

Newspaper Clips

October 23, 2012

HT, New Delhi

IITs, NITs may do away with GATE

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: PhD aspirants at IITs and other central science and engineering institutions may soon be exempt from the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), the gateway to pursuing research at these schools.

The Standing Committee of the IIT Council, a decision-making body of the IITs, will discuss the plan on November 5 at a meeting specially called to discuss strategies to ramp up research. Most PhD programmes at the IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other central science schools currently consider GATE scores. From near par-

ity in 2000, China today produces four times India's science and engineering research. India also continues to lag significantly behind the developed world in both the quantity and quality of science and engineering research.

The new proposal is among a set of recommendations by a team of top scientists under former Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar to scale up research at the IITs.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal had set up the panel. The panel has set a target of hiking India's annual science PhD output from about 9,000 at present to 40,000 by 2025. China already produces about 50,000 PhDs in science and engineering each year.

Admissions to meta university start from Oct 29

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia have announced the admission for the first course under meta-university concept on Monday. The application process for a two-year joint degree programme 'Master of Mathematics Education' (equivalent to MSc Mathematics Education) for the academic session 2012-13 will start from October 29 and the last date for application submission is November 14. There will be an all India en-

trance test for the same.

The course will be administered from the Cluster Innovation Centre, Rugby Sevens Building, DU.

Any graduate who has done at least two full-fledged papers in mathematics at the undergraduate level is eligible to apply for the course. There will be 20 seats in total, 10 each in both the universities.

As per the admission schedule, the entrance test will be conducted on December 2 and the results will be declared on December 6. Interviews of the

The last date for submission of application for a two-year joint degree programme 'Master of Mathematics Education' is November 14

shortlisted candidates will be conducted on December 11 and 12 and the final results will be declared on December 13. Provisional admission will take place between December 18

and 21 and the classes for the first semester will start from January 3, 2013. The entrance test will have 75% weightage and the interview will have 25% weightage.

The entrance test will consist of 75 questions each carrying one mark and will be of one hour duration. The entrance test will contain questions based on mathematical skills, reasoning, mental ability, general awareness, communication skills in English etc. The centers for the entrance test will be in Delhi.

Girls bell the CAT

Women candidates are fast capturing the MBA territory with a record number of them taking the CAT this year. Here's an analyses of the growing trend

By Sangeeth Sebastian

EVEN THOUGH the results will officially be declared on January 9, 2013, the CAT 2012 has already left a mark with a record number of women candidates registering for the exam.

It is a feat which Debashis Chatterjee, as the director of the hosting Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, is proud of. "IIMK initiated the trend first by reserving 35 per cent seats for girls in our post-graduate programmes," he points out. The decision, he adds, was based on its realisation that women, too, aspire for a prosperous career after pursuing an MBA. The registration figures of CAT 2012 released by the IIMK vindicated this growing awareness. The data shows a 8.6 per cent increase in the number of girls, compared to boys whose numbers have increased marginally by 2.6 per cent.

The figures also show that the candidates from engineering background continue to dominate the total pool of applicants at 67.6 per cent, a possible explanation being their superior numerical skills over candidates from other disciplines.

"The engineering graduates are in an advantageous position over other candidates because of their strong mathematics background," Chatterjee says. This is despite the fact that the quantitative section in CAT requires only Class X proficiency in mathematics. "The time an engineering graduate spends on quantitative section is a lot less than students from other disciplines who gave up mathematics after

their high school," the hosting IIM's director tells you.

Meanwhile, as the entrance exam — held across 36 cities in India — nears its final leg, experts are cautioning candidates against panicking and squandering away months of preparation due to stress and anxiety.

"Relax and prepare yourself to

face the CAT with a calm mind," says Ulhas Vairagkar, Director, Triumphant Institute of Management Education. "Do not seek information — in terms of the difficulty level of the paper — from students who have already taken the CAT, as different students get different papers," Vairagkar warns.

In fact, more than a candidate's

THE CAT TAKERS OF 2012

■ CAT 2012 registers an increase of 8.6 per cent in the number of girls taking the exam.

■ Delhi tops the number of applicants.

■ 43 per cent increase in candidates with

two to three years of work experience.

■ Engineering candidates continue to dominate applicants from other disciplines.

■ Notable Increase in the number of SC, ST and OBC candidates.

“The CAT registration highlights vindicate our decision of reserving 35 per cent seats for girls in all our post-graduate programmes”

— DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE
Director, IIM Kozhikode



Italy convicts 7 scientists for failing to predict quake

L'Aquila (Italy): An Italian court convicted seven scientists and experts of manslaughter on Monday for failing to adequately warn citizens before an earthquake struck central Italy in 2009, killing more than 300 people.

The court in L'Aquila also sentenced the defendants to six years in prison. Each one is a member of the national Great Risks Commission.

