Newspaper Clips
September 18, 2012

HT Mumbai

THREE CHANCES TO CLEAR JEE (MAIN) 2013

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MUMBAI: Students appearing for the newly-announced Joint Entrance Exam (Main) 2013 will have three attempts to clear the exam, a new document has said. The JEE (Main) will determine entry to National Institutes of Technology and centrally-funded engineering colleges, and will be the first stage exam for entry into the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Last week, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which will conduct the exam, had announced that the offline test would take place on April 7, 2013, while the online tests will be held between April 8 and April 30 next year. Students can choose to write the test in either mode.

"The number of attempts which a candidate can avail JEE (Main) shall be limited to three for all the candidates in consecutive years," said the document.

Those who finished Class 12 in 2011 or 2012 will also be eligible to appear for next year's exam, in addition to the 2013 batch. The document also clarifies that students will be able to improve their Class 12 board exam performance, since these marks will also carry weightage from next year.

According to the new document, the three-hour exam will have objective type questions and multiple-choice questions. For each wrong answer, one-fourth of a mark will be cut, but there will be no deductions for not attempting.

By 2017, India to build fastest supercomputer

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NEW DELHI: The telecom ministry has drawn up an ambitious blueprint to build a supercomputer by 2017, which will be at least 61 times faster than any machine available today.

Telecom and information technology minister Kapil Sibal has written to PM Manmohan Singh about the project, which is estimated to cost ₹4,700 crore over the next five years.

But in order to succeed, the scientists behind the project will need to defy predictions of experts across the world that the computing speeds Sibal has promised are impossible any time in the near future.

"In his (Sibal's) letter, he has said that C-DAC has developed a proposal with a roadmap to develop a petaflop and exaflop range of supercomputers in the country with an outlay of ₹4,700 crore," a government official said, referring to the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) which built India's first supercomputer, the PARAM 8000 in 1991.

"Presently Param Yuva with 54 teraflop computing power is serving many researchers through Garuda Computing Grid," the official said.

Sibal has proposed that Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY) should be given tasks to coordinate overall supercomputing activities in the country as it has been done in the past.

THE NEW PROJECT

■ **Sequoia is currently the world's fastest computer**

■ The world's fastest supercomputer, IBM's Sequoia, has a top computing speed of 16.32 petaflops.

■ India's fastest supercomputer, the Cluster Platform 3000, ranks 58 among the world's fastest machines, and has a top speed of 0.3 petaflops

■ The project is estimated to cost ₹4,700 crore and will be completed over the next five years.

A petaflop is a measure of computing speed and an exaflop is 1,000 petaflops.

At present, the world's fastest supercomputer, IBM's Sequoia, has a top computing speed of 16.32 petaflops.

India's fastest supercomputer, the Cluster Platform 3000, ranks 58 among the world's fastest machines, and has a top speed of 0.3 petaflops, so the proposed machine — if successful — would be 3000 times faster.

A review commissioned by the US department of defence concluded that exaflop computing speeds were theoretically impossible anytime in the current decade.

With agencies input

The best man for the job

Human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal finds himself in a tricky situation over the controversy surrounding the appointment of a new secretary to the University Grants Commission (UGC). Akhilesh Gupta, the scientist who was chosen by the selection panel, was an adviser to Sibal at the department of science and technology, when the HRD minister was in charge of science in UPA 1. Gupta's selection has been challenged and the UGC has started the selection process afresh. But Gupta remains the best candidate in the eyes of many. The worry: will selecting him lead to charges of favouritism because of his former proximity to Sibal? Too close for comfort.

IIT Bombay fest: UP No.1 by entries

TECHFEST 2013 Of the 30,000 individual entries from India and abroad, some 3,000 are from UP alone

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LUCKNOW: IIT Bombay's mega international event — Techfest 2013 — will have a lot of UP in it.

Of the 30,000 individual entries for the festival from India and abroad, some 3,000 are from UP alone – the highest from any state in India. Similarly, out of the total 5,000 team entries, 300 are from UP. The increased participation of the state on a big platform like this will help students from here attract attention of world academia.

Students from UP are more tech-savvy than ever before. This can be corroborated by the fact that of the 300 team entries, 100 are for social events while the remaining 200 are for technology-based competitions.

A prize money of ₹17 lakh is up for grabs in the event that promotes technology, scientific thinking and innovation.

