

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times, ND 10-Apr-11 P-9

Flayed, IITs offer 'correction'

PROMISE Assure students of rectifying marking errors even if answer scripts are revealed late

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have promised to rectify any marking error that emerges from disclosed answersheets of students appearing for Sunday's Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) — irrespective of when students are allowed to see the sheets.

The assurance comes amid concerns over the failure of the IITs to state when they will fulfil their promise of placing online scanned answer sheets of the 4.85 lakh students appearing

(I think these concerns are unnecessary. If there is an error...it will be addressed)
SANJAY DHANDE
 IIT-Kanpur director

for the Sunday's test.

"I think these concerns are unnecessary. If there is an error in marking identified on the basis of the scanned answer scripts placed online at any stage, it will be addressed and justice will be provided," Sanjay Dhande, director of IIT Kanpur, in-charge of organising the JEE

this year, told Hindustan Times. "The organising chairmen of the IITs will decide once the JEE is over when the scripts will be made public, and I will announce the date immediately."

HT was the first to report — on March 26 — the dramatic admissions reform that will for the first time allow students to see their Optical Response Sheets (ORS) and compare them with the correct answers.

On March 27, Dhande announced the reforms publicly. But in a press statement earlier this week, the IITs said cor-

rect answers would be made public only on May 15 and the scanned ORSs made public only "after May 25" — the date when results are announced. Online counselling for the IITs begins on May 30.

The failure of the IITs to specify a date for making public the answer scripts has triggered concerns that the ORS may be placed online only after May 30 — when counselling starts — or even later.

The concerns revolve around fears that the IITs may at that stage claim it is too late to correct errors they made.

MATTER OF CONCERN

- The IITs have failed to state when they will fulfil their promise of placing online scanned answer sheets of the 4.85 lakh students, who are appearing for the Sunday's JEE test
- Students fear that the Optical Response Sheets (ORSs) may be placed online after the date of counselling or even later.
- The concerns revolve around fears that the IITs may at that stage claim it is too late to correct errors they made.

Hindu ND 10/04/2011 P-13

HRD Ministry initiates process of appointing UGC chairperson

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Having given up the hope of an early creation of the proposed of National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), Union Human Resource Development Ministry has initiated the process of appointing a chairperson for the University Grants Commission (UGC). The charge is being held, at present, by the vice-chairperson Ved Prakash as per the UGC Act, 1956.

The post had not been filled

up after the term of Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat ended in February with the hope that the Higher Education and Research Bill would be at least tabled, if not passed in the budget session of Parliament. The Bill envisages creation of the NCHER, an overarching regulatory body that would subsume all existing regulatory bodies including the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

The Ministry has begun the process of appointing a search committee to select a

chairperson for the UGC. The proposed committee includes astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar, Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India and two academicians as members.

Delayed

Under the UGC Act, 1956, the process of searching for a new chairperson should have begun much before the incumbent's term ends but the Ministry chose not to do as it intended to introduce the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011 in Parlia-

ment in the budget session. While the entire winter session was washed out over 2G spectrum controversy, the Bill could not be introduced in the budget session either because of the ongoing turf war between the Ministries of Human Resource Development and the Health and Family Welfare on the jurisdiction of medical education. Despite several attempts at the level of the Prime Minister's Office to arrive at a compromise between the Ministries, the issue remains unresolved.

Times of India Chennai 09.04.11 P-2

IIT-M think tank to study China & its global impact

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Through its latest initiative, the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras plans to advise the Indian government on its China policy, especially in strategic negotiations.

At the launch of the IIT-Madras China Study Centre on Friday, centre coordinator Sonika Gupta said, "We want to understand China and its impact on the current global order."

The idea of setting up the centre began in 2008 — the golden jubilee year of IIT-M — when the institute's board of governors analysed what IIT-M had done right and where progress was required.

"We wanted to do something more with the humanities department. We found that we knew little about China, and our perceptions were based on what came in Western papers. One of our German professors also said that Chinese is one of the three languages that will survive in the world. So we got the centre approved by the council," said M S Ananth, director, IIT-M.

The ministry of human resource development had said that each IIT may set up a centre of studies on a foreign country to develop expertise on countries of strategic importance. The idea is borrowed from the West, where Asia's upward surge recently saw several American and British universities starting observatories that watched India and China.

