Newspaper Clips
March 26, 2012

Economic Times ND 26/03/2012 P-3

Fresh Hurdles to Common Science Test

IIT Faculty Federation and Senators of IIT Kanpur and Delhi question HRD move to replace IIT-JEE

The government's proposal to put in place a common entrance examination for engineering and science has run into a roadblock.

The Senate of IIT Kanpur and Delhi, and the IIT Faculty Federation have questioned the decision to replace the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE). They have decided to ask the human resources development ministry to hold on and further debate the issue of examination reforms. Their objection come soon after states like Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Pune, and West Bengal sought more time to study the proposal.

The ministry hopes to make the common entrance examination, Indian Science Engineering Eligibility Test (ISEET), operational from 2013. This single national entrance test for admission into engineering and science courses would be applicable for all centrally-funded institutions, such as IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST) ( Shibpur), and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibpur) and National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Scale Industry (NIEST) (Shibp....
Below 35 PhD students to share stage with scientists and academics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology at conference in Bengaluru

Chemotherapy through an inhaler

Nitin Joshi, 2a

In the previous method of delivering chemotherapy to cancer patients, medicines are given in liquid form. This is a tedious process and patients are required to take medicines at regular intervals. Dr. Nitin Joshi, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, has developed a device that enables chemotherapy to be delivered through an inhalation process. This device is designed to allow the medication to be inhaled, where it can then be absorbed by the body, thus reducing the need for multiple injections.

There is no polluting smoke with this fire

Vander Reddy, 2a

Using biomass as a fuel for cooking and heating is a common practice in many parts of the world. However, the process of burning biomass releases carbon dioxide, leading to environmental concerns. Dr. Vander Reddy, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, has developed a biomasa fire that releases smoke with minimal carbon emissions. This fire is designed to be used in rural areas where biomass is readily available, reducing the need for fossil fuels.

Click to view the full story.

Putting city's carbon emissions to good use

Vivek Hari, 2a

The traditional approach to combatting pollution and carbon emissions involves large-scale infrastructure changes. Dr. Vivek Hari, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay, has developed a sustainable solution to reduce carbon emissions in urban areas. His approach involves the use of advanced materials and technology to capture carbon emissions from industrial processes and convert them into valuable products.

Click to view the full story.
यूनिवर्सिटी ही नहीं, कोर्स की भी रेटिंग
यूजीसी ने तैयार किया 5 साल का प्लान, डिपार्टमेंट को भी मिलेगी रेटिंग

भूवत् नई नित्य
यूनिवर्सिटी यादस कमिशन (यूजीसी) ने 12वें पासेज इपर प्लान को जो प्रवेश तैयार किया है, उसमें यूनिवर्सिटी के 'प्रोग्राम अन्डरडेटेशन' को प्रमुखता से शामिल किया गया है। अभी यूजीसी की न्यायालय संस्था नैशनल असेसमेंट एंड अन्डरडेटेशन काउंसिल (नैक) यूनिवर्सिटी के कोर्सों को अन्डरडेटेशन देती है, लेकिन यूजीसी चाहती है कि स्टूडेंट्स को यूनिवर्सिटी के हर डिपार्टमेंट व वहाँ पर पढ़ाए जाने वाले सभी कोर्सेज की केवलिटी के बारे में भी पता चल सके।

इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए फैक्टरी डिपार्टमेंट के अन्डरडेटेशन यादस रेटिंग का प्रमुख भी तैयार किया गया है। इस दिनांक के लागू होने के बाद स्टूडेंट्स को एडमिशन के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी या कोर्स सुनामी में कामयाब आसान हो जाएगी। उन्हें पहले से ही पता होगा कि यूनिवर्सिटी व वहाँ के कोर्सेज का क्या स्तर उठड़ा है? यूजीसी के मुनाफ़कर सभी यूनिवर्सिटी को नैक से मान्यता मिली और डिपार्टमेंट का अन्डरडेटेशन 'नैशनल अन्डरडेटेशन अथरिटी' से जोड़ा जाए। अन्डरडेटेशन को अनवार्ड करना जाय या है?

अभी तक नैक पूरी यूनिवर्सिटी को प्रेड देता है। यूजीसी के मुनाफ़कर यूनिवर्सिटी का अन्डरडेटेशन तो जरूर है, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ डिपार्टमेंट अन्डरडेटेशन भी लागू होना चाहिए, क्योंकि यूनिवर्सिटी के अन्डरडेटेशन से यह पता नहीं चल पाता कि वहाँ की अलग-अलग फैक्टरी व डिपार्टमेंट की क्या स्थिति है?

