1,100 challenges to IIT question paper

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: Even as one Physics question has been retrospectively dropped from the online exam of JEE(mains), more than 1,100 students have challenged some answers to the questions that were uploaded on the website.

Question no 7 of Physics of the online exam on April 19 was dropped because none of the options were found to be correct. The Central Board of Secondary Education which conducts the JEE(mains) exam had uploaded the answer key after 7 pm on April 28. The candidates were allowed to challenge the answers till 5 pm on April 29. But students faced problems since the ‘none of the above’ option could not be uploaded till noon.

“If any answer is actually found to be incorrect, then all the students will benefit,” said CBSE officials.

Now, register online for 2014 JEE-Advance

NEW DELHI: Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has introduced an online registration facility for the candidates eligible to take the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advance this year.

The board will open registration for the nation-wide test on May 4 at the JEE-Advance portal, a day after results of the JEE-Main is set to be declared. The registration will be closed on May 9.

Candidates for the JEE-Advance, to be held on May 25 for admissions to IITs and Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, will be shortlisted by the JAB on the basis of their performance in JEE-Main, the written exam for which was conducted on April 6 and the online exams were held on April 9, 11, 12 and 19.

The JEE-Main was held for admissions to the centrally-funded technical institutes including National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and some state engineering colleges. From the all India merit list of JEE-Main, the JAB will shortlist top 1.5 lakh candidates for JEE-Advance, keeping various other eligibility criteria in mind.

Of the total candidates, 27 per cent candidates will be shortlisted from Other Backward Class (OBC), 15 per cent from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 7.5 per cent from Scheduled Tribes (ST). In each of the category, 3 per cent reserved for persons with disability.

The cut-off mark for JEE-Advance in various categories will be made available to the candidates at its website from May 2 onwards. The results of the JEE-Advance will be declared on June 19.
JEE drops one question of online exam, decision on challenges today

Vanita Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: Even as one question of Physics has been dropped from the online exam of JEE(mains) held on April 19, more than 1100 students have challenged some answers of the questions that were uploaded on the JEE website.

The question No 7 of Physics of the online exam was dropped because none of the options were found to be correct. Nearly 14 lakh students had appeared for the JEE(mains) of which nearly 80,000 had appeared for the online exam on April 19.

The CBSE, which conducts the JEE(mains) exam had uploaded the answer key to the questions on April 28. Candidates were allowed to challenge the answers till 5 pm on April 29. But many faced problems since the option of “none of the above” could not be uploaded till noon of April 29.

“It is for the first time that the students have got a chance to challenge the answers. In fact I have also got many mails also in this regard and all of them will be put before the expert committee which meets on Wednesday. The ultimate decision will be taken by the experts. I want to make this clear that if any answer is actually found to be incorrect, then all the students will benefit and not just who have challenged the answer by paying ₹1000,” Vineet Joshi, CBSE chairman told HT.

“We have found two answers of Physics and one answer of Chemistry as incorrect and our students have challenged it,” says an expert from FIITJEE in Delhi.

“We have found four questions of Physics and one question of Chemistry incorrect. In one question of Physics, the answers in Hindi and English were different,” says Shailendra Maheshwari of Career Point, Kota. However, a senior IIT professor of Physics said: “All the Physics answers of the offline exam are correct.”

So far, the IITs have not allowed the students to challenge the answers they put on the website. The results of JEE(mains) will be declared on May 3. More than 280 students have earlier challenged their OMR sheets and computer responses.
UGC in line of HRD ministry fire over green tribunal gaffe

New Delhi: Inaction by University Grants Commission to present views of HRD ministry in the National Green Tribunal nearly got education secretary Ashok Thakur arrested in March. The arrest was averted, but a miffed ministry has sought explanation from UGC chairperson Ved Prakash, asking him to fix responsibility for the fiasco.

