IIT-D counselling process now in three phases, goes online

NAVEED IQBAL
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TO ensure that seats are not left vacant, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has started a three-phase counselling process this year. The institute has also put the counselling process online.

"This has been done to accommodate more students, after noting the students who were allotted seats earlier did not complete admission formalities and the seats were left vacant," said Professor Shantu Choudhry, Dean of under-graduate studies, IIT-Delhi.

The institute is also allowing change of subjects or branches after the third counselling session.

Putting the process online means that the students will not have to visit the campus to submit their choice of subjects or branch.

The number of girls who have been admitted to the institute rose to 12 per cent of total strength this year, as compared to only 88 girls in the previous batch. Textile engineering has been the preferred course for girls, with 23 choosing it as their stream.

Over all, civil engineering emerged the favourite this year with 112 admissions. Mechanical engineering has 103 students, followed by 101 in textile.

In the Delhi zone, approximately 17,600 aspirants wrote the IIT-JEE this year. Of these, 868 have secured seats at IIT-Delhi. Admissions to all 430 general seats have been completed. In the reserved category, offer letters have been sent to 57 students.

The orientation programme for the new batch began on July 18 and will conclude on July 22.

Basic facilities missing at hostels

NEW DELHI: The hostel facility at the country's premier engineering institute, IIT-Delhi, leaves much to be desired. Students complain that there is no cooling or heating facility in their hostel rooms, making summer and winter month extremely tough.

"It's really difficult to live in the hostel because its always so hot," said a student.

While most of the lecture halls are air-conditioned, hostels are not provided even a basic cooler.

Dean of Students' Professor Shashi Mathur said such facilities could not be provided to the students because of power and water shortage at the campus. He also said "coolers increases the risk of dengue and other water-borne diseases because of stagnant water."

A final year students said: "We sit in the library to get away from the heat, but that too closes at nine."
‘No-ragging’ affidavit compulsory for new IIT-K students

KANPUR: As the academic session begins on Monday, IIT Kanpur asked all its new students to submit an affidavit, which says that disciplinary action can be initiated against them if found involved in ragging, IIT-K registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said.

Rashtriya Sahara ND 19/07/2011

आईआईटी : नए छात्रों की प्रवेश प्रक्रिया शुरू, देना होगा शपथपत्र

कानपुर (एजेंसी)। आईआईटी कानपुर में सोमवार से अंडर ग्रेजुएट और पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट छात्र-छात्राओं के नए सत्र की पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया शुरू हो गई है। साथ ही उन्हें एक शपथपत्र भी देना होगा जिसमें वादा होगा कि रैंगिंग या उससे संबंधित किसी कार्य में लिखा पाए जाएँगे तो संस्थान में उनके खिलाफ अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।
Autonomy to IIM-A at variance with NCHER norms: Experts

Jyotsna Bhatnagar

Ahmedabad, July 18: HRD minister Kapil Sibal’s latest attempt to empower the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad is at complete variance with the legislation for the formation of a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) that is currently pending clearance, say observers. Sibal has approved long-pending amendments to the institute’s memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government, allowing IIM-A to choose its own director and raise resources.

Highly-placed sources in the HRD ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity said the move flies in the face of the proposed NCHER. “One of the key functions of this proposed body, as and when it comes into existence, would be to prepare a national registry of people eligible for appointment to the position of directors/vice-chancellors of all major national institutions of higher learning. That being the case, what would the IIM-A board do with the autonomy provided to it by the HRD ministry to select its own director?” said a source.

Moreover, though the HRD ministry has been actively involved in the process of selecting directors for IIM-A over the past two rounds, first in the case of Bakul Dholakia and then in the case of current incumbent Sameer Barua, it is the IIM-A board that has been the nodal body for selection of a director ever since the inception of the institute. Interestingly, though the government had increasing-ly been taking an interest in the selection of directors for the institute, the original MoU had not been tinkered with. In the case of the selection of the present director, the HRD min-

Kapil Sibal, HRD minister

ANOTHER MOVE OF THE HRD MINISTRY THAT IS NOT GOING DOWN WELL IS ITS NOD TO THE AMENDMENT FOR GRANTING THE IIM-A FINANCIAL AUTONOMY AS WELL INCLUDING THE SELLING OF SEATS ON THE IIM-A BOARD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDING CORPORATE DONOR TOO IS NOT BEING VIEWED FAVOURABLY BY INSIDERS AT IIM-A

istry had even advertised the post in leading national dailies, leading to consternation in some quarters over the “complete infringement of the institute’s autonomy”.