The 16th edition of Techfest is scheduled to be held from January 3 to 5, 2013. Apart from the 150 technical events during this period, various others are lined up that would cater to all sections of society. The Techfest website (www.techfest.org) had received over 2.5 million hits in the previous year.

Established as Asia's largest science and technology festival and patronised by Unesco, Techfest 2012 saw a footfall of more than 92,000 students with over 25,000 students from India and abroad participating in various events.

UP IS TECH-SAVVY

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

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GIVE-A-COIN INITIATIVE

While higher education is still a dream for many, a huge percentage of Indian children are deprived of even the basic necessities of life. To bridge this gap, Techfest, in association with Pratham Council for Vulnerable Children, has introduced the Give-a-Coin initiative to promote the noble cause.

In this process, donors provide funds for the education, shelter, nutrition and medical care of the underprivileged kids, while the NGO handles the resource allocation constantly, giving a detailed account of the expenditure to the donors. It also arranges personal meetings of the donor and the child.

MODEL UN

This year for the first time, Techfest is organising Techfest International MUN (also Model UN or MUN) with an aim to provide cultural and technical exchange between different countries of the world. Model United Nations is actually an academic simulation of the UN that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations' agenda. The event to be held during the festival will involve representatives from each country discussing their nation's policies, ideologies and finally coming up with fruitful policies or amendments that can be incorporated in the existing structure of a nation.

Times of India ND 18/09/2012   P1

Indians refuelling global MBA demand

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: Full-time MBA and other programmes seem to be back in favour all across the world, with Asian powerhouses India and China contributing majorly to the growth in number of aspirants. And, for those looking for gender parity in business management, there's even better news; classrooms are inching towards equality, with women making up over 40% of MBA applications around the world.

These are the highlights of the statistics gleaned from the 13th annual application trends survey conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council. The growth in numbers globally is all the more significant as it comes after three years of falling

NUMBER CRUNCHING

83% of MBA programs in India which accept GMAT scores report increase in applications

80% colleges in China too report rise in applications

40% of MBA applications around the world from women

9% applications from members of LGBT community

application numbers.

In India, 83% of the MBA programmes that accept GMAT scores have reported an increase in applications; that figure is 80% for China. Especially in demand are specialized MBA courses that attract undergrad-

Over 2.1 lakh set to take CAT this year

After a steady fall over two years and tentative rise in 2011, the Common Admission Test will see a larger pool of aspirants taking the exam this year. More than 2.1 lakh aspirants are expected to appear for the test, a 27-day affair from October 11 to November 6. IIM-Kozhikode is conducting the CAT this year. **P 13**

uate students and those that need less than a year's work experience.

As the most recent global recession began in late 2007 and deepened in 2008, unemployment rates rose and application volumes for full-time MBA programmes began to climb,

peaking in 2009. But, for the past three years of sluggish economic recovery (2009-2011), full-time MBA programmes reported slowing or decreasing application growth. This year's figures arrest that slide. GMAC representatives said the growth in Europe was 37% for one-year programmes and 32% in the US.

Women account for 39% of the applicant pool for full-time two-year MBA courses, up from 35% in 2011. The largest shift is seen among applicants for the executive MBA course. Thirty-seven per cent of executive MBA applicants are women; in 2011, women accounted for only 27% of executive MBA applicants. This year's survey also reveals special efforts made to recruit entrepreneurs (16%) and members of the LGBT community (9%).

Times of India ND 18/09/2012   P13

Upward swing in number of CAT aspirants

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: The Common Admission Test (CAT) will see a larger pool of aspirants taking the exam this year as compared to its last edition. After two years of a steady fall and sluggish growth in 2011, number of aspirants for the upcoming CAT will see the application count cross 2.10 lakh.

By Saturday-end, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kozhikode recorded the sale of 2.09 application vouchers. Counters were open till Monday evening and IIM officials said the number of applications would cross 2.10 lakh. IIM-Kozhikode is conducting CAT this year.

The number of aspirants who registered in 2011 and 2010 was 2.05 lakh and 2.04 lakh, respectively. In 2009, about 2.42 lakh students had signed up for the exam. While the figures are nowhere close to what was achieved in 2008 when 2.76 lakh aspirants registered for the test, experts believe the count is bound to rise in the years to come.