Lawyer and activist MC Mehta had gone to the NGT stating that universities were not following the SC order on making environmental studies mandatory. UGC and HRD ministry were made a party to the case. In late March when it came up for hearing before the principal bench of NGT, arrest warrant was issued against the secretary as there was no one to represent the ministry. But it came to the ministry’s notice that UGC counsel, who was present in the court on that day, later said he did not defend HRD’s interests since the UGC secretariat had not asked him to do so. All this happened despite the ministry having written to UGC in February to “watch its interests” in the NGT.

The news of arrest warrant against Thakur was also brought to the ministry’s notice not by the UGC or its counsel but by police. After Thakur sought explanation from Ved Prakash, UGC filed a reply in the NGT on April 4, but did not make HRD ministry’s letter a part of it. A senior ministry official asked UGC secretary JS Sandhu, dismissing UGC counsel’s excuse that he could not defend HRD since he did not have the power of attorney to do so. Ved Prakash has apologized to Thakur and also set up a panel to safeguard the interests of UGC and HRD.
UGC to go the online way, to introduce open courses

Staff Reporter

E-content available with commission will be used to implement the new system, says vice-chairman

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to implement Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), its vice-chairman H. Devaraj has said.

MOOCs will help students pursue distance education in a big way, he said, adding, “We have lot of e-content and e-patshala available with us with which we will implement the new system.”

Delivering the convocation address recently at Sathyabama University, Semmancheri, Mr. Devaraj called upon educational institutions to concentrate more on accountability. Over the last 60 years, the country had achieved access and equity in the education system, he said. “As we have achieved access and equity, we now have to bring in excellence to the higher education system.”

Sathyabama University founder-chancellor Jeppiaar exhorted students to pursue higher education, stating that a mere undergraduate qualification would be unlikely to fetch them the big jobs. “You should pursue higher studies and become job-providers rather than job-seekers,” he said.

The university conferred honorary doctorate degrees on K. Sivan, project director (GSLV), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, ISRO, film script-writer Arur Doss and Nagaswaram exponent Mambalam M.K.S. Siva.

A total of 1,539 undergraduate and 933 postgraduate students received their degrees, with a large number of them being gold medallists. Besides this, 85 research scholars received their doctorate degrees.

The placement record for 2013-14 stood at 72.83 per cent.

Keywords: University Grants Commission, Massive Open Online Courses, distance education


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UGC directs varsities to recognize CBSE's new subjects for admission

PUNE: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed all universities to take appropriate steps to recognize 13 new subjects introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at Stds XI and XII level for admissions to undergraduate courses.

"The CBSE has introduced various academic subjects at the senior secondary level. It is imperative that these subjects find a reflection in the subjects already being offered at the graduate level in various educational institutes," UGC deputy secretary Shakeel Ahmed stated in a letter sent to vice-chancellors of all universities on April 22.

Ahmed added, "It is important that appropriate consideration may be accorded while admitting students to the undergraduate courses at the college/university level."

A senior official at the University of Pune said, "The UGC's letter will be put up for consideration before the appropriate bodies, including the academic council, for a decision regarding implementation."

Sadhana Parashar, director of CBSE's academics, research and innovation wing, had earlier written to the UGC secretary that the 13 new subjects have been introduced as elective/optimal subjects at the senior secondary level (Std XI and XII).

"The scheme of studies for these new subjects is rigorous in nature and designed specially with the industry and employability avenues in mind," Parashar stated. For instance, the subjects can provide avenues in the legal profession, mass media, entrepreneurship, graphic design, creative writing and translation, theatre studies and biotechnology, among others.

While some of these subjects were introduced two to three years ago, others have been introduced at the Std XI level this year and will be a part of the Std XII board exam for the first time in 2015.

Parashar had stressed the need for these subjects to find a reflection in the courses offered at the undergraduate level in various departments, colleges, institutes and universities.