The centre at IIT-M will have Sonika Gupta, an assistant professor in the institute's

department of humanities and social sciences, as the coordinator; and C V Ranganathan, former ambassador to China, as the chairman of the advisory board.

In the next semester it will start operations by teaching Chinese as an elective to all MA and BTech students interested in learning the language. The centre currently has one faculty. The institute hopes to recruit

The ministry of human resource development had said that each IIT may set up a centre for studies on a foreign country to develop expertise on countries of strategic importance

three faculty by this summer, and has already advertised for applications from academics. Ranganathan hoped that the centre would reinvigorate the zeal, enthusiasm and spirit of enquiry to discover each other's civilisations.

"There are expectations that the continuation of the growth trajectory of India and China would lead to the revival of the global economy. Both countries have domestic problems, but there is also the growth of ambitions and entitlements and how each perceives the other. The public should have realistic ideas and not exaggerated views of the ambitions and entitlements of the two countries," he said.

Deccan Herald Bangalore 09.04.11 P-8

SC seized of threat to IIT professor

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Delhi Police to inform it on actions taken by it on a complaint filed by an IIT professor alleging receipt of threat from an official from the Enforcement Directorate for writing a complaint to the Prime Minister in the black money case.

A Bench of Justices S Sudershan Reddy and S S Nijjar took a serious view of the allegations made by Prof S K Dubey, one of the petitioners, against ED officer Prabha Kant in his complaint to the Police Commissioner.

“We won’t keep quiet. We cannot accept that the petitioner before us is being threatened,” the court said directing the police to file a response on next Friday.

Dubey had shot off the letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on March 22 complaining against ED director Arun Mathur.

Senior counsel Rajeev Dhawan submitted before the court that Prabha Kant called Dubey and later met him on April 2 to threaten him of dire consequences and asked him

to withdraw the allegations against the official.

The court also asked the Centre to come out with its response on two affidavits filed by Uttar Pradesh IPS officer Jasbir Singh, one of the petitioners along with noted jurist Ram Jethmalani and former police officer Julio F Riberio in the black money case, alleging Mathur and two officials Kant and S K Sahni having enjoyed hospitality of private firms.

During the hearing, the court asked various parties not to politicise the matter relating to stashing of black money in overseas’ banks by some Indians.

The observation was made after Jethmalani referred to the CD and transcript of the interrogations of Pune stud farm owner Hasan Ali Khan, recorded by Ashok Deshbratar, a Mumbai police officer, who had since been suspended.

Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam, who was asked by the court about the charges, submitted that he had been instructed to deny the charges.

DH News Service

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

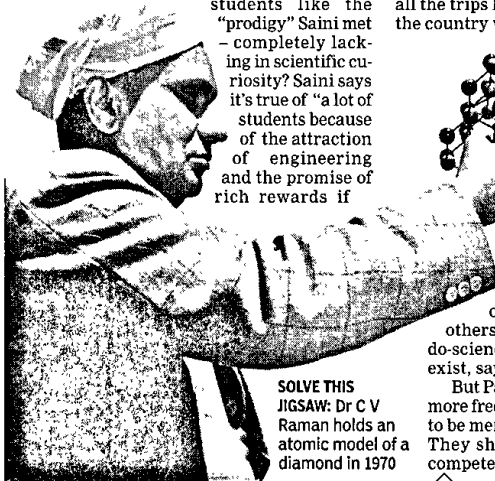
Saira Kurup | TNN

British author and science journalist Angela Saini was initially disappointed when she visited IIT-Delhi. "It wasn't quite the hothouse of innovation that I was expecting," she writes in her new book "Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World". She adds, "Burnt out before they even arrive, hardly any IIT student stays on to do further research or study on."

For a country that has more students graduating in maths and science than the US, Europe or Japan, Saini says the average IIT student "seems to have developed a culture of getting the grades and getting out". During her six-month stay in India to research the book, Saini - who reports for the BBC World Service and a clutch of magazines including "New Scientist", "Science", "Wired" and "The Economist" - met a prodigy who won medals in three Olympiads and topped the IIT-JEE. She expected to find a curious geek. Instead, she found an overworked kid who memorized things a lot faster than most. "I am sure he loves science in his own way but he wasn't given the scope to explore it," she says.

It's a good point and scientist Professor Yash Pal agrees wholeheartedly. "We have been killing the curiosity of children," he says. "Their questions are not considered 'cool' - that's the tragedy. We try to make our school strict. We don't allow children to meander through ideas."

