Obsession with university rankings

Arun Nigavekar

GENERALLY, the university-ranking season comes every October. The *Times Higher Education*/Thomson Reuters bring out the World University Rankings report, which is taken as a very reliable ranking system. In the report for 2011-2012, out of the top 25 universities, only seven are outside the US; the UK has four universities in the list, namely Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London and University College London, whereas, two Canadian universities, Toronto and British Columbia, and just one university from Switzerland, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, appear in the list.

There are few other ranking systems that put out their own rankings, but, they differ in the process and outcome. The point of debate is how do schemes like the *Times Higher Education* on World University Rankings, the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) and the QS World University Rankings, relate to broader attempts to benchmark higher education systems, institutions, and educational and research practices or outcomes? And, there is the EU's new U-Multirank scheme, and the OECD's numerous initiatives, such as Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO) to evaluate university performance globally. In addition to this, Moody's Investor Service recently put out a report titled *Global Recession and Universities: Funding Strains to Keep Up with Rising Demand*. It provides a very interesting and informative view of some aspects of the higher education scene as observed from outside the system. Moody's looked at universities at selected areas around the world, and how they are handling the

global downturn. Moody's ultimate interest, of course, is to be able to rate these universities as they access capital markets, so the focus is on aspects of the environment that can or will impact their financial stability.

Present ranking methods provide a snapshot of an institution based on simple measures. Two qualitative data (employer and peer review) are selected together with four quantitative data to reflect strength in teaching, research impact and international reputation. Finally, a single number is mathematically derived to provide a ranking of an institution relative to others with regards to the different aspects of its quality. There is a never-ending debate on why we should depend on employers' perceptions when universities now stress self-employment as a measure of graduate success? In addition, using inter-

national students as an indicator, disadvantages universities in many developing countries that are expected to fulfil unmet local demands. Moreover, there is heavy reliance on qualitative peer reviews and recruiter surveys that comprise 50 per cent of the scores. We know that such judgement is influenced by factors such as tradition that may confer advantages to older institutions. If one carefully studies the top-ranking universities, one observes that they are on average about 200 years old, have about 2,500 academic faculty, nearly 24,000 students, are highly selective, and, thus, attract and retain top personnel, have endowments of about $1 billion and $2 billion annual budgets.

All these ranking systems have engendered debate about benchmarking as was observed in last year's Unesco Global Forum on "Rankings and Ac-

countability in Higher Education: Uses and Misuses" held in Paris, May 16-17, 2011. A quality higher education for all should balance research, teaching and community service, declared Unesco's director-general Irina Bokova. She further pointed out that comparisons between universities sometimes focus more on quantitative rather than qualitative aspects of education. In short, are rankings like the ones released every year, 'fit for purpose' to genuinely shed light on the quality, relevance and efficiency of higher education in a rapidly-evolving global context? What is the genuine test of a university? Why do universities play the 'rankings game'? What should international university rankings measure? Should they determine educational policies and resource allocation? This brings me back to the comprehensive report on delib-

erations at the Unesco Global Forum. The report begins with a statement, "International rankings of higher education institutions are here to stay, but, classifications should evolve to give information that is more relevant to the needs of users such as universities, students and policymakers; fit local situations and contribute to the growth of world-class higher education systems rather than a few world-class universities."

I have brought out all the cross views across the world mainly because in our country, whenever the world ranking reports come in, and, invariably, when it is found that Indian universities do not appear in the first 200 universities, the discussion gets triggered on how bad our universities are and the blame game goes on for a few months. But, the time has come for us to address issues related to the ranking system more openly without prejudice to the world ranking systems or without the arrogance of saying that we should ignore the world ranking systems.

Indian universities have a larger role to play. They have to enhance access, use technology to improve blended teaching in classrooms, create new knowledge, cultivate entrepreneurship and promote business innovation and the environmental development of a region. They should concentrate on these aspects so as to become world-class universities. We need to devise indicators for these aspects and need to make them perfect. As Albert Einstein once said, "Not all that counts can be counted." Not all that is counted, counts!

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HARD SUBJECT: Indian universities have to enhance access, use technology to improve blended teaching in classrooms, create new knowledge, cultivate entrepreneurship and promote business innovation

Biplab Banerjee

IIT-B students intern at MNCs this summer

Snehal Rebello

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MUMBAI: Pararth Shah, 21, is excited about flying to Los Angeles in May where he will spend more than two months as a summer intern with internet search giant Google Inc. The third-year computer science student at the Indian Institute of Technology — Bombay (IIT-B) will earn a six-figure stipend.

"The internship will give me exposure to latest technology,

THE STIPEND DIFFERENCE

FOREIGN FIRMS and universities are offering stipends between ₹1 lakh and ₹5 lakh for summer internships

INDIAN FIRMS are offering between ₹20,000 and ₹30,000 for the same duration.

and software and product development. I am excited about visiting Silicon Valley and experiencing their lifestyle," said Shah, who grew up in Vile Parle.

IIT-B's practical training cell has witnessed a 40% rise in the number of undergraduate students opting for winter and summer internships. This year, 470 students secured internships as against 345 last year.

There's been almost a 100% jump in research internships at foreign universities in the US, UK, France and Canada — from 65 students last year to 120 this year.
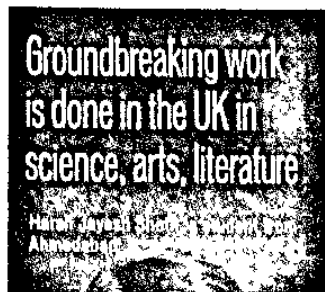
"Students have realised that research adds value to what they learn in class. Several students who are winning innovation awards are also becoming role models on campus," said professor Rangan Banerjee, dean, research and development, IIT-B.

Foreign companies and universities are offering stipends between Rs1 lakh and Rs5 lakh for summer internships. "Majority of the recruiters are start-ups, and new foreign companies and universities who previously didn't know about IIT-B," said Yash Shah, student head, practical training cell.