"This may be brought to the notice of all concerned institutes so that students face no difficulty when they pass out from Std XII. The information brochures, prospectuses, websites or any other form of communication may accommodate the names of these new academic subjects, so that students may be treated as eligible for admission to higher education as per their preferences," she stated.
Stephen’s prof Narain faces inquiry

College Targets Activist For Her Comments Which She Denies; Disciplinary Action Likely

Manoj Pratap Gahlot | TNS

New Delhi: It seems like a foregone conclusion. The inquiry ordered by St Stephen’s College against its associate professor of some repute, Nandita Narain, is likely to lead to disciplinary action against her and even dismissal from service. The convener of the inquiry committee is former Delhi high court judge Justice Mannohar Sarin, principal Vasant Thampur’s nominee on the governing body (GB) and an alumnus of the college. The report will be placed before the chairman of the governing body, Bishop Samir Singh, on May 1 when Narain is likely to be seated.

What is the enormity of her crime which has led to the college initiating such grave action against one of its most prominent and committed teachers? She is facing allegations of making defamatory remarks against the principal and the college in a newspaper article she wrote last year. She claims the remarks attributed to her were completely distorted and has sent a clarification to the paper as well as to the principal. (See story).

According to sources, Narain has objected to the constitution of the inquiry committee as all the three members are from GB. According to GB sources, Sarin was convinced of Narain’s innocence on the issue when it came up for discussion in January. Finding herself cornered, Narain moved Delhi HC against the inquiry on April 10.

Narain, who has been employed with the college for 24 years, was an alumnus for five years before that. A teacher activist, she has been leading the teachers’ struggle against the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) introduced by the university in 2013.

In a memorandum on April 1, 2016, the gender sensitization committee (GSC) wrote to the GB about the rules for women in hostel and the remarks made by the college authorities during the general body meeting (GBM) on March 22, 2016. The GSC raised the issue of locking the college and women’s hostel gates by 10 pm while for the men the college campus remains open around 10. The memorandum also stated that during the GBM, Thampur said, “It’s a contrived grievance. Unfortunately, this particular grievance has been given undue importance because of a small group of mischief makers.” The memorandum further stated that after the GBM, the administration has also devised a new set of rules, including action against any student who disturbs the tranquility of residence and an annual reappointment to residence through an interview with the principal.

“The principal has also threatened to shut down residence facilities and take action against the initiators of the agitation.”

This is what sparked off the entire row with Narain being quoted in the press as having criticized the principal and her subsequent denial of the words used in the news report.

While Narain refused to comment on the issue saying it was sub judice, in her reply to the show-cause notice, she stated: “I reiterate that there was and is no intention to defame our college or the office of the principal. However, it is my duty as a teacher and as president of the students’ association and as a teacher representative on the GB to bring to the notice of the college and the community serious matters concerning the welfare of the college, its teachers, students, and staff.”

Not yet notified, being sought to be brought in to replace Ordinance XVIII of Delhi University (wrongly described as Ordinance 168). Apart from such inaccuracies, there are remarks attributed to me that I have not just made, either the report has misunderstood parts of a published telephone conversation or obtained the information second-hand from some other source such as Facebook and students and mistakenly attributed it to me. (The clarification has not been published so far, says Narain).

On January 9, 2014, issue arising out of the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting raised at a GB meeting. Narain was alleged to have made defamatory remarks against the principal and college.

> A GB meeting instituted with GB members from Delhi High Court (Judge Justice Mannohar Sarin, principal Vasant Thampur’s nominee) convener of the committee.

> Other members of the committee include Dr Sudhir Joseph (thampur’s nominee) and Delhi University proctor.

> Inquiry committee met twice on March 8 and 26, 2014.


> Narain moved Delhi High Court on April 15.

> Narain appeared before the inquiry committee on April 18.

> GB to decide on the basis of the inquiry report on May 1, 2014.

**THE STEPHENS’ ROW: BLOW BY BLOW**

**NANDITA NARAIN**

**Associate Professor, Mathematics**

**THE CASE**

> Controversy over news report on June 17, 2013, in which Narain is quoted as saying:

> The principal wanted an ordinance passed in order for him to rule out any protest against his authority and so that the complaints committee members be selected by him. If this Ordinance is passed in Parliament, it will be misused by the likes of him. Thankfully, it has not become an act of Parliament yet because people from his own church are opposed to its unacknowledged statutes.

