

Newspaper Clips

December 6, 2011

Naya India ND 06-Dec-11

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उम्र 21 साल तनख्वाह 65 लाख

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी दिल्ली के 21 साल के छात्र, रोहतक, हरियाणा के निवासी अंकुर दहिया को फेसबुक वालों ने कैम्पस इंटरव्यू में चुना है। अगले साल कंप्यूटर साइंस इंजीनियरिंग की उसकी पढ़ाई पूरी हो जाने के बाद उसे फेसबुक के मुख्यालय कैलीफोर्निया में प्रोग्रामर के रूप में तैनात किया जाएगा। आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा में अंकुर का संपूर्ण भारत में रैंक 56 था पर अपने साथ वालों में वह सबसे ज्यादा तनख्वाह पाने वाला बना है। अंकुर फेसबुक का आईआईटी, दिल्ली का पहला कर्मचारी होगा।

अंकुर ने कहा, जबसे मैंने सुना कि नियुक्ति के लिए फेसबुक के लोग भी आने वाले हैं, फेसबुक के लिए चुना जाना मेरा सपना था। 2004 में शुरू हुई कंपनी फेसबुक ने इस साल भारत के कई आईआईटी में प्रतिभा तलाशने का काम किया है और इस बार भारत को प्रतिभा केंद्र के रूप में देख रही है।

Waste of talent

Students' suicide cause for alarm

IT may sound a bit startling and even out of the way, but the fact is that academic load and peer pressure along with some other emotional issues have driven as many as 24 students of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and information technology to commit suicide in the past four years. Perhaps it may sound unbelievable to a whole lot of people considering that the students who had committed suicide were among some of the country's best brains with a resolve to achieve excellence in life, but fate had some other plans for them. It's no secret that the IITs and institutes imparting courses in information take only the cream of the youth after subjecting them to rigorous tests. And if suicide is the end result of it all, then both the institutions they are in and also the parents of these students need to do a lot of introspection on the reasons behind tragedies of such magnitude. That it is hundred per cent authentic comes from the fact that the information about the whole issue was given to the Lok Sabha by none other than Minister of State for Human Resource Development D Purundeswari. Quoting from the reports of fact-finding committees set up by the institutes where the suicides took place, the committee stated that "pressure from parents to achieve higher academic and professional targets unmindful of ground realities has also contributed to stress and depression leading to suicides".

The minister said the central institutions had taken various steps based on the recommendations of this committee which included appointing student ombudsmen, introduction of slow pace programme for academically weaker students and setting up disciplinary action committees to take urgent action in case of any complaint of ragging, discrimination based on caste, creed and religion and gender. She said that the Centre had taken the matter very seriously and decided on a number of steps to reduce examination-related stress such as optional Class X Board examination by CBSE from 2010-2011; grading system at Secondary school level, introduction of continuous and comprehensive evaluation, more internal choice of questions and proper weightage to internal school system. These steps may appear to be fine, but apart from student ombudsmen, the institutes must appoint psychologists to keep a regular check on students with varying moods on account of one reason or another so as to ensure that students do not fall into depression. Along with the psychologists, it should be the duty of a teacher to help students who show depressive or suicidal tendencies and counsel them so that timely steps are taken. And last but not the least, it is the bounden duty of every parent not to mock wards not coming up to their marks. For parents to cry over the spilt milk will make no sense. With levels of brain-drain gradually coming down, the country should not allow talent to go down the drain.

Economic Times ND 06-Dec-11
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IBM in Research Tie-Up with IIT-G

WRITANKAR MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

IBM India is entering into a collaboration with IIT Guwahati for research on solutions for the differently-abled as part of its university connect initiative.

Through the partnership, the company will provide grants to work on developing IT solutions for people who face hearing and speech problems.

The project will devise software-based solutions that will be able to analyse the sound pronounced by the user, compare it with the target sound, and provide appropriate feedback.

The project with IIT Guwahati will be useful for patients who wish to practice improving their speech on their own, says the company.

It will augment any other speech improvement therapy they are undergoing and allow them to practice as per their convenience.