Hindustan Times ND 4/04/2012 P-1(htEducation)

UK varsities are known for their warm ambience

Academic opportunities, financial support and great facilities make the UK very attractive to Indian students

Groundbreaking work is done in the UK in science, arts, literature

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For Harsh Jayesh Sheth, a student from Ahmedabad, choosing UK for further studies was an easy decision. Currently pursuing his PhD in human genetics, studying in the UK has provided him with a plethora of opportunities, both in academics and co-curriculars.

"In 2008, I selected Newcastle University as my destination for further studies as it is one of the top universities in the UK and holds a very high course and teaching ranking in the human genetics course at the undergraduate level. When I reached Newcastle, I was amazed by the 50-acre campus size, located right next to the city centre portraying an intricate bonding between people and the university. Newcastle is also a research-intensive university," says Sheth.

Apart from academics, the university also organises trips which give the students a feel of the British culture. Within Newcastle University students' union, there are various societies such as DesiSoc and HinduSoc which Indian students can join to meet people from their country and not feel isolated or homesick.

On the job prospects, Sheth says, "Despite the current economic scenario, bright Indian students are managing to find jobs in their respective fields. Universities here have excellent career services which help us channelise our skills in the right jobs. They also organise career fairs to help graduates meet potential employers."

Having spent three years at the varsity, Sheth feels it's the best study destination for young aspiring Indians. "UK universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Newcastle, Edinburgh etc. are ranked among the top 160 universities across the globe. Groundbreaking work in science, arts and literature is carried out at the universities. These institutions are known for their friendly and warm ambience and thus students from all across the globe prefer the UK as a study destination. There are also a number of opportunities for financial support in the form of studentships, scholarships, stipends, bursaries, etc," he adds.

Welcome to Oxford

CBSE, CISCE upbeat about their students getting direct entry to Oxford University

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From next year, the University of Oxford will allow admission in its undergraduate courses for those securing 90% and more in the ISC or CBSE exams. According to the university, the decision was taken keeping in mind the "terrific scholars India is producing."

"The review of Class 12 has been part of our process of reviewing international qualifications. Oxford has also seen a fast-growing and very high performing group of Indian postgraduate students in recent years, which has confirmed how many terrific scholars India is producing,"

says Dr Julia Paolitto, press officer, admissions and educational policy, University of Oxford.

India is rising rapidly – economically, in terms of educational quality and this has motivated the university's decision to accept applications from students taking the ISC and CBSE exams.

"This is also why our director for graduate admissions and studies has made a special trip to recruit bright Indian postgraduates," says Paolitto.

Eligibility criteria

Elaborating on the eligibility criteria for admission to the various programmes at the the University of Oxford, Paolitto says, "Typical stan-

dard offers are set by for each course, by the departments, but it is recommended that the condition should be a minimum of 90% in each of the five subjects taken in the Class 12 examinations. This equates to approximately the top 3% of candidates taking the CBSE and ISC."

Science subjects may also require that candidates take the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance examinations as a pre-condition for entry. There are likely to be further conditions made by individual departments in addition to the overall standard required for a conditional offer to Oxford.

The university's standard offers for A-level range from

A*A*A to AAA, with some courses specifying some of the subjects that students must have studied (eg to apply for engineering, you need to have physics and maths to A-level). "We expect the same to be true for Indian students, and some courses will require students to include certain specific subjects among the five they take to Class 12, and may require particular grades in particular subjects. Candidates must also demonstrate proficiency in English to a very high level," she adds.
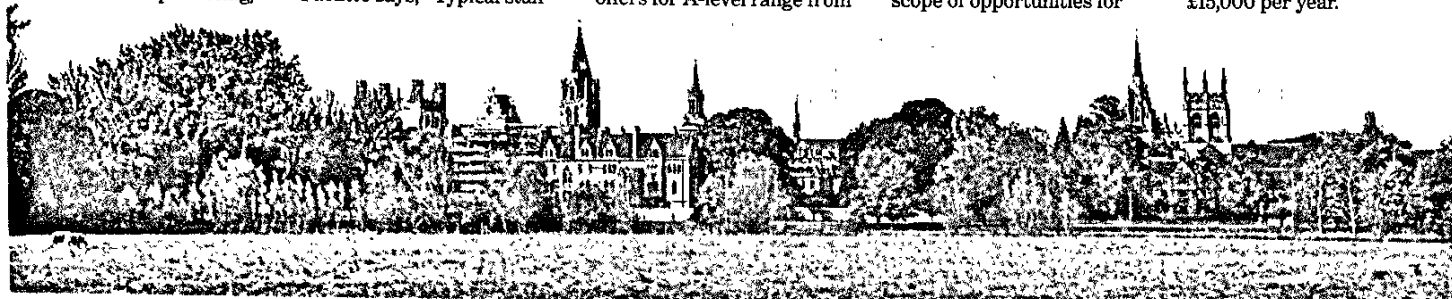
Class 12 results work

The University and College Admissions Service in the UK also recommends that the CBSE and ISC Class 12 results are suitable for admission to UK universities. Earlier, Oxford aspirants to the undergraduate courses needed to appear in various tests before they were considered eligible for admission.

Both the boards have reacted positively to the move, saying it will widen the scope of opportunities for

those aiming to go to the UK for higher studies. "We are already preparing our students for overseas studies with special emphasis on English to boost written and communication skills of students. It gives them an edge when they compete in international exams. It's good that Oxford also recognises our students and will allow them direct entry," says Gerry Arathoon, additional secretary, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). CISCE conducts the Indian School Certificate examination.

The council was established by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. CBSE has also welcomed the decision of the University of Oxford. "It will put our students on the global map, giving them an opportunity to study in one of the best universities in the world," says a CBSE official.

The average fee for undergraduates wishing to study at Oxford in 2013 is likely to range between £13,000 and £15,000 per year.

