

Newspaper Clips

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8/7/2012 P11

PARENTS, NGO MOVE BOMBAY HC AGAINST NEW IIT PATTERN

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Even as the controversy surrounding the 2013 IIT admissions appeared to be settling down, Monday brought about a new twist in the tale. Nearly a dozen parents, in collaboration with an NGO, filed a petition in the Bombay High Court — demanding a stay on the new pattern for 2013.

The NGO — Forum for Fairness in Education — and eleven parents of 12th standard students submitted a petition in court, challenging the new IIT pattern on several grounds.

“We were hopeful that the government would consider students who had been preparing for the IIT entrance for the last two years. An abrupt change in the pattern can be stressful. The child should be given ample time to mentally prepare himself for the new pattern. When we saw that the government was adamant on bringing about the change from 2013, we had no option but to opt for the legal course,” says Jayant Jain, president of the NGO.

Describing the decision to make only 20 percentile from each board eligible for the entrance test as “arbitrary, discriminative and unreasonable”, the petitioners said marks across different boards cannot be equated.

Appealing for directions to not implement the new exam pattern for at least three years, the petitioners said the government’s move had come into criticism from parents, students and teachers.

Business Line, ND
7/08/2012

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IIT joint board clears common entrance format

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Aug. 6

The Joint Admission Board of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) approved the common entrance test for under-graduate courses, previously approved by the IIT Council, on Sunday.

Under the new format, from 2013, students would be eligible for admission to the elite engineering institutions, provided their class XII marks fall within the top 20 percentile of their respective boards.

The two-tier system, involving a joint entrance examination (JEE) Mains and JEE Advanced tests, was approved by the IIT Council on June 27.

Admissions to IITs would be based solely on the ranks achieved in the JEE Advanced, while the Mains will act as a screening test. Only the top 1,50,000 candidates in Mains will be eligible to appear in the Advanced exam.

The Board agreement follows the approval of the Council decision by the IIT Senates over the last few weeks. However, some minor modifications have been made.

According to sources, the Board is understood to have decided to retain subjective questions for the Advanced test, in sync with the existing format.

Also, this would give students, who passed out in 2012, another chance to appear for the entrance for the next academic year.

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Pranab no to honorary IIT degree

SWARAJ THAPA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

IIT-Kharagpur may be disappointed, but President Pranab Mukherjee has declined to accept its honorary degree, saying it would be inappropriate to do so given that he, holding the highest constitutional post of the country, is also the Visitor of all IITs.

The proposal, Rashtrapati Bhawan sources said on Monday, had been shelved, though Mukherjee would visit the institute in his home state to address its annual convocation on September 15.

IIT-Kharagpur's board of governors had decided in June to honour Mukherjee at its convocation this year and



PRANAB MUKHERJEE

initiated the process to seek the approval of the then President Pratibha Patil.

The President is the final authority giving permission to the IITs to confer *DSc honoris causa* on eminent persons. Mukherjee, however, disapproved of the proposal. "It would not have befitted the office of the President, as he himself is the Visitor of the IITs," said an official.

For President Mukherjee, the visit to Kharagpur will be his second tour out of the Capital. He is scheduled to visit Chennai in the first week of September to attend the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Madras High Court. He will also participate in the foundation day celebrations of Kerala in November.

Sources said the President had not yet planned to travel out of the country though he had received some invitations. However, he will be receiving heads of states next month beginning with the bilateral visit of Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon. The Presidents of Palestine and Burundi are also scheduled to visit in September.

PRANAB TO VISIT CHENNAI ON SEPT 8

New Delhi: President Pranab Mukherjee's will visit Chennai on September 8 to attend a function of Madras High Court. This will be his first official visit after becoming the President. Significantly, he had also launched his campaigning for the presidential polls from Chennai only. He will then travel to his home State — West Bengal — where he will visit Kharagpur to attend a function at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). A visit to Kerala is also scheduled in the coming months. Interacting with journalists, the President shared that he will be missing Parliament Session for the first time in his four-decade long career as an MP which started with a stint as a Rajya Sabha member in 1969.