Are most Indian science students like the "prodigy" Saini met - completely lacking in scientific curiosity? Saini says it's true of "a lot of students because of the attraction of engineering and the promise of rich rewards if

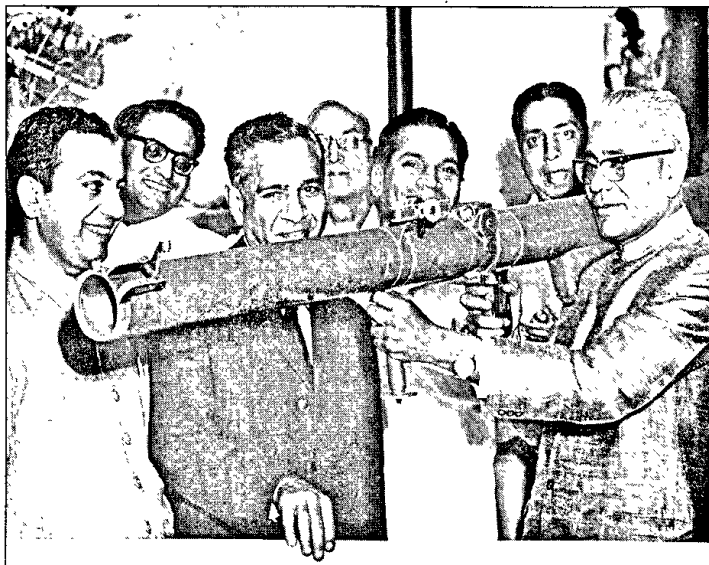


SOLVE THIS JIGSAW: Dr C V Raman holds an atomic model of a diamond in 1970



Geek Nation: How Indian science is taking over the world

By Angela Saini
Hachette India
Rs 499, 262 pages



TAKING AIM: It might look like a drain pipe but is one of India's earliest rocket launchers. The chief minister of Maharashtra, V P Naik, handles the weapon at an exhibition in Mumbai in 1965

you work in the IT industry... Engineers are sexy in this country. Everyone wants to be one or marry one!" Even so, she says, globalization, travel and exposure are bringing about cultural change. "If you speak to a child today, he would be far more free-thinking than a typical kid 20 years back who was told by his teacher 'you just learn what I told you to learn'. Children today are far more encouraged to ask questions."

Saini says she wrote the book because "in all the trips I made (to India), it didn't seem the country was doing the most original exciting work in the world until a few years ago." Despite our education system which emphasizes memorizing and examinations, India allows one to be creative. "In Britain, Europe or the US, you are more strait-jacketed, there's a framework for research and certain types of research get promoted over others." But, India allows both pseudo-science and nutty freethinkers to co-exist, says Saini.

But Pal says that Indian science needs more freedom. "People are being allowed to be merely competent, not very clever. They should be allowed to go beyond competence." He believes that the eco-

nomical liberalization process, begun 20 years ago, actually made things worse because "it has allowed in a lot of information. Many people think they understand science better, but actually it's worse."

Professor Pal says Indians have tended to copy more than innovate - "we don't make our own tools" - but Saini insists she was "pleasantly surprised to find real innovation going on; there are shoots of it all over the place." There is a "culture in India that loves brainy games". "For some reason, Indians don't do phenomenally well in sports but do very well in academic games. I have tried to find out why that culture exists."

Even so, Saini's book doesn't attempt to look too deep into India's past. There was a culture of science and Pandit Nehru, independent India's first prime minister, was keen to develop it.

Saini says India's problem was that the best scientific talent went overseas in the last 30-40 years. Her book makes only passing mention of scientists like Homi Bhabha and M S Swaminathan. But Saini clarifies that she is "not a historian, but a journalist. I wanted to give a snapshot on how Indian science stands today. The book is not comprehensive; it's a set of stories that look at history along the way."

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Rooting for cassava, biofuel of the future

© John Van Hasselt/Corbis

The starchy cassava root has long been an important ingredient in everything from tapioca pudding and ice cream to paper and animal feed.

But last year, 98% of cassava chips exported from Thailand, the world's largest cassava exporter, went to just one place and almost all for one purpose: to China to make biofuel. Driven by new demand, Thai exports of cassava chips have increased nearly four-fold since 2008, and the price of cassava has roughly doubled.

