New Delhi: The first Joint Engineering Examination (main) 2013, known so far as the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) paper I, will be held in April 2013.

The JEE apex board on JEE main and advanced decided that the JEE (main) for BE/ BTech will be held in two modes — offline and online. The offline exam for JEE (main) will be held on April 7, 2013, and the online exam will be held thereafter in April. The examination (paper II of earlier AIEEE) for admissions to B Arch/ B Planning courses at NITs, IIITs, DTU and other centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) will be held on April 7, 2013, in offline mode only.

According to JEE apex board, the merit list for admission to NITs, IIITs, DTU and other CFTIs will be prepared by giving 40% weightage (suitably normalized) to Class XII or other qualifying examination marks and 60% to the performance in JEE (main) examination.

The JEE (main) 2013 will have one three-hour objective-type question paper. The paper will consist of physics, chemistry and mathematics. The paper II will have one question paper consisting of math, aptitude test and drawing test as per past practice of AIEEE. The duration will be three hours.
New IITs, IIMs come up; old ones run sans faculty

Shortage up to 50% in IITs

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA
NEW DELHI

The Centre may have gone on an overdrive to expand students’ intake in top-notch institutes like IITs and establish new ones like the IIMs and IIITs, but it has failed to address the severe shortage of faculty in educational institutes at all levels across the country. Making matters worse, qualified candidates willing to take up teaching assignments are hard to be found.

Sample this: Over 12 lakh of the 50 lakh sanctioned posts in Central/State Government schools are vacant. And in the technical education sector at the Centre and State level, which includes the prestigious institutes like IITs, IIMs, NITs, there is a faculty deficit of around one lakh. Out of the sanctioned strength of 5,149 about 1,549 teaching positions, including prolonged vacancies of Directors, are at present vacant in 15 IITs.

Similarly, while the existing seven IIMs have been reporting a perpetual shortage of 50 per cent, another six such institutes have been established in the last couple of years.

Ever since the four IITs came into existence there has been no increase in the faculty strength with more than 50 per cent posts remaining vacant. But, the HRD Ministry recently announced opening of another set of four new IITs in different States.

New IITs...

From Page 1

A total of 12,509,678 teacher positions under State sector as well as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is vacant as in 2011. Efforts by the IITs, AICTE, UGC and the Government by launching special schemes for faculty recruitment, giving age relaxations and financial assistance for research work too are not yielding the desired results.

IITs have been taking various initiatives to attract outstanding candidates for faculty positions. Some of these measures include year-round open advertisements, holding of selection committee meets through video conferencing, invitation to alumni, scientists and faculty to reach out to the potential candidates, advertisements in international journals and outstanding young faculty awards,” a top HRD Ministry official said.

IIT faculty are encouraged to take up consultancy and are given start-up aid up to Rs 5 lakh to take up research, besides professional development allowance, he said, adding that these do not seem to be attracting professionals. “If there are 100 seats vacant, only five teachers are found,” he elaborated.

A senior faculty member of an IIT told The Pioneer that the new set of people visiting the prestigious institutes to take up teaching assignments are those looking for stop-gap arrangements until they get some fat offers from the corporate world.

“The quality of teachers has deteriorated and the new set of teachers do not want to work hard preferring internet search engines for their research works which do not suffice the academic demands,” the professor revealed, requesting anonymity.

The shortage in the higher education level, has now made the Government to increase the age of superannuation of faculty to 65 years in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) with a further provision of re-employment up to 70 years.

The AICTE’s move to allow teachers recruitment with BTech as pro-tem lecturer for a limited period of three years with the condition that they would secure M.Tech(s) within the same period too has received a poor response. AICTE has also permitted a second shift in the existing institutions and increased the intake in Masters programmes in order to meet the faculty requirement.
इंजीनियरिंग की है आस, तो बनें 12वीं के भी बॉस

बदलेगा पैटर्न...

- अगले साल से शुरू होगी इंजीनियरिंग एग्राम की नई स्कीम
- इस टेस्ट का नाम होगा जेईई मेन

- जेईई मेन के टॉप टेस्ट लाख स्टूडेंट्स बैट पाएंगे जेईई अडवार्ड में
- 12वीं के नंबरों को मिलेगी 40 परसेंट बेटे, 60 परसेंट बेटे टेस्ट को

पुरीत । नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय माध्यमिक पिल्सा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) ने 2013 में होने वाले इंजीनियरिंग एग्राम की नई स्कीम जारी कर दी है। अभी तक सीबीएसई के इंजीनियरिंग टेस्ट को ऑनलाइन इंजीनियरिंग पाइवेंट एंजिनियरिंग (एआई ट्रिमल-ई) के नाम से जाना जाता था। लेकिन अब वह टेस्ट जेईई (मेन) होगा।