“As far as the selection procedure is concerned, the amendments to the MoU do not change anything on the ground materially,” said a senior IIM-A faculty member. “As usual, it was the chairman of the IIM-A board who was sending a list of three names in order of preference and the government was granting its approval in accordance with this.”

With the latest amendment to the MoU, however, the informal scope the government had of influencing the choice of director is likely to go completely. “If this is done, then it will be in complete variance with the role envisaged of the NCHER, which is supposed to prepare a panel of names for future appointments to all premier institutes of higher education through a collegium of academicians of distinction,” the faculty member said.

Another move of the HRD ministry that is not going down well is its nod to the amendment for granting the IIM-A financial autonomy as well including the selling of seats on the IIM-A board to the highest bidding corporate donor too is not being viewed favourably by insiders at IIM-A. A faculty member observed that the move to auction seats would actually be tantamount to backdoor privatization of the institute over a period of time. “That’s because the board is accountable to the IIM-A Society. Thus far, it was the government which was monitoring the institute’s finances while the Society had been comatose. If the board now becomes answerable only to the Society as envisaged in the amended MoU, it would, over a period, lead to an increase in control of corporates,” he said.
IIM-Lucknow Next in Line for Autonomy

Lucknow: IIM-Lucknow is set to follow IIM-Ahmedabad’s route towards autonomy. In a month, the institute will become financially independent and be able to pick its own director. Financial autonomy will mean IIM-L will be able to purchase and sell assets without government’s approval.
IIIM-B upgrades I-T, India Post officials’ managerial skills

DEVINA SENGUPTA
BANGALORE

Leadership training may be new to officials working for the country’s largest savings bank, India Post Office, or the income tax department, but the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in association with top foreign universities, is all set to change that.

Some of IIIM-B’s professors have taken upon themselves the task of aligning the aspirations and managerial skills of employees to roles that India Post and the Central Board of Direct Tax have charted out for them.

“If a Wipro or an Infosys can have training on client delivery models then why can’t public institutes like the India Post Office,” asks Vaishali Srinivasan, professor of organisational behaviour and human resource management, and faculty coordinator for the project in IIIM-B. The training for India Post officials began nearly six months ago, while that for income tax officials began on March 26. Through this programme, the Central Board of Direct Tax aims at improving employee efficiency and map the available talent.

Besides honing managerial skills, the training will also boost the department’s forecasting methods. They will be able to identify which tax returns should be audited and which should be left out, according to Nagadevara, one of the directors for the FT Officers’ programme and a former IIIM dean. Being exposed to the best practices is also expected to help them come up with better public policies. Under a separate programme which also began in March, 600 commissioners are being trained for three weeks at IIIM-B and two weeks at the Maxwell School of Public Policy in New York State and other institutions abroad.

Nagadevara and his team along designed a survey of 270 questions, which would rate commissioners on their aspirations, experience, attitude towards different policies, according to which they would be grouped into teams like investigation, transfer pricing, advocacy, taxpayer service and international mergers and acquisitions. Those who have been in one stream but are suited for a different role would accordingly be moved, says Nagadevara.

“A better policy would mean more cash flows for the government, which is what the team will be trained to do,” he says.

At India Post Office, at least seven professors are training top-level officers, including post master generals on strategy management and improve their customer delivery systems. Industry experts from insurance were brought in as guest faculty. The trainees were divided into groups and made to brain-storm on how they could achieve their goals.

The 24-year-old post office is joining the e-brigade with its latest business and insurance portfolio and is going deeper into rural markets, for which it needs ways of logistics tracking and reskilling of its workforce. “A top-down method is used where the employees are taught timely delivery, and trained in parameters like retaining customers, performance management or marketing the right customer service,” says Srinivasan.