> The principal seems to be running this club and thinks (sic), mistrusted pathela. He is himself harmed by allegations of sexual harassment. The point is that there is nothing wrong in having a debate to solve issues.

> Sarin says on July 26, 2013, she wrote to the paper: ‘While the general thrust of the article, which is on gender issues, is in the right spirit, the remarks attributed to me are completely distorted. There are serious factual inaccuracies, such as in the reporting about the act on sexual harassment at workplaces, which has not been notified, being sought to be brought in to replace Ordinance XVIII of Delhi University (wrongly described as Ordinance 168). Apart from such inaccuracies, there are remarks attributed to me that I have not just made, either the report has misunderstood parts of a published telephone conversation or obtained the information second-hand from some other source such as Facebook and students and mistakenly attributed it to me. (The clarification has not been published so far, says Sarin).

> On January 9, 2014, issue arising out of the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting raised at a GB meeting.

> Narain was alleged to have made defamatory remarks against the principal and college.

**COMMITTED TEACHER AND AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNER**

**Twice elected to executive council | Twice elected to academic council**

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<tr>
<td>Studied at St Stephen’s from 1969</td>
<td>Scored highest marks in aggregate of all subjects at DU</td>
<td>Took classes at Boat Club in 1981 during 109-day strike</td>
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<td>Associate professor of mathematics at St Stephen’s. She has been with the college since August 1981</td>
<td>Revised struggle against semester system by holding classes in the Magenta garden opposite the VC’s office in 2011</td>
<td>Led the struggle against FYUP in 2013</td>
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<td>Fallout president since 2013</td>
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India-born Rajeev Suri has been appointed CEO of the $18-billion Nokia — the second Indian to be made head of a major global technology company in less than three months. Satya Nadella was elevated as CEO of Microsoft in February.

Both Suri and Nadella are graduates in electronics and communications at the Manipal Institute of Technology.

Suri, 46, is widely recognized as the man who turned around Nokia’s ailing networking business, which competes with China’s Huawei, Sweden’s Ericsson and France’s Alcatel Lucent. Networking is the primary business of the 149-year-old Finnish company after it sold its flagship mobile phone division to Microsoft last year.

The appointment sent the company’s share price up by more than 7% on the Helsinki stock exchange. The company operates in 150 countries and has nearly 60,000 employees.

In an email to employees after his appointment, Suri described himself as an “international citizen” — born in India, raised in Kuwait, with a career spanning Singapore, Finland, the UK and Nigeria.

“While the fact that my preferred cricket team comes from India may say something about my roots, I now have friends, family and colleagues in many, many countries. As a result, I tend to focus more on people than on place.”

Early in his career, Suri worked at ICL India and the RPG Group. He joined Nokia’s telecom business in India as a system marketing manager in 1995 and became senior vice-president of Nokia Networks Asia Pacific within a decade.

**Desi Global Citizen**

- Suri, 46, calls himself an international citizen: born in India, raised in Kuwait, university in India and a career that has involved living in Singapore, Finland, the UK, and Nigeria.
- His preferred cricket team is Indian side led by Dhoni.
- Wife Nina is an entrepreneur with offices in Singapore, London and the US.

**Madras HC quashes Rs 2,400cr tax on telco**

The Madras high court on Tuesday quashed the Rs 2,400-crore value added tax imposed on Nokia. However, the court directed the company to pay 10% of the tax or Rs 240 crore as deposit within eight weeks to the Tamil Nadu commercial taxes department, which would now re-assess the company’s tax liability.
Suri a fun-loving guy but serious about goals: Classmate

It Was A Very Intelligent Move On His Part To Enter Telecom From Initial Stage Of His Career, Says MIT Alumnus Swara

Sarjeet Yadla | Nov

Gargason: Manipal Institute of Technology certainly has a reason to celebrate. After Sata Nadella took over as CEO of Microsoft in February, Suri being named Nokia’s CEO on Tuesday augmented the joy for the institute’s old boys and current students. One such alumnus, Vithal Sura, an Suri old-timer who now runs a security solu-

tions company, spoke to IIT on Tuesday about his college days with Suri. They were classmates and roommates at Manipal and he remembers Suri as “a happy go lucky guy with clear goals in life.”