जेईई (मेन) टेस्ट के स्कोर के आधार पर एआईई, ट्रिमल आईआईटी, डीटीबी समेत कई इंजीनियरिंग इंस्ट्रिस्ट्यूट्स में एडमिशन होता है। खास बात यह है कि 2013 में होने वाले जेईई (मेन) एग्राम में 12वीं के नंबरों को भी 40 परसेंट बेटे मिलेगी। टेस्ट को 60 परसेंट बेटे होगा। इन दोनों स्कोर के आधार पर पाइवेंट लिस्ट तैयार होगी।

आईआईटी में एडमिशन का प्रत्युत्तर भी जेईई (मेन) एग्राम से जुड़ा हुआ है। जेईई (मेन) एग्राम में टॉप टेस्ट लाख स्टूडेंट्स को आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाले जेईई (अडवार्ड 2013) में भाग लेने का मौका मिलेगा। यानी जेईई मेन के 1,50,000 रूपये तक पाने वाले स्टूडेंट्स आईआईटी के एग्राम में अपील हो सकेंगे।

सीबीएसई के एक सीनियर अधिकारी ने बताया कि आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए स्टूडेंट्स को तीन शर्तें पूरी करनी होंगी। पहली, यह सीबीएसई के इंजीनियरिंग एग्राम (जेईई मेन) में टॉप टेस्ट लाख स्टूडेंट्स में शामिल हो। दूसरी, वह अपने पादक्षेत्र बोर्ड में टॉप 20 परसेंट स्टूडेंट्स में हो और तीसरी उसके आईआईटी एडमिशन के लिए होने वाले जेईई (अडवार्ड) टेस्ट को क्वालिफाई किया हो।

सीबीएसई का जेईई मेन एग्राम ऑफिशियल व ऑफिसिल दोनों तरह से होगा। ऑफिसिल एग्राम 7 अगस्त 2013 को होगा। यह तीन घंटे का पेपर होगा और इसमें ऑफिसिलिक टेस्ट को सन्दर्भित होगा। जिस तरह से एआई ट्रिमल-ई एग्राम में दो पेपर होते थे, उसी तरह से जेईई (मेन) में भी दो पेपर होंगे। पहला पेपर बीआई और बीटेक कोर्सेज के लिए होगा और दूसरा पेपर बी, एक्स और बी, प्लांटिक्स कोर्सेज के लिए होगा। दोनों पेपर 3-3 घंटे के होंगे।
‘256% rise in students going abroad in 10 yrs’

IIM-B Study Finds US, UK Remain Top Choice

Mumbai: Campuses in the West have for long been wooing young Indians, with education fairs, road shows and special admission campaigns nudging thousands to pick up brochures that give a peek into college life in Europe. While studying in Oxbridge still remains the highest academic aspiration among the youth here, between 2000 and 2009, the number of Indian students in foreign countries has grown by 256% or three-and-a-half times.

Going by the findings of a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore, the profile of the internationally mobile Indian students is changing. Traditionally, north Indians flocked to Europe for higher education, but increasingly, students from Gujarat as well as the southern states are making a beeline for institutes in those countries, with one in every two Indians studying in the UK being a woman. And when it comes to scholarships and grants, most of them are bagged by students from southern India, shows the study, ‘Indian student mobility to selected European countries: An Overview’.

The paper is part of a research project financed by the European Union (EU) and carried out by Rupa Chanda and Shahana Mukherjee at IIM-B, researchers at the European University Institute, Indian Council of Overseas Employment, and Maastricht University (Faculty of Law). One-year Master’s programmes in business and management have been the most popular field, but many engineering and mathematics and computer science aspirants also head for Europe. "But healthcare, English and linguistics are not gaining popularity," notes the study.

According to the study, there has been a steady annual rise of 7% Indians travelling overseas for a degree. More than 53,000 Indians went abroad in 2000 and at the end of the decade, the count shot up to 1.9 lakh. While the US has been steady in the top slot of having most number of Indian students, education magnet UK has been a close second. However, the interest in the US seems to have slipped, albeit slightly, as other countries like Australia hard sell their universities. The US’s loss also seems to be adding up to Europe’s gain.

Across the globe, the UK attracts the second largest contingent of international students and since 2009, about 17% Indian students have been visiting there annually; after all, Indians comprise the second largest group of international students in the UK.

Between 2000 and 2009, the count of Indian students in Europe has increased from 3,348 to 51,556, with the UK separately logging a rise from 3,962 to 35,105. But across Europe, Germany and France get most of remaining Indian students. "Indian students are now also exploring other countries such as Sweden, Italy and Ireland, where education is considerably cheaper and part-time jobs are easier to secure," said the researchers.
Prime Minister in Sriharikota for ISRO’s historic mission

Staff Reporter

NELLORE: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR) in Sriharikota, 120 km from here, on Saturday evening to witness the historic 100th mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

He is here to see the wholly commercial launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). There will be no Indian satellite on it for the third time in 21 missions. The PSLV-C21 will lift off at 9.51 a.m. on Sunday from the First Launch Pad of the spaceport.

The space mission is aimed at putting into orbit three satellites — ‘SPOT-6’, a 720-kg French remote sensing satellite, and ‘PROITRES’, a 15-kg Japanese observation satellite. The French satellite has been built by Astrium SAS, a European space technology company.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here by helicopter from Chennai at 5.30 p.m., will stay overnight at the SHAR centre.

