Dengue cases rise to 98, IIT too in its grip

New Delhi: The dengue cases in the Capital reached 98 on Wednesday, with 10 new cases being reported by the municipal corporations.

The mosquito-borne disease, which has gripped the city over the past few weeks, has claimed two lives this season; a nine-year-old girl from Sangam Vihar in south Delhi and another 34-year-old man from Loni, Ghaziabad.

“RML hospital, GTB hospital and Apollo hospitals reported two cases each. Sir Ganga Ram hospital has reported three dengue cases,” said a senior municipal official. He said there is no epidemic-like situation as yet and fumigation has been intensified across the city.

Some students and residents of IIT Delhi were confirmed positive for dengue. A few cases were also reported from AIIMS.

“The family members of at least two faculties have been diagnosed with dengue and they are undergoing treatment,” said a senior doctor at AIIMS.

Residents of Jamia Nagar, which has faced a dengue epidemic in 2010, said building work, lack of fumigation was posing threat.

Residents of Jamia Nagar area in southeast Delhi, which witnessed an outbreak of dengue in 2010, said that due to large-scale construction work going on in the area and lack of fumigation, the mosquito breeding has increased.

Health experts say present weather condition is conducive for mosquito breeding and spread of dengue and malaria.

Last year till October 3, the capital saw more than 200 cases of dengue, including eight originating from outside, and three deaths. A senior MCD official said six cases of chikungunya were reported in the capital this year till Wednesday as against 10 during the same period last year.
आईआईटी के सात
छात्र रैगिंग में निलंबित
पांच हज़ार रुपये जुर्माना, कैंपस इंटरव्यू
में शामिल होने पर रोक

अमर उजाला व्यूरे

वर्तमान सेमेस्टर की कक्षाओं पर रोक,
होस्टल सुविधा भी
की गई खत्म, दोषी
छात्रों के घर सुचना
भेजी गई

शामिल हैं। मामला यह है कि
बीटेक प्रथम सेमेस्टर के प्रतीक
सुविधाजना अंटी रैगिंग स्वयं
से रैगिंग की शिकायत की थी।
इसमें कहा गया था कि प्रतीक
को हरियत गुल्ला और मनोप जिंदल
के कमरे में बुलाया गया। उसे
कपड़े उतारने के आदेश दिए गए।
इसे गम्भीरता से लेते हुए जब जांच
कराई गई तो शिकायत की पुष्टि हो
गई। एक छात्र वेकेटेशन शुक्र को
घराने में शामिल होने के प्रमाण ने
मिलने पर आरोपित कर दिया
गया। संस्थान प्रशासन को और से
इन सभी छात्रों के पैतृक आवास
पर भी कार्रवाई की सूचना भेजी दी
गई है।
AICTE allows firms with Rs 100 cr turnover to start their own colleges

MHIKA BASU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

AIMING to bridge the gap between technical educational institutes and the expectations of those who employ their graduates, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to allow industries and businesses with Rs 100 crore turnover to set up technical institutions of their own.

Such institutions will be allowed to admit double the number of students allowed at regular institutions, and would be able to start a single branch or theme institute of their choice, according to the AICTE’s notification inviting applications to start new institutes for the 2013-14 academic year.

“We often hear that students graduating from technical institutes are not industry-ready or employable. Hence, we want to bring in the best practices of industry and want them to participate in the higher and technical education sector,” AICTE chairman S S Mantha told The Indian Express. “Accordingly, a private limited or public limited company or industry, with a turnover of Rs 100 crore in the last three years, will now be eligible to apply to start a new institute.”

Such institutions can teach any technical discipline, including engineering, pharmacy, architecture and town planning, applied arts and crafts, and hotel management and catering technology. They can offer undergraduate or postgraduate or diploma courses.

“Consideration of such applications for 2013-14 would be done by AICTE’s committee. The decision will be final only after consulting expert committees,” Mantha said.

