Newspaper Clips
April 7-8, 2013

April 7

Hindustan Times ND 07/04/2013   P-5

Former IITians start coaching websites

EMERGING TREND Sites aim to help engineering aspirants crack entrance exams; Questions are solved on video to give more clarity

Mallica Joshi
✉ mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: For students hoping to crack the engineering entrance examinations, former IITians have, for long, been the go-to guy.

With the parental tendency to tell their children to learn from successful seniors and classmates being a long established norm, a number of former IITians have started their own coaching centres to help students with the preparation. A number of other coaching centres boast of having teachers who are former IITians.

But lately a new trend is emerging. More and more entrepreneurs are going online to reach their target audience.

What do these websites, then, offer? Extra work sheets, specialised tools, video lectures of some of the more important topics given by the most popular coaching faculty are some of the features.

Websites such as PrepSquare. com, askiitians.com and knowledgebin.com are some of the portals that have risen in popularity in the last few months. Run by former IITians, the web-

● **With 90% of engineering aspirants attending coaching centres, online teaching is becoming the new trend.**   SUSHIL KUMAR/HT

sites have own a good reputation among aspirants.

The new trend has seen such a success that former IITians are now leaving their high-paying jobs to man the platforms full-time. Raghav Verma, 26, is among those who left his job as a consultant in a Noida-based firm to start his own website. The IIT-Delhi graduate was joined by three others from different IITs to start PrepSquare. com, a site where questions are solved on video to give students more clarity.

"The key difference between us and the other websites is that

unlike other packages, we have videos explaining the concepts involved in every question. We also have detailed analytics and progress tracking to help students figure out areas where they are weak," Verma said.

The students, too, think it is a good idea. "Getting tips and extra help from websites is a good idea because I can't keep running/off to the coaching centre at every little doubt. And if the founders are former IITians, it gives students more faith in the content," said Pulkit Jain, an IIT aspirant, who regularly logs on to websites for help.

Indian Express Mumbai 06-04-2013 P-3

IIT-B opens 1st robotics lab in Mumbai college

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, APRIL 5

AFTER developing working models of pothole-filling, fruit-picking and autonomous vehicle robots to teach embedded systems (computers embedded in all electronic gadgets) to students, IIT Bombay started Friday the first robotics lab in a college affiliated to Mumbai University.

The lab will focus on teaching the systems, robotics and programming to students and teachers. It will provide hands-on learning infrastructure to engineering students with limited access to labs and mentors, besides access to teaching content developed by IIT Bombay.

In phase I, labs will be set up in 100 colleges and five nodal centres (each nodal centre will cover around 20 colleges) by year-end.

"The first nodal centre has been opened at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Wadala. All labs will act as hubs of project work and creativity. The lab set-up will bring students and teachers together to work on innovative and meaningful projects and solve existing, tangible problems and create something beyond defined syllabus. It will facilitate hands-on application of engineering, math and computer science in a fun and exciting manner," said Prof Kavi Arya.

The initiative is part of the e-yantra project being sponsored by the HRD ministry under National Mission for ICT in Education. By the end of the third year, labs will be set up in 500 colleges and 25 nodal centres across the country.

"We need local solutions/technologies to sustain growth. We also need good engineers to solve societal problems through technology. The labs are a step in that direction," said Arya. Colleges with strong networking and infrastructure capabilities have been identified as nodal centres. Every such college will coordinate with and mentor 20-30 in a region. Participating colleges will have to invest Rs 5 lakh to purchase robots, tools and ancillary equipment, have a dedicated team of four teachers and provide computers to students.

IIT Bombay will mentor and train teachers and help set up infrastructure. "Once the labs are in place we can share know-how, teaching insights and project methodologies for teachers to take ownership of our embedded systems course," said Prof Krithi Ramamritham.