He was received by Andhra Pradesh Governor G. S. L. Narasimhan, Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, and ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan at the helipad.

Dr. Singh will arrive at the Mission Control Centre half an hour before the scheduled launch and stay till 10.50 a.m. before leaving for Chennai by helicopter.

Once the PSLV is put into orbit, ISRO would have crossed a major milestone in attracting commercial assignments.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan during a visit to a GSLV vehicle assembly facility in Sriharikota on Saturday, on the eve of the launch of the PSLV-C21. – PHOTO: PTI
The True Value of College Education

Economists estimate that each extra year of education is worth 8% increment a year for the rest of your life. So, for most people, buying a lot of education makes sense. But what is the real lesson?

:: Stephen J Dubner & Steven Levitt

On a new episode of Freakonomics Radio podcast – Freakonomics Goes to College, Part I – the authors ask: What is the true value these days of a college education? The key guests are: Allen Ezell, a former FBI agent and co-author of Degree Mills: The Billion-dollar Industry That Has Sold Over a Million Fake Diplomas; Karl Rove, former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff for President George W Bush (Rove, It turns out, is not a college graduate. He is, however, author of Courage and Consequence: My Life as a Conservative in the Fight; David Card, an economist at University of California, Berkeley; and Steven Levitt.

Levitt on college education
The best way an economist thinks about the value of education is (he) tries to figure out how the market rewards it and what other benefits come with it. And one thing (that) is clear is that the market puts a tremendous reward on education. So the best estimates that economists have are that each extra year of education that you get is worth about maybe an 8% increment to your earnings each year for the rest of your life. So it turns out for most people buying a lot of education, or at least for the average person let me say, is a really good deal.

Card on the upside of education in a down economy
Returns are even higher now because of the recession. People aren’t thinking about it right. So they notice that somebody who graduates from college is having a bit of a hard time getting a job, or they notice that the unemployment rate for college grads has gone up a little bit. But if you do the right counterfactual and say, “Well, what if I didn’t have a college degree.” It’s much worse. The rise in unemployment was much higher for people with just a high school diploma. As has always been true in every recession, the recession is always worse for less educated people.

Rove warns not to look at his educational trajectory as one to emulate
I mean, I think I was in the last generation that could be stupid enough not to get a college degree. We live in a society in which credentials matter. I mean, the Bill Gateses of the world who go on to found Microsoft after you, know, dropping out of Harvard, are few and far between. The Karl Roves who go on to be you, know, senior adviser to the president after never completing your degree, are few and far between.

Ezell on fake diplomas circulating out in the world
As to where these people are that bought those degrees, we don’t have a clue. And I say that because no one in law enforcement, federal law enforcement, chased them. We don’t know who they are. We don’t know where they’re employed. Only occasionally will a graduate flush up. He could have something going away in a medical procedure and then they start looking at his credentials, and then find out that he’s a phony. You would be shocked at the number of people that buy this garbage and then put it on their resume, and then post this online.

Tom Breuel, who has listened to the podcast, asked a question: “We have credit reporting agencies and driving history databases. Why isn’t there a central database where employers can check whether a degree was granted to a particular person and granted by an accredited institution?” Sounds like a good business idea to me. How much would your firm be willing to pay to easily find out if a job applicant was faking his academic credentials?

In an interview that got cut from the podcast for lack of space, Steve Canale, manager of global recruiting and staffing services for General Electric, advises parents and students.

One of the things that I’ve done in the past is I’ve talked to parents at the high school in Fairfield, Conn. (Conn.) And one of the things I tell them is that if you go to the admissions office at any college or university, go to the career centre. Because it’s a great place to find out whether your son or daughter is going to have a good chance of finding a job, because you can find out what companies actively recruit at the school. And if you can see big-name companies, you kind of know that the education there is valued by employers.

To students, he added: “I would say follow your passion, figure out what you have to do. Once you get into a school, what you do there is totally up to you. You could go to a second-tier school, let’s call it, and graduate in the top 3% of your class. And you would have a very bright future, you’d have very high prospects. Some kids today are graduating with $200,000 in debt, $100,000 in debt, and maybe they just weren’t the best consumer, you know, when it came right down to it.”

© New York Times
Isro's century of launches

The space agency completes 100 missions today as PSLV-C21 blasts off. And it all began on April 19, 1975, with the launch of Aryabhata, India's first satellite.

Srinivas Lakshman

If all goes well, on September 9, just before 9.51 am, mission director Kunhi Krishnan sitting before a computer in Sriharikota will give the ‘go’ for the launch of a historic space mission. Then, sharp at 9.51 am, the ground will reverberate to the ear-deafening roar of the four-stage 44m-long Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C21) as it kicks into life. Seconds later, the mighty rocket will lift off, triggering a huge round of applause in the control room as well as among hundreds of spectators and media persons gathered in the terraces of buildings at the vast spaceport.

