

**eNewspaper Clippings****June 8-9, 2010****TOI****HRD proposes bill to create database of all academic records***Akshaya Mukul / TNN*

New Delhi: All educational institutions — schools to universities — will have to mandatorily lodge the academic records (certificates and marksheets of class 10, 12, graduation, etc) of their students with a National Academic Depository (NAD) proposed to be set up through an Act of Parliament.

The HRD ministry's National Academic Depository Bill, seeking to establish and maintain a national database of academic records in an electronic format, has been circulated for further consultation. Once it is set up, the NAD will be able to curb frauds like forging of certificates and marksheets and help the institutions by reducing their burden of preserving the academic records.

The Bill proposes that the National Academic Depository (NAD) — to be appointed by the government — will have to provide online access or a physical copy of the authenticated certificate within three days of request to individuals or companies. An academic institution will have to pay a registration fee to NAD and also annual charge for the maintenance of the records.

**IIT-JEE average scores double, cutoff goes up to 190 from 178***Akshaya Mukul / TNN*

New Delhi: For the first time in four years, the IIT-JEE average marks announced on Saturday have shown double digit scores in all three subjects — physics, chemistry and mathematics. The aggregate average almost doubled — from 29 in 2009 to 55 in 2010 out of a total 489 — while the cut-off for successful candidates showed a marginal improvement from 178 last year to 190 this year.

Is the increase in cut-off — calculated on the basis of average performance of candidates — a case of improved standards or is it due to the corrective measures applied by IITs to neutralize errors in the JEE paper as pointed out by TOI? In order to paper over its mistakes, IITJEE, for the first time, evaluated each answer sheet in two ways — sequential question number-wise and subject heading-wise. The higher score of the two systems was taken as a candidate's score.

This strategy was adopted to offset the interchange of subject headings of mathematics and physics in paper and Optical Response Sheet. IIT is not disclosing the marks scored by both ways of evaluation. Now, IIT insiders are pointing out faults with this method.

8 Jun 2010, DNA (Daily News & Analysis), Mihika Basu 19 18 10 5 5

**IIT-JEE merit lists show a rise in cut-off marks****Qualifying score in open category has climbed from 178 in 2009 to 190 this year**

First, the joint entrance examination (JEE) results showed a slight increase in success rate across India. Now, the merit lists recently released by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have revealed that the entry bar across categories (both open and reserved), too, has gone up marginally.

The qualifying score in the open category has climbed from 178 in 2009 to 190 this year. It implies that the last candidate on the open merit list has scored 190 out of a total of 480. For the other backward categories (OBCs), the merit list cut-off stands at 171 — a 10-mark climb from last year's 161.

“The qualifying scores for all categories have gone up marginally this year,” Anil Kumar, IIT-Bombay JEE chairman, said.

The cut-offs for reserved category candidates (scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and candidates with physical disabilities) have gone up by a nominal 2%. The qualifying mark for SC/ST/PD candidates had been 18% (89/480) last year. This time, it is nearly 20% (95/480).

The IITs give the SC/ST/PD candidates a 50% relaxation on the score of the last-ranking general category candidate. Those who still fail to qualify are given a further 50% relaxation, and sent to the preparatory course. This year, the number of SC candidates qualifying has exceeded the number of available seats. But for STs/PDs, the cut-offs have been lowered by another 50% (48/480) for the preparatory course.

Subject wise cut-offs continue to remain low, though they have improved a bit from those of 2009. For instance, in the open category, it stands at 19 (Chemistry and Physics) and 17 for Mathematics. Last year, it had been 11 (Chemistry and Mathematics) and eight (Physics).

For SC/ST/PD candidates, cut-offs have gone up from six (Chemistry and Mathematics) and four (Physics) in 2009 to 10 (Physics and Chemistry) and nine (Mathematics). The IITs have often been criticised for their low subject cut-offs. However, Kumar said that subject cut-offs are “used only as the first filter to decide whose result needs more detailed analysis.”



“In actuality, numbers obtained by the last-admitted candidate are much higher than these (cut-off) marks. For example, in 2009, the subject cut-offs were 11 for Chemistry and Mathematics and eight for Physics. But the scores of the last general candidate selected were 72 (Chemistry), 31 (Mathematics) and 75 (Physics),” Kumar said.

## V-C to be probed after state seeks removal

8 Jun 2010, The Indian Express

THE Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has set up a committee to probe allegations against the vice-chancellor of a central university in Arunachal Pradesh, after the state government requested he be removed. Prof K C Beliappa, the vicechancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University in Itanagar, was arrested late last month on account of the charges and is now out on bail.

Beliappa has been accused of sending sexually explicit and abusive e-mails to a female colleague. Inefficiency, autocratic behavior, immoral conduct and drunkenness are other allegations levelled against him.

Arunachal has said Beliappa's "gross misconduct" is embarrassing and is also bringing disrepute to the varsity and VC's office. Beliappa, now in Delhi, was appointed when the varsity was given central status in 2007. Rejecting allegations, he claims, he requested the HRD Ministry to set up a fact-finding committee, which they did.

This January angry students beat Beliappa with rods. With the student unions demanding his ouster, Beliappa has since then largely been confined to his residence. He claims "powerful people" in the state are conspiring against him and also passing illegal orders and making appointments in contravention of UGC rules.

"I am being targeted. The violence is being funded by some powerful people in the state," Beliappa said, adding he saw no point in returning even though his term ends in 2012.

"My mobile was stolen by some students and sexually explicit messages sent to people. It is true that I received a sexually explicit mail from a female colleague... I did not know then that her account was hacked, so in the heat of the moment I responded in anger and it led to my arrest," Beliappa said.

## **Access top journals for free, thank HRD ministry**

8 Jun 2010, DNA (Daily News & Analysis)

How about reading journals of American Institute of Physics, American Physical Society, Oxford University Press and books by McGraw Hill online, that too free of cost?

The ministry of human resources development (MHRD) has subscribed to the world's top e-journals and e-books for students. Humanities, life sciences, law, maths, medicine, social sciences, management, you name it.

The login and passwords have been provided to over 1,000 colleges while many more are in the queue to avail the facility under the national library and information services infrastructure for scholarly content programme. Students can access the journals on

by using the username and passwords provided to their colleges.

The best part is, over 3,500 e-journals and e-books will be available to students free of cost in over 7,000 higher education institutions in the country. However, the institutions have to pay a one-time fee of Rs5,000.

So far, the journals were accessed only by topmost institutions or students through personal subscriptions costing between \$31 and \$45 (Rs1,452-Rs2,108) and in some cases, up to \$120 (Rs5,647).

"It is being given free of cost to students. If money is charged from students, the facility will be taken away from the college," a senior MHRD official said.

"The government is also making a concentrated effort for content creation by encouraging writing of good articles," the official said. IITs have been asked to put up their content on