THINKSTOCK

SOON, METRO TECHNOLOGY TO BE PART OF BTECH COURSE

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Looking into the growing importance of metros, private engineering colleges across the country will introduce a BTech in metro technology as a new stream of study from 2013.

"A panel has been formed to prepare the content of the course. The committee is likely to submit its report in three months," All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman SS Mantha said.

With the network of metro train services increasing sharply in the NCR and similar projects lined up in other cities, the new stream of study is mainly designed to help in meeting an acute shortage of such engineers in the country in the future.

The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) had earlier requested the Union human resource development ministry to start the course in the major engineering colleges. The ministry had asked AICTE to prepare a blue print on the proposal.

Maintaining that the course would be beneficial because of the mushrooming of metros across the country, Mantha said: "The metros can provide a viable solution to some of the basic problems like choking traffic and spiraling petrol price. I am very confident that the course will have a lot of employment opportunities."

Mantha added: "Only those colleges which have the essential facilities will be given permission to start the course."

Decks cleared for IIT Indore campus

INDORE: With the district administration issuing cheque of Rs 10,70,30,000 in favour of the forest department, the decks have finally been cleared for handing over 200 acres (80 hectares) of land belonging to the forest department to IIT Indore for developing its campus.

DFO Indore Saeed Khan said they received the cheque on Tuesday evening and now the process of formally handing over of the land would be completed soon. "The forest department had agreed to hand over the land in principal to the IIT Indore for its campus, but the formal handing over remained pending the receipt of money," he said. Though in principle the money has been handed over from one government department to another, the development of the IIT campus had been struck without the portion of forest land.

The IIT, Indore is being developed on a 500 acre land of which 200 acres is forestland. Initially, the Union Environment and Forest ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) had refused permission to the state government to use forestland for construction of IIT campus. **HTC**

Passiontomission

Giving up IIT was a tough decision

It took 20 years for Krsna, music director for the film Tanu Weds Manu, to get a plum project that got his career to take off

Jeevan Prakash Sharma
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A science student with a passion for music is how one can describe Krsna, music director of the film Tanu Weds Manu.

He dropped the idea of joining IIT Roorkee to pursue his dream of becoming a music director. Today, he is a proud winner of the prestigious Filmfare RD Burman Talent Award and Max Stardust Award 2012 for best music direction for Tanu Weds Manu.

Way back in 1992, when Krsna cleared the engineering entrance exam and decided to join the National Institute of Design (NID), he had a tough time dealing with his parents' shocked reaction. "Giving up IIT was a tough decision. My parents were skeptical and worried and it took me a year or two to make them understand the possibilities of being successful in film communication and convincing that it was as respectable as any other field."

It happened accidentally

Krsna, born in Siliguri and brought up in Kolkata, belonged to a middle class family of working parents. They wanted him to become an engineer and Krsna, too, was mentally prepared to fulfil their dreams.

"But little did they know that I had already got hooked to music at 14," he says. On a rainy day, at a relative's house, he was fiddling with a harmonium with nothing else to do. And he realised that he could easily play popular tunes.

He recalls, "And that really stirred something inside me all of a sudden. I started perceiving music differently. I wondered how great it would be to create music if listening and playing music could have such a powerful effect on my heart."

"My accidental discovery took shape in the form of a wild dream to become a composer/songwriter one day," he adds.

Days at NID

He joined the films communication design programme at NID in 1992. "As for my music endeavours, there wasn't much that I could do, with all the pressure of college assignments," he says.

He did, however, compose a few songs and tried to form a music band but that never worked out.

Mumbai gave opportunities

After finishing his course, Krsna started his career as a television commercial film maker and shifted to Mumbai.

"As for my directorial ventures, I directed ads for brands such as Digjam Fabrics, Rasna, Tara Channel etc. I simultaneously began directing music for my self-directed commercials as well," he says.

Music, the sole interest

Around 2004, Krsna stopped directing ad films and started to concentrate solely on directing music for jingles and sound tracks.

Around 2008, for the first time, he felt the need to get formal training. He met his guru, Ustad Mehboob Khan, and rigorously trained himself in Hindustani Classical.

"Within a year, around in 2009, I found myself at a spot whereby I felt ready, and I was very clear that I wanted to get into full-fledged music direction for films," says Krsna.

Success at the end

When he met Tanu Weds Manu director Anand Raj in April 2009, he had little hope of bagging a music direction assignment for the movie as the director had already decided to award the contract to a well-known music director. "I requested him to give me an opportunity. I took the lyrics of Mannu Bhaiya, created a song overnight and presented it to him. He liked my composition so much that he changed his mind and took me for the project," says Krsna. And the rest is history.
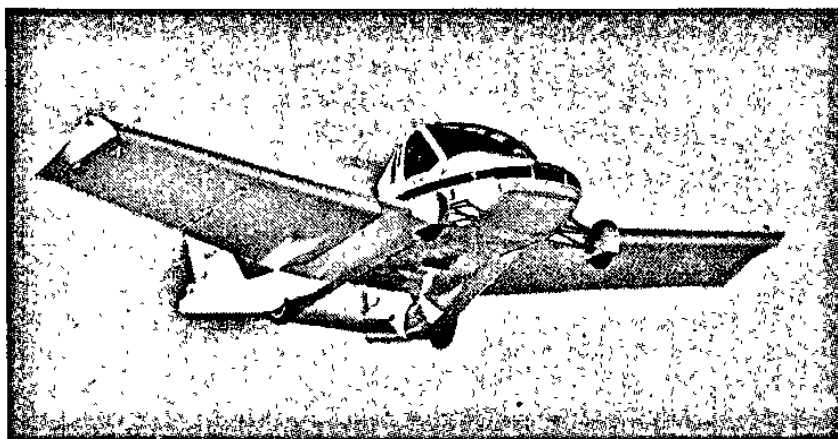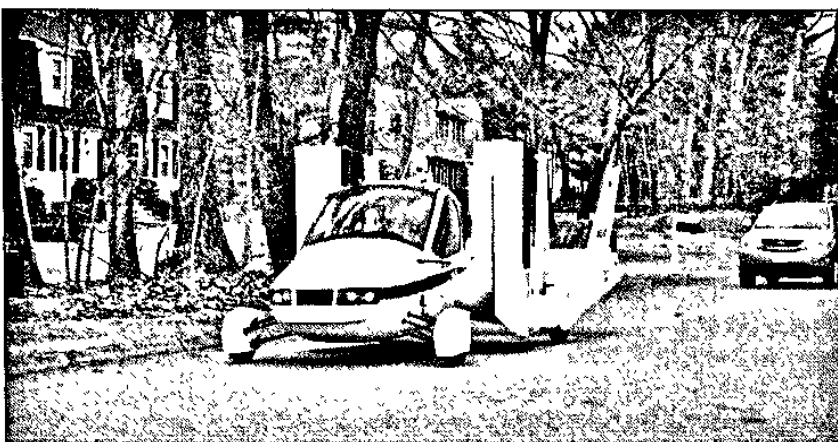
World's first flying car takes maiden test flight