As the rocket thunders higher and higher carrying a French and Japanese satellite, it will mark a proud moment for Isro. With this flight, the space agency will complete 100 missions. The first one began with the launch of Aryabhata, India’s first satellite, by a Russian rocket on April 19, 1975. The PSLV will fly Spot 6, the 720 kg French advanced remote sensing satellite and Proeiteres, the Japanese 10 kg micro satellite.

Isro chief spokesperson Dev Prasad Karnik explained that “each Indian rocket going up is considered a mission. Each Indian satellite being placed in orbit is a mission. For calculating the 100th flight, Isro took into consideration only Indian rockets and satellites which were launched.”

This means if an Indian satellite is carried by Ariane-space’s Ariane rocket from Kourou in French Guyana, only the satellite’s mission is considered, not the foreign launcher’s.

Karnik said that till date, 62 Indian satellites and 37 rockets have been launched. “The September 9 launch will mark the 100th mission, but the two foreign payloads are not being considered,” he said. Of these, the PSLV has proved a star performer. Its missions included carrying Israel’s spy satellite Tescar on January 21, 2008, placing 10 satellites in different orbits in rapid succession on April 28, 2006, and taking India to the moon on October 22, 2008, with the launch of Chandrayaan-1.

The indigenous Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IC), too, has got kudos. It was launched by a Russian Molniya rocket on December 28, 1995, and was given the title “jewel in the crown” by American aerospace journal, AviationWeek and Space Technology. Its success paved the way for India to enter the highly competitive global remote sensing market and capture a substantial chunk of the business. Data from other Indian remote sensing satellites are also regularly bought by other countries, including the US. It has been a long journey, all right. Ex-Isro chairman, UR Rao, said, “I witnessed the launch of Aryabhata in the former Soviet Union; now I am looking forward to the launch of Isro’s 100th mission.”

He however said that China has beaten India in rocket technology. “China’s rockets have the capacity to fly payloads up to nine tonnes, but our GSLV carry only up to 2 to 2.5 tonnes.”
The publishing wars

PRASHANT REDDY

It isn’t every day that we see universities face off in court but that is exactly what happened, a couple of weeks ago, when Delhi University (DU) and a photocopying shop located on its premises were sued for copyright infringement by the Oxford University Press (OUP) and the Cambridge University Press (CUP), publishers’ houses owned by those universities. Apparently, Delhi University had been prescribing certain chapters from different books, some of which are published by OUP and CUP – and the photocopy shop in question used to photocopy these chapters, compile them into a “course pack” and sell the same to students for a profit.

As of now, the Delhi High Court has only authorised an inspection of the photocopying shop by a court-appointed commissioner to ensure preservation of evidence for the ensuing trial and has not yet passed any injunction against either DU or the photocopying shop, which technically means that business can continue as usual until the court hears final arguments.

Predictably, the students at DU are outraged and have set up a Facebook group—Campaign to Save D-School Photocopy Shop—with a set of demands. A letter addressed to the Dean, on behalf of the students, and faculty of DU, does little justice to the tremendous intellectual faculties available at the Delhi University. Apart from calling OUP and CUP terms such as “criminal presses”, an earlier version of the letter, still accessible on another Facebook group (DUSU Election 2012), threatened in true fascist style, to ensure “that these books are banned from campus and organise a bonfire of books by these presses” if “push comes to shove”. That line was later replaced with an affirmation to follow “open source and free dissemination of knowledge”.

Incredibly, the letter never once mentions the words “copyright laws” or, for that matter, even attempts to engage with that subject, or the economics of the publishing industry, or the fact that several eminent professors, past and present, at Delhi University, especially the Delhi School of Economics, are some of the most prominent Indian authors of OUP and CUP. Let’s just sample some of the top names—Amartya Sen, Andrei Shleifer, Jagdish Bhagwati, Jean Decaux, all of whom have or continue to be faculty at DU, have had multiple books published by OUP.

Keeping aside this rhetoric, there is a need to understand the legality of wholesale photocopying of works protected under India’s Copyright Act, 1957. Unlike real or tangible property such as land or a car, intellectual property like literary or musical works can be enjoyed by multiple persons at the same time—while only one person can enjoy a piece of land at any given point of time, the latter can be reproduced either through photocopying or through file-sharing on the internet, and more than one person can enjoy such a work without impeding others. This critical difference between tangible property and intellectual property is the reason that copyright law in India, like in most countries, provides for certain limitations and exceptions to the strict enforcement of copyright. Typically referred to as either the ‘fair use’ or ‘fair dealing’ exception, Indian copyright law provides for a rather long list of limitations and exceptions which allow users of copyrighted material to use such works without prior permission of the authors or the copyright owners. One such exception in Section 52(1), appears to give both teachers and students the right to reproduce any literary work “in the course of instruction”.

A liberal construction of this provision would legitimise the action of photocopying complete books — but would at the same time completely destroy the larger objective of copyright law, which is to ensure incentives for authors and publishers to create and publish books. Any person justifying a liberal construction of these provisions needs to explain to the Delhi High Court as to how and why publishers in India will continue to invest in publishing educational books when their target market of university students can photocopy these books without buying them.