Each year, an ever larger portion of the world's crops – cassava and corn, sugar and palm oil – is being diverted for biofuels as developed countries pass laws mandating greater use of nonfossil fuels and as emerging powerhouses like China seek new sources of energy. Cassava is a relatively new entrant in the biofuel stream.

But with food prices rising sharply in recent months, many experts are calling on countries to



Prices of cassava in Thailand, its largest exporter, have doubled since 2008

scale back their headlong rush into green fuel development, arguing that the combination of ambitious biofuel targets and mediocre harvests of some crucial crops is contributing to high prices, hunger and political instability.

"The fact that cassava is being used for biofuel in China, rapeseed is being used in Europe, and sugar cane elsewhere is creating a shift in demand curves," said Timothy Searchinger, a research scholar at Princeton University. "Biofuels are

contributing to higher prices and tighter markets."

In the US, Congress has mandated that biofuel use must reach 36 billion gallons annually by 2022. The European Union stipulates that 10% of transportation fuel must come from renewable sources like biofuel or wind power by 2020. Countries like China, India, Indonesia and Thailand have adopted biofuel targets as well.

Olivier Dubois, a bioenergy expert at the Food and Agriculture Organization, said it was hard to quantify the extent to which the diversions for biofuels had driven up food prices. "What is certain is that biofuels are playing a role," Dubois and other food experts suggest that countries should revise their policies so that rigid fuel mandates can be suspended when food stocks get low or prices become too high. "The policy really has to be food first," said Hans Timmer, director of the Development Prospects Group of the World Bank. nvr

Publication:

Now, Yale varsity hit by sex scandal

London: Yale University, which has taught five US presidents and 18 Nobel laureates, is now facing a sexual harassment scandal. The US government has initiated a probe into a complaint by 16 students at the Connecticut college.

The students have alleged a string of serious assaults by groups of men that were not punished. They have also claimed that Yale's management allowed the cultivation of a "sexually hostile environment". A 26-page dossier also reveals many unpleasant incidents on campus. Last October, male students gathered outside the dormitories of new female students and chanted: "No means yes!"

In another incident, male students gathered at entrance to a women's building at midnight, holding a sign stating: "We Love Yale Sluts." IANS

Asian Age ND
10-Apr-11 p-1

Over 4.85 lakh sit for IIT-JEE today

Kanpur: Over 4.85 lakh aspirants will appear for IIT-JEE, to be held at 1,051 centres in 131 cities across the country on Sunday. "A total of 4,85,262 candidates will fight it out for roughly 10,000 seats in 16 IITs and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad," IIT-K director S.G. Dhande said. —PTI

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Apr 10, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 13.

New MCI rule bars 6k docs from teaching

Recommendation Makes 1-Year Additional Experience Must For DNB Degree-Holders

Mahendra Kumar Singh | TNN

New Delhi: A Union health ministry notification has deprived India of the services of around 6,000 doctors as teaching faculty in medical colleges — hamstrung as it is by an acute shortage of doctors and teaching professionals.

The ministry-approved Medical Council of India's (MCI) recommendation bars Diplomate of the National Board (DNB) degree-holders from teaching if they do not have the one-year additional teaching experience to make them on a par with MD/MS candidates.

The directive bars around 3,000 DNB degree-holders who have taught for several years



National Board of Examination has dubbed the move 'discriminatory'. It pointed out that the directive is in direct conflict with various judgments of HCs and the Supreme Court

as faculty members. It also disqualifies another 3,000-odd doctors who are pursuing senior residency from teaching, said an official.

According to the new rule, DNB degree-holders who have passed out from private or non-MCI recognized medical colleges are required to undergo an additional year of senior residency in a teaching medical institution.

National Board of Examination (NBE) has dubbed the move "discriminatory". Pointing out that the directive is in direct conflict with various judgments of high courts and the Supreme Court, the Board claimed that amendments are irrational and a breach of statutory powers.

Surprisingly, the ministry revoked its own notifications of July, 2006; and February,

2009, that had done away with the need for an additional year's teaching experience on 'unilateral' recommendation of MCI without consultation with stakeholders like NBE.

These notifications, which had suggested that the teaching experience gained during DNB courses should be treated as experience for teaching in medical institutions, were based on reports of expert committees and in adherence with statutory process as prescribed by the Indian Medical Council Act.