'Transition' To Hit Market In A Year, To Cost $279,000

Flying cars aren't just science fiction anymore. Woburn, Mass.-based Terrafugia Inc. said on Monday that its prototype flying car has completed its first flight, bringing the company closer to its goal of selling the flying car within the next year. The vehicle — dubbed the Transition — has two seats, four wheels and wings that fold up so it can be driven like a car. Last month, it flew at 1,400 feet for eight minutes. Commercial jets fly at 35,000 feet.

Arouean nd 100 people have already put down a $10,000 deposit to get a Transition when they go on sale, and those numbers will likely rise after Terrafugia introduces the Transition to the public later this week at the New York Auto Show. But don't expect it to show up in too many driveways. It's expected to cost $279,000. And it won't help if you're stuck in traffic. The car needs a runway.

The flying car has always had a special place in the American imagination. Inventors have been trying to make them since the 1930s, according to Robert Mann, an airline industry analyst. But Mann thinks Terrafugia has come closer than anyone to making the flying car a reality. The government has already granted the company's request to use special tires and glass that are lighter than normal automotive ones, to make it easier for the vehicle to fly. The government has also temporarily exempted the Transition from the requirement to equip vehicles with electronic sta-

DREAM COME TRUE: 'Transition' travels down a street with its wings folded in NY. The vehicle has 2 seats, 4 wheels and wings that fold up so it can be driven like a car. (above) For its test flight on March 23, it flew at 1,400 feet for 8 minutes

bility control, which would add about six pounds to the vehicle.

Terrafugia says an owner would need to pass a test and complete 20 hours of flying time to be able to fly the Transition, a relatively low hurdle for pilots. The Transition can re-ach around 70 miles per hour on the road and 115 in the air, spokesman Steven Moscaritolo said. It flies using a 23-gallon tank of automotive fuel and burns 5 gallons per hour in the air. On the ground, it gets 35 miles per gallon. AP

IIT-JEE: 8 easy ways to handle the last four days

Set your biological clock to exam timings, stick to the tried and tested topics and don't panic

Nishatha Abraham Bijeesh

The mother of all engineering entrance exams, IIT-JEE is barely a few days away (April 8, 2012). Most of you must be getting the jitters and losing sleep over formulae, equations and theorems. Now, how does one utilise just this little time left? We spoke to the directors and faculty of some of the top IIT-JEE coaching centres and they have some advice for you:

1 Don't start a new topic: "This is the time to just re-visit your basic fundamentals, formulas and derivations, revise what you've already studied over the last one year, don't go running behind new topics" advises Asheesh Sharma, vice-president (business strategy) and executive academic head and senior physics faculty of Resonance, a leading coaching centre for IIT-JEE.

Taking up a completely new topic in the last few days will only confuse you further, leading to a panic situation. It is better to be completely confident about the things you know than to walk into the examination hall with incomplete information about a new topic. "Just review your class notes, key concepts/formulas and nothing further. Don't study too hard in these last days; you cannot do in one day what you could not do in two years" says JC Chaudhry, founder & MD of Aakash Institute.

2 Revisit the important topics: "Some important topics that need to be revised would be coordinate geometry and calculus in mathematics, electromagnetism and modern physics in physics and chemical and ionic equilibrium and aromatic compounds in chemistry" says Asheesh.

If you've had the practice of maintaining flash cards of the important topics, theorems, equations etc., now would be the time to revisit them and refresh your memory.

3 Make mistakes!: "Make all the mistakes that you possibly can in the last few days while you practice mock papers. This will ensure that you don't repeat these mistakes when you take the actual exam", says Brijesh Maheshwari, Director of ALLEN Career Institute.

This is similar to the exercise of facing your fears head on! You might as well make those silly mistakes while you can afford to. So if you fumble while taking mock IIT-JEE papers, don't get flustered. These mistakes will ensure that you don't repeat them on D-day.

4 Hail NCERT textbooks!: "Needless to say, you should go through your NCERT books. IIT-JEE questions are very close to the NCERT now," advises Praveen Tyagi, VP Academics, meritnation.com.

Brush up your concepts once again from your NCERT textbooks.

5 Previous years' IIT-JEE papers: Praveen further suggests, "Go through the IIT JEE question papers of the last five years. It's not necessary to go beyond five years, as the pattern of IIT-JEE changed dramatically after 2007."

Solving previous years' IIT-JEE question papers will prepare you psychologically to face IIT-JEE 2012 with more confidence, as you've already tested the waters with the last years' papers.

6 Tune your biological clock: If you're used to studying in the wee hours of the night and sleeping throughout the day, it's time to reverse your body clock! In the last week leading to IIT-JEE 2012, make sure that you are up and about during the time the exam is scheduled, otherwise you're bound to feel sleepy while writing the test!