A more likely “purposive” interpretation of the provision would lead to the Delhi High Court placing some limitations on just how much of a particular book or article can be reproduced for educational purposes. American courts, for instance, have imposed certain limits on the portion of an educational book that can be reproduced for the sake of educational activity. Such an interpretation, which forbids wholesale photocopying, would better serve the interests of creativity and publishing.

Would such an interpretation of the law ensure cheaper or affordable books for students? Not necessarily. “Cheap” and “affordable” are relative terms. Universities like DU, heavily subsidised by the Central government, are renowned for their low fee structures. For example, the annual tuition fee at the Delhi School of Economics, is a patently minimal, at Rs 126 per annum, with an annual library fee of Rs 66 and an annual library development fee of Rs 200. The monthly— not annual — tuition fees at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, according to its website, is Rs 4,400; the annual fee for nine months is Rs 40,500. So how exactly should the publishing industry determine the price level for “affordable” or “cheaper” books at the university level? This is a question which is going to haunt publishers in India for the foreseeable future.

Clearly, publishers need to devise radical marketing strategies for the Indian market and engage with Indian universities in the conference room and not the courtroom. For their part, Indian students need to understand that academic books are the result of hard labour by both authors and publishing houses and that these books don’t fall into our laps from the heavens, or hell, depending on your perspective.

Destroying the incentive to publish by bringing in wide exceptions to copyright law is only going to ensure few incentives for the publishing industry to invest resources in the Indian market, and this could only be bad news for the already beleaguered world of Indian academia.

The writer, an intellectual property expert, is currently at Stanford Law School.
Forensic test finds sedatives in IIT-B victim

Kalina lab hands over report to investigators

Sunchika B Pandey  MUMBAI

The Kalina Forensic Science Laboratory has dispatched the report of the 25-year-old PhD student of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay who was allegedly drugged and molested by a staff.

According to the report from the FSL, Diazepam, a tranquiliser drug was found in her stomach wash as well as the blood and urine samples.

The Powai police got the report on Friday and started the next course of action. “We have just received the report and it confirms the girl was drugged with a sedative as was suspected at the outset. We will now have to trace the source of the drug among the other aspects that need to be probed,” said a police source.

According to sources in the FSL, the process of conducting the test was not as smooth because the quantity of the sample was very small. However, the report now would give the Powai police a strong evidence to take the case ahead, considering the girl had refused to undergo assault test to determine if she was raped, hampering the investigations a great deal at the very outset.

On August 11, Sauri Vardharajan (57), who works in the physics lab of IIT-B, allegedly invited the girl for coffee to his home and drugged her. The girl, who was found unconscious with dishevelled clothes in his house by his friends and security guards, Vardharajan was out for the night shift.

The girl refused to undergo any tests citing that she would die if she tested positive in the test for detecting rape. However, the police carried on with the investigations on the other aspects and dispatched her stomach wash as well as blood and urine samples to the FSL.

According to police sources, the report will now be elementary in opposing the bail application of the accused which will be heard on September 12. It is being suspected that the accused used his wife’s medical prescription to buy the drugs. His wife had been prescribed the drug due to some sleep disorder.
No IIT-JEE, AIEEE from 2013

It’s official. There will be no IIT-JEE and AIEEE exams from 2018. Students will have to take the new Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for admissions to prestigious IITs, NITs, IIITs, deemed universities and other centrally funded technical institutions between April and June 2013. JEE will be held in two parts — JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced).

More importantly, the marks secured in 10+2 board exams will play a decisive role during final selection of students for admissions to these top institutions, which is not the case till now. A good rank secured in the new JEE will no longer guarantee a seat for students in top institutions as is the case now unless they perform well in 10+2 board exams too.

Putting to rest all confusion surrounding the AIEEE and IIT-JEE exams, the CBSE finally came out with an official statement that JEE (Main) will replace the AIEEE exam and JEE (Advanced) will replace the IIT-JEE from 2013.

The Union ministry of HRD has entrusted the responsibility of conducting the new JEE to the CBSE.

The JEE (Main) merit list will be prepared after giving 40 per cent weightage for 10+2 marks, which means only 60 per cent of the performance in JEE (Main) will be taken into account. Admissions to NITs, IIITs, deemed universities and other centrally funded technical institutions will be made based on JEE (Main) merit list.