आईआईटी के लिए रेस आज से शुरू

नई दिल्ली (अमर उजाला नेटवर्क)। दस हजार से अधिक आईआईटी सीटों के लिए रविवार से रेस शुरू हो जाएगी। पहले चरण में देश भर के साढ़े बारह लाख परीक्षार्थी जेईई की मुख्य परीक्षा में हिस्सा लेंगे। डेढ़ लाख टॉपर जेईई की एडवांस्ड परीक्षा में हिस्सा लेने के अधिकारी होंगे। वहीं कम सफल परीक्षार्थी एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी सहित अन्य इंस्टीट्यूशंस की 25000 सीटों के लिए किस्मत आजमा सकेंगे।
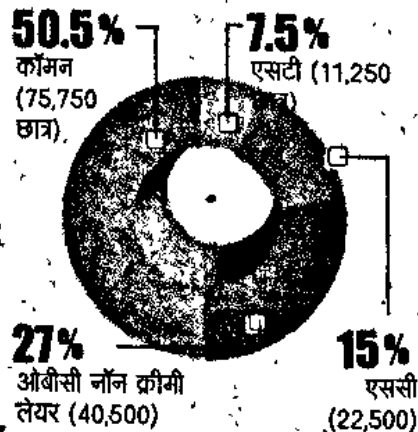
पहली बाधा : जेईई मेन

- तिथि : 7 अप्रैल (ऑफलाइन)
- 10.86 लाख परीक्षार्थी

कंप्यूटर आधारित

- तिथि : 8 से 30 अप्रैल
- 1.75 लाख परीक्षार्थी बैठेंगे

कौन कराएगा परीक्षा

यह परीक्षा जेईई के एपेक्स बोर्ड की देखरेख में सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ सेकेंडरी एजुकेशन के तहत आयोजित की जाएगी।

शीर्ष डेढ़ लाख उम्मीदवार

50.5% कॉमन (75,750 छात्र)

7.5% एसटी (11,250)

27% ओबीसी नॉन क्रीमी लेयर (40,500)

15% एससी (22,500)

03% सीट हर वर्ग में शारीरिक रूप से अक्षम उम्मीदवारों के लिए आरक्षित

1 मई तक घोषित होगा परिणाम

किस में होगा प्रवेश

आईआईटी (इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी), एनआईटी (नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी), आईआईआईटी (इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इनफार्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी), सीएफटीआई (अन्य सेंट्रली फंडेड टेक्निकल इंस्टीट्यूशंस), गुजरात, नगालैंड, पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश, हरियाणा, उत्तराखंड, अरुणाचल प्रदेश द्वारा फंडेड इंस्टीट्यूशंस में भी छात्र प्रवेश ले सकेंगे।

दूसरी बाधा : जेईई एडवांस्ड

- तिथि : 2 जून
- एग्जाम कंडक्टेड बाई IIT
- कहां मिलेगा प्रवेश : 15 आईआईटी, आईटीबीएचयू और आईएसएम धनबाद में
- परिणाम : 23 जून तक

शीर्ष 20 परसेंटाइल में आने के लिए चाहिए मिनिमम इतने प्रतिशत

- 77.8% : सीबीएसई
- 81.4% : काउंसिल फॉर इंडियन स्कूल सर्टिफिकेट एग्जामिनेशन
- 78.17% : तमिलनाडु स्टेट बोर्ड
- 87.2% : आंध्र प्रदेश स्टेट बोर्ड
- 58% : पश्चिम बंगाल स्टेट बोर्ड

Indian Express ND 07/04/2013   P-4

DU's 4-yr undergraduate students to get tablets

ADITI VATSA
NEW DELHI I APRIL 6

DELHI University has new plans for classes in the next session. From July, DU students will be given tablets, as part of the new four-year curriculum. Every classroom will be equipped with ICT (information and communication technologies).

"Students of the four-year undergraduate programme will be given tablets. There is so much information available on the Internet, which students need access to, especially since a major portion of the four-year programme is based on projects. We want to empower students as much as possible," South Campus Director Umesh Rai said.

In January, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had signed an MoU with DU for setting up a software technology park in North Campus.

According to university officials, these changes have been introduced keeping in mind the nature of the four-year undergraduate programme.

Rai said: "The entire four-year structure is learner-centric. Students will understand concepts in different subjects through projects."

Welcoming these measures, Ram Lal Anand College principal Vijay Sharma said, "A meeting with all college principals took place today where various aspects of the four-year programme were discussed. The focus of the four-year programme is not on bookish knowledge, but on application of one's capabilities. This means the existing pedagogy has to change."

Rai said: "The university plans to hold teacher training programmes for the four-year courses."

DECODING PARTICIPANTS TO DEVELOP INFOGRAPHICS, POSTERS, APPS FOR SECTORS COVERED BY THE PLAN

In a first, Hackathon to demystify Plan document

MIHIR MISHRA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

FOR the first time ever the government is encouraging citizens to make online changes to an official document. Over 1,900 young men and women will collect at 10 universities across India online, for the first-ever 'Hackathon' on the 12th Five-Year Plan.

