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Centre keen on single exam for IIT admissions

Smriti Kak Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: A report by an expert committee, to be presented to the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development on November 2, will determine whether the government's proposal to introduce a single examination system for admissions to engineering institutions, including the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technol-

ogy (IITs), will be implemented.

The Ministry is keen to do away with the current format of students taking the JEE-Mains and JEE-Advanced and replace it with a 'one exam, one rank and one counselling' system, which it asserts is more scientific than strenuous.

The Ministry has also proposed that the IITs can be mandated to conduct and

evaluate the examinations to ensure quality.

High coaching fees

While the single exam system is primarily aimed at reducing stress, the move is also being seen as a step to address the growing concern over the proliferation of coaching institutes that charge exorbitant fees.

Sources in the Ministry said they had come across

complaints of students being asked to pay as much as Rs. 5 to 6 lakh for coaching for JEE-Advanced.

The expert panel — headed by Ashok Mishra, chairperson of IIT-Roorkee — to decide on the fate of the single exam system will meet for the final consultation on October 28; but there has been implicit support from the IITs and the NIITs to the government's proposal.

HRD 'ironing out' hurdles to bringing single engg exam

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New Delhi: Days before an expert committee gives its report on 'one exam, one rank, one counselling' for admission to IITs/NITs/IISERs and other engineering colleges, the HRD ministry is working towards making it a reality and finding ways to remove the possible roadblocks.

For instance, the ministry wants the responsibility of conducting the single test to be given to IITs so that quality does not suffer. A highly placed source said, "There can be

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varied questions, both knowledge-based and analytical. JEE (advanced) through which students are taken into IITs, is

mostly analytical. A single question paper with the right mix of questions could help students of different calibres."

A ministry official said a single test will be scientific and test the merit of aspirants without putting too much stress on students. It will even help in moving towards a system of single counselling. "The process will become seamless. Right now students have to go through two kinds of coaching, one for IITs and another for the remaining engineering institutions like NITs etc. A single test will save parents a lot of money," the official said. One of the reasons for pushing 'one exam' is the debt cycle that the mushrooming coaching industry has created. It is currently billed at Rs 10,000 crore.

The ministry is hopeful the expert committee headed by Ashok Misra, former director of IIT-Bombay, will give a positive report.

Business Standard ND 22/10/2015 P-10

Take things lightly

It is disturbing to read newspaper reports about the spurt in the number of suicides among students, the most recent case being that of a final-year student of IIT Madras.

Often, students are unable to find the right person to whom they can open up and who, in turn, can give them correct and timely advice. Teachers, parents and classmates should be trained to look out for warning signs such as depression, lack of enthusiasm, withdrawal from friends, falling grades and low self-esteem among students: Most importantly, they should devote time to listen to students when they talk about their fears and anxieties.

Parents should spot what their children have a flair for and encourage them to pursue that instead of pushing them towards things they do not like or fulfil the unrealised dreams of their parents.

Yoga and personality development courses should be made compulsory in educational institutions, with emphasis on building self-esteem. Humour could be made part of the curriculum, as this could help students relax and let them take things a little lightly. In this context, Mahatma Gandhi's words come to mind: "If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide."

T S Karthik Chennai

IIT-B to open research park

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/iit-b-to-open-research-park/>

Mumbai : The Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) is going to open a ‘research park’ in Powai in order to create a common platform for researchers, the academia and industry to work in close collaboration with each other on contemporary research problems, technology challenges and product innovations.

The academia-industry partnership between IIT-B and Applied Materials is celebrating its tenth year in 2015. As part of this, to further strengthen the partnership, Applied Materials is planning to be the anchor client in IIT Bombay’s research park.

The proposed research park is a building with infrastructure built over 1 million sq ft of space at IIT-B. The objective of the research park is not just research and development and collaboration with large companies, but also with small and medium enterprises, technology firms, start-ups and accelerators.

The 10-year partnership celebration and launch of the research park is scheduled on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 12.15 pm at the Victor Menezes Convention Centre in the IIT-B campus.

