Newspaper Clips
July 26, 2011

Indian Express 26/07/2011
P1

IIT Delhi bars net surfing at night
NAVEED IQBAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

BURNING the midnight oil for better academic results may be a thing of the past at IIT Delhi as a
new dictum bars them from accessing the internet in the hostels from midnight Monday, the start
of a new session.

While students said the reason given to them by the administra-
tion was that there was a feeling that academics took a hit due to
excess internet surfing, gaming and movie viewing into the wee
hours, some asserted the late night access to the world wide
web was the best time to research for projects.

According to the new rule, IIT-D has decided that starting from
the current academic session, internet facility will not be available
in the hostels between 12 pm and 6 am.

"The reason provided to us was that students watch movies
or play games online and then do not report for classes on time.
They also said that even if students reach do not on time, they
do not concentrate on what is being taught in class," said a final
semester student.

But IIT administration said that there have been many in-
stances wherein students themselves said that they could not
concentrate on studies because of unlimited internet access.

"Students do not realise that because of the internet their aca-
demics suffer," Dean undergraduate studies, Santanu Chaudhury
told newsletter.

A student said, "Someday they will shut the libraries early saying
students waste time in them".
IIT दिल्ली में जल्द शुरू होंगे माइनर कोर्स
प्रेग्जुएट डिग्री को बेहतर बनाने और छात्रों की समझ विकसित करने की नई चर्चा

सनीत्व कुमार
बड़े दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), दिल्ली ने नये कार्यक्रम के तहत छात्रों को मिलेगी नई अनुमतियाँ। यह नये कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत जल्द ही होगी। यह नये कार्यक्रम छात्रों को मिलेगा माइनर कोर्स का।

आईआईटी (प्रेग्जुएट) के डॉ. शान्तनु चौधरी ने कहा कि आमतौर पर छात्र नहीं अपने कोर्स में ही ज्ञान लाने का तारीख को बढ़ाते रहता है। यदि छात्र अपने कोर्स में ही ज्ञान लाने का तारीख को बढ़ाते रहते हैं तो वे स्वयं में नये तरीके से ज्ञान लाने का प्रयास करते हैं। यह नये कार्यक्रम छात्रों को मिलेगा नई अनुमतियाँ।

इसके अलावा छात्रों को जल्द ही मिलेंगे माइनर कोर्स के लिए नई अनुमतियाँ। इससे छात्र अपना कार्यक्रम अन्य विभागों के नए कार्यक्रमों के साथ-साथ मिलाकर कर सकते हैं जो उनके कार्यक्रम को हासिल कर्तव्य कर सकते हैं।

इसके अलावा, माइनर कोर्स के लिए नई अनुमतियाँ मिलने के बाद कोर्सों की शुरुआत जल्द ही होगी। इससे छात्रों को मिलेगा माइनर कोर्स का मिलना होगा।
Indian Express 26/07/2011 P8

For those who ‘must’ be groomed

A course aims to help SC, ST graduates find their feet and correct a community’s ‘collective disadvantages’

SHAIJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUL 25

IN AUGUST 2009, the Supreme Court asked IIT-Delhi to provide SC/ST students with additional coaching facilities so that they could do better. Six Dalit students had been expelled from IIT-Delhi after performing poorly; Justice P. Satishram said that students of these communities, socially and economically backward, need to be taken care of even in specialised institutions such as IITs and IIMs.

The quest for an exclusive grooming programme eventually took representatives of IITs and NTIs to CREST, the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation in Kozhikode, which since 2002 had already been working with hundreds of SC and ST youths, mostly graduates from professional courses.

CREST was recently criticised after launching a programme at IIT-Delhi, with some students accusing the programme of discriminating between SC/ST and other students. The programme at IIT-Delhi was later opened to all students, but CREST authorities insist that some students do need to be given special care.

CREST director D D Namboothiri said that social development programmes are a must to bring students from a disadvantaged background into the mainstream. Facilities in higher learning centres fail to understand the realities at the grassroots, Namboothiri said.

“The prevailing social exclusion prevents these students from taking up challenges in the changed social and economic scenario. We are correcting the collective disadvantages faced by Dalit and marginalised communities,” said Namboothiri.

The selection interview at CREST, therefore, gives preference to those from socially weak backgrounds. Records show that the parents of 22 per cent of those enrolled have had only a high school education, and those of many others are illiterate.

Called self-enrichment, the orientation programme comprises motivational and confidence-building courses. CREST has also started a programme for selected SC/ST students of engineering colleges in Kerala. CREST associate programme co-ordinator T Y Vinod Krishnan said thousands of SC/ST students get admission to reserved B Tech seats but only a few hundred get through.

Today, of the 500-odd students and graduates groomed by CREST so far, 8 per cent have bagged jobs in the private sector, including IT and ITES, and 18 per cent in PSU, while 17 per cent have gone for higher studies.