JC Chaudhry advises eight hours of sleep (10pm to 6 am), six to eight hours of study (to be reduced to only six hours in the last week to match the time of the exam and No study on the day before the exam). "Stop studying in the night at least in the last week, your IIT-JEE papers are scheduled in two slots: between 9 am-12 noon and 2 pm- 5 pm. Try to take mock IIT-JEE papers exactly during these timings under conditions similar to the actual examination day. This will ensure that you are not under pressure on the D-day", says Brijesh Maheshwari.

7 Practice does make you perfect: Sounds clichéd, but that's because it's true! "When you are not practicing, remember, someone somewhere is practicing and when you meet him, he will win". Ed Macauley, a professional basketball player said this, but it holds true for IIT-JEE!

What could give you an edge over others, who're learning the same things from the same set of books, is practice. You can easily access free IIT-JEE mock tests online or practice from the mock paper sets that you get from your coaching centres.

8 Rest and relax: Watch a movie, go jogging, play a game of football, meditate or practice yoga - indulge in any of these or other activities that would relax and calm you.

Face IIT JEE with confidence and assurance in your preparation. Remember, it is just another exam and not the end of the world. Irrespective of how your paper goes, a wonderful life awaits you!

वोकेशनल एजुकेशन में तकनीकी संस्थानों की रुचि

वोकेशनल कोर्सेज शुरू करने के लिए कुछ ही दिनों में एआईसीटीई के पास 100 से भी ज्यादा आवेदन

प्रिंसी शर्मा • नई दिल्ली

भारत में वोकेशनल एजुकेशन को बढ़ावा देने के मकसद से ऑल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन (एआईसीटीई) द्वारा हाल ही में शुरू किए गए नेशनल वोकेशनल एजुकेशन क्वालिफिकेशन फ्रेमवर्क (एनवीईक्यूएफ) में तकनीकी संस्थानों को अच्छी संभावनाएं नजर आ रही हैं। यही वजह है कि आवेदन मांगने के कुछ ही दिनों के भीतर एआईसीटीई के पास 100 से भी ज्यादा संस्थानों ने तीसरे लेवल के सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स शुरू करने के लिए आवेदन किया है। एआईसीटीई के चेयरमैन डॉ एस. एस. मंथा ने 'बिजनेस भास्कर' को बताया कि पहले तीन-चार दिनों के भीतर ही 106 संस्थानों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए आवेदन किया है। इनमें तकनीकी संस्थान और पॉलिटेक्निक शामिल हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि फिलहाल तीसरे लेवल के यानी दसवीं कक्षा के बाद के लिए सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स को शुरू किया जाएगा। इसमें स्किल डेवलपमेंट के साथ-साथ छात्रों को साधारण पाठ्यक्रम भी पढ़ाया जाएगा। इस कोर्स को पॉलिटेक्निक और तकनीकी संस्थानों में शुरू किया जाएगा और ट्रेनिंग के लिए यही संस्थान

क्या होना है

इन कोर्सेज को शुरू करने वाले संस्थानों को इसके एवज में मिलेगा निश्चित फंड

स्किल्स नॉलेज प्रोवाइडर्स के लिए यह नए कारोबार की तरह होगा

कैंपस उपलब्ध कराएंगे। स्किल्स की ट्रेनिंग स्किल नॉलेज प्रोवाइडर्स उपलब्ध कराएंगे। इन कोर्सेज को शुरू करने के लिए आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख 30 अप्रैल रखी गई है। आवेदन करने वाले संस्थानों का निरीक्षण किया जाएगा और देखा जाएगा कि कितने संस्थान वास्तव में इस तरह के कोर्सेज को शुरू करने के लिए तैयार और काबिल हैं। उसके बाद इन कोर्सेज को शुरू किया जाएगा। इन कोर्सेज को शुरू करने वाले संस्थानों को इसके एवज में निश्चित फंड मिलेगा और
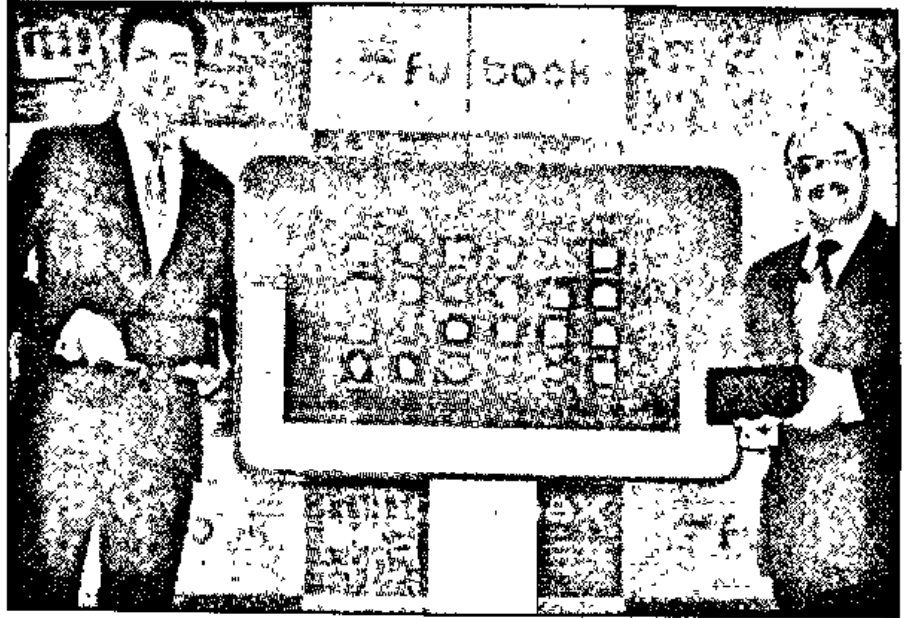
वोकेशनल एजुकेशन में तकनीकी...