This will be the sixth shared university research project for the company in India in 2011. IBM has entered into partnerships

with IIT Delhi, IIT Mumbai and Pune's College of Engineering for a joint project on cloud computing in education.

It has also tied up with Coimbatore's PSG College of Technology for creating a tele-medicine network for monitoring of epidemics and YCMOU in Nashik for delivering education through the internet.

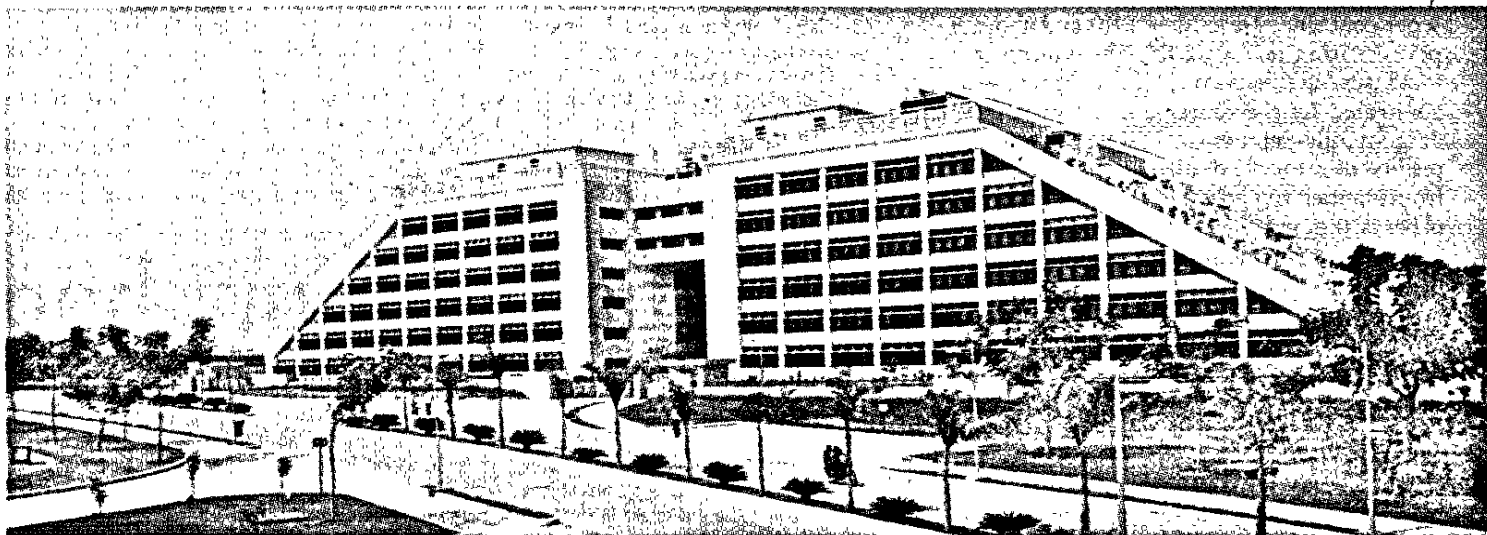
Such initiatives help to build the company's brand in campuses, bridge the industry-academia gap, and also work in areas of common interest.

"While students working on such projects are free to work in any company of their choice, we have seen that a large number of them are ready to wait for IBM during placements," says IBM India country manager (university relations — HR) Bhooshan Kelkar.

IBM has built relationships with more than 100 academic institutions in India, including the IITs, NITs, Indian Institute of Science and Jadavpur University.

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Business Line ND 06-Dec-11P-7

**Green Initiative:** Infosys Hyderabad building

Infosys Hyderabad building may inspire IIT Rajasthan campus

Balaji Narasimhan
Bangalore, Dec. 5

If all goes well, Infosys' new energy efficient building in Pocharam in Hyderabad may inspire IIT Rajasthan to try out similar methodologies for its upcoming Jodhpur campus, which will go live in 2014.

Speaking to *Business Line*, Mr Vivek Vijay, Assistant Professor, IIT Rajasthan, said, "I can appreciate the work that they are doing." He was cautiously optimistic because, as he put it, conditions in Jodhpur are different from Hyderabad.