Separately, AICTE has also eased norms to help students wanting to pursue a masters degree in computer applications (MCA). “Students who have completed their undergraduate education in any discipline can apply for MCA. But we have introduced a new rule in which students who have done their bachelor’s in any computer related subject like B.Sc IT/BCA/computer science, will get lateral or direct entry to second year of MCA,” said Mantha.

AICTE is also introducing a dual degree programme in MCA in which students will complete BCA and MCA in five years instead of six.
India ranks third on copycat list

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NEW DELHI: India ranks third — after China and the US — with regard to the number of biomedical and life sciences articles retracted due to plagiarism, a just-released study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal has revealed.

Germany, Japan, China and the US, meanwhile, accounted for three-quarters of the retractions due to fraud or suspected fraud, the study — titled ‘Misconduct accounts for majority of retracted scientific publications’ — stated. The study was made public on Monday.

However, one of the authors of the study — Prof Ferrie C Fang of the University of Washington — said it would be misleading to compare countries without “proper normalisation”.

“I am not able to rank countries according to the true rate of retraction because I do not have data on the total number of articles published from each of country,” he said.

The retracted articles were authored in 56 countries. While India ranked sixth with regard to retracted articles on life sciences, it ranked third in the lists pertaining to those pulled back due to plagiarism and duplication.

Confirming a marked increase in the frequency of retractions, Professor Fang and his team of researchers found that 67.4% of the 2,047 retractions reviewed were on account of fraud, suspected fraud, plagiarism or duplication. Retractions due to errors stood at a relatively low 21.3%.

“The recent increase in fraud-related retractions cannot be attributed solely to an increase in the number of research publications.

Retractions for fraud or suspected fraud as a percentage of the total articles have increased near tenfold since 1975, the authors wrote.

A study conducted a few months ago, titled ‘Scientific misconduct in India’ by Indian Institute of Science professor T A Abinandanan, stated that the retraction rate of papers in India was higher than global average.

Rahul Siddharthan from the Institute of Mathematical Science, who had held a conference on academic ethics last year, said: “There should be guidelines on how to deal with misconduct, and these need to be implemented by all institutions.”
OZ TO PROTECT INDIANS HIT BY CLOSING OF COLLEGES

CHANDIGARH: Australia’s high commissioner to India, Peter Varghese, on Wednesday said that Indian students affected by the closure of three colleges in Australia will be covered by a legislated safety net. “The Australian government has in place a comprehensive suite of protection mechanisms to safeguard the interests of overseas students under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (the ESOS Act),” Varghese said in a press statement.

Varghese was commenting on the move by Australia’s vocational education regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), to shut down two non-compliant vocational education and training colleges in Victoria and one in New South Wales.

He further said: “If these education providers do close, international students will be able to access the Australian government’s Tuition Protection Scheme (TPS).”
DU breaks anonymity rule, wants name in answer paper

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NEW DELHI: In a move certain to cause a flutter in the campus, Delhi University has decide to make it mandatory for students to write their name as well as the name of their father on answer sheets.

They will also have to disclose which college they are from, a stark contrast to the practice of using only roll numbers during examinations, which ensured students remained anonymous to teachers correcting their papers. This way, the assessment was fair and neutral.

Earlier, students would write their names on a slip, which would later be removed from the answer sheet.

Officials say this move will save them time and effort. Since the semester system was introduced, exams are held twice a year.

However, the idea has met with stiff resistance. “A name is an indicator of caste, religion, region and gender, which may expose children to the possibility of unfair assessment,” said Anoop Kumar of NGO Insight Foundation, which fights caste discrimination in education.

“For the university to expect that every teacher will be impartial is stupid,” said a principal from a north campus college on condition of anonymity.

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October 5

HT Mumbai

Survey finds most IITians not keen on new JEE format

UNWELCOME 93% of those polled feel the new two-part exam will be more prone to scams, scandals

MUMBAI: Several alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) feel that the new entrance exam format for admissions to the prestigious institute will dilute the IIT brand and pave the way for exam scams that have beset other educational institutions.