स्किल्स नॉलेज प्रोवाइडर्स के लिए यह नए कारोबार की तरह होगा। स्किल नॉलेज प्रोवाइडर्स से मिली ट्रेनिंग के बिना इस तरह की पढ़ाई को पूरा नहीं माना जाएगा। टेलीकॉम, ऑटोमोबाइल, एग्रीकल्चर और टूरिज्म समेत अन्य कई क्षेत्रों में प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए वोकेशनल प्रोग्राम्स शुरू किए जाने की योजना है। इन क्षेत्रों की कंपनियां स्किल नॉलेज प्रोवाइडर्स की तरह एक नया एवेन्यू शुरू कर सकती हैं। वैसे नेशनल वोकेशनल एजुकेशन क्वालिफिकेशन फ्रेमवर्क के तहत सात लेवल पर वोकेशनल प्रोग्राम्स शुरू किए जाने की एआईसीटीई की योजना है। सबसे पहले तीसरे लेवल से शुरुआत की जा रही है। लेवल एक और दो स्कूल स्तर पर शुरू किए जाने की योजना है।

पढ़ाई में मदद के लिएआया फनबुक टैबलेट

नई दिल्ली | बिजनेस डेस्क

युवाओं को ध्यान में रखकर माइक्रोमैक्स ने फनबुक के नाम से एक टैबलेट लांच किया है। यह बच्चों की पढ़ाई में काफी मददगार साबित हो सकता है। कंपनी ने इसके लिए कई जगह समझौते किए जिससे बच्चों को अपनी पढ़ाई के लिए ढेर सारी सामग्री इसके माध्यम से मिल सके। इसको लांच करते हुए कंपनी के सीईओ दीपक मेहरोत्रा ने कहा कि देश में करीब दो करोड़ बच्चे उनका लक्ष्य हैं जिनके बीच यह काफी लोकप्रिय हो सकता है। कंपनी ने टाटा टेलीसर्विस के साथ सामझौता किया है जिससे लोगों को सस्ते में डेटा कार्ड मिल सके।

6499	05	32	1.2	512
रुपये है इसकी कीमत	घंटे चलती है बैटरी	जीबी तक बढ़ सकती है मेमोरी	गीगा हर्ट्ज का है प्रोसेसर	मेगाबाइट की है रैम

स्टूडेंट्स को मिलेगी टैब्लेट्स की 'ताकत'

एजुकेशन, एंटरटेनमेंट और फन का मिलेगा पूरा डोज

अमित मिश्रा ॥ नई दिल्ली : टैबलेट्स के बाजार में एक नया घमासान शुरू हो चुका है। अब सबकी नजर स्कूलों पर है। हर कंपनी वर्चुअल स्कूल और क्लास के सपने को सच करने की ओर कदम बढ़ाने का वादा कर रही है। सभी स्कूली बच्चों के नाजुक कंधों से भारी बैग उतारने की कवायद में जुट गए हैं।

एचसीएल का टैब

खासियत : बड़ा एजुकेशनल नेटवर्क

बेस मॉडल का प्राइस : 7999 रुपये

आकाश का इंतजार हो रहा है लेकिन भारतीय बाजार में दो दिनों के अंदर ही एचसीएल और माइक्रोमैक्स जैसी कंपनियों ने एजुकेशन सेक्टर को टारगेट करते हुए टैब्स लॉन्च किए हैं। एचसीएल ने माई एडू टैब (MyEduTab) के नाम से उतारा है जिसे क्लाउड बेस रखा गया है। इसे एनसीआरटी सिलेबस के हिसाब से तैयार किया गया है।

पैरंट्स रख सकेंगे नजर

एचसीएल ने इस बात पर खास जोर दिया है कि पैरंट्स स्टूडेंट्स की एक्टिविटी को कहीं से भी बैठकर मॉनिटर कर सकते हैं। बच्चे ने टैब पर क्या देखा, क्या पढ़ा, होम वर्क किया कि नहीं हर बात पर पैरंट्स एक सिंपल लॉगइन के जरिए नजर रख सकते हैं। इसमें एंटरटेनमेंट के भी फीचर हैं लेकिन इसे पूरी तरह से प्राइमरी और हायर क्लास की एजुकेशन के हिसाब से तैयार किया गया है। इसमें क्लास 1 से 12 तक और हायर एजुकेशन के जनरल कोर्स सबस्क्राइब किए जा सकते हैं।

17 प्री लोडेड एप्लिकेशन

इस टैब में 17 प्री लोडेड एप्लिकेशन होंगे और बाकी खरीदे जा सकते हैं। एचसीएल ने दावा किया है कि यह क्लाउड बेस सबसे बड़ा एजुकेशनल नेटवर्क होगा। एचसीएल अफसरों ने बताया कि 20 इंस्टीट्यूट्स पहले ही उनके साथ टाईअप कर चुके हैं और कई से बात चल रही है। बेस मॉडल या प्राइमरी एजुकेशन वाले टैब का प्राइस 7999 रुपये है। हायर वर्जन माई एडू टैब के 12 का प्राइस 11499 रुपये है। हायर एजुकेशन के लिए टैब की कीमत 9999 रुपये रखी गई है। बेस वैरिएंट में A8 –1 गीगाहर्ट्ज प्रोसेसर के साथ आइसक्रीम सैंडविच 4.0 एंड्रॉएड वर्जन होगा। जल्द ही यह हिंदी जैसी अन्य भाषाओं में भी उपलब्ध होगा। अभी अगर कोई इंस्टीट्यूशन इसे उपलब्ध कराता है तो कोर्स कंटेंट की कीमत वह ही अदा करेगा।

माइक्रोमैक्स की फनबुक

खासियत :
पढ़ाई के साथ फन भी

प्राइस : 6499 रुपये

मार्केट में जिस दूसरे एजुकेशनल टैब की एंट्री हुई है वह है फनबुक। इसे माइक्रोमैक्स ने लॉन्च किया है और इसे एजुकेशन के साथ ही एक लोडेड डिवाइस बनाने की कोशिश की है। माइक्रोमैक्स का दावा है कि इस टैब में पढ़ाई के साथ ही टाइमपास के भी सारे ऑप्शंस हैं। इस टैब को इंटरनेट बेस बनाया गया है और टाय फोटोन से टाई अप किया गया है। 1.2 गीगा हर्ट्ज के प्रोसेसर के साथ 512 एमबी रैम और 4 जीबी हार्ड ड्राइव मेमोरी है।