B-school principals feel the rise in the application count points to a · global economy that is witnessing a recovery, albeit a slow one. "Students feel that two years from now, when they pass out, the placements will be a lot better than now.

IN DEMAND

Application vouchers sold	2.10*	2.05
	2012	2011
2.04	2.42	2.76
2010	2009	2008

Source: IIM (* projected) Figures in lakh

So, many have probably decided to buttress their resume by adding a management degree to it," said an IIM faculty member.

However, sources said that getting into the IIMs would not be easy with the intake not rising much.

This year, the test will be a 27-day affair from October 11 to November 6. The CAT scores decide admission to the 13 IIMs and close to 150 other Indian management schools. "The numbers are up and I feel this is a natural growth that this test sees annually," said SSS Kumar, CAT-2012 convener.

The format of the test remains the same. "But we have added to the capacity at our existing centres because more students will take the CAT this year," added Kumar. According to the notification, like the previous year, the CAT will be a computer-based test and have two sections of 1 hour and 10 minutes each. There will be 30 questions in each section, including quantitative ability and data interpretation, verbal ability and logical reasoning.

IIM Ahmedabad placed 10th in FT rankings

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), has been ranked 10 in the Financial Times Masters in Management 2012 rankings. The FT report ranks the top 70 programmes in general management that do not require students to have prior work experience for admission to the masters programme. IIMA is the only business school from India to feature in the ranking once again this year.

50 years on, distance education still a struggle

RAVI K. MAHAJAN

THE year 2012 is a landmark year for the open and distance education in India. It was in 1962 that the open and distance education (ODE) was formally launched as a pilot project in the University of Delhi. However, 50 years on, the questions remain: how far have we been successful in achieving the aim with which the ODE system was started, and what could be done to enable the system address contemporary societal needs?

Stung by the 'downward filtration theory' of the British, the post-Independent India faced a tough challenge in the field of education. The major challenge was of providing educational avenues for India's exponentially growing population in the backdrop of expanding horizon of information age, while resource constraints restraint infrastructural investments. The success of the experiment at the University of Delhi unleashed an era of ODE in the country. Today, we have 12 open universities and more than 175 institutes that provide instructions through distance mode.

Ironically, after 50 years of ODE in India, one wonders why it is that still a large segment of our society looks upon the students of distance education and the system of distance education with suspicion. Why is it that some employers outrightly debar students of distance education even from applying to the vacant position?

A close scrutiny on the growth of this non-contiguous form of education reveals that stains started surfacing in this upcoming mode of education; when some enthusiast institutes and universities in the early 80s saw in ODE the potential of 'taking out their institutes/universities out of red'. In their unscrupulous zeal of money-minting, some universities/institutes started enticing students by virtually distributing degrees on enrolment. It was conveniently ignored that this stream of education was introduced to provide a second chance for enhancement or improvement of academic qualifications to those who, for various reasons, could not do so in the formal (regular) system of education. In any case, it nowhere was to guarantee a degree or certificate on enrolment by compromising on quality.

What has aggravated the situating is another fact that in a number of cases, the persons who are called upon to work on the policy initiatives on ODE or are given to hold key positions in the institutes of distanced education have a little understanding about the concept, philosophy, and constraints of ODE.

In the early 90s, the Distance Education Council (DEC) was established as an apex body for the promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards of the ODE system, but the very constitution of the DEC could never earn respect of distance educators. As DEC drew its power from Statute 28 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act, an unwarranted issue flared up from the argument that how can one 'wing' of a university 'recognise' another university.

No doubt, IGNOU has brought about a sea change in the educational scenario, still some blemishes mark its credentials as flag-bearer of ODE. It has not only failed to protect the interest of distance educators but also created conditions tantamount to subjugating distance education to formal education.

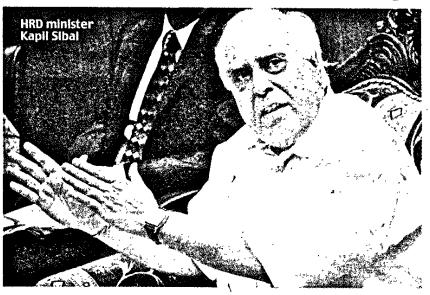It is worthwhile to note that in 1962, when Dr K.L. Shrimali, the then Union Minister of Education, launched the mission 'Education through Correspondence', he listed three main objectives of correspondence education—"to provide an efficient and less expensive method of educational instruction; to provide facilities to pursue higher education to all qualified and willing persons who had failed to join regular university courses; and to provide opportunities of academic pursuits to educated citizens without disturbing their present employment."