A director of the postal services in the southern region, who was part of the training a few months ago, said the programme focused on succession planning and how to reach targets in the next 10 years.

A direct result of the training is that changes made in the department are being taken to track performance and other HR issues. Another change is that now examinations will be held for postal assistants who aspire to be post master generals and so on. “Earlier, it was about seniority and now it will be about aptitude,” the director, who did not wish to be named, said.

Although the postal service has a results framework document, which states the different parameters of measurement and targets for each of them, IIIM-B is helping them understand how to answer the ‘what next’ question.

Indian Forest Service officials are next in queue for training.
The message against ragging at Delhi University (DU) is loud and clear. In a bid to deal with the menace with an iron hand, the University has once again strengthened its anti-ragging code.

For starters, this year, the colleges have been advised to introduce the concept of special "moral tutors": Freshers are shy and might need counselling during the first few weeks. We have asked colleges to appoint more seniors for the purpose," Manoj Kumar Arora, deputy proctor, North Campus, said.

According to the circular issued to all colleges, the moral tutors will be appointed by the faculty members to whom freshers may be attached individually or in a group. The tutor is expected to devote time and energy to help them overcome emotional stress or problems encountered while adjusting to the new environment.

The authorities also hope that the personal rapport established by this teacher could prove to be helpful when a victim of ragging wants to confide in someone or needs the confidence to lodge a complaint against a senior. In another relatively new measure, the varsity administration has requested the Delhi Police to conduct random checks even on the Metro trains that go to Vishwavidyalaya station.

Puchas can expect police presence on North and South Campuses and even in off-campus colleges to be at an all-time high as, in addition to mobile patrolling, there will be a police picket outside every college and women colleges will receive special assistance.

"We have set up control rooms that will be manned jointly by our security team, Delhi Police and DTO officials. There will be a control room each in North and South Campuses and students can also lodge a complaint of ragging directly in these rooms," Kumar added.

The above measures are in addition to the old rules which include not allowing guests to stay at college hostels during the first few weeks of the new session. Students will not be able to enter colleges without their identity cards and college campuses will display anti-ragging posters and banners besides giving adequate publicity to the contact details of the college principal and faculty members with whom ragging complaints can be lodged.

Colleges have already taken an undertaking from the students at the time of admission, stating that they will not act or abet ragging on campus. Any student found guilty of ragging will be expelled by the college.

DU's strong anti-ragging stance is more than evident as the past instances of ragging have been dealt with the harshest punishment. Last year, Ramjas College expelled a student of mathematics for beating up a college fresher along with his friends. In the academic year 2009-10, Kirori Mal College expelled two students of computer science and physical science for ragging a junior in the college hostel.

### SUPREME COURT ORDER ON RAGGING
- The punishment meted out should be exemplary and justifiably harsh.
- An FIR against the accused must be lodged by the institutional authorities.
- The college prospectus should clearly mention that any student found guilty of indulging in ragging may be summarily expelled.
- Anti-ragging committees and squads to be formed.
- Parental or guardian of students should assume responsibility to immediately report the college authorities any instance of ragging.
Why U.K. employers prefer foreign workers

Hawar Suror

A piece of advice that newly arrived Indian migrants often get from their British friends is — never do anything "silly" on a weekend because you are not likely to get any help until Monday. "I remember being told jokingly when I arrived on these shores 20 years ago, don’t die on a Friday afternoon unless you've pre-booked your funeral arrangements!" A Bangladesh migrant said.

When it comes to work practices, there is no dearth of national stereotypes — the "French leave," "Spanish practices," the "Third World syndrome." Britons, much to the irritation of their European neighbours, claim to work the longest hours in Europe seldom failing to have a dig at the French for their "messy" 25-hour week and long, leisurely lunches.

Britain, they stress, is the only country which has an "out-out" from the European Union's working time directive that imposes a 48-hour maximum working week on its member-states. The British opt-out means that U.K.-based employees may work longer if they wish but they cannot be forced to do so.