नया फॉर्म्युला...

- अब तक केवल पूरी यूनिवर्सिटी और कोर्सों की ही मिलता है अन्डरडेटेशन
- इससे हर यूनिवर्सिटी में कोर्सों या विभाग की अधी-सी के स्थित नहीं पता होता?
- नई स्थिति में विभाग या कोर्सों की मिलेगी मान्यता, छात्रों को होगी सहूलियत?
- अमेरिका समें दूसरे देशों में इस सिस्टम का अपनाया गया है?
Edu grievance cell on cards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: From the next academic year, students seeking admissions to courses in universities and affiliated colleges or technical and management institutes will have a grievance redressal body.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will soon issue a notification directing professional and technical institutes across the country to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal.

“Every institute will need to appoint an ombudsman with legal experience,” said AICTE chairman SS Mantha.

“If there is paucity of eligible people, then one ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges. For example, colleges in an area can be considered as one cluster. The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitulation fee issues,” he added.

Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including a retired high court judge, an “eminent social personality from the education sector” and an academician, said sources.

“During admissions, a student does not belong to any institute as he/she has passed out from school or junior college and is yet to enrol in a degree college. The ombudsman or the grievance redressal body will help the students if they face any trouble during the process,” added Mantha.

The ministry of human resources and development initiative will also be implemented by the University Grants Commission in all universities and affiliated colleges. The ombudsman will hear grievances like non-refund of fees on cancellation of admissions, discrimination, non-compliance of rules and withholding of documents. Mantha was speaking at a seminar organized by a B-school in the city.

Class Matters

- AICTE to issue a notification directing professional and technical institutes to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal
- One ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges in an area
- Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including an HC judge
- The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitulation fee issues

Police probe ‘firing’ after road rage in Powai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The police are probing into a brawl between two persons when their vehicles brushed each other in Powai on Wednesday night.

The accused, Shekar Puranik (36), stepped out of his car and pulled out a starting pistol, which is used to flag off races, and started firing in the direction of biker Mohamad Ansari (19).

“Both of them had a heated exchange. Puranik then pulled out a gun and fired, which locals believed to be real bullets. A passing patrol brought both of them to the police station,” said Bhairao Bhosle, senior inspector of Powai police station.

Bhosle said the two settled their differences and didn’t lodge a complaint. “It was found that Puranik possessed a starting pistol for which he had a licence. It has been confiscated and will be returned after completion of the probe,” Bhosle added.
First hybrid business management, law course at IIM-Shillong

Vanita Srivastava
vanita.srivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: IIM-Shillong is all set to become the first management institution in the country, and the second in the world, to offer a programme blending business management and law. According to officials, it will launch the course in collaboration with the National University of Juridical Sciences-Kolkata (NUJS-K) from July this year.

An institute in Germany is the only other educational institution in the world that provides a course hybridising law and management, said programme chairman Prof DK Agarwal.

The PG executive diploma programme will have 30 seats, and the institute is in the process of working out the fee component. Like other executive programmes, this one will also require work experience.

A formal advertisement for the course will be published in May.

The initial period of the 15-month course will be devoted to courses on law and management, and the last few months will stress on synchronisation of law and management. While teachers from the NUJS-K will teach subjects pertaining to law, IIM-S faculty will handle the management side of the syllabus.

Stating that the course will strive to meet futuristic requirements of the corporate sector, Agarwal said the institute's broader objective was to innovate on new fronts.

“This course will provide managers with a working knowledge of the law, especially that pertaining to businesses. During our discussions, we realised this course could help judicial officers inculcate managerial acumen and improve managers' legal prowess,” he added.
138 professional colleges to shut shop

By Prasant K. Nanda
prasant.n@mint.India

As many as 138 institutions offering professional courses in engineering, computer applications and management studies will soon stop functioning due to low admission rates and poor campus placement.

This might be the beginning of the end of the so-called mom and pop education shops that mushroomed across the country at the turn of the century, as India's economy expanded at a frenetic pace and professional training fetched an immediate premium.

Although the growth has slowed down a bit, the demand for skilled personnel hasn’t. What seems to have changed is that professional institutes now need to deliver on quality or perish.

Students are attracted towards these technical institutions essentially because they hope to secure a job on graduation, said S.S. Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education, the regulatory body for technical education. "Clearly, that’s not happening."

"We have received applications from 138 colleges, including management, engineering and MCA (master in computer applications) institutions, for closure of operations," said Mantha.