Jansatta ND 10/09/2012 P-7

दूरस्थ शिक्षा कार्यक्रम के जरिए आईआईटी के व्याख्यानों में पाकिस्तान की दिलचस्पी

नई दिल्ली, 9 सितंबर (बाहर)। पाकिस्तान ने अपने यहां विश्वविद्यालयों में चीनियों को स्वीकार किया है जिन्हें इंजिनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में भारत के आईआईटी के वर्तमान के अवसरों के लिए संशोधन करने का संवेदनशील रहना चाहिए। पाकिस्तान की नई शिक्षा बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष अब्दुल रहमान ने यहां कहा कि, “आईआईटी के व्याख्यानों में भारत की दूरस्थ शिक्षा कार्यक्रम का महत्वपूर्ण समर्थन है।" रहमान के अनुसार, "भारत के आईआईटी के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्याख्यानों में पाकिस्तान की दिलचस्पी दर्ज करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। पाकिस्तान की नई शिक्षा बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष अब्दुल रहमान ने यहां कहा कि, "भारत के आईआईटी के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्याख्यानों में पाकिस्तान की दिलचस्पी दर्ज करने की कोशिश की जा रही है।"
Maths meta course at Jamia

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Jamia Milia Islamia University’s academic council approved the mathematics-MCRC Meta University course recently. Jamia has collaborated with Delhi University on it. The post-graduate programme will bring together the disparate fields of mass communication (from Jamia’s mass communication research centre) and mathematics (handled by DU).

Though it’s a tad late, Jamia registrar, Prof S M Sajid says they are hoping to launch the course by this month itself. There’ll be 20 seats in the first year. Delhi University has also developed a tentative curriculum — the mass com classes (digital technology, development communication) will be held in Jamia and the maths ones in DU. Anyone who has studied at least two Maths papers in graduation, irrespective of the course, is eligible.

The universities will conduct the admission test and admissions jointly. As the reservation policies of the two institutions differ widely, DU will govern the admissions into one half of the total number of seats and that of Jamia will be implemented for the other. It will be a two-year course, covering four semesters and on completion, the student will get a degree awarded jointly by DU and Jamia.

Sajid promises an “innovative” course design. “It won’t be just maths but the concepts of maths applied to real-life situations. Students will have to undertake one project during the course. It can involve mathematical modeling for application in areas such as population-growth, poverty, migration and public health,” he added.
Govt makes it harder for docs to stay on in US

Stops Issuing ‘No Obligation To Return’ Papers

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: In a bid to prevent medical students who go to the US for higher studies from settling down there, the health ministry has suspended issuing ‘no obligation to return’ certificates that allow them to do so.

In the past three years,

3,000 medical students have gone abroad and stayed there. India has one doctor per 2,000 people; the US has one for 469.

The ‘no obligation to return to India’ (NORI) certificate is mandatory for Indian doctors who have completed up to nine years of medical education to settle in the US. Ironically, before they head there, the US requires the health ministry (of all developing countries) to issue a “statement of need” certificate, stating “the student is being allowed to go and study medicine in the US because he is required to return and serve India”.

Joint secretary in the health ministry S K Rao said only 30% of those who go to the US return to work. “This year, we haven’t issued a single NORI certificate,” he said.
New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University and Allahabad University, all of them directly under the HRD ministry, do not have a single SC/ST professor despite the policy of quota in promotions.

Moreover, DU and JNU don't have a single SC/ST associate professor (reader).

BHU has three SC associate professors, not a single one from the ST category and 112 SC and 30 ST assistant professors (lecturers) which is the entry level post. In JNU, there are 25 SC and 10 ST assistant professors. However, it does not have a single SC/ST research scientist. Allahabad University has just one SC associate professor; STs again drawing a blank. At the lecturer level, Allahabad University has 15 SC and two STs.

Absence of SCs/STs at the higher levels despite a policy of reservation in promotion is not confined to these four universities. An RTI query to University Grants Commission, JNU and BHU by Banaras-based Mahendra Pratap Singh revealed a similar situation in 31 central universities across India.

In November 2011, O N Srivastava of BHU's department of physics wrote to vice-chancellor Lalji Singh arguing that reservation be given only at the entry level. This, he argued, would keep the "academic profile/glamour/reputation of the university intact". He also said reservation be given subject/department-wise. Srivastava's contention was in direct contravention of UGC's guidelines of 2006 that told all universities to resist from giving department-wise reservation which often resulted in creation of single posts to avoid quota.

Immediately after Srivastava's letter, BHU set up a committee under S C Lakhotia of the zoology department to review reservation criteria in recruitment. The committee said there should be no reservation at the level of associate professor and professor. The committee said since BHU was an institute of national importance, it was exempted from reservation for posts higher than the entry level. The panel cited Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Act, 2007, to make this point. However, the Act gives exemption only to institutes of excellence and even lists them in the annexure. BHU, DU, JNU and Allahabad University are not part of them.
Row over UGC secy's appointment continues

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Appointment of secretary in the University Grants Commission (UGC) has turned into a full-fledged battle with the HRD ministry, with a section of UGC on one side and a few members and aggrieved candidates on the other.

At least two members of the UGC are likely to protest on Monday against the manner in which appointments were being made disregarding all rules. After the full commission of the UGC refused to approve Akhilesh Gupta as secretary on the ground that due process -- presence of a minority member in the interview panel -- was not followed, a meeting of the UGC has been called on Monday, at the behest of the HRD ministry, to plug deficiency in such a way that the final selection remains unchanged.