Asian Age ND 07/08/2012

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Phonathon to reconnect IIT-B to alumni

K.A. DODHIYA
MUMBAI, AUG. 6

In bid to reconnect with its alumni, the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay Student Alumni Relation Cell (Sarc) has decided to initiate a phonathon that will get underway from August 7.

Explaining the concept, Vaibhav Tamrakar, overall coordinator of the phonathon, said, "Student volunteers call alumni from the institute itself

over a period of seven days. The duration of the call can vary from 10 minutes to 45 minutes, wherein the conversation usually ranges from nostalgia, progress of the institute and other topics pertaining to the institute's academics and infrastructure. The conversations in most cases are fruitful as in many cases the alumni pledges financial support to the institute. Among the callers, Mr Tamrakar has been the record holder for

In the last phonathon in December 2011, IIT-B managed to reconnect with nearly 500 alumni

having the longest conversation that lasted for 44.50 minutes." In the last phonathon that was held in December 2011, IIT-B

managed to reconnect with nearly 500 alumni all over the globe.

However, this time, Sarc is only concentrating on alumni, based in India. "Though in the past we had targeted 2,100 alumni, this time we will be calling only 800 alumni...but the efficiency rate is expected to be much higher than what was achieved the last time," Mr Tamrakar said.

The institute has also hired tele-calling experts to train students on the

ethics of calling. "This time around, there are 90 volunteers and on any given day only 35 students will be making the calls," Mr Tamrakar claimed.

When contacted, an alumni, who did not wish to be named, said, "I was quite surprised to receive a call from my alma mater in December...I appreciate and support the initiative and have also been invited to have a mentorship workshop for the present batch of students."

IIT-I to develop our third radio telescope

Amrita U Kadam

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INDORE: By setting up India's third radio telescope here in the state, the Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT-I) would now also contribute in the field of radio astronomy.

The telescope RTAC- Radio Telescope Array for Cosmology- designed and being built by IIT-I would be small in size, making it mobile and first-of-its-kind

in the country.

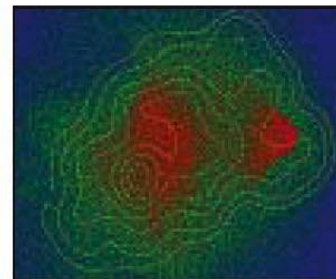
The IIT-I plans to develop a technology that will eventually be better than those used in Australia and the United States. The institute aims to achieve this goal by working in collaboration with scientists from both the countries, said Dr Siddharth Savyasachi Malu, principal investigator of the project. Malu was hired earlier this year, specifically to start astrophysics research in IIT-I. He is also

involved in two other key NASA projects.

Interestingly, on the lines of United States, IIT-I would also keep its gates open for the general public interested in astrophysics, to help in analysing the data.

IIT-I plans to set up the telescope at Ralamandal or Vindhyachal - the hilly area - which would act as a natural barrier to help avoiding any kind

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■ Illustration of the kind of images that the telescope would help in generating. (Image courtesy: NASA)

IIT-Indore to develop India's third radio telescope

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of interference from mobile towers, which might otherwise affect the observations.

Dr Malu said, "The engineers would soon start their survey in these areas to locate the best possible place which has lowest radio frequency interference."

After commissioning the radio telescope, the institute further plans to set up another five such telescopes with the cost of Rs 2 crore. These telescopes will together help in covering more area and probe smaller regions

of the sky through astronomical interferometry.

The main research to be conducted by this telescope is concentrated on cosmology—to find what happens after hot gas masses in clusters of galaxies collide with each other. The telescope will also help to study the clusters and super clusters in the universe. Cosmology is the study of structure, origin and evolution of the universe. It is a branch of astrophysics which includes study of stars and galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and the overall struc-

ture, evolution and origins of the universe.

