IIT-JEE: Apr 11 meet may end impasse

Vanita Srivastava  ■ vanita.srivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After stiff opposition by the IITs on the HRD ministry's proposal to change the pattern of IIT-JEE exam from 2013 — by giving 40% weightage to board marks — a ‘compromise’ formula may evolve for admission, which keeps the weightage proposal intact without diluting the traditional structure of the exam.

The ministry has called a meeting on April 11 to discuss the proposal and sort out the issue. The All India IIT Faculty Federation (AIIFF), which has not been supporting the proposal, can press for a ‘compromise formula’ in the meeting. This formula could have a structure of a two-tier exam. The first tier, which could be a filtering exam, may abide by the government’s proposal, including giving 40% weightage to board exam results. The second phase could be traditional thought building kind of exam to finally get a seat in IIT.

The meeting called by HRD minister Kapil Sibal will be attended by the directors of 7 IITs, chairmen and members of the AIIFF. The minister will meet the directors and the chairmen in the morning hours. He will conduct a separate meeting with the members of the faculty federation in the afternoon.

Many traditional IITs (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur etc) are opposing the proposed changes. Their main concern is over the inclusion of 40% of board marks, which they say could dilute the examination system.

The AIIFF had recently written a letter to Sibal with a copy to the Prime Minister's Office stating that the academic issues including the admission standards and process were primarily the sole responsibility of the IIT senate.
April 11 meet may find compromise formula for IIT-JEE

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Test reforms irk IIT-B teachers

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: IIT-B teachers are peeved with the idea of introducing reforms in the joint entrance exam from the 2013-14 academic session. While the proposed reforms state that 40% weightage in the ranking for entry into IITs should be given to Class XII scores, most teachers feel the Class XII scores should be increased from the current 60% to 70% or more.

A committee formed by the human resource development ministry will be visiting the Powai campus on Monday to discuss the exam’s new format. A meeting convened by the institute’s senate was attended by all the faculty members where the new pattern was discussed. Most educators were against introducing the new prototype from the next year. They wanted to postpone it to 2014 and consider all the suggestions put forth.

The panel will be at IIT-B to explain the new pattern and also will be hearing objections from the faculty.
विज्ञान-इंजीनियरिंग की साझा परीक्षा पर कई आईआईटी को आपत्ति

कई दिल्ली, 8 अप्रैल (भाषा)। विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग के स्नातक पाद्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए सादृशी साझा परीक्षा के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, आईआईटी से चर्चा करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है। सादृशी साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा 2013 से आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव है। इसके लिए 11 अप्रैल को एक बैठक चुनाई गई है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर, आईआईटी दिल्ली, आईआईटी चंडीगढ़, आईआईटी कानपुर, आईआईटी गुवाहाटी और आईआईटी मदरासा ने प्रस्तावित साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा के कुछ पहलुओं पर आपत्ति उठाई है। इन्होंने परीक्षा के प्रस्तावित मौसम में 12वी कक्षा का बोर्ड परीक्षा को अत्यधिक महत्व देने का अव्यवस्थापन बताया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिवबल ने कहा है कि विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग के स्नातक पाद्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए देशभर में साझा परीक्षा आयोजित करने के प्रस्ताव चल रहा है। सिवबल ने कहा, 'हम साझा परीक्षा आयोजित करने के प्रस्ताव पर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।'

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस विषय में मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के बीच व्यापक चर्चा हुई है। आईआईटी के निदेशकों, प्रतिनिधियों और शिक्षक संघों के साथ 11 अप्रैल को बैठक होगी। अखिल भारतीय संघ अपनी तैयार करने के फैसले पर फैसला किया गया है। इसमें 12वी कक्षा की परीक्षा और साझा परीक्षा को संयुक्त रूप से महत्व देना शामिल है। इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से छात्रों की तर्कशक्ति और विषयों से संबंधित दक्षता का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा।

छात्रों ने बताया कि आईआईटी के निदेशक, प्रतिनिधियों और शिक्षक संघों के साथ बैठक के समय परीक्षा के साथ बैठक के नतीजों पर 14 अप्रैल को आईआईटी परीक्षा को बैठक में चर्चा की जाएगी।