एप्स फीचर्स

इसमें खास है इसके एंटरटेनमेंट और एप्स फीचर्स। लाइव टीवी से लेकर नेट फिल्क्स के जरिए मूवी और म्यूजिक सभी कुछ देने की कोशिश की गई है। माइक्रोमैक्स इसे केवल एजुकेशन ही नहीं फन के साथ एजुकेशन डिवाइस की तरह लॉन्च कर रहा है। फनबुक को 4.0 एंड्रॉएड के सहारे लगभग हर तरह के फीचर्स के साथ पेश करने की कोशिश की गई है। कंपनी ने इसका प्राइस है 6499 रुपये रखा है। हैरानी की बात यह है कि इसमें नेट कनेक्ट डोंगल और सीमित समय तक फ्री डाउनलोड कंटेंट भी मौजूद है। एजुकेशन कंटेंट के लिए कंपनी ने एक खास कंपनी से टाई अप किया है और सीबीएससी, आईसीएससी और कई स्टेट बोर्ड्स की लगभग हर भाषा का कंटेंट उपलब्ध करने का वादा किया है। अब इससे बच्चों के कंधों से कितना बोझ उतर पाता है यह तो समय ही बताएगा।

Amar Ujala ND 4/04/2012 p-7

ऑनलाइन -ऑफलाइन में बराबर की मशक्कत

एआईईईई को लेकर सीबीएसई ने कर ली है तैयारी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड ने बीते साल से सबक लेते हुए एआईईईई के सफल संचालन की तैयारी कर ली है। सीबीएसई ने प्रश्नपत्रों में किसी चूक को रोकने के लिए इस साल ऑनलाइन व ऑफलाइन परीक्षा के कठिनता के स्तर को एक समान रखा है। सीबीएसई ने साफ कर दिया है कि परीक्षा के लिए मल्टीपल सेट प्रश्न पत्र तैयार किए जा चुके हैं। प्रश्नपत्र की तैयारी के समय यह सुनिश्चित किया गया है कि प्रश्नपत्र के हर सेट का स्तर एक जैसा ही हो, जिससे कि छात्रों को परेशानी न हो।

बीते साल एआईईईई की परीक्षा के बाद छात्रों ने शिकायत की थी कि ऑफलाइन के मुकाबले में ऑनलाइन परीक्षा का स्तर कठिन था। ऐसे में बोर्ड ने इस बार पहले से ही छात्रों को सूचित किया है कि 29 अप्रैल को होने वाली ऑनलाइन परीक्षा और 7, 12, 19, और 26 मई ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के लिए प्रश्नपत्रों के मल्टीपल सेट तैयार किए हैं।

सीबीएसई के स्पेशल एग्जाम निदेशक पीतम सिंह ने बताया कि उम्मीदवार चाहे ऑनलाइन परीक्षा दे रहे हों या फिर ऑफलाइन दोनों ही का स्तर एक समान होगा। छात्रों को एक समान स्तर होने के कारण परेशानी नहीं होगी।

स्पेशल एग्जाम निदेशक के मुताबिक, एआईईईई के प्रश्न पत्र तैयार करने वाले विषय विशेषज्ञों ने इसका विशेष ध्यान रखा है, जिससे कि हर प्रश्न

* ऑनलाइन परीक्षा कठिन होने की शिकायत थी
* परीक्षा प्रश्न पत्र के मल्टीपल सेट तैयार किए

'टफ-4' के लिए हो जाएं तैयार

नोएडा। सीबीएसई 12वीं में साइंस स्ट्रीम के छात्रों की बोर्ड परीक्षाएं खत्म हो चुकी हैं और यूपी बोर्ड की सिर्फ अंग्रेजी की परीक्षा बची है। अब छात्रों ने इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षाओं की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। देश के नामी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले की सबसे बड़ी अग्नि परीक्षा 8 अप्रैल को आईआईटी जेईई के रूप में होगी। इसके बाद यूपी एसईई, एआईईईई और आईपीयू का एंट्रेंस होगा। आईआईटी जेईई में शहर के आधा दर्जन से अधिक परीक्षा केंद्रों पर चार हजार से ज्यादा छात्र शामिल होंगे। 15 आईआईटी और आईटी बीएचयू समेत आईएसएम धनबाद की 9,618 सीटों पर दाखिला मिलेगा। नए सेशन से आईआईटी संस्थानों ने ओबीसी नॉन क्रीमी लेयर के लिए भी क्षैतिज आरक्षण कर दिया है। इसके बाद 22 अप्रैल को यूपी एसईई की बारी है, जिसमें शहर के पांच हजार से ज्यादा छात्र शामिल होंगे। इसमें एसईई से 70 हजार सीटें मिलेंगी। इसके बाद 29 को एआईईईई का एग्जाम है, जिसमें एनआईटी समेत 60 संस्थानों में 34 हजार सीटों पर दाखिला होना है। इसके लिए शहर के छात्र फरीदाबाद में परीक्षा देंगे। एआईईईई के ऑनलाइन वर्जन 7,12,19,24 मई को होगा। इसके बाद 2 जून को आईपीयू का एंट्रेंस है। इसके जरिए दिल्ली के 19 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों की 5,855 सीटों पर दाखिला मिलेगा।

