्ञों की समिति ने दिए सुझाव

साथ ही 2016 की प्रवेश परीक्षा मौजूदा पैटर्न पर ही कराने का फैसला भी लिया गया है। इसके तहत डेढ़ से दो लाख छात्रों को संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई-एडवांस) में बैठने का मौका मिलेगा। विशेषज्ञों ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को स्कूली शिक्षा और बोर्ड परीक्षा प्रणाली को बेहतर बनाने का भी सुझाव दिया है। इसका उद्देश्य 12वीं तक आते-आते छात्रों में विज्ञान की अवधारणा विकसित करना है। इन बदलावों को लागू करने के लिए कुछ समय की जरूरत होगी। **शेष पृष्ठ >> 17**

आइआइटी प्रवेश परीक्षा में बड़े बदलाव की तैयारी

इसे देखते हुए विशेषज्ञों ने 2016 और 2017 में वर्तमान व्यवस्था के तहत ही परीक्षा लेने को कहा है। समिति ने एक महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव में कहा है कि इस साल एनआइटी और सीएफटीआइ में प्रवेश के समय रैंकिंग तय करने में बोर्ड परीक्षा का नंबर नहीं जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।

इन बदलावों की सिफारिश

- 2016 की शुरुआत में ही सरकार को राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा सेवा के गठन का सुझाव
- राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा सेवा द्वारा साल में दो या अधिक बार ऑन लाइन एप्टिट्यूड टेस्ट लिया जाएगा
- एप्टिट्यूड टेस्ट में वैज्ञानिक सोच की परख की परख की जानी चाहिए
- एप्टिट्यूड टेस्ट के आधार पर चार लाख अभ्यर्थी संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) के लिए चुने जाएंगे
- संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा का आयोजन मौजूदा जेईई-एडवांस की तर्ज पर ही किया जाएगा
- जेईई का संचालन आइआइटी द्वारा किया जाएगा। इसमें भौतिकी, रसायन व गणित के सवाल पूछे जाएंगे
- जेईई के प्रदर्शन के आधार पर 40 हजार से अधिक छात्रों की सूची जारी करने का सुझाव दिया गया है
- कॉमन काउंसिलिंग के आधार पर इन छात्रों को आइआइटी और एनआइटी में दाखिला दिया जाएगा

Human Resource Development Ministry Launches Several Mobile Apps, Web-Based Platforms

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/human-resource-development-ministry-launches-several-mobile-apps-web-based-platforms-1241126>

New Delhi: In line with the Modi government's Digital India initiative, Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry today launched a number of mobile apps and web-based platforms allowing students to access study material online, and parents to keep a track of the performance and attendance of their children.

Elaborating about the initiatives, HRD minister Smriti Irani said through mobile apps and website 'E-pathshala' students, parents and teachers can access study material online.

Another initiative for CBSE schools 'Saransh', which was launched at an event at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi, will help parents to compare subject-wise learning outcome of their children, with others at district, state and national levels.

"We are trying to leverage technology not only to bring more transparency in school education system but also to create new learning opportunities for the children," Ms Irani told reporters while speaking about the initiatives.

She said her ministry, along with some state governments, was working to lessen the burden of exams on students and an announcement to this effect may be made in the coming year.

Ms Irani also complimented state ministers, saying because of their cooperation the dream to have toilets for girls in all schools has been realised.

Another digital platform 'Shala Siddhi', also unveiled today, aims to improve schools. The HRD ministry has taken another initiative 'Shaladarpan', which was launched earlier in Kendriya Vidyalayas, in which parents will be kept informed about the child's presence, mark-sheets and time table etc.

Speaking at the event, Ms Irani said a committee had been constituted to look at the Mid-Day Meal Scheme framework from the point of view of nutrition.

The HRD ministry, she said, plans to urge states that in this nutrition framework, they should prepare their own menus for their students.

Lauding work done by individuals to disseminate education among masses, Ms Irani said her ministry now provides a window 'I share for India', in which digital initiatives aiming to spread learning can be shared.

She, however, added that these ventures should not be used for commercial gain. Ms Irani also honoured various state education ministers present at the event and said because of their cooperation the 'Swacch Vidyalaya' dream had been achieved and all government schools have toilets for girl school.

November 9

IISc Develops Simulators to Train Nurses

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/IISc-Develops-Simulators-to-Train-Nurses/2015/11/09/article3120746.ece>

BENGALURU: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is all set to release in the market simulators designed by its scientists that will be used to train nurses in a couple of months.

The idea was initially floated by Dr Devi Shetty of Narayana Hrudayalaya in a meeting of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission (KKC) held in September 2014, and a decision was taken to manufacture simulators in December 2014. The Centre for Geo Design Management at IISc agreed to implement the project.

As a result, in total four simulators are ready and will be available for use at hospitals and nursing colleges within the next two months. According to sources from IISc and Knowledge Commission, of that one is for Narayana Hrudayalaya, one for a government hospital in the city, one for a government hospital in rural Karnataka and one will be retained at IISc for further study.

Need of Simulators

According to experts, the nursing staff in the medical industry are as important as the doctors. As of now, the nurses get little hands-on experience during the course period and they depend on the patients to get experience. The simulators will give the nurses hands-on experience.

The project, that has been going on for six months now, is in its final stage and will be ready in two months. These simulators are built with the computerised internal activities and controlled using computers.

How Helpful

These simulators will be helpful, mainly to provide training for treatment of heart diseases. In the initial stage, these simulators will be worked with relation to heart beat, blood pressure and others.

A similar system functioning similar to the human heart has been designed using computers. This will give real experience to nurses during training.

IIT-B students take two to 14 years to complete PhDs

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/IIT-B-students-take-two-to-14-years-to-complete-PhDs/articleshow/49716305.cms>

MUMBAI: Researchers take an average of six years to complete PhD at IIT-Bombay, show data compiled from 1990 onwards by students of the institute.

The maximum time, taken by two candidates, has been around 14 years while the quickest has been two years. Interestingly all four are from the chemical engineering department. The data also shows that computer science engineers, on an average, take the longest time (6.7 years) to complete their PhDs as opposed to candidates from the rest of the departments, while civil engineers take the least average time (5.1 years).

The students' media body on campus, Insight, has compiled the data available with the institute and analysed the time taken by researchers to complete their PhD. While the general perception on campus is that researchers take about five years, a majority of them, around 32%, have taken six years on an average. While some of them, over 40 candidates, have even taken 10 or more years to complete it. The two candidates from the chemical engineering department, who have taken about 14 years to finish their PhD, are deemed by professors to be one-off cases. Among the departments, PhD candidates from computer science and engineering, humanities, mathematics, bio-sciences and bioengineering, metallurgical engineering, have taken over six years to complete their research. On the other hand, civil engineering and earth sciences department have taken lesser time as compared to the others.

Devang Khakhar, director of the institute, said that different departments have different range of time taken to complete Ph Ds. It also depends on the subject of research, he added. "The part-time Ph D candidates, which make up for a significant number, take longer than the others as the candidates are also doing jobs. The institute does not have a segregated list, but we will soon work on it and have a better analysis," said Khakhar.

Though the students have taken data available with the institute from 1990, not all PhDs before 1999, have uploaded their thesis online, therefore the data before 1999 is incomplete. The analysis is based on the data available online, claimed a student. Mihir Kulkarni, one of the chief editors of Insight, said, "There's a lot of data in the institute from various sources, and we thought it would be interesting if we present it in a visually intuitive way. There's tremendous scope for such analysis, and it'll throw interesting insights into various things."