Of the 994 IIT alumni (937 from IIT-Bombay and 57 others) who took part in the poll, 98% said that with the control of the exams no longer with the IITs, there was a great danger of scams and scandals cropping up.

In all, 1,765 votes were polled online including alumni, students, faculty members and others. The results of the poll were released in the September issue of the alumni quarterly, Fundamatics, last month.

From next year, entry to the IITs will be through a two-stage process, with the first exam to be conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, and the second by the IITs. The IITs accepted the 'compromise solution' of a two-part exam with board exam marks as eligibility and not admission criteria, in July.

IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Bombay and IIT-Roorkee have found a place in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2012-13, a ranking of the world's top 400 varsities. However, none of them figure in the top 200.

90% of the alumni surveyed and 80% of the entire polling population said the reforms would dilute the IIT brand. "We are proud of the JEE system as it exists," said Bakul Dasgupta, chairperson of the IITB Alumni Association. "It has been completely fool proof and has a certain integrity. The natural fear is the exam will be compromised. The decisions by the human resources development ministry are also seen as interference."

The online poll was conducted through June and July, around the time the proposed reforms were being debated and opposed, with some of the poll results also submitted to the IIT-B senate for its special meeting to discuss the revised exam format.

Respondents also expressed concern about the subversion of institutional autonomy, with 88% saying dissenting student voices were not taken into account when the reforms were announced.
Counsellors for IIT, IIM’s suicidal students

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: Students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other top institutions may soon get regular stress-busting and counselling sessions alongside classes, as part of a national plan to check suicides.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry under Kapil Sibal is set to launch India’s first such initiative soon.

The new plan will cover every centrally funded technical institution including the IITs, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

While isolated suicides have dogged the IITs for decades, the number of suicides has increased steadily the past few years. Since 2008, at least 33 students across IITs have killed themselves.

Several of them were under treatment for psychological ailments, but hardly any received regular treatment at the IITs, HRD ministry sources said.

CONTINUED ON P6
» IITS IN GLOBAL LEAGUE, P10

Counsellors for IIT, IIM’s suicidal students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The sad thing is that even our premier institutions have failed to provide the kind of counseling and psychological help and therapy that students need in high stress situations," a senior official said.

The blueprint of the new initiative finalised by a panel set up by Sibal under IIT Kanpur chairman M Anandakrishnan proposes creation of a central empowered committee to monitor the implementation of the strategy apart from dramatic institutional changes, government sources have told HT.

Each institution will have full-time counselors and psychiatrists just like top universities abroad. Institutions will need to hold regular counselling sessions and encourage students to seek assistance from their team of specialists without fearing any stigma.

To ensure that institutions implement and sustain the plan, the Anandakrishnan panel has recommended that the HRD ministry fund 80% of the additional expenses that the strategy will involve. The school concerned will have to foot the remaining 20%.
Class XII students get another chance

They can improve to meet minimum marks criteria set by Joint Entrance Examination

VARUN BHIDURI

NEW DELHI: For the first time, Central Board of Secondary education (CBSE) is giving second chance to Class XII students to improve their marks, so that they can qualify in minimum marks criteria to appear in prestigious Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-IT) 2013. CBSE has extended the date for filling up improvement forms for both regular and private candidates.

A senior official said, "As per the prevalent rule of examination bye-laws, the candidates desirous of improving their performance can do so only in the succeeding year. However, keeping in view the revised scheme of JEE (main), according to which the merit list will be based on 40 per cent weightage of Board marks and 60 per cent weightage to JEE (main), the board has extended one-time exception for improvement of performance to the pass-outs of Class XII examination.

Such students will be required to appear in all subjects. According to the revised schedule, students can apply for improvement till 15 October without any late fee and till 31 October with Rs 250 as late fee, and till 15 November with Rs 350 as late fee. CBSE has kept the final date as 15 January, with a late fee of Rs 5,000. Vineet Joshi, chairman of CBSE, said, 'We are giving them an opportunity. The Board has not only extended the dates for filling the improvement forms but also allowed the students to re-appear for board exams for score improvement.'