आईआईटी परीक्षा और एनआईटी परीक्षा के लिए अपनी प्रैक्टिशल मंजूरी पहले ही दी गई है। इस परीक्षा पर 2013-14 से आमतौर पर उम्मीद की गई है। इसमें महंगे महंगे मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने आईआईटी में एआईटी का एक साथ दिल्ली और एआईटी का एक साथ करने की चोटियाँ की बीं। इस परीक्षा में सर्वश्रेष्ठ अंक प्राप्त करने वाले छात्र का अंक के आधार पर भेंट पंजीयन में दाखिला मिल सकेगा। प्रस्तावित साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा के दो भाग होंगे। पहले भाग में अंतर्दोहन प्रश्न पूछा जाएगा।

इससे छात्रों की तर्कशक्ति की जाँच की जाएगी। दूसरे भाग में छात्रों की विज्ञान से संबंधित समस्याओं को हल करने की क्षमता का आकलन किया जाएगा।
विज्ञान एवं इंजीनियरिंग की राष्ट्रीय साझा परीक्षा आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव

नई दिल्ली (भाषा): विज्ञान एवं इंजीनियरिंग के स्नातक पाद्यक्रम में चाहिए के लिए राष्ट्रीय विषय साझा परीक्षा का मार्ग प्रशासन करने के उद्देश्य से मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय आईआईटी से चर्चा करने की विशेषता में आये बहु रहा है। राष्ट्रीय साझा प्रक्रिया 2013 से आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव है। और इस अन्य संबंध में एक अहम बौद्धिक 11 अप्रैल को बुधवार गाई है। हालांकि आईआईटी खड़गपुर, आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी कानपुर, आईआईटी गुजरात, आईआईटी पार्वती और राष्ट्रीय साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा के कुछ प्रतियोगियों पर आपत्ति उठनी है। इन आईआईटी ने परीक्षा के प्रस्तावित मामले में 12 वीं कक्षा की बोर्ड परीक्षा को अधिक महत्व दिया जाने को अधिक महत्वाकांक्षा बताया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिद्धवान ने कहा कि 'विज्ञान एवं इंजीनियरिंग' के स्नातक पाद्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए रेंसर में साझा परीक्षा आयोजित करने के प्रस्ताव पर काम चल रहा है। सिद्धवान ने कहा, 'हाल साझा परीक्षा आयोजित करने के प्रस्ताव पर आये बहु रहे हैं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के एक विषय में अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस विषय में मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के बीच व्यापक चर्चा हुई है। आईआईटी के निदेशकों, प्रतिनिधियों एवं शिक्षक संघों के साथ 11 अप्रैल को सीधे होगी।

अद्वित भारतीय में भारतीय समूह से निर्माण करने के फार्मूल में परिणाम

परीक्षा 2013 से आयोजित करने का हो रहा है प्रयास किया गया है जिसमें 12 वीं कक्षा की परीक्षा और साझा परीक्षा को संरचना रूप से महत्वदायक बनाया गया है। इस परीक्षा के अध्ययन से छात्र की तरक्की शक्ति और विचारों से संबंधित देखभाल का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से छात्र की तरक्की शक्ति और विचार से संबंधित देखभाल का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से छात्र की तरक्की शक्ति और विचार से संबंधित देखभाल का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से छात्र की तरक्की शक्ति और विचार से संबंधित देखभाल का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से छात्र की तरक्की शक्ति और विचार से संबंधित देखभाल का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा।
IIT-JEE kept high standards

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 8

The IIT-JEE held on Sunday passed off without incident. While the total number of questions and marks came down significantly over last year, students said the paper-setters maintained the high IIT standards.

This year, the question papers were comparatively free of errors unlike last year. Also, the paper was for 408 marks with 60 questions each in Papers I and II this year. Last year, there were 82 questions for 480 marks.

There were 60 questions (20 each in maths, physics and chemistry). While Paper-I was for 210 marks, Paper-II was for 198 marks.

"The feedback received from our students on JEE question papers was good. The questions have tested the understanding and analytical skills of students in maths and science subjects. Even average students with reasonable reading and understanding skills can perform well," said Sushmasri, academic director, Sri Chaitanya Group of Institutes, which saw many of its alumni bag the top-10 ranks last year.