In Italy, convictions aren't definitive until after at least one level of appeals, so it is unlikely any of the defendants would face jail immediately.

Scientists worldwide had decried the trial as ridiculous, contending that science has no reliable way of predicting earthquakes. Among those convicted were some of Italy's most prominent and internationally respected seismologists and geological experts, including Enzo Boschi, former head of the national Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.

"I am dejected, desperate," Boschi said after the verdict. "I thought I would have been acquitted. I still don't understand what I was convicted of." The trial began in September 2011 in this Apennine town, whose devastated historic center is still largely a ghosttown.

The defendants were accused in the indictment of giving "inexact, incomplete and contradictory information" about whether small tremors felt by L'Aquila residents in the weeks and months before the April 6, 2009, quake should have constituted grounds for a quake warning. **AP**

UGC paves the way for non-academic V-Cs in state varsities

HT Correspondent

■ lkoreportersdesk@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Now, a non-academician can also be the vice-chancellor (V-C) of a state university as the University Grants Commission (UGC), the statutory body for higher education in the country, has decided to relax the norms for the selection of persons to these posts.

The decision was taken during a recently held meeting of the UGC chaired by its chairman Ved Prakash. The move comes after the UGC was flooded with requests from several state governments to ease the standards, ending over a month long speculation. It means, henceforth, the selection norms prescribed by the UGC will not be mandatory for the state-run universities. The state governments have, however, been entrusted with the responsibility to maintain quality and transparency in the selection process.

"The commission considered the issue regarding inclusion of a representative of the state government on the search committee for the appointment of state universities' vice-chancellors and decided to delete clause 7.3.0 from the UGC Regulations (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers, Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Other Measures for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education), 2010," the minutes of the meeting read. The present UGC norms, as per the clause 7.3.0, insist that a V-C candidate has

IN A NUTSHELL

- The decision was taken during a recently held meeting of the UGC chaired by its chairman Ved Prakash.
- The move comes after the UGC was flooded with requests from several state governments to ease the standards, ending over a month long speculation.
- It means, henceforth, the selection norms prescribed by the UGC will not be mandatory for the state-run universities.
- The state governments have, however, been entrusted with the responsibility to maintain quality and transparency in the selection process.

to be an academician with a minimum of 10 years' experience as professor in a university system or 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation. Now, these norms would no more be mandatory.

Experts feel that the move would facilitate corruption. Some even apprehend that it would invite political interference in the selection process for V-Cs. "An academician with an experience in colleges and universities is always the best choice as the V-C of a university. A person from institutes like the IIT is a misfit for the job. Even a non-academician is a bad choice for a state university," Moulendu Mishra, former president of the Lucknow University Associated College Teachers' Association (LUACTA), said.

'India should be a study abroad hub for UC students'

■ What new courses have you launched for Indian students?

We have two post-graduate degree options in Engineering, including Master's of Science (MS) and Master's of Engineering (M.Eng.). Our M.Eng. programme is a one-year course that is usually preferred by international students and working professionals who want to earn their master's degree faster. We then have Master's of Law programme. Indian students have a good command over English and fairly good knowledge of the U.S., which is why we think they would thrive in such a programme. There is also a nine-month long M.S. finance programme, run by our own Lindner School of Business.

■ How many Indian students are enrolled with the university currently?

We have around 650 Indian students at present, which is the second largest international student population after China. The number is considerably higher than Korea from where we have 250 students.

■ Which programmes are most popular among Indian students?

Most of our Indian students usually go for the engineering programmes. The M.S. Eng. programme has 10 interesting divisions, including Aerospace, Environment, Information Systems etc, for students to choose from. Many Indian students also opt for MBA.

■ What all scholarships are you offering?

There are partial and full scholarships. The partial ones cover a part of the tuition fee whereas full scholarships would cover the entire tuition fee of a programme. In 2010, we spent almost \$4 million on PG scholar-

THE HOT SEAT



DR. JONATHAN WELLER, Director, International Admissions, University of Cincinnati, tells Karishma Goenka about their special initiatives for Indian students. He says that the UC also wants their students to come to India to study.

ships for Indian students. We plan to spend \$5-6 million in 2012.

■ Why are you focusing so much on India?

We want India to be a study-abroad destination for our local students. We want to conduct a lot of exchange programmes. In the last four years, around 100 of our students have studied in India.

■ Do you plan to tie up with Indian institutes?

It's early for any such tie-ups. These collaborations are time consuming and procedures are lengthy. But we are definitely interested in future collaborations.

■ How can one apply for an admission to the university of Cincinnati?

A bachelor's degree, a GRE and TOEFL score are important. Also, by way of a cover letter, the student has to convince us why he/she is a unique fit for the programme. The scores needed vary for different courses. The detail are up on our website: www.admissions.uc.edu/international.