The two-day event is being organised by the Planning Commission and National Innovation Council on April 6 and 7. They will get a shot at using the document that is the backbone of the government's economic policy to develop into innovative projects from information graphics and posters to mobile or web applications. A hackathon (also known as a hack day, hackfest or codefest) is an event in which people collaborate intensively on a subject.

"The opening address for the Hackathon will be conducted via webcast by deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek

THE IDEA behind the Hackathon is to bring a closer involvement of people with the objectives of the government

Singh Ahluwalia, adviser to the Prime Minister, Sam Pitroda, and Sindhushree Khullar, secretary, Planning Commission. The webcast can also be viewed live at webcast.gov.in/ hackathon," said a government release.

The idea is to bring a closer involvement of people with the government objectives. The event will take place at the University of Jammu, IIT Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, TISS Mumbai, IIIT Hyderabad, IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras and IIM Shillong.

The sectors shortlisted for the Hackathon are: macroeconomic framework, health, urban development, education and skill development, energy, agriculture and rural development, and environment.

Participants from across the country will also compete for prizes in three categories — mobile/web applications, infographics and short films.

Each team participating at a physical location will do a three-minute pitch to present their solution on the second day of the event. Five winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges.

"The Hackathon also features the unique 'UnCover the Event' competition, where amateur event journalists will live-tweet, blog, and document the Hackathon. The winners of the best UnCover submissions will receive an audience with filmmaker, Shekhar Kapur," the release stated.

Atul R Deshpande, a Delhi-based blogger said, "This will be a fantastic experience for the people participating in it... Together they should be able to use it for maximum benefit and underline the key things required for the country during the Plan period."

Business Standard ND 07/04/2013 P-3

Annamalai University vice-chancellor suspended

BS REPORTER

Chennai, 6 April

Tamil Nadu Governor K Rosaiah today suspended Annamalai University Vice-Chancellor M Ramanathan as part of an investigation of alleged financial irregularities in the university. A special audit team constituted by the state government had submitted its report saying it had found financial irregularities including diversion of funds running to several crores of rupees and misappropriation of funds, said an order issued by the governor.

The Tamil Nadu government had constituted a Special Audit Team under Section 28 of the Annamalai University Act, 1928, to conduct a special audit of the university to assess the alleged irregularities. The Senate and Syndicate have admitted that there have been diversion of university funds to a hospital, appropriation of provident fund and contributory pension fund, non remittance of pension contribution, lapse in collecting dues, appointments made in excess and excessive fixation of salary, said the order.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Apr 7, 2013;Section: Front Page;Page: 3;

JNU professor suspended for harassment

Saira Kurup | TNN

New Delhi: K R Nayar, one of the senior-most professors in Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, has been suspended with immediate effect on charges of sexually harassing a female student.

The action came five months after the victim complai-

ned. JNU vice-chancellor Sudhir Kumar Sopory confirmed the suspension, saying the order "has been issued". He said the varsity's executive council would decide on further action and that the suspension "will stay till further orders".

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Apr 7, 2013;Section: Times City;Page: 8;

It's half-victory, say JNU students

▶ **Continued from P1**

TOI tried to contact Prof Nayar at his home for his reaction to the suspension. A family member took the call and said the professor had "no comments".

The order, issued on Friday, comes five months after the student filed a complaint with the university's Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment on November 1. The harassment, those involved with investigations said, started in March 2012. But the student refrained from complaining

> **After the suspension order on Friday, students put up posters demanding implementation of GSCASH recommendations**

because she felt nobody would believe her as Nayar is a professor of repute. It was only because of unflinching family support that she finally took on her tormentor.

However, no one is celebrating yet, said her fellow students. Students TOI spoke to on Saturday, mostly those in the forefront of the battle against the teacher, said the suspension order was more like a half-victory, as he is yet to be dismissed from the campus. "Besides," one of them said, "just a suspension cannot heal the emotional pain."

A general apprehension among the students is also that it is not just about punishing Nayar and ending his career in JNU, it is about doing something to stop his "activities" that may continue beyond JNU.