SECOND TIME LUCKY?

- Board extends one-time exception for improvement of performance to pass-outs of Class XII examination
- Students can apply for improvement till 15 October without any late fee
- They can apply till 31 October with Rs 250 as late fee
- After that, late fee will increase to Rs 350 till 15 November
- The final date is 15 January, a late fee of Rs 5,000

Hindustan ND 05/10/2012 P-5

आईआईटी में रोपातर का रोगांच दिखाएगी कैन से बनी कार्टी

केरल हो आए आईआईटी के 'कैन' को केंद्र के कर्मचारी ने उजागर जाए। ये अपनी अगले रण के बाद जाता है, आर्थिक विभाजन अनुसार इस 'कैन' का रोगांच दिखाएगी कैन से बनी कार्टी।

24 दिसम्बर को है।

विद्यालयों के लिए ये रोपातर का रोगांच दिखाएगी कैन से बनी कार्टी।

20 के बाद अंतर

कैन के एंटर और रोपातरों के नाम अनुसार अंतर दिखाएगी कैन से बनी कार्टी।

06 अक्टूबर

कर रही है।

दिल्ली की यह दिल्ली नामक कैन से दिल्ली "दिल्ली टेक्नोग्राफिक यूनिवर्सिटी" (निताकुर), नेताजी सुभाष इंटरनासियल यूनिवर्सिटी (ईएसई), राजस्थान स्कूल ऑफ इन्जीनियरिंग और डिजाइन (आईसीए), इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी एवं कृषि विद्यालय (आईआईटी) प्राप्त है।

मात्र हो जाए।
कानपुर आईआईटी की तर्ज पर विकसित होगा बीएचयू

हरे दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

बनर्स हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय (बीएचयू) में स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) को कानपुर आईआईटी की तर्ज पर विकसित करने का फैसला लिया गया है। बीएचयू की कार्यकारी परिषद की यह गुरुवार को हुई विशेष बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया है।

बैठक के दौरान आईआईटी के लिए आतिरिक्त पदों के सुझाव का भी फैसला लिया गया है जिसके लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की विश्वविद्यालय अपना प्रस्ताव भेजेगा।

बैठक के बाद बीएचयू के कुलपति डॉ. लाला जी सिंह ने ‘हिन्दुस्तान’ को बताया कि बैठक में मुख्य रूप से आईआईटी के संचालन को लेकर लंबी चर्चा हुई दरअसल, हाल में इस संस्थान को आईआईटी का दर्जा मिला है। जबकि अभी तक यह बीएचयू के एक इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के रूप में चल रहा था। अब इसे आईआईटी के रूप में विकसित करने का फैसला लिया गया।

बैठक में तय किया गया कि इसके लिए आईआईटी कानपुर का पैटर्न अपनाया जाए। इसमें आईआईटी कानपुर की तर्ज पर रजिस्ट्रेशन, हिस्ट्री रजिस्ट्रेशन, वित्तीय नियंत्रण जैसे शीर्ष पद सूचित किए जाएंगे।
**18 more cases: dengue crosses century mark**

**RISING DAILY** Fresh cases reported from Jawaharlal Nehru University, IIT campuses

**HT Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI:** The national Capital on Thursday reported 18 new dengue cases, the highest in a day so far this season. New Delhi’s Ram Manohar Lohia and Sir Ganga Ram hospitals reported six positive cases each.

With these fresh cases, the total number of people affected with the mosquito-borne disease crossed the 100 mark, touching 113. Out of these, three are patients from outside the Capital but are being treated in the city.

The first official death due to dengue was a nine-year-old girl from Sangam Vihar who succumbed at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on September 24.

A 38-year-old man too had succumbed at the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital on Sunday morning but the civic agency has not registered it as the second dengue death because the deceased was a resident of Loni near the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border.

Dengue serology report is also awaited of a man who died in New Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital on Monday.