Vinod Jayanandan, who now works as a manager with KPMG in Bangalore, said the course at CREST changed his life. “After an engineering course, I had been struggling for lack of social capital, communication skills and confidence. An intervention of this sort can make a remarkable difference.”

About alleged discrimination, he said, “Even bright students from the marginalised sections face discrimination in college. There are several occasions that reveal a student’s ST/ST tag. Hence, there is no logic that a self-enrichment programme will make things worse.”

A brainchild of IIM-Kozhikode, CREST started as a centre of excellence in 2002 and was later transformed into an autonomous body. The course is of five months. In the 40-strong current batch, 20 are B Tech graduates.

CREST has also signed an agreement with NIT in Suratkal (Karnataka) for conducting orientation programmes for SC/ST students.
आईआईटी, जेएनयू और ठानों का काटा चलान

यह दिल्ली। दिल्ली नगर निगम के स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने पूरी दिल्ली में करीब 969 लोगों का मच्छरों का प्रजनन पाने पर चालान किया है। यह चालान आईआईटी, कैम्पस, एनआईएचएफडब्ल्यू, जेएनयू कैम्पस, पुलिस रेस्टेंशन, कार्यालयों तथा अन्य शैक्षिक संस्थान के आधार नेताजी नगर, पृथ्वीराज रोड, कुमुडपुर फाइल, प्रताप विहार फेज-2, निहारी गांव, जेजी कॉलोनी उत्तर नगर, तुलसीदाम कालोनी, नांदनवार, इंद्र पार्क, मंगोलपुरी फेज-1, संदर वाजार, दिल्ली कैंट, ट्रस्पोर्ट प्राधिकरण, रेखा सरयू, शाहीन बाग, ई-व्हाल स्वास्थ्य विभाग, रेलवे कॉलोनी पंजाबी बाग, राज नगर, नजपुरागढ़, पालक हलकां को लोगों के काटे गये हैं।

निगमायुक्त के एस. मेहरा ने सोमवार को बताया कि दिल्ली में रूक-रूक कर होने वाली बारिश की वजह से कारागार मच्छरों के प्रजनन के स्थलों में कई गुणा बढ़ी है। हेंगु एवं चिकित्सक वी. राहात ने उत्तरदायी एडवर्ड मच्छर टॉक्सियों, पानी इक्कुटा करने वाले वर्गों, जो टॉक्सियों के आस-पास रहे हुए पानी में उत्पन्न होते हैं। नागरिकों का सक्रिय सहयोग अपेक्षित है। उन्होंने सभी सरकारी एवं स्वास्थ्य निकायों के कार्यालयों, शैक्षिक संस्थानों, राज्य सरकार के कार्यालयों, व्यापारिक प्रतिभागियों, मार्केट एवं सोशल प्रैक्टिस नोटिसडायर्जन के विभाग पर कई नागरिकों से हेंगु को रोकने हेतु दिल्ली में मच्छरों के प्रजनन को रोकने के लिए धमाकों उपाय करने की अपील की है।

निगमायुक्त ने बताया कि राष्ट्रीय निकाय द्वारा सामुदायिक सहभागिता के लिए लिये गये विविध उपायों के बहुजुड़ 18,844 परों में मच्छर प्रजनन पाया गया जिसके लिए स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने 23,753 व्यक्तियों को कानूनी नोटिस जारी किये तथा 969 व्यक्तियों का चालान किया गया। दिल्ली नगर निगम की केन्द्रीय ओवर चैनिंग टीम, एनआईएचएफडब्ल्यू, राष्ट्रीय मच्छरजनित सोग निर्यात कार्यक्रम ने विविध संस्थानों में एडवर्ड मच्छर का प्रजनन पाया है।

निगमायुक्त ने बताया कि दिल्ली नगर निगम अधिनियम (मलेरिया एवं अन्य मच्छर जनित बीमारियाँ) उप-नियम 1975 के अनुसार मच्छरों के प्रजनन के हदात उत्पाद करने तथा उनके प्रजनन के उपाय न करने पर जुमानी हो सकता है।
Hindustan Times
Title: Dengue: MCD fastens its belt
Author:
Location: NEW DELHI Corporation
Article Date: 07/26/2011

Dengue: MCD fastens its belt

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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has found high Aedes mosquito breeding in many government and private institutions. To keep a check on this, it will launch a special checking and prosecution drive from next week.

MCD commissioner KS Mehra said mosquitoes were found rampant in 23,593 premises, while 30,693 persons were served legal notices and 1,466 persons fined. “Delhi is experiencing intermittent rains as a result of which breeding sites of Aedes mosquito have increased.