The case had seen sustained campaigning in JNU for the past few months. "We are happy that Nayar has been immediately suspended. We all feel victorious in some sense as we see this as our own case too. I feel that after the Nirbhaya incident, things have changed," said Smriti Minocha. She said she was moved by the widespread support from fellow male students, too, and that for the first time, the faculty (in this case from Nayar's department) openly expressed solidarity with the cause of gender justice on the campus.

After the V-C's suspension order on Friday, students put up posters across the campus demanding prompt implementation of recommendations made by the GSCASH, which has already submitted its inquiry report to the administration for further action. Ashutosh Deep, a PhD student in Nayar's centre, said, "I felt bad initially because the professor was confident he would get away. He also tried to show that the girl in question was mentally unstable, which we know is far from the truth."

(Names of the students have been changed to protect their identity)

HT Kolkata

Now, IIM looks forward to awarding degrees

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C) has welcomed the IIM Bill to be tabled in the Parliament, which would give them the power to handout degrees rather than diplomas.

Addressing the 48th Annual Convocation of the institute director Shekhar Chaudhuri said, "I am happy to inform you that considerable progress has been made towards enabling the IIMs to award degrees rather than diplomas. Though PGDM of the IIMs is very well recognised in industry, a degree would help in strengthening our reputation internationally."

"The HRD ministry is seriously considering giving the IIMs the authority to award degrees through an Act of Parliament. The authority to provide degrees will provide tremendous academic flexibility to the IIMs to develop a variety of programmes that are not feasible today," Chaudhuri said.

The Bill, which advocated setting-up of an overarching IIM Council had initially received objections from various IIMs, as it was feared that their autonomy institutions would be encroached by the HRD ministry. The revised draft suggesting that there would be a coordination forum of IIMs, which would be a recommendatory body deliberating on matters of policy objectives and other common interest areas appears to have melted the ice between the Centre and the premier institutes.

■ Students of IIM Calcutta celebrate graduation day at the 48th annual convocation at Joka on Saturday. SUBHANKAR CHAKRABORTY/ HT PHOTO
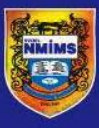
While IIM-C has welcomed the Bill it would also witness a change of guard on April 8 as Saibal Chattopadhyay, professor of operations management group would become its new director.

"As you are aware this is the last time I am addressing you in my capacity as the director of this institute. I am sure the institute will scale greater heights under professor Chattopadhyay's leadership," said the out-going director, Chaudhuri.

Talking about the next big challenge of IIM-C Chaudhuri said, "The faculty council has already taken the decision to initiate a comprehensive review of the PGP curriculum. We now need to take the next steps to set up a broad based committee to undertake the task in a time bound manner.A new research policy that has been approved by the board of governors needs to the implemented. It will enable faculty members to undertake large field based and multidisciplinary research studies that are likely to impact the prac-

tice of management significantly. It is aimed at focusing on complex real life problems through multidisciplinary research."

On Saturday 450 students were awarded diplomas. Avinash K. Krishnakumar, topped the PGDM with highest CGPA throughout the course and received Dr BC Roy Gold Medal for 1st rank holder and chairman's prize among several other prizes.

Pachauri warns of ecological impact on Sethusamundram

KOLKATA: With the Centre ignoring the Pachauri Committee report advising against implementation of the controversial Sethusamundram project, scientist RK Pachauri has said that he stands by the report and warned of serious ecological ramifications. "We stand by what we said in our report that the project will not be economically and ecologically viable," Pachauri, chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said. On the sidelines of IIM Calcutta's convocation here on Saturday, he said the committee headed by him came to the aforesaid conclusion after a comprehensive reading of all factors such as ocean current and wind patterns.

HT Jaipur

BOY PRODIGY RETAKES IIT TEST

Aabshar H Quazi

■ aabshar.quazi@hindustantimes.com

KOTA: Kota IIT coaching student Satyam Kumar, who was in the headlines last year for having cracked the Indian Institute of Technology-Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) at the age of 12, on Sunday reappeared for the same test to better his ranking. He is said to be the youngest peson to have cracked one of the most competitive exams in the country.

Satyam got 8,137th rank in the IIT-JEE last year, written by more than 5 lakh students. He chose to take the exam again this year to improve his rank.

The Tribune ND 07/04/2013   P-3

DTU to introduce BTech, MBA dual programme

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi,April 6

With a view to providing synergy between science and engineering, the Academic Council of Delhi Technological University (DTU) decided to launch some new programmes from the coming academic session to meet the needs of industry.