Cases of dengue are also being reported from the campuses of premier educational institutions such as the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

“I know a couple of boys who were diagnosed with dengue and went back home as they had high fever and severe body ache. It’s a huge campus and you cannot exactly say where you were bitten by mosquitoes,” said a student from JNU.

Cases of dengue have seen a sudden spurt owing to the ideal post-monsoon weather for mosquito breeding.

Top private hospitals alone have reported nearly five times more cases than claimed by the civic agencies.

Last year, the Capital saw 230 cases of dengue, including eight originating from outside Delhi, and three deaths.

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**IIT KGP, Roorkee join Bombay in global ranking**

Vanita Srivastava

**NEW DELHI:** First the good news — jumping from one last year, three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have found a place in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2012-13, the latest league table of the world’s top 400 universities.

Bad news — none figure in the top 200. While only one institute IIT Bombay had figured in the last year’s ranking, this year three IITs — IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay and IIT Roorkee have made a place for themselves in the list. According to the Times ranking, IIT Kanpur placed in the 225-250 group of ranking in the best Institute in India followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Roorkee.

But despite an emerging trend of Asian universities surging ahead, what is disturbing is that none of the IITs figure in the top 200. Among the Asian countries, Japan has the highest representation of 8 among the top 200. Universities in China, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea have climbed in performance mirroring a power shift from the West to the East.

There are 21 Asian universities in the top 200. University of Tokyo and the National University of Singapore are the top two Asian universities.

Phil Baty, editor Times Higher Education Rankings said, Indian universities were building with the under the surface rising close to top 200. “We are seeing some real changes.”

“I am happy that three IITs have figured in the list. But our objective should be to place atleast 4-6 IITs in the top 200,” said IT Roorkee director Prof P Banerji said. Times Higher Education World University Rankings judges universities on parameters such as teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook based on 10 performance indicators.

While in teaching IT Bombay scores highest amongst the three institutes, IIT Kanpur has performed best in industry outcome.
‘India is amongst countries that will matter most to Australia’

Peter Varghese is Australia’s high commissioner to India. Speaking with Srijana Mitra Das, Varghese discussed the upcoming Oz Fest, how important India is Down Under and how Australia navigates its future and past.

What is the Oz Fest?
It’s the biggest cultural festival we’ve undertaken in India. Starting October 16, we’ll be doing 120 events across 15 Indian cities with diverse elements – music, dance, art, food, technology, literature. Our objective is to reach an audience as possible and establish collaborations between India and Australian cultural personalities.

What’s driving this?
We want to build a relationship with India. This is an opportunity to introduce contemporary Australia to India, convey a sense of our innovation, urban sophistication, our multicultural community and sophisticated economy.

How has the relationship with India been very important?
We are now calling the Indo-Pacific.

For Australia, the relationship with India is very important.

Does Australia see India taking on a larger Asian role?
India has a Lock East policy; it’s pulling it in that direction. We see many opportunities for Australia and India to work together on regional issues, especially within the East Asian summit. This brings together all the right countries to create an institution which can manage challenges for the Indo-Pacific economic growth, from West to East.

We need a stable strategic future and economic growth. Australia and India have very similar objectives here.

One strain in ties was violence against Indian students in Australia – your thoughts?

That’s in the past really. The important thing is the Australian government took it very seriously. We took steps to address it, worked closely with the Indian government and Indian students remain warmly welcomed in Australia.

How has the global recession hit Australia?
Australia’s been very fortunate – we’re one of the few developed economies which didn’t go into recession. In fact, our economy grew 3% since the global crisis. Inflation is between 2% and 3%, unemployment 5%, significantly, our net public debt is in single figures – these days, not many countries can claim that. We’re entering our 21st year of continued economic growth. That reflects the demand for Australian resources, particularly from China.

India and Australia have very similar objectives here. That helped us navigate very difficult global economic times.