On the administrative side, Prof Vijay will be the coordinator of faculty affairs and will be handling the centre of excel-

lence for water resource management and allied technologies and will be responsible for lowering the usage of resources. He said that one of the goals of IIT Rajas-

than was to ensure that the net water, energy and waste management are zero. Discussing Infosys' green initiatives, Mr Rohan M Parikh, the Head of Green Initiatives at Infosys said

that the width of the floor plate is restricted to 16 metres, and in tandem with the light panes, which bounce light deeper into the room. This ensures that the entire office is lit by the sun

from 8 am to 5 pm. "The overall performance of this new building is 50 per cent better than any other building in similar climate zone," he said.

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How Infosys did it: A matter of physics

Balaji Narasimhan
Bangalore, Dec. 5

Heat is transferred by conduction (when you touch a hot stove), convection (this is how a fan cools you) and radiation (the way the Sun's rays reach the Earth). An AC uses air and convection to cool you and this is energy inefficient. A better way to cool the body is to use radiation and

water. To do this, Mr Parikh and his team placed pipes between the floors.

Water is continuously flowing through them and since it is cooler than the body temperature, you radiate heat, at the speed of light, and cool quicker and in a more energy efficient manner.

To compare the benefits of radiant

cooling, Mr Parikh said that Infosys decided that half the office will be cooled by AC and the other half by the radiant cooling system.

"After six months of operations, the radiant system was found to be 30 per cent more efficient than AC. This data has been validated by Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany," he said.

Pioneer ND 06-Dec-11

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Health Ministry to move SC on CET

ARCHANA JYOTI ■
NEW DELHI

The Medical Council of India (MCI) and the CBSE may be gearing up to hold the Common Entrance Test (CET) for MBBS aspirants from May 2012, but the Health Ministry has some different plans. It is all set to approach the Supreme Court seeking permission to defer CET by an year, to the 2013-14 academic session.

Sources told *The Pioneer* that the Ministry will soon submit an affidavit to seek postponement of the CET, which is also known as National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), citing objections from States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra — where majority of medical colleges exist.

"These States have been pointing out their difficulty in holding the examination next year stating that students will face problem. They feel that the MCI should go slow on administering CET to avoid inconvenience to the students," senior officials from the Health Ministry confirmed.

They are not against the CET per se. But they want that the test be conducted from academic session 2013-2014 after framing a common curriculum for physics, biology and chemistry for standards XI and XII, the officials noted.

In case the Supreme Court considers the Ministry's request, this will be the second time that the CET will be deferred.

The MCI, following the apex court order, has been preparing

for the CET since 2011. But it was postponed to 2012 as the Council wanted to give enough time to the students to prepare for the exam.

But while the MCI has been keen to introduce the new system claiming that it would cut down multiplicity of examination, the Health Ministry has been dilly-dal-



ling the matter citing various reasons, opposition from the States being the major one.

The Ministry's disinterest in CET is no secret. It is yet to notify the revised syllabus and the examination system prepared by MCI for medical undergraduates. Irked at the delay, the CBSE too had recently shot off a letter to the Ministry to notify the examination system so that it could smoothly ensure all logistics in place for the D-day.

Over eight lakh students take the MBBS examinations for over 330 medical colleges across the country.

Now, common test for management courses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a bid to reduce physical, mental and financial stress piling up on students in writing "multiple entrance" examinations to qualify for management courses, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to hold a national level common admission test for all management programmes from 2012-13. It will be held for four lakh sanctioned seats of AICTE-approved management institutions.

The AICTE-approved Common Management Admission Test (CMAT)-2012 will be conducted online in 61 cities from February 20 to 28, 2012 and scores awarded will be used for admission in management programmes both at degree and diploma level, all over India for year 2012-13.

The secretaries of the States dealing with technical education and Vice-Chancellors of the universities have been requested to advise the competent authority for admissions in their respective States and jurisdiction to use the merit list of CMAT-2012 for allotment of students in AICTE-approved management institu-



tions for academic year 2012-13.

The institutions and State Governments are henceforth required to register online free of charge for opting to CMAT-2012 scores for admissions for academic year 2012-13. The minority institutions will have to effect admissions as per the provision available for such categories.