A. Krishna Kumar of Narayana IIT Academy said that Paper-II was relatively tough. "Though the number of questions came down, maths was very tough, followed by chemistry and physics. There was an error in the chemistry paper since there was no correct answer provided."

Ananda Raman, mentor-director at FITJEE-Hyderabad said the physics paper was very tough and scoring will be less this time in this subject. "Though the papers were a bit lengthy, maths was relatively easy."

Mr Ajay Antony, the vice-president of TIME institute, said that some of the IIT-JEE questions this time were longer than those set last year.
IIT entrance simpler, say most aspirants

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Nearly five lakh candidates appeared for the joint entrance exam (JEE) of IITs on Sunday. While many aspirants were relieved that the 'most difficult' of all engineering entrance exams was through now, others seemed anxious about their performance which will make or mar their chances of admission to any of the 15 IITs in the country besides IIT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad. The exam was held in two parts and each paper was three-hour-long.

Though they had a back-breaking time attempting the papers, many candidates felt that the first part was simpler than the second and JEE this year seemed a bit simpler than previous years.

"Paper 1, which carried 210 marks this year, seemed easier than Paper 2 which was for 198 marks. Last time, both papers were for 240 marks each. Also, I felt JEE last year was more challenging. There were hardly any questions on matrix this time and not many integer-type questions which require a lot of time and exhaustive brainwork," said Shruti Jyoti from Bhubaneswar who prepared for JEE at Kota in Rajasthan and appeared for the exam at Barakambha Road in the city. Another candidate, Hemshilka, from Lady Irwin School in the city too found the first paper simpler and more doable. She is keen on pursuing BTech though she is more hopeful of getting through GGSIP University in the city. "I had not done any special preparation for JEE and instead followed CBSE more regularly. Let's see what happens," she said after the exam.

Coaching centres got busy analyzing the question paper right after the two papers held from 9am to 12 noon and then from 2pm to 5pm were over. "As compared to previous years, IIT-JEE this year was relatively easy and came with little or no surprises. The students were prepared for more for more aggressive questions like match the following type questions, which were totally missing from the papers this time," said T K Bansal from Bansal Tutorials. Ajay Antony, vice-president, TIME, added, "There were 10 versions for JEE 2012 from 0 to 9. Paper 1 had 60 questions in the order of physics, chemistry and mathematics. Each subject had 20 questions and the pattern was exactly the same for all the subjects." He found some questions lengthier this time as compared to last year.

It was also the first time, candidates got to take home a carbon copy of their OMR answer sheets. The answer keys to Sunday's exam will be put up on the JEE website before the results are declared on May 18.
"Long but easy’ IIT-JEE

ASPIRANTS CONTENT Math section longest and toughest in three-part exam

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination on Sunday was “lengthy” but “relatively easy”, those who took the test felt.

The students as well as coaching centres across the city said the mathematics section of the exam was “lengthy”.

While the paper was not difficult, the mathematics section was lengthier than what I had expected. It was also the toughest of the three sections,” said Mahima Gupta, an aspirant.

IIT-JEE is held in two parts. Part I comprised only objective multiple-choice questions worth 210 marks. Last year, the first part had subjective comprehension-type questions as well.

Aspirants after taking IIT-JEE at Modern School, Barakhama Road, on Sunday.

SOUJAN MENTA / HT PHOTO

“Students who had studied the school curriculum thoroughly would not have faced any problems. The examination was based more on logic than calculations. There were lots of questions on topics such as biomolecules and chemistry in everyday life, which students tend to ignore,” said a teacher at the Bansal Tutorials — a coaching institute.

On the whole, students appeared content with their performances.

“I did much better than I had expected. Most of the paper was based on NCERT books. Others were from the IIT JEE syllabus. All in all, the first section was easier than the second,” said Raashi Malhotra, who appeared for the test at Noida.

For the first time, those taking the test had to mark their answers with a pen. At the end of the exam, they could also take a copy of their answer sheets home.

More than 5.6 lakh aspirants appeared in the examination, a steep jump from the 4.6 lakh candidates who appeared last year. The number of girls also went up to 30% this year as compared to 12% last year.
JEE gets tougher than last year

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: With slightly lengthy questions and a moderately difficult Mathematics paper, the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) 2012 ended up tougher than last year’s test, said most students who took the exam here on Sunday.