These objectives substantiate what Plato had so emphatically asserted some five centuries ago that 'education is a lifelong process'. In other words, it envisages 'educational opportunities for all as per one's requirements and demands'. Shattering the well-entrenched myth that the education could be had only during a definite span and sequence of time frame, ODE has gradually replaced the erstwhile dictum 'earning after learning' by 'earning while learning'. It is high time to get serious over the ODE system to make education flexible, accessible, inclusive and affordable. Such initiatives are desirable when we are striving to make India world's knowledge hub.

Mail Today, ND 18/09/2012

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Sibal's initiative guides university

HRD minister
Kapil Sibal

By **Mail Today Bureau**
in New Delhi

DELHI University's move to introduce a more comprehensive curriculum at the undergraduate level comes amid human resource development minister Kapil Sibal's increasing push for wholesome education at India's universities.

In a bid to "de-stress" education and do away with the unrealistic 100 per cent cut-offs that have become the order of the day at DU, the HRD ministry aims at making training, research and vocational education an integral part of the formal learning process.

And in keeping with the aim, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has suggested that the longer degree proposed by DU — which would allow for a more integrated learning experience and enhanced options for students to conduct research as compared to the current three-year system — would be a good bet for universities across the country.

"If universities want to switch over to four years, that would certainly be beneficial for higher education,

because you would be promoting a research culture at the undergraduate level," said Ved Prakash, acting chairman of UGC.

"It means we are not cutting back on any focus on teaching, while improving the amount of research that can be done," he added.

The idea of the additional year would be to allow students to have more access to research, using the extra year to focus on projects or ideas that

On a mission to de-stress higher education in India

they might not have been able to take up in a three-year programme.

Although the UGC doesn't have a specific proposal currently, it says it would certainly encourage the plan nationwide.

"We need to promote research universities in the 12th Five Year Plan, and for that, this kind of a move would be very good. But if we are to promote them as research universities, everyone there should get an opportunity to participate in the research," Prakash said.

HT Indore

IIM DIRECTOR IN DOCK, PANEL PROBES CHARGES

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INDORE: The first committee meeting held in Mumbai to investigate the allegations of financial, academic and administrative irregularities against the director of Indian Institute of Management Indore N Ravichandran lasted for nearly five hours and the next meeting has now been scheduled on October 9.

The five-member committee formed by the ministry of human resource development includes- Jagdish Kapoor, Salil Bhandari and retired chief engineer Chugh along with two professors from IIM Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

The complainants whose allegations are being investigated have now asked why the director hasn't been asked to go on leave while the investigation is underway.

"Any government officer against whom there is such investigation has to go on leave if they hold a powerful position. There is a strong possibility of manipulation of information by him," said one of the complainants on condition of anonymity.

When HT tried contacting the director he was not available for comment.

Jagdish Kapoor, Chairman of the committee said, "The investigation is at an early stage

Allegations against IIM director

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and it is too early to take such a drastic step. We have scheduled some more meetings in the coming months."

He added that the deadline to submit the report was November end and the committee would try and investigate the matter within the given time frame.

Reportedly, the financial and administrative irregularities would be looked into by the chairman and Bhandari and the two professors would probe into the academic irregularity regarding the case of plagiarism against the director. Chugh would help deal with the complaints regarding construction work and tenders.

The seven teachers - PK

MAJOR ALLEGATIONS

- Favoring a particular architect for construction work
- Favoritism, giving increments and bonuses to some specific faculty members and bending HR rules
- Extending probation upto 2 years for some faculty members and cutting it short for some
- Plagiarism in one of his published works on Euthanasia
- Bouncing of the cheques from the overseas campus in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and hiring a private agency to collect the fees

Singh, DL Sunder, MR Sreenath, Lalitha Sreenath, S Dey, Keyur Thaker, A Kangaraj- had approached the high court, which on May 28 this year had asked the ministry to investigate the allegations and present a report within six months.

Veteran industrialist of LNJ Bhilwara Group LN Jhunjhunwala had reportedly resigned from the post of chairman of IIM- Indore following the differences with the director.