What’s the idea of Australia? We see ourselves as a country that draws its strength from people who’ve chosen to make Australia their home. Our diversity is a great strength. We see ourselves as a creative middle power and diplomatic partner. We’re outward looking and confident about our future.

And Australia’s past regarding itsaboriginal community? This is an area where we’ve struggled historically. We’ve had a relationship with Australia. We are entering the 21st year of continuous economic growth. That reflects the demand for Australian resources, particularly from China and India. But more fundamentally, it reflects decades of economic reform in the 1990s. That helped us navigate very difficult global economic times.
12th Plan focus on health, education

NEW DELHI: The cabinet on Thursday approved the 12th Five Year Plan, aimed at rejuvenating India’s economy and infusing higher government funding in key social sectors such as health, education and sanitation.

The ₹47,70,000 lakh crore plan, three times the size of the last one, has brought the average economic growth target to 8.2%, down from the earlier envisaged estimate of 9%. The plan has prescribed broad policy guidelines to revive the Indian economy, the growth of which fell to 5.5% in the first quarter of the financial year.

Chidambaram said the plan places emphasis on speeding infrastructure projects and removing bottlenecks. Ahluwalia stated that several steps have been taken to remove the bottlenecks, and there would be an acceleration in implementation of infrastructure projects in the second half of the current financial year.

The document aims to attract $1 trillion (₹55 lakh crore) private investment in the infrastructure sector and reduce the subsidy burden of the government from over 2% of the GDP to around 1.5%.

The plan aims to achieve 4% growth in the agriculture sector during 2012-17, besides reducing poverty by 10 percentage points during the period. The document will now be placed before the National Development Council for the final nod.
Deccan Herald Nd 5-10-2012

In top league

12-year-old British girl has higher IQ than Einstein

LONDON: With an IQ of 162, a 12-year-old schoolgirl in the UK has been rated brainier than even Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Olivia Manning, from Liverpool, has been accepted into Mensa, the largest and oldest high IQ society in the world after she got a whopping score of 162 in an Intelligence test.

Her score is not only two points better than German genius Einstein and physicist Hawking, but puts her in the top one per cent of intelligent people in the world, the ‘Daily Mail’ reported.

Being honoured with entry into Mensa means she will join a network of brains from across the globe.

As a confirmed genius, Olivia is now getting celebrity status at her school - the North Liverpool Academy in Everton.

“A lot more people are coming up to me asking for help with their homework. I just like challenges and making my mind think,” Olivia said.

Olivia admits having a knack for quickly absorbing and remembering new information, however, confessed being “speechless” after she discovered her score.

Despite outdoing the likes of TV mathematician Carol Vorderman, who could only muster 154, Olivia is set to put the stage before sums.

She barely needs a script - with the youngster saying she learned her lines for a Macbeth production within 24 hours.

“The success of the Mensa enrichment club shows how with the right support, students can excel and become the best in the world,” said her school principal.

PTI
Minister fumes over RTR twist
Opposes LG Office’s Decision To Examine New Proposal From Vasant Vihar

Indrani Basu | TWIN

New Delhi: When it seemed that, finally, the Rao Tula Ram Marg flyover mess was getting sorted out, some Vasant Vihar residents have thrown a spanner in the works by coming up with an alternative proposal. The state PWD has planned an additional three-lane flyover next to the existing one, as reported in TOI to decongest the area. These residents want only half of this proposed extension on either side which will, obviously, save these residents. PWD minister Raj Kumar Chahar is livid and ready to lock horns with the lieutenant governor’s office for recommending examination of this alternative after Delhi government took a decision.

After the LG’s office asked planning body UTIPEC and road-owning agency PWD to consider the alternative, Chahar told TOI: “This climate of people with contacts muscling their way into decision-making of public welfare cannot be allowed.”

UTIPEC is a private agency that was appointed for providing scientific solutions to the prevailing mess at RTR and has given its suggestions after much deliberation, planning and study. Skilled PWD engineers have been in consultation with them to come up with best solutions. “They should be allowed to do their work,” Chahar said.