For full story, log on to, www.timesofindia.com
Fewer Indian students in the UK take science, tech courses

PASUN SINGH
Press Trust of India

LONDON. The reduced number of Indian students this year has led to concerns in some British universities over the financial viability of courses and departments particularly in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

As universities report a drop of between 20 and 30 per cent of Indian students in the forthcoming academic year, the drop has caused much concern over the future of STEM courses that have been popular among postgraduate Indian students.

In oral evidence presented to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee of Parliament, senior figures in higher education and industry noted the concern among vice-chancellors about the impact of fewer Indian students on the financial viability of STEM courses and departments.

The committee, which published its report on ‘Overseas Students and Net Migration’ last week, recommended that Indian and other non-EU students should be removed from overall immigration figures since most of them return home after their courses.

The recommendation, however, was rejected by the government because it would cut immigration from outside the EU.

Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, which represents all universities and higher education institutions, told the committee that vice-chancellors were “particularly concerned” about the impact of fewer Indian students on STEM subjects.

She said, “I think it is too early to draw apocalyptic conclusions about the closures of departments, but the trends are not good. It is particularly apparent now, because of the reduction of Indian students — students coming from the Indian subcontinent to study STEM subjects — that is where there are already questions being asked about the sustainability of certain subjects.”

She said, “We are also seeing an actual reduction in student intake from some countries, particularly from India, particularly in the postgraduate market, and for some universities that is quite marked.”

Dandridge said some universities were particularly concerned about the impact of reductions of international student numbers on specific subject areas, especially STEM, where “although they are manageable this year, the reductions may affect — may affect — the viability of some subjects in the future.”

Simon Walter, director general of the Institute of Directors, told the committee that the impression generated abroad due to changes in student visa policies was having an adverse impact particularly in India, Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Walter said, “I think it is damaging our business relationships. It combines with other factors in terms of getting here, and a sort of sense that Britain is not as open as it ought to be. So I think it is one of the factors, but a leading one. A lot of the atmospheric side of it is important.”
Relax immigration laws: UK varsity chief

**INDIAN VOYAGE** Rating Indian students among the best, Cambridge head emphasises the need to integrate humanities and sciences

Lalita Panicker  
[lalita.panicker@hindustantimes.com](mailto:lalita.panicker@hindustan.com)

**NEW DELHI:** Stressing upon the importance of attracting best academic talent from foreign countries to the UK, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, opposed stricter immigration laws.

“We should have the freedom to encourage the brightest students and teachers from other countries and not just for their economic value,” said Borysiewicz, who is on a 12-day visit to India.

On his India trip, the head of one of the world’s oldest universities hopes to emphasise to Indian policy-makers the importance of integrating the sciences and humanities. “Humanities make us what we are, they give us the ability to explore beauty and creativity. We should recognise that.”

Borysiewicz feels British universities should not be judged by instances like the London Metropolitan University fiasco in which even legitimate students suffered. “If a university does not meet the required criteria, I suppose the authorities are within their right to take action. But, I do feel bad for the students who enrolled in these places in good faith.”

When asked why students should choose universities like Cambridge when top class education is available in the US and even Singapore for a lesser cost, Borysiewicz said that the value of a Cambridge degree translates into enormous benefit for the students.

“Parent support and ability to pay are not the deciding factors for Cambridge rather it is the aptitude of the student which comes first,” he said.

Borysiewicz rated Indian students at Cambridge as among the “brightest and the best”, expressing the hope to establish partnerships with the IITs and the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore.

The Cambridge VC rejected the notion that the slump in the economy will have an impact on the applications from India.

“I don’t see the slump in the Indian economy having a long-term impact on students seeking to study in our university. Economies recover and if India is going through a slump then you should look at Britain at this time.”

He is firmly of the belief that to encourage students, to realise their full potential, the state cannot abdicate its responsibilities although it is becoming a trend in places like India to invite private investment in education. “I am not saying the private sector should be deprived of investing in education, but it must not be seen as a substitute, rather it should be considered an additive.” He said that though the Indian education system has pockets of excellence, “there are many unknowns as with all education systems”.

He said that the three basic tenets are to ensure that students have access to opportunities, that they are nurtured in an environment of commitment and that there is a commitment to quality and excellence. “I test educational values against these benchmarks,” he said.
Two years later, South Asian Univ gets few foreign students, faculty

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

WHEN it was announced eight years back, the South Asian University (SAU), considered to be Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s dream project, was planned as an international institute that would forge academic collaborations in South Asia and build a global reputation. However, two years after it began operations, the SAU remains a little-known institute with a predominantly Indian faculty and student profile. With its planned 100-acre campus in Delhi’s Maidan Garhi area hit by land acquisition problems, the university still operates out of its temporary campus in Akbar Bhawan.

The SAU, which started its inaugural academic session in August 2010 with just 50 students, offers eight postgraduate programmes at present.

University finds few foreign students

The university’s annual report of 2011-12 shows that Indians constitute the bulk of the student strength. While not a single student from Bhutan has enrolled so far, the university got only 27 students from Bangladesh, seven from Pakistan, 17 from Afghanistan, 17 from Nepal and six from Sri Lanka (see accompanying chart).