The exam, held at 1,067 centres across the country, decides admission to nearly 9,618 undergraduate seats at the 15 Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT’s). As many as 5.6 lakh aspirants across the country took the test, of which 8,583 were from Tamil Nadu. The exam was held at various centres in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchy and Tirunelveli.

There were quite a few surprises in the test. Questions on rotational mechanics that were not in previous years’ papers and fewer organic chemistry questions were some of the features of this year’s test, said Abhishek Narayan, a student of P.S. Higher Secondary School.

While the first paper that lasted from 9 a.m. to noon had relatively easy questions, especially in the chemistry section, the second paper in the afternoon, students said, was much more difficult.

P. Sanjay, a student of NIT Trichy, who attempted the exam for the second time, said he wanted to get a branch of his choice in a top IIT. “Also, the paper was for 408 marks this time, not the usual 480. I have to get a good rank otherwise I can’t think about wasting a year. The paper, though difficult when compared to last year’s, was easier than many previous years,” he said.

Students have always looked forward to sections of the JEE which are exempt from negative marking. “This time we had two such sections in paper 1 and one in paper 2, but one of them was a multiple choice offering more than one right option so we had to fit in and view all the options. That took time,” said Kavya, of DAV Girls Higher Secondary School.

Outside centres, stood anxious parents, for whom this could be just the start of the entrance race. For CBSE students, the IIT’s and NIT’s are important because they don’t stand much of a chance in counselling, said S. Balasubramaniam, a parent.

“JEE is the main exam because IIT is everyone’s dream. For many, the other tests are mostly back-up options,” said J. Anthra, who wants to get into IIT-Madras.

This time, the candidates were also given a carbon copy of their answer sheets to compare the assessments.
आईआईटी : गणित
ने दिया दोहरा झटका
दोनों पेपर में गणित के सेक्शन ने किया परेशान

पिछले साल की स्थिति.
आईआईटी जेडीई 2011 में 9618 छात्रों की लिस्ट जारी हुई। 480 अंकों की परीक्षा हुई थी, जिसमें कॉमन मेरिट की प्रीवेट फटाफट कोट अंक 229 थी। इसमें फिजिक्स की 20, केमिस्ट्री की 20 और गणित की कोट अंक 34 थी। ओबीसी छात्रों के लिए कोट अंक 207, एससी की 119 और एससी श्रेणी के छात्रों के लिए कोट अंक 115 अंकों पर आकर रही थी।

कैरियर के पेपर में केमिस्ट्री के परीक्षार्थी ने फिजिक्स ने छात्रों के परीक्षा परिणाम छोटे रहे। अनमोल, नीराज, स्मरण, कर्न छात्रों का कहना था कि दोनों पेपरों को तालमेल से सेट किया गया था। एक तरफ आसान तो दूसरी तरफ मुश्किल ने बैलेंस बना दिया है, बाहर तो आईआईटी परीक्षा की पहचान होती है। जिन छात्रों ने आईआईटी परीक्षा के तहत

तैयारी की है, उनके द्वारा दोनों पेपर मिलित कर दिये गए। पेपर के कुछ सालों में कलेक्टर के स्तरों पर ओबीसी के 11वें कोट अंक से भी कमा गए थे। इस बार आईआईटी के अंकों में भी फेयरबाल्ड किया गया है।

इस बार कुल 408 अंकों का पेपर आया, जिसमें पहला पेपर 210 तो दूसरा 198 अंकों का रहा। परीक्षा केंद्रों पर लड़कियों की संख्या काफी रही। ब्यूरो
आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित, आंसु झील की हुई कॉपी पाकर स्नान दिखे छात्र
पहले फिजिक्स, फिर गणित ने छक्काया