These programmes include a BTech and MBA dual degree programme, BTech (IT) evening programme, MTech in Computational Design and MTech in Renewable Energy Technology.

"The university is all set to start BTech evening in information technology to be run by the Department of Information Technolo-gy. The course will offer 30 seats and will be held six days a week from 6 pm to 9 pm. The course curriculum will incorporate majors in information technology, including object-oriented technology, DBMS, software engineering, artificial intelligence, computer networks, microprocessor, communication engineering," said the university Vice-Chancellor, PB Sharma.

To cater to the needs of the students who aspire to do BTech for gaining technical knowledge and augment this with managerial knowledge by pursuing MBA, the university has decided to start BTech and MBA dual degree programme, he added.

Times of India ND 07/04/2013   P-20

For PhDs, MBA grads, UK eases immigration rules

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The British home office on Saturday relaxed immigration rules that will allow international MBA graduates from British universities and other higher education institutions to stay in the United Kingdom for up to a year after graduating as part of the expanded graduate entrepreneur scheme.

Up to 1,000 will be able to stay to develop their own business idea or work in a start-up, after which they can apply to stay in the UK as a skilled worker or an entrepreneur.

Additionally, the changes will create greater flexibility for successful PhD students by allowing them to stay on after their studies for up to a year and work, without having to switch routes. These changes expand the existing options for international students to stay and work after their studies.

There is no limit on the number who can obtain a

> **Up to 1,000 MBA grads from British univs will get a year to develop biz idea or work in a start-up, after which they can apply to stay on**

Tier 2 visa to stay and work, providing they can get a graduate-level job paying £20,300 or more.

The number of students coming from India to study at UK universities registered a fall of nearly 23.5% last year, including a 28% drop at postgraduate level. The rules will also benefit Indian businessmen coming into UK. Intracompany transferees (ICTs) who are paid more than £152,100 will no longer need to take an English test if they want to extend their stay in the UK. The government is also reducing the number of documents that need to be shown by ICTs to prove they have worked for the company for more than a year.

April 8

Hindustan Times ND 8/04/2013   P5

IIT-JEE paper riddled with errors

EXPERTSPEAK Test had 8-20 marks worth of errors; CBSE says it did not receive any complaints, but will look into issue

Bhavya Dore

▪ bhavya.dore@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: Sunday's Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Main paper contained errors which can cost a student upto eight to 20 marks, experts have claimed.

This is the first-level test for entry into the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the National Institutes of Technology and other centrally-funded institutes for engineering aspirants.

Coaching centres pointed out at least eight marks worth of errors, with some saying that including debatable or ambiguous questions, this number can go as high as 20 marks. The exam-conducting body has so far denied all claims of errors. This was the first time that students appeared for the JEE-Main, which replaced the All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE).

Sunday's engineering paper was worth 360 marks and was divided into the phsyics, chemistry and mathematics sections. It was held in the paper-pen format and nine lakh students appeared for it across the country. One lakh students sat for the architecture paper.

▪ **Students writing the JEE exam at a centre in Faridabad. The paper allegedly had several errors.**
SUBHASH SHARMA /HT

Students will also be appearing for the computer-based JEE-Main later this month. "It was not a great experience for students," said Praveen Tyagi, director, IIT-ian's Pace, who estimated about 20 marks worth of errors. "If there are errors in the online exam, then how will you even know? Who will point it out?"

"Students could get confused and it could affect the rest of the paper," said Aakash Chaudhry, director, Aakash Educational Services Limited, who estimated 12 marks worth of errors.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is conducting the JEE-Main this year. "As far as we are concerned, we have not come across any errors," said Vineet Joshi, chairperson of the board. "Our experts will look into it and if there is anything, we will take care of it. But as of now there is nothing."

The candidates in the top 1.5 lakh on the JEE-Main merit list will be eligible for the next stage — the JEE-Advanced.

(WITH INPUTS FROM AAKRITI VASUDEVA)

Hindustan Times ND
8/04/2013   P1

ERRORS IN IIT ENTRANCE MAY HURT STUDENTS

HT Correspondents

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI / MUMBAI: Sunday's Joint Entrance Examination (Main) paper contained errors that could cost students between eight and 20 marks, experts have claimed.

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Nine lakh students appeared for the JEE (Main), which has replaced the All India Engineering Entrance Exam.