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IIT-KANPUR REPORT ON SOURCES OF PARTICULATE MATTER NEXT MONTH

What's up with Delhi air?

Damini Nath

What exactly is in Delhi's polluted air will be revealed by a study being conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, with the report likely to be submitted to the government next month.

The IIT-Kanpur study on the sources of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) was commissioned by the Delhi government's environment and forest department in 2013. With the Capital facing flak for its poor air quality, it is more important that solutions to the pollution problem are tailored to the causes.

"We are expecting the report by November-end. The study is looking at the sources of PM10 and PM2.5 and whether that varies in different seasons and different locations," said Ashwani Kumar, secretary of the environment and forest department.

Due to its weather and geographical location, Delhi tends to be a dusty place. But it's what the particulate matter is made of that could set alarm bells ringing. All sources of pollution, including vehicular emissions and thermal power plants, carry different signatures.

For instance, the burning of



Due to its weather and geographical location, Delhi tends to be a dusty place. But it's what the particulate matter is made of that could set alarm bells ringing. — FILE PHOTO: AP

coal emits benzene, which is carcinogenic. Even vehicular pollution can be narrowed down further, as petrol causes the release of oxides of nitrogen whereas diesel leads to emission of sulphur dioxide. Identifying the exact cause of the PM will help policy formulation, said Mr. Kumar.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) monitors the levels of 10 air quality parameters at six locations across the city. With the Central Pollution Control Board's monitoring centres, there are 20 stations in Delhi for

real-time air quality testing.

The IIT-Kanpur study has a wider net. The team of the department of civil engineering has deployed its own instruments. Government officials said apart from the sources of pollution, the study would take a relook at the DPCC's data.

Officials said they are apprehensive that the study may show a different level of air pollution, whether higher or lower than the government data.

Meanwhile, SAFAR-India, the Union Ministry of Earth Science's air quality monitor, found

Delhi's air 'poor' on Wednesday with PM10 at 221.8 micrograms per cubic metre and PM2.5 at 134.8 micrograms per cubic metre.

The safe limit for PM10 is 100 micrograms per cubic metre and for the finer PM2.5 is 60 micrograms per cubic metre.

With Diwali next month, officials are expecting the use of fire-crackers to make the situation worse.

For feedback, please mail us at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in



WE ARE EXPECTING THE REPORT BY NOVEMBER-END. THE STUDY IS LOOKING AT THE SOURCES OF PM10 AND PM2.5 AND WHETHER THAT VARIES IN DIFFERENT SEASONS AND DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Business Line ND 22/10/2015 P-19

IIM-A gets ₹11 cr from alumni for chaired professor positions

Infosys Foundation, Edelweiss, PwC, UTI, Lalbhai group among contributors

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, October 21

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on Wednesday announced five new chaired professor positions and three student scholarships.

Contributions came from noted industrial groups such as Infosys Foundation, Edelweiss, PricewaterhouseCoopers, UTI and Kasturbhai Lalbhai Group contributed a total of ₹11 crore for the five respective chairs put together.

Infosys Foundation contributed for Chair of Societal Development; Edelweiss funded for establishing the Edelweiss Term Chair in Finance; PwC, for establishing PwC Chair of Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance; UTI fund-



ing went for a term chair in Macro Economics; and Kasturbhai Lalbhai for the Chair in Management Development.

Also, an anonymous contribution of ₹10 crore was made by an alumnus in support of admissions process and entrepreneurship among students. Further, the alumni contributions will help upgrade the Child Care Centre to modern standards, IIM-A Director,

Ashish Nanda told media persons here. Also, IIM-A alumnus, Ajay Banga and Ritu Banga contributed towards PGP scholarships.

As informed by Arvind Sahay, Dean (alumni), IIM-A, so far total contributions from the alumni crossed ₹110 crore, of which ₹50 crore came from JSW Steel group, while the rest is from other alumni to set up a total of 16 chaired professor positions at the institute.