भारत न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी में दाखिले के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा-2012 (आईआईटी-जेईआई) का रूपांतर को देशभर में आयोजन किया गया। दो पाठ्यक्रमों में समाप्त हुई इस परीक्षा में बीते साल के मुकाबले कम प्रश्न पूछे गएं। जहाँ तक छात्रों की नजर में परीक्षा की तारीख है तो पहले पाठ्यक्रम में फिजिक्स ने तो दूसरे पाठ्यक्रम में गणित के स्कोर के उन्हें जमकर छक्काया। हालाँकि, आदर्श आंसु झील की हुई कॉपी की बार से गो नामक बूढ़े के छात्रों के चलते उनके चेहरे हुए चुके हैं। देशभर में 1067 केंद्रों पर आयोजित इस परीक्षा में करीब 5.06 लाख छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया, जबकि बीते साल यह ऑनलाइन 4.85 लाख था।

पहली बार के केंद्रों में आयोजित इस परीक्षा में करीब 74 हज़ार 493 परीक्षाकर्ताओं ने अपनी अंतिम योजना शामिल की। करीब 15 प्रतिशत दिल्ली में उपलब्ध 10 हज़ार इंजीनियरिंग की सीटों के लिए यह परीक्षा आयोजित की गई। इस बार संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा आईआईटी दिल्ली ने आयोजित की थी। इस परीक्षा का परिणाम 18 मई को पेश किया जायेगा। परीक्षा में 53 प्रश्न पूछे जाने के लिए तीन दिवस तक की संधि में है। इनकी संख्या करीब 1750 से भी अधिक है। इनकी संख्या करीब 1.80 लाख रहीं, जबकि तीन शाखा यह आंकड़ा एक लाख तक उछला। आईआईटी-जेईआई फॉरम की सूची 9 से 12 बजे, जबकि दूसरी परीक्षा प्राप्त करने के लिए 2 से शाम 5 बजे होंगे। दोनों पहले पाठ्यक्रम की परीक्षा के लिए तीन दिन से तक परीक्षाकर्ताओं के लिए आधिकारिक विभागों में है।

पहली परीक्षा की परीक्षा डेक्कर बाहर निकले परीक्षार्थियों की तारीख के लिए तीन दिन तक पूछे जाने के लिए निर्देशित होते हैं। दूसरी परीक्षा की परीक्षा के लिए तीन दिन तक पूछे जाने के लिए निर्देशित होते हैं। दिल्ली एक्सप्रेस की तारीख के तरह हुई। दूसरी परीक्षा के लिए तीन दिन तक पूछे जाने के लिए निर्देशित होते हैं।

प्रतिकृत विषय में 20 प्रश्न आए थे। इस संबंध में पहले पेपर में कुल अंक 210 अंकों का था, जबकि दूसरे पेपर में कुल 240 अंकों का था। प्रतिकृत विषय में 20 प्रश्न थे जो 66 अंकों का था।

पहली परीक्षा की परीक्षा डेक्कर बाहर निकले परीक्षार्थियों की तारीख के लिए तीन दिन तक पूछे जाने के लिए निर्देशित होते हैं।
पहला पेपर आसान तो दूसरे ने रुलाया

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। आईआईटी ज्वाइंट स्ट्रेट्स एनजाय (जेईई) में गणित ने दोहरा जटिलता दिया। दोनों पेपर में गणित का सेंस्स रेपिकल रहा। पहले पेपर में गणित के प्रश्नों की उत्तरावर्त दूसरे पेपर में फिजिकल के न्यूमिकल तक जारी रही। 408 अंकों की जेईई परीक्षा के आधार पर अब कोम्पनी रैक लिस्ट में जगह बनाने के लिए 142.8 अंक, अप्रैली के लिए 128.52 अंक और एसएसी-एसटी श्रेणी के छात्रों के लिए 71.4 अंक एपीएम कटारों रहे। इन अंकों पर आई रैक भी आईआईटी में दाखिल की गारंटी नहीं होगी।

आईआईटी परीक्षा में छह हजार से अधिक प्रश्नों बैठे

जेईई परीक्षा रेटिनां के 1056 परीक्षा केंद्रों पर हुई, जिसमें पाँच लाख 6 हजार छात्र शामिल हुए। परीक्षा तक 10 वर्ष में हुई। पहला पेपर सुबह 9 से 12 और दूसरा 2 से 5 बजे की पाली में हुआ। प्रश्नपत्रों का विश्लेषण करते हुए टाइम इंस्ट्रीटकूट के उपयोगकर्ता अन्य अंतर्गत ने बताया कि जेईई का कठिनाई स्तर चिकित्सा साल के जैसा ही था लेकिन दूसरा पेपर ज्यादा मुश्किल था।