» RIDDLED WITH ERRORS, P5

JEE begins with 'easy' main paper

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

Many aspirants appeared for the Joint Entrance Examination (offline), conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for undergraduate engineering courses, on Sunday. It was held in 81 cities, including four abroad centres in Bahrain, Dubai, Riyad and Muscat.

JEE (main) is conducted for candidates aspiring for admissions to BE, B.Tech and architecture courses at National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Delhi Technological University, and other Centrally-funded technical institutes (CFTIs).

JEE (advanced) will be conducted on June 2 for the top 1.5 lakh students.

For selection of students to NITs and CFTI, ranking will be given based on score of 60 per cent JEE (main) and 40 per cent normalisation score of board results. The online exam will start from April 8 to April 25. The results will be declared on May 7.

FIITJEE expert Ramesh Batlish said that the paper was relatively easy but "based on the level of questions, the cut-offs are expected to go high."

Ashwin, a student, who appeared for the examination said, "I hope to qualify, as I have solved similar questions before during the class tests."

Times Of India ND 08/04/2013   P-3
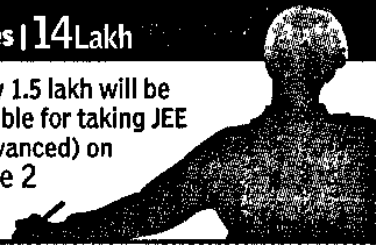
JEE mains 'easiest in recent times'

IT DREAMS
Total candidates | 14 Lakh

Candidates who appeared for offline exam on Sunday 11.2 lakh	Computer-based exams on April 9, 22, 23 & 25	Only 1.5 lakh will be eligible for taking JEE (Advanced) on June 2

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OFFLINE PAPER

➤ **90 questions** of 4 marks each. 1 negative mark for each mistake; no marks for questions not attempted

➤ Each section—**physics, chemistry & mathematics**—comprise **30 marks each**

➤ **Chemistry** and **mathematics 'easy'**

➤ **Physics** was **'tricky'**

➤ **40% of physics** questions from Class XI

➤ **47% of chemistry** questions from Class XI

➤ **60% of mathematics** questions from Class XI

➤ Mechanics had maximum share in physics section

➤ Physical chemistry had maximum share in chemistry

➤ **50% of mathematics section** comprised calculus & algebra

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: It was a good day for examinees taking Joint Engineering Entrance Main 2013 on Sunday with experts and students dubbing the test "one of the easiest in recent times". The exam will shortlist 1.5 lakh candidates, from the 14 lakh who registered, for taking JEE Advanced, the entrance to the Indian Institutes of Technology, IIT-BHU and ISM Dhanbad, on June 2.

It will also decide the final merit list of JEE Main for admissions to various BE/ BTech programmes in the National Institutes of Technology, Delhi Technological University and other centrally funded institutes.

Claiming that compared to 2011 and 2012, 2013 has been easy, experts are saying that the cutoffs are likely to witness an increase and the number of high scorers will also see a quantum leap. "The mathematics and chemistry portions of the paper were easy. While there were some tricky questions in physics, just a couple of chemistry questions don't lead to direct answers. For an above average student, they were not a challenge," R L Trikha, director, FIITJEE, Delhi, said.

In fact, many students completed the paper much before the allotted three hours. Bhavya, a candidate from Delhi, said: "Barring a few questions in physics and chemistry, the paper was easy. I had solved similar papers before time."

According to Trikha, it was a balanced paper as far as distribution of question from classes XI and XII are concerned. While 40% of the physics questions were from Class XI, 47% of chemistry questions and 60% of mathematics questions were from Class XI.

There will be an overall merit list with 60% weightage to the JEE (Main) score and 40% weightage to Class XII Board marks based on which the students will be called for counselling and admissions.

manash.gohain@timesgroup.com

Tribune ND 08/04/2013   P-2

ENGINEERING ADMISSIONS

14 lakh aspirants take first offline JEE Mains

ADTI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

Close to 14 lakh students today appeared for the first Joint Engineering Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains for entry to top centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) of the country except the premier IITs.

The CBSE conducted the exam in offline mode across 81 cities of India including four foreign locations Bahrain, Dubai, Riyadh and Muscat, with students terming it as "easy to solve".

The lesser level of difficulty of questions means cut-offs - to select the best and draw out a merit list - in specific subject papers will be higher.