Many within the ministry and NBE were taken aback by the move seen as a U-turn. "There is neither a cause nor any justification at this stage to backtrack on the 2009 noti-

fication and approve these amendments," Dr K Srinath Reddy, president, NBE, wrote in a letter to the Union health secretary. "The amended qualification reveals that uniformity of the prestigious DNB qualifications has been breached unilaterally," the letter stated.

The ministry, in turn, has asked MCI to address NBE's demand of a rollback of the 'discriminatory' notification.

An official said MCI is dragging its feet because the Council has been asked to reconsider its recommendation. "Indian Medical Council Act does not empower MCI to consider or adjudicate the issue," he added. MCI can't regulate post-graduate courses.

Amar Ujala ND 10/04/2011

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आईआईटी की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा आज

दस हजार सीटों के लिए 4.85
लाख उम्मीदवार देंगे परीक्षा

नई दिल्ली। देश भर के प्रमुख इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए होने वाली आईआईटी की संयुक्त परीक्षा रविवार (आज) को होगी। आईआईटी की लगभग दस हजार सीटों के लिए लगभग 4.85 लाख छात्र किस्मत अजमाएंगे। इस वर्ष 28 फीसदी लड़कियां परीक्षा में बैठ रही हैं जबकि बीते साल यह संख्या 24 फीसदी थी। इस बार परीक्षार्थी अपनी चेक आंसरशीट को www.jee.iitd.ac.in वेबसाइट पर भी देख सकेंगे। चेक आंसरशीट एक पासवर्ड के जरिए ही देखी जा सकेंगी। देश भर में इस परीक्षा के संचालन की जिम्मेदारी आईआईटी कानपुर को दी गई है। परीक्षा का रिजल्ट 25 मई को घोषित किया जाएगा। पैटर्न में किसी तरह का कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है।

आईआईटी जेईई की परीक्षा में इस वर्ष कुल 4,85,917 उम्मीदवार पंजीकृत हुए हैं। जिसमें से 3,71,975 छात्र और 1,13,942 छात्राएं शामिल हैं। इंजीनियर बनने का सपना संजोए उम्मीदवार रविवार

परीक्षा की तैयारी पूरी

कानपुर। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान के निदेशक प्रोफेसर संजय गोविंद धांडे का कहना है कि पेपर और आंसर स्क्रिप्ट के साथ ज्यादातर टीमें परीक्षा केंद्रों पर पहुंच गई हैं।

को आईआईटी जेईई की परीक्षा देंगे। पिछले वर्ष की भांति ही छात्रों को तीन-तीन घंटे के दो पेपरों हल करने होंगे। पहली परीक्षा नौ बजे से 12 बजे तक व दूसरी परीक्षा दो से पांच बजे तक आयोजित होगी।

इस परीक्षा में आई रैंकिंग के आधार पर परीक्षार्थियों को देश की पंद्रह आईआईटी रुड़की, दिल्ली, कानपुर, मुंबई, चेन्नई, गुवाहटी, खड़गपुर, गांधीनगर, मंडी, राजस्थान, रोपड़, इंदौर, हैदराबाद, भुवनेश्वर व पटना में दाखिला मिलेगा। इसके अलावा बीएचयू वाराणसी, इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ माइंस धनबाद में भी दाखिला मिल सकेगा। ब्यूरो

Navbharat Times,ND 10-Apr-11

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IIT की आंसरशीट दिखेंगी वेबसाइट पर

अगर आप भी 10 अप्रैल को होने वाले आईआईटी-जेईई एग्जाम देने



जा रहे हैं, तो यह खबर आपके काम की है। अब स्टूडेंट्स चेक की हुई अपनी आंसरशीट को वेबसाइट पर देख सकेंगे। सभी कैंडिडेट्स की आंसरशीट की कापियां वेबसाइट jee.iitd.ac.in पर दिखाई जाएंगी।

इस तरह आईआईटी पहली बार कापियां दिखाने जा रहा है। कैंडिडेट्स ये कापियां एक पासवर्ड के जरिए देख सकेंगे यानी एक हर कैंडिडेट सिर्फ अपनी ही कापियां देख पाएगा। सवालों के सही जवाब भी एग्जाम के दो दिन के अंदर वेबसाइट पर डाल दिए जाएंगे।