इसमें भी गणित ने छात्रों को ज्यादा परेशान किया। पहले पेपर में 210 अंकों के 60 सवाल पूछे गए। फिजिकल, केमिस्ट्री, मैथ में 20-20 सवाल थे। इसमें तीन-तीन अंकों चले तीस सवालों में निगेटिव मार्किंग था।

दूसरे पेपर में 198 अंकों के 60 सवाल पूछे गए, जिसमें तीन-तीन अंकों चले 42 सवालों में निगेटिव मार्किंग रही गई थी। नोएडा में आधा दर्जन परीक्षा केंद्रों पर लगभग 4000 छात्रों ने परीक्षा दी। छात्रों ने गणित के खंड की मुश्किल के साथ-साथ पिछले साल के मुकाबले प्रश्नों के लंबे होने की भी शिकायत की।
Anandakrishnan to stay on as IIT-K Chairman

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: M. Anandakrishnan, veteran educationist, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur for the third time.

The third tenure, lasting three years, will begin from June 12, according to an official release from the IIT-Kanpur.

The appointment was made by President Pratibha Patil in her capacity as the Visitor of the IIT-Kanpur.

IIT-Jodhpur, Datawind head for legal battle

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

THE HRD Ministry may have transferred the Aakash tablet project to IIT-Bombay, but the conflict between IIT-Jodhpur, which was earlier handling the project, and Datawind, the Canada-based manufacturers, is far from solved. Datawind and IIT-Jodhpur are now heading for a legal battle.

IIT-Jodhpur has claimed damages from Datawind and also decided to forfeit the Rs 50 lakh that the latter had deposited as earnest money, according to highly placed sources. Datawind, on the other hand, has shot off a notice to two of the IIT-Jodhpur faculty members for violation of the non-disclosure agreement signed for the project. The IIT-Jodhpur Board of Governors has called an emergency meeting next week to find a solution.

IIT-Jodhpur has filed a claim against Datawind for 'liquidated damages', and is also writing to the company's bankers. The 'liquidated damages' stipulation in any contract establishes a predetermined sum that must be paid if a party fails to perform as promised.

In the tender invited by IIT-Jodhpur for the Low Cost Access Device (LCAD) in January 2011 - the $35 Aakash tablet - the 'liquidated damages' clause reads: "If the Seller fails to supply the LCADs as per the delivery schedule agreed with Buyer as stated in the Purchase Order, the Buyer shall deduct Liquidated Damages @ 0.5% of value of LCAD system per week until actual delivery, subject to a maximum of 10% of value of the system. In case aforesaid delay exceeds one month from the scheduled date of supply, the Buyer shall have the right to terminate the Contract..."

Hitting back, Datawind sent a notice to two members of the IIT's Aakash team, who visited its manufacturing facility last year and signed a non-disclosure agreement, but met representatives of an Indian company, Quad, soon after the trip. Datawind termed this a violation of the agreement.

Aakash was developed following a six-year project, with a Rs 4,772-lakh contract given to IIT-Jodhpur whose role was limited to procuring and testing around 100,000 devices sourced through Datawind. Only 600 odd tablets were distributed to students in the initial stages. Ever since, IIT-Jodhpur and Datawind had been engaged in a tug of war over requisite specifications for the tablet literally, stalling the project.

While IIT-Jodhpur had rejected various lots of devices supplied by Datawind earlier, terming them defective, the technical specifications for the tablet devised by it later were rejected by Datawind that claimed these were meant for military-style rugged tablets, as reported first by The Indian Express.

In February, a high-powered government committee decided to officially divest IIT-Jodhpur and its director Prof Prem Kalra from the project and transferred it to IIT-Bombay. The HRD Ministry will now also monitor the project closely.

IIT-M student ends life by hanging in room

Deepa H. Ramakrishnan and Vasudha Venugopal

CHENNAI: Even as hundreds of students took the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) on Sunday to get closer to their IIT dream, it was a sad day for the students on campus at IIT-Madras. Kuldeep Yadav, a second-year student of civil engineering, allegedly committed suicide on Sunday morning by hanging himself from a fan with a nylon rope.