“We were inseparable and were popularly called the ‘Suri-Sura’. He was a walking fun loving guy who was into music and hikes but was equally serious about academics and revelling his goals,” said Sura, who pursued a BTech degree in electronics and communication between 1997-99. Incidentally, Nadella, a year senior to Suri and Sura, also completed the same course.

Sura fondly remembers the time spent watching English films at the Drama theatre and hanging out all day at the Kellar Height restaurant. “Did I ever say I was grateful!”, he said.

Global citizen & cricket buff

Suri considers himself to be a cricket buff and he is his family. The Nokia honcho has made Finland his home since 2008 and loves to spend more time there than in the past. His wife Nina is an entrepreneur who has offices in Singapore, London and the United States.

“My family will be with me when they can, although this is not always easy as my youngest child is finishing high school on one continent, my eldest is in college on another and my wife Nina is an entrepreneur. Despite these challenges, my family has always been, for the rest of my life,” said Suri in an email to IIT.

Outside of work, Suri is a cricket buff and he is his family. The Nokia honcho has made Finland his home since 2008 and loves to spend more time there than in the past. His wife Nina is an entrepreneur who has offices in Singapore, London and the United States.

“Indian diversity fuels innovation”

Anuradha Singh | Nov

In three years yet again for the Indian global leader. After India’s Nokia (Pipsa), the major Nokia acquisition, Vithal Sura, who now runs a security solutions company, spoke to IIT about the joy of joining the firm.

“Indian diversity fuels innovation”

Suri & Satya put MIT on top

Jaleedhe Thakur & Prakash Sengar | Nov

I t is time for Manipal Institute of Technology to take a bow and be counted on par with the more well-

Sura’s 5 Mantras

Within hours of taking over, the new CEO spent a lot of time with customers, elevating the company’s image.

Engage & Understand

Over his time at Nokia, Suri talked about different initiatives, each unique in itself. He described the Nokia employee.

Plan Ambitiously

Suri’s strategy is to deliver on strategy with a credible execution plan. He believes in networks business needs to think in new ways. He also said: “The technology must prioritize his efforts while ensuring that time to deliver the right product.”

Implement Business System

This system will include performance management, operational governance, talent development and training, focused M&A and integration practices, new management tools, metrics and more. “In the world of today, it is about being more, I want to see how we can clearly articulate the entire ecosystem around our values and desired culture.”

Perseverance

Perseverance says this is not the time for any of the business units. Every day after realizing their role in the plan, as the world is changing. He also says: “In order to achieve their goals, we must answer that question: why are we doing it?”
London is 1st city to have own web domain suffix

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: London has become the world’s first city to have its own web domain suffix and the city recorded a mad rush on Tuesday with more than 50,000 business houses expressing interest.

The new domain for London launched on Tuesday marking the first time that businesses, organizations and individuals can apply for a web address ending in .london as an alternative to .com or .co.uk.

Officially .london will come into effect from the summer 2014, according to Icann, the body that deals with the assignment of domain names. Internet registrars — companies that sell domain names said that they have collected more than 50,000 expression of interest from people keen to secure the address even before they have gone on sale.

Tuesday marked the beginning of a three-month period during which Londoners and London businesses will be given priority in applying for a domain name. By acquiring a Dot London address individuals, businesses, museums, shops, theatres and galleries will receive a domain name that is easy to remember and instantly identifies them as being located in London or having an association with the city. Experts say the move will be the biggest change to the online world since .com was launched nearly 30 years ago.

Boris Johnson, mayor of London said, “Thousands of businesses including brands such as Selfridges and Carnaby Street have already expressed an interest in the new addresses.”

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com