The admission test will be based on quantitative techniques & data interpretation, logical reasoning, language comprehension and general awareness — each paper comprising 25 questions and 100 marks. There will be negative marking for wrong answers.

It will facilitate the process for the institutes and central admission authorities as well as those who can henceforth use scores awarded to the students in CMAT for allotment of seat in the registered management institutes.

INSTITUTES ESCHEW CONTINUOUS HIRING

Day-Based Placements at IIMs to Go

PARAG DAVE
AHMEDABAD

The traditional day-based placement system is on its way out at the premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Rising batch sizes and the pressure to place all graduates during a limited period are forcing the country's top B-schools to look for options.

IIM Bangalore (IIM-B) will introduce a two-day break in the continuous hiring process during the final placement slated for February-March. IIM-B's move comes one year after IIM Ahmedabad shifted to a cohort-based system that stretches the five-day process to a month and allows interviews only during weekends. Other top institutes, IIM Calcutta and IIM Lucknow too are looking at alternatives to the day process.

IIM-B tweaked the placement process during the summer placements (for internships) and will retain the new model during final placements. "We gave a one-day break after Day Zero during the summer placements. Companies organised group discussions, written tests and other group related activities, but did not conduct interviews on the off day. The break ensured students did not miss interviews because of group discussion and vice-versa," says Sapna Agarwal, head - career development services at IIM-B.

The institute, she says, will get feedback from recruiters and students on the change and repeat it in the final placements. "We may have one or two breaks during the final placements. A continuous process is stressful. We would like recruiters and students to interact more with each other. I believe the traditional process will go now," says Agarwal.

An IIM-B student, who has already received a pre-placement offer (PPO), says students are subjected to further pressure when their friends in the same institute or other IIMs get placed on Day Zero or Day One. "It is stressful to return home without getting placed when others have offers. However, a gap of even a day will reduce pressure on students," he adds.

A top Tata Group official recent-



ly compared B-school placements with the cattle fair organised in Pushkar, Rajasthan, every year. "Every cattle which is to be sold is paraded before its potential buyer. First everybody competes hard to get into premier institutes like IIM-A and then after getting in, competes harder to get ahead," he said at IIM-A last week. A number of recruiters are also demanding a change in the current day-based process as they want to ensure a better recruiter-recruit fit.

IIMs are facing challenges of a large batch size too. There is pressure on institutes and students to achieve 100% placement ahead of other B-schools and thus fulfill one of the success criteria.

IIM-A placement committee chairperson Saral Mukherjee, the man behind the cohort-based process, says his institute believed in the recruiter-recruit fit and not speed of placements. "The perception is, quicker the placements, better the institute's change. I believe more institutes will introduce breaks in placements," he says.

IIM-A placed 379 students during summer placements through four clusters. However, IIM Lucknow placements chairman Rajesh Aithal says, "A model which worked for 200 students will not work for 400. The traditional day-based process will not work in future. However, it is not easy to bring in a new model immediately." The idea may be new, but it's also inevitable.

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The Hindu ND 06-Dec-11 P6

Common test for admission to management courses

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: To reduce the physical, mental and financial stress on students who have to write multiple entrance examinations for management courses, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to hold a national-level common admission test for all management programmes from 2012-13.

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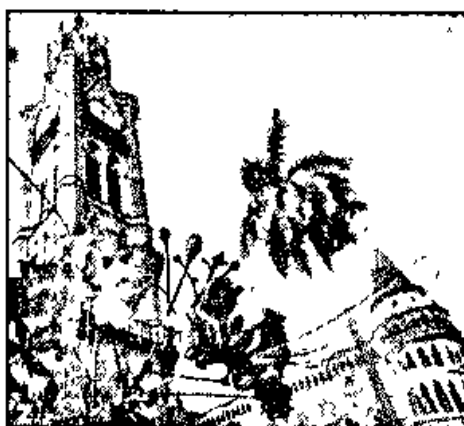
Mumbai Univ may allow 2 grad courses at same time

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: There's good news for all those youngsters who find it tough to choose which graduate stream to enrol in. The University of Mumbai has decided to allow its students to take up two full-time courses at the same time.