The incident occurred in a ground floor room of the Narmada hostel at IIT-M, and was first noticed by Kuldeep's wing-mate. He and his friends immediately broke open the door and lowered the body. As Yadav struggled to breathe, he was taken to the IIT Hospital around 10 a.m. and then to Fortis Malar hospital in Adyar. However, he could not be saved and died around 2.20 p.m.

One of the students said: "The doctors, around noon, told us that there was still a chance, because his pulse was revived but it would take about six hours to know if he was actually out of danger." The student was then taken to the ICU where he breathed his last.

The body was shifted to the Government Royapettah Hospital from where it was taken to the Kilpauk Medical College. Police suspect Kuldeep Yadav, the son of an Uttar Pradesh-based farmer Yashoda Singh, took the extreme step after a failed love affair.
Universities may have to double students

If 50% of the 317 publicly funded universities increase intake by 30%, enrolment will rise by 200,000 students

The commission in its report said that even if 50% of the 317 publicly funded universities increase the total intake by an average 30%, there will be an increased enrolment of 200,000 students during the 12th Plan.

Similarly, if 20,000 colleges of the total 31,324 are allowed to expand through special funding, it will also increase enrolment significantly.

"Assuming the average strength of a college in India to be 400 from the current data, a modest average increase of 200 students per college will result in an increase of about four million in the 20,000 colleges," it said.

However, a shortage of trained faculty could be a stumbling block for any such plan. Indian universities face a shortage of teachers in the range of 25-33%, according to official data.

"We need a lot of teachers. Instead of creating capacity for plain BA or BSc, there should be focus on skill-based, industry-worthy courses," said Pental. "Currently, students with 45% are doing BTech, what will happen to the quality if this continues?"

The commission suggests increasing the number of teachers by appointing overseas faculty and industry experts, and has recommended that they be compensated adequately and not just paid meagre sums as honoraria, which is the current practice.

It is also in favour of increasing faculty development centres from the present 66 to 100 during the Plan period to continuously engage teachers in updating their knowledge base.

 Authorities should not equate number with quality, though we understand that a service economy needs to get enough human capital to sustain the growth rate," said Pental, who was part of a state-formed committee of vice-chancellors—who are executive chiefs of India's universities—on reforming higher education through increased transparency in their functioning.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi has a 1,000-acre campus, but only caters to less than 6,000 students, according to its website. The University of Hyderabad has nearly 5,000 students in its 2,000-acre campus, while the North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong, spread across 1,250 acres, has a student strength of around 18,000, according to data available on their websites.

The commission strongly advocates compact campuses. "The concept of large campuses for universities needs a rethink to increase their enrolment at least by 100% of the existing number," it said. "Scarcity of land has necessitated a vertical growth rather than horizontal spread."

The plan has a lot of merit and existing universities need to expand and become more comprehensive in their offering of courses, said an official at the human resource development ministry, who declined to be named. UGC is a part of the ministry.

However, increasing the number of students at JNU in a large proportion will "hamper the quality of the institution at a time when India lacks quality universities", a professor at the premier institution said, requesting anonymity. "Any step to dilute brands like JNU could be counterproductive."

Pental, however, said he was in favour of compact universities. "There should be maximum utilization of resources," he said. "Look at the universities in Singapore; they are compact and doing so well."
The assault on public education

Some of the most insidious effects are on teaching and monitoring

By Noam Chomsky

Public education is under attack around the world, and in response, student protests have recently been held in Britain, Canada, Chile, Taiwan and elsewhere. California is also a battleground. The Los Angeles Times reports on another chapter in the campaign to destroy what has been the greatest public higher education system in the world.

California State University officials announced plans to freeze enrollment next spring at most campuses and to cut all applicants the following fall pending the outcome of a proposed tax initiative on the November ballot.

Similar defunding is under way nationwide. In "most states," The New York Times reports, "it is now tuition payments, not state appropriations, that cover most of the budget," so that "the era of affordable four-year public universities, heavily subsidized by the state, may be over."

Community colleges increasingly face similar prospects—and the shortfalls extend to grades K-12.