The RTAC telescope would be technologically advanced than the existing telescopes- Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) near Pune and Ooty Radio Telescope near Udhamgamandalam, operated by National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA). It would be a high- frequency high- precision telescope with frequency of 2GHz up to 18 GHz, higher than GMRT. Dr Malu said, "The higher you go on frequency, lower you

go in wavelength and the instrument gets more precise."

IIT-I director Pradeep Mathur facilitated the seed money to start on establishment of Radio Astronomy Laboratory which will build this telescope to begin with and will then work to place it and other telescopes at heights up to 5,000 m above sea level in the Himalayas.

Further by setting up a Centre of Excellence for Radio astronomy, the institute plans to train the school children- particularly from the villages- to help in dissemi-

nation of information amongst other students.

"We want to create a batch of enthusiastic young researchers by exposing the students to astrophysics at a young age. This way we would have more students who would be interested in this field," said Dr Malu.

ON VP POLL-EVE, SONIA CURRIES FAVOUR...

AIADMK tried to curry up support for their candidate Jaswant Singh. Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik-led BJD,

which supported PA Sangma for president, has decided to abstain in Tuesday's polls.

A senior UPA minister said Ansari would get the support of more than 500 MPs, including those from the Left, out of 790. Only 787 will vote as Pranab Mukherjee, Vijay Bahuguna, who resigned from the Lok Sabha after taking over as Uttarakhnd chief minister, and BJP member from Bellary J Shanta who faces a court case, would not be able to do so. The result will be out Tuesday evening.

OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME

India Inc is slowly but surely emerging as the most preferred work destination for IIT and IIM graduates, writes
Proyashi Barua



One of the clear signs of India's emerging status as a knowledge economy is the fact that today the country has better employment avenues that can prevent an exodus of intellectual capital. Gone are the days, particularly before globalisation, when IIT and IIM graduates sent job applications largely to organisations in the developed West and the country was contending with the problem of brain drain.

"Now with improved monetary prospects and scope for cutting edge work, Indian organisations are a big draw for bright and promising minds," says Shekhar Sanyal, country head, IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology), India. He elaborates, "A decade back engineering firms in India largely (if not wholly) engaged in testing work for global engineering projects. But today Indian engineering firms provide opportunities for sophisticated R&D, innovation and high-end design."

Substantiating Sanyal's observation, Anand Pattani, associate vice president, Black & Veatch, says, "For more than 40 years Black & Veatch has been working in India, undertaking projects like power generation and water and sanitation that enhance quality of life and support economic development. During this period we have seen notable changes. Previously, Indian engineers may have had to seek work overseas to gain experience of things

**TOP
STORY**

which are at the top of the value chain. However, now we are able to support their career development within our India offices, with the opportunity to work on global projects. In recent years, we have recruited significant numbers of highly skilled Indian engineers and designers to work in our Mumbai and Pune offices. The figure has grown from 245 in 2007 to the current figure of nearly 400. In addition to supporting Black & Veatch's work for clients across the world, they are supporting critical human infrastructure projects in India."

There's a similar story in the domain of management. "In the fast-mushrooming venture capital and private equity funded organisations there is an increasing need for top talent, particularly at the middle and higher echelons of management," says Himanshu Aggarwal, CEO and director, Aspiring Minds, a Noida-based employability measurement firm. A pronounced emphasis on professionalism, lucrative remuneration and, most importantly, the opportunity to do work at par with the work in developed countries is making India Inc a preferred choice for management graduates from leading Indian b-schools.

While on one hand the relatively newfound emphasis on retaining talent is translating to a slew of train-

ing and development initiatives, on the other hand the concept of drawing career roadmaps for high-performing employees in a consultative manner is gaining ground. This is contributing to compound the appeal of India Inc. "This appeal is not just restricted to Indians. There are numerous instances of expats coming to India for internships which speaks volumes about our growing standards both in terms of work and corporate culture," shares Aggarwal.