UTIPEC had been hired to conduct a six-month study of the entire outer Ring Road stretch for a fee of Rs 2 crore. “If required, I am willing to go to Kamal Nath (urban development minister) with this plan. It is wrong if the authorities push plans on the basis of some high-profile people’s wishes. Even when we built flyovers near Model Town, people’s shops in Azadpur had to be acquired. These included shops of ex-mill Margat Ram Singh. Public welfare is of our first priority,” said Chahar.

Some residents of Vasant Vihar had reportedly visited the LG’s office two weeks ago with their plan. Claiming that their design was prepared by architects and road experts, they had told the LG’s office that this could be achieved without placing additional pillars or portals on either side of the flyover but merely strengthening the present pillars and cantilevers to support the additional weight.

Confirming this, OSD to the LG, Ranjan Mukherjee, said, “The LG has received a lot of complaints from RWAs on this stretch about the solution proposed by UTIPEC, claiming that it would add to the congestion. As a result, space will be occupied further. During the construction period, which will be 18-24 months, the situation could worsen. RTR Marg is as such congested and it will only add to the problem."

“Since their concerns are persevered valid, the LG has directed UTIPEC and the PWD working group to consider their proposal and conduct the necessary structural stability test through IIT or other experts. This solution will be discussed in the next governing body meeting. The LG believes that governance is best delivered when the suggestion comes from the grassroot where the brunt of the problem will be felt. The residents of Vasant Vihar have prepared this solution in-house expertise,” he added.

Observing that PWD will take a look at the residents proposal to determine whether it would be structurally sound, Chahar said, “UTIPEC and PWD considered all possibilities before putting forth their suggestions. The portal structure has been suggested to ensure there is space underneath the flyover for traffic movement as well. Widening flyover without additional support on either side is not safe. If there is an accident in the future because of this, who will take the blame for that? We have the best engineers and experts working on a solution to benefit all, not to please anyone.”

The alternative proposal says the existing flyover should be widened to six lanes without building pillars or portals along the side of the flyover to support the structure. Instead, the existing pillars and cantilevers should be strengthened, it says. Further, they have proposed that the flyover be then linked to the two more flyovers on Munirka and IIT to construct an elevated stretch.
40% weightage to class XII marks in JEE
New Rule To Impact 12L Students From ’13

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: For engineering aspirants, from now on how well one performs in all the five subjects in class XII boards will also matter. Scoring well in the Joint Engineering Entrance (JEE) — main will no longer suffice as merit list will be prepared based on 40% weightage in all the five subjects in class XII boards and 60% weightage to the entrance test. Which means students will also need to score well in the languages and elective subjects, along with mathematics and physics, in class XII boards to have a good ranking in the merit list. This new rule is likely to directly impact nearly 12 lakh engineering and architecture aspirants who will appear for the first JEE (main) in April 2013.

CBSE, as per ministry of human resource development’s direction and based on decision of the JEE apex board, will conduct the JEE (main), which is an entrance test for engineering, B Arch and B Planning courses at various national institutes of technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Delhi Technological University, other centrally funded technical institutes (CFTIs), other self financed and deemed universities.

Formerly known as All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), one of the major changes introduced in the JEE (main) is preparation of the merit list which will now give 40% weightage to the performance of the aspirant in his/ her class XII results. And the biggest shift is that all the five subjects including languages and electives, apart from mathematics and physics, will be taken in account.

“For the first time non-science subjects like language will be given weightage while preparing the final merit list. The compulsory subjects are mathematics, physics and one language. Two more electives will be considered in the five subjects while giving 40% weightage. For example if a student scores 375 out of 500 he/ she will get 30% and that will be added to weightage from the entrance test. So the final score will determine the rank of the candidate in the final merit list,” said chairman of CBSE, Vineet Joshi.

Till this year no weightage is given for the performance in class XII boards. But school authorities feel that this move will make students take the Board exam as well as non-engineering subjects more seriously, rather than just concentrating on the preparation for the entrance tests.