"There has been a shift from the belief that we as a nation benefit from higher education, to the belief that it's the people receiving the education who primarily benefit and so they should foot the bill," concludes Ronald G. Ehrenberg, a trustee of the State University system of New York and director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute.

A more accurate description, I think, is "Failure by Design," the title of a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute, which has long been a major source of reliable information and analysis on the state of the economy.

The EPI study reviews the consequences of the transformation of the economy: a generation ago from domestic production to financialisation and offshoring. By design, there have always been alternatives.

One primary justification for the design is what Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz called the "religion" that "markets lead to efficient outcomes," which was recently dealt a further crushing blow by the collapse of the housing bubble that was ignored on Dodd-Frank grounds, triggering the current financial crisis.

Claims are also made about the alleged benefits of the radical expansion of financial institutions since the 1970s. A more convincing description was provided by Martin Wolf, senior economic correspondent for The Financial Times: "An out-of-control financial sector is eating out the modern market economy from inside, just as the larva of the spider wasps eats out the host in which it has been laid."

The EPI study observes that the "Failure of Design" is class-based. For the designers, it has been a stunning success, as revealed by the astonishing concentration of wealth in the top 1 percent, in fact the top 0.1 percent, while the majority has been reduced to virtual stagnation or decline.

In short, when they have the opportunity, "the Masters of Mankind" pursue their "vile maxim (euro) all for ourselves and nothing for other people," as Adam Smith explained long ago.

Mass public education is one of the great achievements of American society. It has had many dimensions. One purpose was to prepare independent farmers for life as wage laborers who would tolerate what they regarded as virtual slavery.

The coercive element did not pass without notice. Ralph Wakklo Emerson observed that political leaders call for popular education because they fear that "This country is filling up with thousands and millions of voters, and you must educate them to keep them from our throats." But educated the right way: Limit their perspectives and understanding, discourage free and independent thought, and train them for obedience.

The "vile maxim" and its implementation have regularly called forth resistance, which in turn evokes the same fears among the elite. Forty years ago there was deep concern that the population was breaking free of apathy and obedience.

At the liberal internationalist extreme, the Triennial Commission—the nongovernmental policy group from which the Carter Administration was largely drawn—issued stern warnings in 1979 that there is too much democracy, in part due to the failures of the institutions responsible for "the indoctrination of the young."

On the right, an important 1971 memorandum by Lewis Powell, directed to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the main business lobby, warned that radicals were taking over everything—universities, media, government, etc.—and called on the business community to use its economic power to reverse the attack on what Powell called our way of life—which he knew well. As a lobbyist for the tobacco industry, he was quite familiar with the workings of the nanny state for the rich that he called "the free market."

Restore discipline

Since then, many measures have been taken to restore discipline. One is the crusade for privatization—placing control in reliable hands. Another is sharp increases in tuition, up nearly 600 percent since 1980. These produce a higher education system with "far more economic stratification than is true of any other country," according to Jane Wellman, former director of the Delta Cost Project, which monitors these issues. Tuition increases trap students into long-term debt and hence subordination to private power.

Justifications are offered on economic grounds, but are singularly unconvincing. In countries rich to poor, including Mexico next door, tuition remains free or nominal. That was true as well in the United States itself when it was a much poorer country after World War II and huge numbers of students were able to enter college under the GI bill—a factor in uniquely high economic growth, even putting aside the significance in improving lives.

Another device is the corporatisation of the universities. That has led to a dramatic increase in layers of administration, often professional instead of drawn from the faculty as before, and to imposition of a business culture of "efficiency"—an ideological notion, not just an economic one.

One illustration is the decision of state colleges to eliminate programmes in nursing, engineering and computer science, because they are costly—and happen to be the professions where there is a labor shortage, as The New York Times reports. The decision harms the society but conforms to the business ideology of short-term gain without regard for human consequences, in accord with the vile maxim.

Some of the most insidious effects are on teaching and monitoring. The Enlightenment ideal of education was captured in the image of education as laying down a string that students follow in their own ways, developing their creativity and independence of mind.

The alternative, to be rejected, is the image of pouring water into a vessel—and a very leaky one, as all of us know from experience. The latter approach includes teaching to test and other mechanisms that destroy students' interest and seek to fit them into a mold, easily controlled. All too familiar today.

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The New York Times