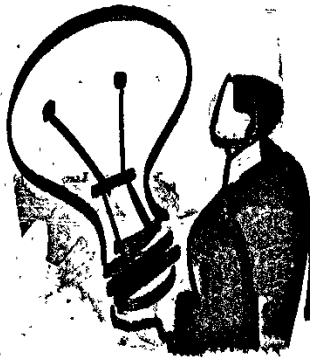
And it is not just the employment prospects that are attractive for management graduates. Entrepreneurship is another turf that is brimming with potential. "While there is a dearth of infrastructure — supply chains for instance — one cannot discount the fact that it is a lot easier to establish proof of concept (meaning demonstrated worth of the idea) in India as compared to many other countries simply because the fiscal requirement for setting up enterprises is significantly lesser," observes Aggarwal. "The existing disadvantages can in themselves translate to individual entrepreneurial opportunities. And people are realising this, which explains the upsurge of start-ups specialising in e-supply chains that are engineered to provide innovative, cost-effective and real time solutions to various business challenges," he adds.

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Tech, B-schools to Market Innovations

ADVANTAGE IDEAS: Top institutes seek funding for early-stage projects and scout for tie-ups to bring management expertise and technical know-how together

Leading Edge



IIT, Bombay



FOCUS ON funding interdisciplinary workshops, sharing best practices



TO GARNER seed fund for projects cutting across department boundaries



GARNER FUNDS to develop early-stage innovation products

ISB, Hyderabad

DEVELOPING A new executive programme on converting innovation into commercial products

IIM, Ahmedabad

INTER-DISCIPLINARY collaboration to strengthen innovation architecture

IIM, Bangalore

TIED UP with IISc to market their innovation products
PLANNING MORE such pacts with scientific research and technology institutes

Illustration: ARINDAM

RICA BHATTACHARYYA
MUMBAI

A Paris-based private equity firm that invests in environmental technologies focused on Asia recently approached IIT-Bombay to fund innovation products that are still at a nascent stage. The engineering institute is likely to soon sign a deal to commercialise some of its innovation products and make them market-ready, according to a person familiar with the deal.

Like IIT-Bombay, several other higher education institutes, including some IIMs and IISc, Bangalore are increasing their focus on commercialising innovation, which includes developing innovation products, garnering funding for early-stage projects and cross-functional tie-ups to bring management expertise and technical know-how together.

"Commercialising innovation products is a very important aspect for the institutes. Usually, funding agencies or companies want an idea to be market-ready to be willing to invest in it. The ideas and intellectual property that come out in India are not market-ready," says Rangan Banerjee, dean, Research and Development at IIT-Bombay.

An increase in the number of licensing in the past two years has prompted the institute to incorporate revenue from licensing as a separate item under annual research revenue. "Our licensing revenue in total research revenue has gone up significantly in recent time. We are targeting revenue of more than ₹10 crore from licensing in FY13 compared with ₹50-60 lakh a couple of years ago," says Banerjee. The institute garnered annual research revenue of ₹194 crore in FY12.

IIM-Bangalore, on its part, is taking its year-long collaboration with IISc to the next level to commercialise the latter's innovation products. "We are in the process of identifying areas to develop focused programme to market IISc's innovation products," says G Sabarinathan, associate professor - finance and control. The business school is also looking for similar tie-ups with other technology and scientific research institutes. It is in talks to collaborate with a technology institute and provide management expertise to market their products and technologies. The deal is likely to be announced by September.

"Global institutes like Stanford, MIT and Cambridge have advanced strategies, resources and infrastructure to market innovation products. In India, we don't have that luxury. But we have world-class institutes that can bring complementary strengths together," says Sabarinathan.

The strengthening of innovation architect-

ture at IIT-Bombay led to a big jump in patent filing over the past two years. The institute filed 66 patents in India in 2011 compared with 46 in 2010, which is a sharp rise from the average 10-12 patents a year in the past decade. "This is a result of streamlining and simplifying our processes. We are now on track to commercialise our patent filings," adds Banerjee.