Central Cross Checking Teams of MCD, National Institute of Malaria Research and National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme have reported high Aedes mosquito breeding indices from various institutions such as IIT Campus, NIHF, JNU Campus, police stations, offices and educational institutions besides areas such as Netaji Nagar, Prithviraj Road, Kusumpur Pahari huts, Pratap Vihar Phase-II, Nithari Village, JJ Colony Uttam Nagar, Tulsi Ram colony, Nangal Raya, Indra Park, Mangolpuri Phase-I, Sadar Bazar Delhi Cantonment, Railway Colony Punjabi Bagh, Raj Nagwar and Palam areas of Nazafgarh zone.

“MCD will launch a special checking and prosecution drive from next week. Persons and institutions will be prosecuted under Delhi Municipal Corporation (Malaria & other Vector Borne Diseases) Bye-laws, 1975, for creating mosquitogenic conditions and failure to take specified preventive measures, if breeding is detected,” said Mehra. Delhi has so far reported 11 laboratory confirmed cases of dengue, with one death. A 55-year-old man died of the disease at New Delhi’s Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on July 9.
Times of India 25.07.11, p=-4

IIT-M, Sankara Nethralaya develop mobile cataract unit

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras and Sankara Nethralaya have developed a mobile cataract surgery unit that can travel to remote areas. The idea was developed in response to the need for better facilities in rural areas.

Cataract is one of the leading causes of blindness in India accounting for around half the reversible blindness in the country. The number of cataract blind which was 7.75 million in 2001 is set to increase to 8.25 million in 2020 towards treating cataract.

The number of cataract blind which was 7.75 million in 2001 is set to increase to 8.25 million in 2020

Sankara Nethralaya doctors said free eye camps were insufficient as people unable to leave family or work could not come for screening. “Any device we make has to address not just affordability but also accessibility,” said assistant professor at the department of electrical engineering of IIT-M, Mohanasankar Sivaprasad.

The surgical unit consists of two vehicles—one preparation vehicle consisting of patient preparation setup, changing room, and chemical toilet, and one surgery vehicle consisting of the operating chamber and sterilization chamber. Having two vehicles instead of one large vehicle will enable the surgery unit to access rural areas.

These two vehicles travel independently and are connected to the camp site through a retractable vestibule for movement of people and equipment during the camps. There are two additional vehicles for eye examination and spectacle dispensing and a utility vehicle to transport goods.

“We have been successful in eradicating cataract blindness in urban areas. My dream is to have services available in tribal areas. If the prototype surmounts all the challenges then this could become a model in western India too,” said chairman emeritus of Sankara Nethralaya Dr SS Badrinath.
New format for CAT 2011

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The Common Admission Test (CAT), which holds the key to the 13 IIMs and other major B-schools in the country, has gone for a format makeover. The test will be conducted between October 22 and November 18, 2011. Though the number of questions remains the same, CAT 2011 will have two sections instead of three, and an additional five minutes to tackle the test.

According to an official statement released on Monday by Prometric, the testing agency and IIMs, CAT 2011 will have only two sections—the first will focus on quantitative ability and data interpretation and the second on verbal ability and logical reasoning.

"These two sections will be implemented sequentially with separate time limits. The examination will be 140 minutes. Candidates will have 70 minutes to answer 30 questions within each section, which will have an on-screen countdown timer. Once the time ends for the first section, they will move to the second and will no longer be able to go back," said the statement.

What's new

- Three sections reduced to two
- No option of going back and forth
- Additional five minutes
- 30 min reduction in reporting time
- Three new locations
- 30 more outlets to sell vouchers

"This is a move to be student-friendly. There are many students who lose out on a seat as they would have failed to perform in one of the sections," said prof Janakiraman Moorthy, convenor, CAT 2011. An additional five minutes have been added to the existing two-and-half hours. This includes a 15-minute tutorial that will guide students through the process.

Bhilai, Jammu and Dehradun have been added to the existing 33 test locations. The number of testing days will remain 20.

Check-in time has been reduced by half-an-hour from the previous two hours. With this change, the afternoon sessions will start at 3.15pm."
IIMs to change question pattern of CAT exams

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KOLKATA: In keeping with its goal of having a mix of students from all streams, the IIMs are changing the question pattern of the CAT this year.

For the last three years, the IIMs have been planning to have students from all faculties for its two-year post-graduate management diploma programme. The idea was to churn out managers who would not only be able to interpret mathematical data but also have knowledge of other subjects. This, the authorities hoped, would give them an ability to find solutions that would be beneficial for everyone across the board.

Now, instead of three sections — quantitative ability, verbal ability and data interpretation & logical reasoning — there will be two. Quantitative ability and data interpretation will comprise one section. The second will comprise logical reasoning and verbal ability.

To get through, students will have to score equally well in both sections. Earlier, only the overall score was considered while making the merit list.

More than 90% students who crack CAT are engineers, who do well in quantitative ability and data interpretation. Putting more emphasis on verbal ability — grammar and comprehension — is expected to bring in students from other streams.