Between October and February, 60 business schools, 30 MCA colleges and 15 engineering colleges have applied for closure, official data shows. Many of these are located in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The number may increase before the start of the next academic session, the regulator said.

The interaction between many such institutes and the industry is poor and teaching standards are often questionable, Mantha said, adding that the professional education space in India might also be showing signs of consolidation.

"Industry interaction and in-campus placement is largely limited to major cities and top institutions in technical education," said Satish Dhandharia, consultant, education practice at consulting and audit firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. "The consolidation is starting, and once foreign institutions are allowed to set up (independent) campuses, the poor performers will either close down or change hands."

A draft legislation on allowing foreign universities to open Indian campuses is pending in Parliament.

"The entire technical education system in the country is in

138 professional colleges to shut shop

... the doldrums," said Rajan Saxena, vice-chancellor of Mumbai-based Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies. "Nearly 60% of the engineering and 40% of the management seats are going vacant.

According to a 1 February note from credit rating firm Crisil, the average occupancy rate declined in 2011-12 to around 67% for engineering colleges and about 65% for business schools.

"Occupancy levels are under pressure due to the significant increase in the number of seats across colleges, shortage of skilled faculty, absence of industry link-ups and increasing awareness among students about the quality of education imparted by colleges," Crisil said.

R. Panikkar, director general of Indo Global Colleges, a chain of private colleges in Punjab, said: "Students are now conscious that college management cannot lure them without providing quality teaching and a relatively good job."

B.S. Baswan, a former secretary with the ministry of human resource development and a former senior advisor with the Planning Commission, said that when the Indian economy has seen a downturn, placement placement has been affected and this must have contributed to professional colleges opting to close down. "Industries punish the inefficient and it becomes visible during a downturn," he said.

Although colleges closing down is not a good sign, it will not affect India's long-term plan to create large numbers of skilled professionals, according to Mantha.

"If you see, the overall scenario is improving. One hundred and thirty-eight institutes may have applied for closure, but many more new institutes are seeking our approval to run operations," he said. "Net-net, it's a growth."

In 2011, India had nearly 5,500 management schools and over 4,000 engineering colleges, official data show.
Divers bring out IIT student’s body from Beas waters

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, MARCH 25

A pall of gloom descended on students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, today after divers brought out the body of Prahar Shah, a second-year BTech student of the IIT, from the Beas here.

Shah, who belonged to Andhra Pradesh, along with his four friends, had gone to swim in the Beas from their hostel room at Sauli Khad to beat the heat in the afternoon. The river has lean discharge these days.

His friends said Prahar dived into the river to swim across. However, he did not come out. He knew swimming, they said. They raised the alarm and informed the IIT administration, the police, the fire brigade and locals, who reached the spot, but failed to spot the boy.

Divers from Sundernagar were summoned. The rescue operation was carried out in the presence of IIT Director T Gonsalves and police and district officials.

The victim, Prahar Shah, a second-year BTech student of the IIT, Mandi, belonged to Andhra Pradesh and had gone to swim in the Beas along with his four friends.

He, along with the staff and students of the institute, have mourned the death of the student and warned the students not to venture near the river.

After a four-hour-long exercise, the divers spotted Prahar’s body on the river bed.

Diver Udham Singh said the boy had dived into a pool of water which was more than 50 ft deep. “There were no visible injury marks on the body,” he said.

SP, Mandi, Abhishek Dular said the police had ruled out foul play in the incident. However, they were waiting for the postmortem report.

A spokesperson for the IIT said the administration had informed Prahar’s parents and they were expected to reach Mandi tonight from Andhra Pradesh.

INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR ISEET

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 25

Intermediate students are preparing for the single national engineering entrance test, Iseet, which will replace IIT-JEE and AIEEE from next year as the qualifying exam for admission into the IITs, NITs and other reputed technical institutions.

Many coaching centres have come up across the city, drawing students who have completed the first year of the Inter course. Their emphasis is on the 10+2 exam since Iseet gives 40 per cent weightage to 10+2 marks.

But those who have completed the Intermediate course this year are worried: if they don’t make it into the IITs this year, how will they prepare for Iseet next year? Currently, Inter students are allowed to appear for IIT-JEE twice, the first time immediately after completion of the Inter course, and the second the following year.

“In the old method, we focused only on IIT-JEE preparation,” said P Shashank, who finished Inter this year. “We just aimed at 60 to 70 per cent marks in Inter exams. We will be at a loss if we attempt Iseet next year as there is 40 per cent weightage for Inter marks in it. Students who score more than 90 per cent marks in Inter will be at an advantage,” he added.

