

# Newspaper Clips

## October 13, 2013

HT Mumbai

## **JEE-Advanced exams to be held on May 25, 2014**

**MUMBAI:** JEE-Advanced 2014 will be held on May 25 at IIT-Kharagpur. Application fee for male candidates from general and OBC categories has been raised by Rs200 and for SC, ST and PD candidates by Rs100.

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## **Online fraud victim to get back Rs 4.5 lakh**

TNN | Oct 13, 2013, 02:53 AM IST

MUMBAI: Former IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dande, who lost Rs 19 lakh in an online fraud, will receive Rs 4.25 lakh lying in the bank account of one of the fraudsters. An adjudicating authority has ordered the bank to release the money to Dande.

He lost the money from the account maintained by his consulting firm, Sango Consultants. Dande and his wife are directors of the firm based in Pune.

A fraudster had obtained a SIM card with a forged passport photocopy carrying politician Dayanidh Maran's picture as identity proof and misused it to siphon off the amount. The amount was withdrawn in five days, beginning September 6.

The fraudster blocked Dande's mobile number, obtained a fresh one with forged documents and used it for funds transfer. The fraudster then transferred part of the money to refill a pre-paid cash card and the balance to accounts of different people across the country.

# 30% Indian IT engineers lack basic skills: Report

**Bhavya Dore**

■ bhavya.dore@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** Indian computer engineers are highly sought after, but a new report has revealed that computer science (CS) and information technology (IT) graduates are not up to the mark on programming.

Around 30% of CS/IT graduates did not know basic theoretical concepts used in computer programming, while more than 50% did not understand subtleties of programming concepts, and more than 80% were unable to apply them to real-world situations.

The report surveyed 55,000 students from all engineering backgrounds across 250 engineering colleges in the country and the analysis was based on the computer-programming module of the Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test, a standardised employability test.

## SURVEY DETAILS

The survey was conducted by Aspiring Minds, an employability solutions company whose tests are used by companies for recruitment purposes.

engineers in India is much greater than any other nation,” the report noted in its conclusion. “But the quality with regard to their programming ability is a matter of deep concern. The results obtained are eye-opening.”

The test looked at graduates’ basic knowledge, conceptual understanding and application skills. “Students’ competency in programming is very low,” said G Thampi, principal of Thadomal Shahani Engineering College in Bandra. “There is no effort in helping develop programming competency because of a lack of direction and out of

## Today's Paper » NATIONAL

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### Varsities to focus on value education

Aarti Dhar

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to introduce value education at the university level for promotion of arts and culture, sports and youth development and other community outreach programmes. Importantly, inter-disciplinary research centres on sports technology, sports medicine and sports management would be established in the universities.

The UGC has constituted a seven-member committee, chaired by Prof C.R.Visweswara Rao, former Vice-Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University to frame the guidelines for the new scheme.

The scheme “National initiative to foster social responsibility including creation of an alliance for community engagement and national initiative on sports and wellness” will focus on engaging with the community by conducting socially relevant research and education and foster social responsibility among students as part of their core mission.

The initiative on sports and wellness will seek to include fitness and wellness programmes for all students, encourage institutions to include physical education as a general institutional requirement and raising participation in competitive sports from the current 2 per cent to 10 per cent of students. Funds would be provided to colleges for creating and supporting departments and units for physical education.

Welcoming the move, Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice-Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University (deemed-to-be-university) said the University was focussing on these ‘gap areas’ which were hardly ever addressed in the conventional universities.

The three major thrust areas are disability management and special education, integrated rural and tribal development and Indian spiritual and cultural heritage of which value education forms an important component.

The University has a School of Indian Heritage at Belur main campus and Swami Vivekananda’s ancestral house in Kolkata; Faculty of Integrated Rural development and Management at Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Kolkata; Faculty of Integrated Rural and Tribal Management at Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama at Ranchi; Faculty of General and Adapted Physical Education and Yoga and Faculty of Disability management and Special Education at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya in Coimbatore.

The scheme will be rolled out in the XII Plan and an outlay of Rs 400 crore has been provided for the purpose. A token amount of Rs 1 crore has been provided in the budget estimates of 2013-14 for three components of the scheme; National initiative on sports and wellness, national initiative on inclusion of persons with disabilities in higher education and national initiative to foster social responsibility.

The HRD Ministry upgraded the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute as a deemed university under Section 3 of the UGC Act in 2005 and was subsequently renamed as Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University.

***UGC has constituted a seven-member committee to frame the guidelines for the new scheme***

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# Oxford varsity staff mull strike over pay

**London:** Lecturers and high-ranking staff at the Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University are edging close to strike action after being offered a 1% pay rise. Sixty-two per cent of its members voted for the action in a ballot after staff were offered the raise which they rejected, said the University and College Union (UCU) that represents lecturers and other staff for both leading Oxford-based institutions.

The UCU claims that their staff have not seen their pay rise in line with inflation and allege their salaries have decreased by 13% in real terms over the recent years. Strike action has also been supported by 'Unison', a major workers' union in the UK, and the results of a ballot by another union 'Unite' are expected to be revealed on Monday.

"We are very pleased that we have a clear mandate for strike action and the majority of people who voted, voted for both strike action and action short of a strike," a UCU spokesperson said.

"We hope the employers agree to come back to the table and sit down with us and talk this through. The ball is in the employers' court and we hope they now recognize the anger felt over their miserly pay offer," he said. No decision has been made, but it is thought the unions would agree coordinated responses. **PTI**