परीक्षा की तैयारी के टिप्स

* मॉक टेस्ट मौखिक नहीं, लिखकर हल करें
* अधिकारिक सेलेबस के आधार पर रिवाइज करें
* परीक्षा से कुछ दिन पहले कुछ नया न पढ़े
* पुराने प्रश्नपत्रों को हल करके टाइम मैनेजमेंट सुधारें
* परीक्षा से पहले दिन गणित की पढ़ाई न करें
* पढ़े हुए मजबूत टॉपिक की प्रेक्टिस करते रहें
* परीक्षा में गणित के खंड को सबसे बाद में हल करें
* बॉडी क्लॉक सुधारने के लिए समय से सोएं-उठें

पत्र में गणित, फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री के पाठ्यक्रम सही रुप से कवर हो पाया है। हर विषय के पाठ्यक्रम को सही रूप से यूनिट में बांटा गया है और हर यूनिट से समान रूप से प्रश्नों का चयन किया गया है।

उनके मुताबिक, प्रश्न पत्र के हर सेट में विषय के मुताबिक आसान, औसत और कठिन को रखा गया है, ताकि हर सेट को एक समान बनाया जा सके।

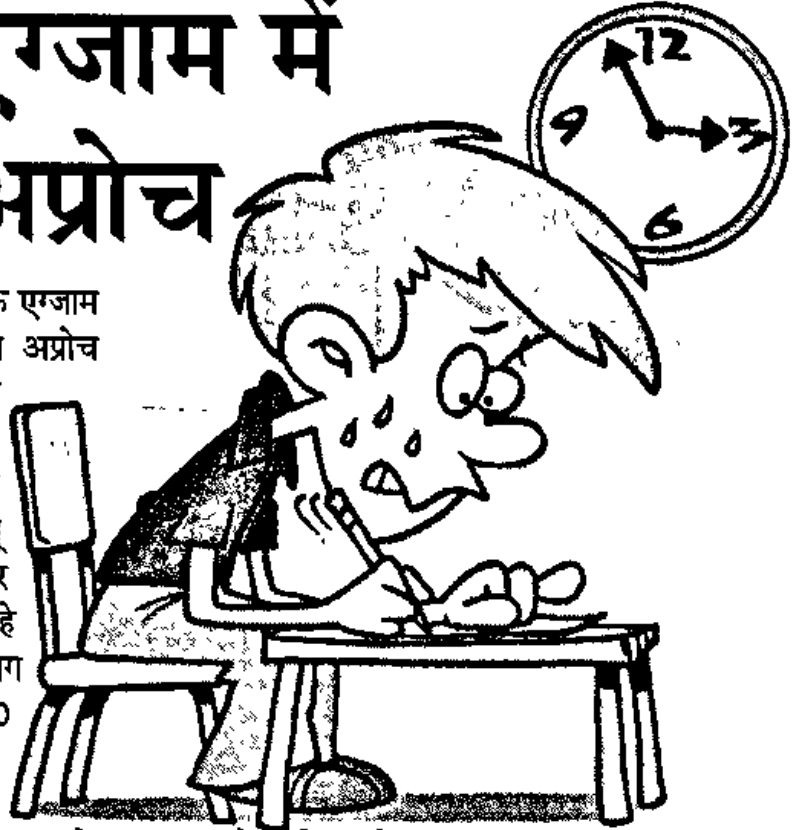# Nav Bharat Times ,ND 4/04/2012 P-10

आईआईटी एग्जाम में कैसा हो अप्रोच

आईआईटी के एग्जाम में सबसे अहम यह है कि एग्जाम हॉल में आप सवाल हल करने के लिए क्या अप्रोच अपनाते हैं। अगर आप 250 या इससे ज्यादा मार्क्स के सवाल कर लेते हैं, वह भी सही सही, तो इसके बाद आपकी कोशिश अपने रैंक को बेहतर करने की होनी चाहिए, न कि फालतू सवालों को हल कर नेगेटिव मार्क्स लेने की। अगर 200 या इससे कम अंक के सवाल हल कर पा रहे हैं तो ऐसे में आपका अप्रोच निश्चित रूप से अलग होगा और आप रिस्क ले सकते हैं क्योंकि 200 मार्क्स पर सिलेक्शन शायद ही हो पाएगा।

इसलिए सवाल हल करने की प्लानिंग जरूर करें। फिटजी के डायरेक्टर सीवीके कल्याण कुमार के मुताबिक पूरे पेपर को तीन चरणों में बांट कर हल करें। पहले चरण में तो आप वैसे सवाल करेंगे ही जिन्हें अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं और जिनमें समय कम लगेगा। ऐसे सवालों को करके आप न सिर्फ अपना समय बचाएंगे बल्कि आपका आत्मविश्वास भी बढ़ेगा।

खुद को जांचें

दूसरे चरण में वैसे सवालों को चुनें जिन्हें आप सही तो करेंगे, लेकिन समय तो ज्यादा लगेगा। जो सवाल देखने से ही कठिन लगें, उन्हें तीसरे चरण के लिए छोड़ दें। पहले चरण में शुरुआत उस विषय से करने की कोशिश करें जिस पर आपकी सबसे ज्यादा पकड़ है।

पहले और दूसरे चरण के सवालों को हल करने के बाद आप 2 से 4 मिनट में अपना मूल्यांकन खुद करें कि जो सवाल आपने हल किए, उनमें से कितने पूरी तरह सभी हैं और आप कम से कम कितने मार्क्स ले आएंगे ?

अगर मार्क्स 200 या इससे कम लगे (क्वेश्चन पेपर यदि 480 अंकों का हो), तो आप बाकी बचे सवालों को अनुमान से हल करने का प्रयास करें। लेकिन अनुमान तब लगाएं, यदि आपका मन बार-बार उत्तर के किसी एक विकल्प पर जा रहा है या आप कम से कम दो विकल्प को छांट सकते हैं।

यदि आप 250 से अधिक स्कोर कर रहे हैं तो संभल कर अनुमान लगाएं क्योंकि अब सवाल बेहतर रैंक हासिल करने का है। लेकिन यदि आप 200 से कम स्कोर करते हैं, तो रिस्क ले सकते है।

एनबीटी एजुकेशन