Claims by a European think tank, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in a report three years ago that Britons were among the "hardest working people in Europe" with only Romanians and Bulgarians putting in longer hours received sub-thumping coverage in the British media. The Ober-nationalist Telegraph made a point of rubbing in the bit that said the French worked the least hours.

"By comparison, the French spend an average of just 27.7 hours a week at work, effectively giving them an entire afternoon off compared with British workers," the newspaper noted gleefully adding: "And while working hours in many parts of Europe are generally falling, those in Britain are rising — from 40.7 hours last year in 2006."
Jamia's stern message on attendance as new session begins

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Jamia has made its attendance norms even more tough. From now on, students require a minimum of 80% attendance in the respective semester or year to be eligible to appear for exams. Till the last academic session, the minimum attendance required was 75% and a grace of 15% given to those suffering from serious illness or accident cases.

Kickstarting the new academic session, the university opened its doors to students on Monday. As per an ordinance passed by the Jamia administration, which is to be placed in the forthcoming executive council meet, the university has made 80% attendance the minimum eligibility criteria for students to sit for exams. Moreover, the grace percentage in case of serious illness has been reduced to 10%. The university has also listed a group of hospitals and health centres from where the students have to get medical certificates in case they seek the 10% relaxation.

“The university has been plagued by absenteeism in the recent years. We expect our students to be serious about studies, hence the decision. After studying the attendance pattern we realized that serious students attend over 90% of the classes. Intensive academic practice and co-related activities is what we would like to see in the campus. It is a simple philosophy – if the students have not studied, how will they sit for the exams?” said vice-chancellor of the varsity, Najeeb Jung.

Earlier this year the university debarred 212 students across departments from taking their final exams because they were short on attendance. The university also wrote to the Medical Council of India for an inquiry against 12 doctors who allegedly issued fake medical certificates to the students. Following this, a group of students sought relief from Delhi high court, but their petition was quashed.

“Students have to get certificates from the hospitals mentioned in the ordinance. In case a student falls sick in Meerut, then he/she has to submit the relevant documents at the university health centre for verification,” said Jung. The university has also asked the teachers to lead by example and ensure that classes are conducted regularly. “Teachers have to take up the responsibility as well,” added Jung.
35 under scanner for role in DUMET

ANOTHER SCAM? Cops get lists of alleged ‘fraud’ candidates

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NEW DELHI: A week after they stumbled upon yet another racket — this time, related to an apparent ‘cash-for-seats’ arrangement in Delhi varsity’s University Faculty of Medical Sciences (UCMS) — the Delhi Police’s investigations into the matter have entered murkier waters. Sources have revealed that they are now investigating the credentials of at least 35 candidates who took the said exam, held on May 22.

In addition, the racket’s links to a similar one busted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) earlier this month and the role of Himanshu Gupta and his associates — who were nabbed for providing admission to well-paying candidates in undergraduate courses recently — are also under the scanner.

“According to a similar complaint that has been received pertaining to the matter, the role of a particular candidate — who is understood to be related to someone who has been charge-sheeted by the CBI for her involvement in the recent paper leak during the All India Pre Medical Test (AIPMT) early this month — is being investigated,” the officer said.

While the said candidate scored a whopping 72% marks in the DUMET examination, he could not even qualify a similar medical entrance test conducted by the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGIIPU) on May 22, with flying colours.

The said candidates — who got between 70 and 72% in the DUMET — had managed to score only 10.60% to a maximum of 22% in the GGIIPU Common Entrance Test (CET) held just two weeks earlier.

“Another complaint received by the Crime Branch, eight candidates — who fared abysmally in and consequently, could not even qualify, a similar medical entrance test conducted just some weeks later,” said a senior police officer from the investigation team requesting anonymity.

On July 11, Hindustan Times had reported the said scam, in which, according to a written complaint received by the Crime Investigated by CBI — the role of Himanshu Gupta, kingpin of DU fraud caste certificate is also under the scanner.

Sources claim that kin of those who received leaked AIIMS papers took ‘fraud’ DUMET exam as well.