"There are angel funds willing to put in about ₹50 lakh- ₹1 crore for innovation ventures in India," says Sabarinathan, who is also chairperson of NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at IIM-Bangalore. The enhanced focus on the innovation in India's higher education system comes at a time when both within the country and globally governments are putting innovation at the centre of their growth strategies.

However, according to a recent report by Insead and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)- Global Innovation Index 2012: 'Stronger innovation linkages for global growth', India's major weakness in innovation is its institutions, human capital and research.

Though India ranked 64 in GI, it ranked 125 in institutions and 131 in human capital and research. However, India ranks second, behind China, in innovation efficiency index, indicating a great ability to translate products into innovation outputs amid the frugal infrastructure.

"We need to create awareness and the appropriate ecosystem wherever innovation can emerge. It is not just about going to a place where innovation can originate, but go to school, college, etc, to talk about the need for innovative thinking at every level," says Deepak Chandra, deputy dean, ISB, Hyderabad. ISB is working on developing an executive programme that focuses on ways to convert research and innovation of scientists and professors into commercial products.

"Absence of diversity in our educational institutions often results in efforts that are sub-optimal... We should stop compartmentalisation in innovation research. And our policy needs to create a platform to bring institutes across disciplines at par," says Rakesh Basant, professor of economics and chairperson, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship at IIM-Ahmedabad.

The focus on a stronger innovation ecosystem is also leading to the need for more trained professionals to teach innovation practices. Recognising this need, IIM-A is in talks to launch a programme on innovation for management teachers.

GMAC 2012 SURVEY

India Ahead of Others in New MBA Hires

India represents third largest group of GMAT examinees after US and China

**OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI**

A report by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) on hiring trends and employment prospects for graduate business and management students in India has shown that while the employer demand for new MBA hires in 2012 in India is almost the same as last year at 88%, it exceeds both the global average (79% companies planning to hire) and the Asia-Pacific (APAC) regional average which stood at 80%.

Michelle Sparkman-Renz, GMAC's director of research communications, says: "India's status as a growing economy may be a driver of demand." The findings were derived from responses from 29 employers in India who participated in the GMAC 2012 Corporate Recruiters Survey, 334 graduates at 11 business schools in India who participated in the GMAC 2012 Global Management Education Graduate Survey, and 18,310 GMAT examinees residing in India, and 17,638 score reports sent to schools in India by all examinees worldwide in 2011.

Indian residents represent the third largest group of GMAT examinees in the B-school pipeline, after the US and China. The most popular and effective job search methods for class of 2012 graduates in India were school career services and on-campus resources. The survey also revealed that global employer demand for new MBA hires is up in 2012. More companies worldwide plan to hire recent MBA graduates in 2012. The figure stands at 79%, compared to 72% of companies that hired MBA graduates in 2011.

On-campus visits with grad-

Consulting is the Top Choice

Top three industries where graduating Indian students searched for jobs in 2012 were:

- Finance & Accounting **33%**
- High Tech **44%**
- Consulting **76%**



Indian B-school graduates in 2012 reported large percentage gains in post-degree earnings compared to pre-degree salaries

90% Of class of 2012 business school graduates in India reported they had a job offer at the time of graduation

uating students topped the list of recruitment methods Indian employers use when seeking new graduate business hires: 72% of Indian companies expected to recruit candidates on-campus in 2012. Employee referrals (69%) were the second most popular recruitment method Indian companies employ, followed by hiring of former and current interns (48%), use of online job search tools (48%), and company websites (45%).

99% of the class of 2012 Indian B-school graduates targeted companies in Asia for their job search. 12% searched for jobs in the US, 8% in Western Europe, and 6% in Middle East.

Although median MBA starting salaries in the APAC region are lower than those in the US, nearly a quarter (23%) of APAC employers plan to raise their MBA hire starting salaries above the rate of inflation.