The online JEE Mains start tomorrow and will continue till April 25 and the facility will be available in 29 cities including three cities abroad - Colombo,

ONLINE EXAM

- Online exam begins today
- It will continue till April 25
- The facility will be available in 29 cities including three cities abroad — Colombo, Kathmandu & Singapore

Kathmandu and Singapore.

"Easier the exam, higher the cut-offs. As more and more students reach a threshold of marks due to low level of dif-

ficulty of a question paper, the qualifying marks in the said paper are bound to be kept higher to ensure only the top ones make the grade," Ramesh

Baltish, the Noida head of FIITJEE today said.

The test is critical as it will select the top 1.5 lakh students who will become eligible to take the JEE Advanced exam which the IITs will conduct for entry to their system.

The selection for IITs will be easier than the past as the IIT-Joint Admission Board this year would have lesser children to test. In the old system, 4 lakh candidates used to take

the IIT-JEE exam, which has now been broken into two stages - JEE Mains for screening and JEE Advanced for final admission.

As against 41 students competing for each IIT seat earlier, from this year, 15 students will be competing considering 1.5 lakh students will take JEE Advanced for 9,647 seats in the 15 IITs, IT-Banaras Hindu University and Indian School of Mines Dhanbad.

Times Of India ND 08/04/2013   P-10

88% of IIT-B students say profs inept

Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: Around 88% Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) students claim that they do not study as their professors do not manage to generate enough interest in their courses.

While a few teachers are enthusiastic about teaching, others are not, reveals a recent survey conducted by the student's magazine Insight.

The study, which has been

> **Most students said in a survey that they do not study as their professors do not manage to generate enough interest in their courses**

published in the April issue, says that there is scope for improvement among some faculty and also focuses on the need for a centre for effective teaching.

Fed up with criticism about their "poor performance" compared to previous batches, a group of IITians from the current batch had first conducted a survey on the campus for the magazine.

The first part of the survey focusing on why students don't study at IIT-B had revealed that if not put on a deadline for an assignment, around 75% students do not spend any time on academics. While more than 75% of

the youngsters seem to be more interested in pursuing hobbies, many are hooked on to social networking and micro-blogging sites.

In the second part of the survey, the students focus on issues about teaching and learning process in the institute. At least 72% students believe the course content is too theoretical, lacks in application and is not interesting.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Tribune ND 08/04/2013   P-8

3 IITians embark on 'Teach for Kashmir' mission

BISMAH MALIK/TNS

SRINAGAR, APRIL 7

Three students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, have embarked on "Teach for Kashmir" mission aimed at increasing the presence of Kashmiri students in various IITs in the country.

"Teach for Kashmir" is the brainchild of Saood Nazir, Imbesat Ahmad and Saif Khan, who will provide training free of cost to 90 IIT aspirants from the Valley this summer.

Saood, who is from south Kashmir's Shopian district

and is pursuing MSc physics (integrated) course at IIT, Kharagpur, has been able to rope in Imbesat and Saif, who are from Patna and have taken up MSc physics (integrated) and MSc chemistry (integrated) at the same institution. These three IITians hope to provide intensive two-month coaching to Class XI, Class XII and those appearing in IIT-JEE examinations from May 20 onwards. Each batch will comprise 30 students.

The project is being sponsored by Jammu and Kashmir Bank and the support team of the IITians in Kash-

Saood Nazir, Imbesat Ahmad and Saif Khan

mir comprising two engineering students Raja Ishfaq (studying engineering in Punjab) and Shahid Bashir (mechanical engineering student at National Institute of Technology, Srinagar) has booked space in Sri Pratap

College, Srinagar, for the training workshop.

At present, just 22 students from the Valley are studying at various IITs in the country.

Last year out of the 9,600 candidates who got through various undergraduate cours-

es at 15 IITs of the country, only four students from Kashmir could make it to these prestigious institutions.

"Although it will not be possible to cover the entire curriculum in two months, we are aiming at setting a

platform for IIT aspirants of the Valley from where they can learn new things and take the course forward. Cracking the IIT examination is not impossible, it needs perseverance and a lot of hard work," Saood said.