Moreover, despite 393 seats being set aside for Indians, only 81 students enrolled for the courses. Incidentally, the number of Indian students has been limited to 50 per cent of the total student strength. Among the faculty too, there are just a dozen-odd staff members from other SAARC nations against the total strength of 48. The number of visiting faculty scholars from other nations for guest lectures is also yet to hit double digits.

In its latest report, the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs said the varsity was set up in a hurry and its courses and curriculum can hardly inspire a “sense of South-Asian consciousness”. The committee said specific courses relating to heritage, performing arts and major languages of SAARC countries should be introduced on priority basis.

In its reply, the MEA has contended that the pace of expansion of the academic programmes and the selection of courses is a collective decision of the eight SAARC countries and the course content is “designed to enhance a shared sense of South Asian identity”.

“SAU is still in its infancy. Even a university like JNU took nearly 20 years to achieve the sort of reputation it has today. We do have faculty members now from several SAARC nations and hopefully this number will increase. It is also not correct to call us an India-centric initiative. The faculty selection is an elaborate process with a shortlisting committee comprising representatives of all SAARC nations,” said SAU vice-president Prof Rajiv K Saxena.

According to Saxena, SAU received nearly 1,300 applications for the 35 faculty posts advertised this year. He added that as many as 2,500 students have applied for the coming academic session.

“The faculty is reasonably good. However, the other infrastructure including hostels really needs to be improved,” said a student.
PSLV-C21firesIsro
to historic 100

With Minor Flaw, Places Two Sats In Orbit

Arun Janardhanan | TNN

Chennai: India's space odyssey crossed a historic landmark when a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C21) put two foreign satellites in orbit on Sunday in the Indian Space Research Organization’s 100th mission.

At the end of a 51-hour countdown that started on Friday, PSLV-C21 lifted off at 9.53 am. After 17 minutes and 49 seconds, it injected the first satellite, France's SPOT-6, into orbit. Seconds later it put the Japan's Proiteres in orbit. The launch was scheduled at 9.51 am but was delayed by two minutes after India's Inertial Navigation System, which guides rockets and helps them put satellites in orbit, with pinpoint precision, relayed an alert of a possible collision with space debris.

After a perfect launch, as the rocket roared into space, there was a minor scare. Scientists watched anxiously as the trajectory of the rocket on giant screens at the mission control room showed it deviate slightly mid-flight. But its course was soon corrected and it followed the flight plan flawlessly before inserting its payload into orbit.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was present at the launch, congratulated the scientists immediately after mission director K. Krishnan announced at 10.14 am that the launch was a success. “India is justly proud of its space scientists who have overcome many odds to develop our own technology for space missions,” he said.

Isro began its space programme in 1975 with the launch of its first satellite Aryabhata. With Sunday’s launch, Isro completed its 100th successful mission. It has so far launched 62 Indian and 29 foreign satellites from Sriharikota and foreign launch pads.

The organization already has its sights set on its next assignment, the Mars Orbiter Mission on August 3, 2012 for its proposed launch in 2013, after receiving approval from the Union cabinet.

A jubilant Isro chief K. Radhakrishnan said Vikram Sarabhai’s space dreams had come true. “These are moments of extreme pride and happiness,” he said. “India’s space expeditions are for the betterment of society, not to compete with other countries.”
UGC HIKES SC/ST FELLOWSHIP FOR POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

K Sandeep Kumar

ALLAHABAD: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has significantly hiked fellowships for SC/ST students for postdoctoral research.

As per the new norms, research scholars of SC/ST categories will now receive ₹25,000 per month for the first two years and ₹50,000 per month from the third year onwards in the five-year period for which the fellowship is granted. Until now, the SC/ST scholars used to get ₹15,000 per month as fellowship.

To make the fellowship more attractive, the UGC has also increased the contingency amount granted every year to the fellows. Now the fellowship will fetch post-doc SC/ST researchers ₹20,000 every year in contingency grants instead of the earlier ₹10,000 per year.

The UGC’s order in this regard has been sent by the commission’s joint secretary Dr CS Meena to the registrars of all universities, including the Allahabad University.

As per the order, physically disabled and blind candidates who used to receive ₹2,000 per month for hiring an escort or reader will continue to receive the same amount besides getting the HRA as per the university/institution rules where they are enrolled.

The UGC has directed that candidates selected for the fellowship from the year 2010-11 onwards would be eligible for the new fellowship amount but would receive the increased money in fellowship and contingency grants only with effect from April 27, 2012. The candidates whose five-year fellowship tenure has ended before April 27, 2012, are not eligible for the revised amount.

The order also specifies that candidates selected for the fellowship from the year 2010-11 onwards were not eligible for the money given as departmental assistance.

In his order, the UGC joint secretary has asked universities to direct all their affiliated colleges to ensure that the increased fellowship amount is timely provided to the postdoctoral SC/ST fellows.