“We want students who are good at all four sections,” said Janakiraman Moorthy, CAT ’11 convenor and professor of marketing at IIM, Calcutta.

In another first, the time for answering each of the two sections will be limited.

The duration of the exam will be 140 minutes. Candidates will have 70 minutes to answer 30 questions in each section. Prometric, the testing company which began the computerised test two years ago, will introduce an on-screen countdown timer. Once the time ends for the first section, the second section will open and there will be no going back.

IIM Lucknow director Devi Singh said: “Changing the format of the CAT exam is a standard practice. This will help us get students with well-rounded knowledge.”
National data bank to weed out fake marksheets

New Delhi: The HRD ministry on Monday unveiled a pilot project to create a national database of academic certificates issued by school boards and universities.

To begin with, this year’s class XII results of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the results of the Central Teacher Eligibility Test — to be announced on Tuesday — have been made part of the database. The ministry has already finalized a bill for the creation of national database. The bill would be introduced in the monsoon session of Parliament.

The National Academy Depository, the body assigned to carry out the task, would facilitate online verification of academic awards issued by boards and universities, thereby identifying attempts made to use fake and forged academic certificates. Even students, who have lost their certificates, can access the database anytime and anywhere.

CBSE has initiated the pilot project, which has been undertaken by Central Depository Services and National Securities Depositories — the only two depositories registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The pilot would be available free of cost for the first three months, and if found to be working satisfactorily it may be implemented for a small fee to be decided by CBSE and the organization that would like to verify certificates.

"This will be a national database for all academic qualifications in electronic format. It would facilitate online verification of academic awards, and therefore we can identify which are fake and genuine degrees," HRD minister Kapil Sibal said.

CBSE officials said adequate safeguards have been put in place to secure certificates against unauthorized access, alteration, destruction, disclosure or manipulation. CBSE would have access to the certificate database, and it would verify and authenticate any specific academic qualification in the database as and when a request is made.
BACKGROUND CHECK

Govt completes pilot project for digital academic repository

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The government has moved a step closer to creating a national academic depository that’s expected to help curb forgery and make verifications of education credentials easier and quicker.

Human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal said on Monday a pilot to assess the feasibility of this depository has been completed.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which carried out the pilot, has digitized the education certificates of all the students who cleared its class XII examination in 2011.

Certificates of aspiring teachers who have appeared for the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (C-TET) will also be available in digital format. The results will be declared on Tuesday.

“This will help in curbing forgery of education credentials. The menace of fake certificates can be controlled through this,” Sibal said, giving a lowdown on the process of verifying digital certificates.

The minister said the recent instances of fake certificates that plagued Delhi University can be tackled easily through this measure.

In June, Delhi University authorities found that a number of students had submitted fake certificates while seeking admissions under a certain quota.

The Central Depository Services (India) Ltd and the National Securities Depository Ltd helped CBSE conduct the pilot. “It was done by both the depositories with no initial cost to the ministry. It will remain free for CBSE for next three months; but after that it has to pay certain fees,” Sibal explained.

CBSE chairperson Vineet Joshi said the depository will make it easier for employers and educational institutes to verify the credentials of prospective workers and students.

It will also help do away with the fear of losing physical certificates.

According to CRP HR Services, a background screening firm based in Mumbai, discrepancies are found in 15% of the education credentials submitted by aspiring job seekers.

“We are also moving a Bill on this (the depository) in the coming Parliament session (that begins on 1 August),” Sibal said.

Once the Bill is passed, it will mandate digitizing all educational certificates of school boards, colleges and universities.

“The depositories will be soon deploying their own agents. Anyone can approach them for digitizing, but these agencies will first verify whether their certificates are original or fake,” Joshi said.
Too Much Land for Too Few Students at B-Schools

In a budget-starved economy like India, it is surprising that campuses 40 times bigger than Western institutions are churning out just a fraction of MBAs they can graduate.
PhD, MBA

youths apply for peon’s job

Udaipur: When the Mohan Lal Sukhadia University in Udaipur invited applications for the post of 15 peons, 3,440 people responded. One had a PhD and another a MBA degree.

The university, about 400km from Jaipur, conducted the interviews from July 23 till24.

Another candidate was a masters of computer applications and yet another a masters of library science. There was a postgraduate too. Anyone who had passed Class VIII was eligible for the post, provided he or she had a fair knowledge of Hindi and English. The basic salary? Rs 4,700, to go up eventually to Rs 7,440.

One of the highly-educated candidates explained, on the condition of anonymity, why he was so desperate for the job. “After completing my MBA from a private institute, I am finding it difficult to get a job. So I applied here for the post of peon,” he said.

“I have not disclosed this to my parents because they will be shocked. I will tell them once I get the job.”