INTENSIVE TRAINING

- "Teach for Kashmir" is the brainchild of Saood Nazir, Imbesat Ahmad and Saif Khan, who will provide training free of cost to 90 IIT aspirants from the Valley this summer
- The three IITians hope to provide intensive two-month coaching from May 20 onwards. Each batch will comprise 30 students
- The trio wants to help aspirants get rid of the "IIT phobia" which, they say, could be the reason behind the minimal presence of Kashmiris in IITs

He said students confided in him their fears about cracking the IIT exam during his brief interaction with them in the Valley last year.

Imbesat and Saif have also agreed to help students get rid of the IIT phobia and would be giving their paid internships a miss to teach students in the Valley. The trio will arrive in Kashmir on April 24.

"Our guidance programme will be free of cost except for the minimal printing charges that we will be charging from the students for the study material and the tests," said Raja Ishfaq, the project coordinator.

POLICY CHANGE

National testing body gets nod from state education ministers

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
prashant.n@livemint.com
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NEW DELHI

India's state education ministers have approved a human resource development (HRD) ministry plan to establish a national testing body and turn some of the high-profile entrance exams into global brands, setting aside their criticism of the central government on the poor implementation of the Right to Education legislation.

The states also didn't object to some of the key entrance exams being outsourced to private companies to professionalize the way they are conducted, if needed, thus relieving academic bodies and institutions of the need to handle the process. The national body, once in place, will be an umbrella agency.

"The states have given their in-principle approval for setting up of a national body," said Shashi Tharoor, minister of state for HRD.

The effort is aimed at making the system more efficient.
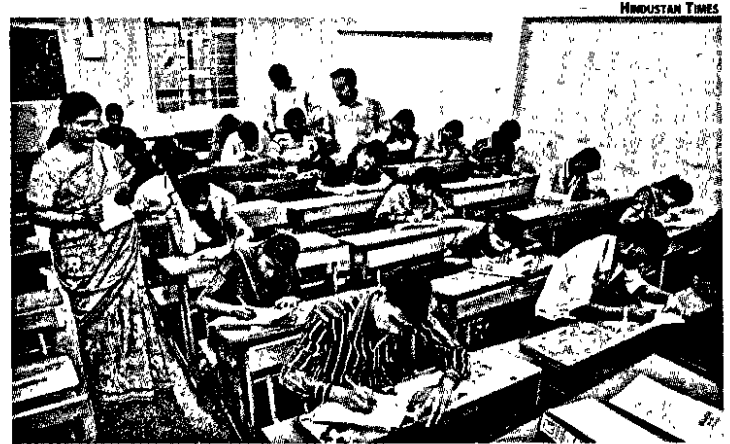
"There is nothing wrong in some of our exams becoming global brands like TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and GRE (Graduate Record Examination)," Tharoor said.

GRE is a global standardized test for admission into engineering schools in the US and several other, mainly English-speaking, countries. It is administered by the US-based Educational Testing Service (ETS). TOEFL is a test of an individual's ability to use and understand English in an academic setting, designed and administered by ETS.

Tharoor said the ministry will draw up a plan shortly after seeking the advice of experts and academics to make the system robust.

Mint had reported on 1 April that the government is planning to outsource some of the entrance exams such as the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) and the National Eligibility Test (NET) to third parties.

GATE is an entrance test for postgraduate courses and doctoral programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology and the

Standardized exams: *The HRD ministry's plan to set up a national testing body aims to turn some of the high-profile entrance exams into global brands.*

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and is also used by some public sector undertakings (PSUs) to screen engineers for entry-level jobs. NET screens eligibility of candidates for junior research fellowships and lectureships at various Indian universities and colleges.

Once in place, the testing body can standardize aptitude tests, besides measuring the general cognitive, analytical and communication abilities of candidates. It can conduct key entrance exams more than twice a year to give students the opportunity to better their scores.

Some experts said students won't benefit much if an entrance test such as GATE is conducted more than once a year.

"India's admission cycle does not have multiple entry points in

a year. When you have one admission season, multiple exams may not yield a a huge difference," said Aditya Reddy, director of GATE Forum, a chain of coaching institutes that prepare students for the exam.

According to government documents, the national body will coordinate with states and various school boards to normalize their marks and create national rankings that will ease the admission procedure—a key concern for IITs when the joint entrance exam pattern changed in 2012.

"Standardizing entrance tests is a good move. The first step, however, should be to bring all school boards' curriculum of the states to the national level," said K. Parthasarathi, secondary education minister of Andhra Pradesh.