He is hoping that the Centre will make changes in the exam for the fresh batch of Inter students taking admission this year.
across the world, there are multiple specializations and even schools to choose from, which include children's theatre, physical theatre, community drama, etc. With not many options available in India, the focus here is to try and give students as varied a vocabulary as possible so that they can then choose the area that suits them best. Therefore, the primary focus here is on practice. Practice-oriented students adopt an academic strategy of producing different methodologies of acting, direction, design, etc., so that students have as many opportunities and working knowledge in the field as possible.

WHAT IT TAKES

If one wants to make theatre a profession, one has to go through the rigours of it. One of the first things an arts institute teaches its students is that theatre is work. There has also been a quantum jump in the allied careers in theatre, like lighting, management, sound design, and costumes — opportunities in all of which are growing exponentially.

Even two decades ago, a full-time career in theatre was not viable. Now it is. Today there are remunerative careers in theatre.

CAREER OPTIONS

Today, actors are beginning to see themselves as the leaders of what they want to do, and not necessarily just a part of a project. Hence, besides acting for groups or companies, independent functioning artists are also growing in number where actors make their own shows.

Academically in the world of theatre, study of performance and drama is catching up as a trend. There are two kinds of performances: one, which is the performance and second, an act in real life, for example, someone playing football. The second kind is a performance much beyond the stage experience. For example, the most anti-corruption movement led by social activist Anna Hazare can be an example of performance, which are in the moment of social change. This is also called political or protest theatre. Performing arts are also being taken up by many theatre students these days, however, nothing much has happened in India in the last five-to-eight years. Here, theatre as a career option is not viable. In contrast, globally, theatre is a viable profession in countries like Italy, France, Britain and Australia. This is because they get a lot of government funding. But, on a brighter side, a lot of exciting work is happening outside the government ambit. Many independent theatre groups are coming up, which besides staging plays also run as training schools and are producing good artists.

PERFORMANCE, THE NEW THEATRE

Arjun Ghosh, theatre artist, and faculty, department of humanities and social sciences, Indian institute of technology (IIT) Delhi, shares his view on some new trends in the study and practice of theatre.

Even two decades ago, a full-time career in theatre was not viable. Now it is. Today there are remunerative careers in theatre.
Edu grievance cell on cards

Mumbai: From the next academic year, students seeking admissions to courses in universities and affiliated colleges or technical and management institutes will have a grievance redressal body.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will soon issue a notification directing all professional and technical institutes across the country to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal.

“Every institute will need to appoint an ombudsman with legal experience,” said AICTE chairman SS Mantha.

“If there is paucity of eligible people, then one ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges. For example, colleges in a area can be considered as one cluster. The body will look into students’ harassment, admission and capitation fee issues,” he added.

Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including a retired high court judge, an ‘eminent social personality from the education sector’ and an academician, said sources.

“During admissions, a student does not belong to any institute as he/she has passed out from school or junior college and is yet to enrol in a degree college. The ombudsman or the grievance redressal body will help the students if they face any trouble during the process,” added Mantha.

The ministry of human resources and development initiative will also be implemented by the University Grants Commission in all universities and affiliated colleges. The ombudsman will hear grievances like non-refund of fees on cancellation of admissions, discrimination, non-compliance of rules and withholding of documents. Mantha was speaking at a seminar organized by a B-school in the city.

Class Matters

- AICTE to issue a notification directing professional and technical institutes to constitute an ombudsman for grievance redressal
- One ombudsman can be appointed for a cluster of colleges in an area
- Each cluster ombudsman will have three experts, including an HC judge
- The body will look into students' harassment, admission and capitation fee issues

Police probe ‘firing’ after road rage in Powai

Mumbai: The police are probing into a brawl between two persons when their vehicles brushed each other in Powai on Wednesda-night.

The accused, Shekar Puranik (36), stepped out of his car and pulled out a starting pistol, which is used to flag off races, and started firing in the direction of biker Mohammed Ansari (19).

“Both of them had a heated exchange. Puranik then pulled out a gun and fired, which locals believed to be real bullets. A passing patrol brought both of them to the police station,” said Bhajirao Bhosle, senior inspector of Powai police station.

Bhosle said the two settled their differences and didn’t lodge a complaint. “It was found that Puranik possessed a starting pistol for which he had a licence. It has been confiscated and will be returned after completion of the probe,” Bhosle added.