Taking up two courses may entail twice the work and double the expense, but the idea could pay off when the options of further education or jobs also multiply.

So, Steve Jobs worshippers can simultaneously "live at the intersection" of engineering, say at VJTI, and humanities (or BA) at St Xavier's College. Some may want to do both — for instance, a BCom in banking and insurance and



DOUBLE WHAMMY

a BCom in financial markets at HR College. It isn't just about following a serious hobby or having a back-up plan; experts said many students are academically driven to achieve more than what the courseware prescribes.

The university, said sources, may also consider starting honours programmes, an idea

that hasn't germinated in the city. "We feel there are several students wanting to do just an engineering programme or a BA or a specialized BCom course. Many of them have more than one passion they want to pursue, which is backed by potential, too," said S K Ukrande, dean (technology).

Ukrande was appointed by the university after its academic council was considering a proposal to permit students to study two degree programmes. The report, which has been submitted to the university gives a nod to students to sign up for two courses. The report must be finally approved by the academic council and the management council.

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UGC to review regulations

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission on Monday decided to form a committee to revisit the existing UGC regulations regarding promotions and appointments of teachers and other anomalies.

The Federation of Central Universities Teachers' Association welcomed the decision as it has been long agitating against the UGC regulations on minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for maintenance of standards in higher education 2010.

"Under the 2010 regulations, at the time of appraisals the teachers are made to fill up forms wherein they are given certain scores or points against each activity they have undertaken. Teaching is given 50 points out of 120 points and the remaining points are reserved for things like the number of publication or articles that the teacher may have to his or her credit. This is not the right way, as it encourages teachers to focus on acquiring scores rather than focus on teaching," said Federation president Professor G.C. Tripathi, adding they wanted the old method of self-assessment which mainly took into account the quality of teaching.

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It's cable-less cable, says proud iTwin creator

Ishan Srivastava | TNN

Chennai: Chennai-born Lux Ananthraman has created iTwin, a pair of identical USB drives that share data exclusively between them over any connection. The procedure is insert the USB drive you are carrying in any computer and you can access all your files securely and without the need for any third-party software. For iTwin, all you need is internet access. And it costs just about Rs 5,000 (\$99).

"It is a cable-less cable," says Ananthraman, who's a 1994 IIT-Madras grad and an Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore postgraduate. "It's easy and secure like a cable for transferring files between two devices, but without the hassle and clutter." No tricky software installations, no lengthy configuration procedures and no complicated logins or passwords. Plug it in and you are ready to go.

He teamed up with Kal Takru, his colleague at Singapore's A*STAR and the co-founder, to develop iTwin in Singapore. "We form a great team. While I handle technology, he handles operational aspects." Kal was born in Dehradun and completed his studies in Singapore where they met.

The device was named among the Techcrunch 50, a global list of promising startups, and the duo got their second round of funding last week. The unique minimalistic structure also won the 2011 Red Dot Design Award for outstanding product design. And it has been named an international CES (the biggest consumer electronics exhibition in the world) Innovations 2012 Design and Engineering Awards Honoree.

But if the name and design makes you think of an Apple connection, think again. "I have an identical twin brother

TWIN SPARK

iTwin is a unique way of remote-accessing a PC by using a pair of USB drives. Currently, such remote access needs complex software



Access and transfer files over Internet securely



Connect iTwin to PC which you want to access



Insert other half into USB port of any PC



Detach the other USB half of the iTwin



Specify the files to be shared



iTwin is like a cableless cable. Easy and secure like a cable for transferring files between two devices but without any the hassle

Lux Ananthraman and Kal Takru | iTwin

who is a doctor in England. I feel like I have a direct link to him. When he falls sick, I fall sick," he says, smiling. This 'connection' between 'identical twins' led to the name iTwin. And it's not just the design. Everything related to this product seems to have a pattern. It was launched on 10/10/10. Ask him what's the reason and he states his "fondness for number theory".

There are cloud services like Dropbox and Sugarsync which achieve the same function and for free, but iTwin has clear advantages, the creators claim. "The data always remains on your computer and the transfer is fully encrypted, meaning you are in complete control with your very own setup. And it is extremely user-friendly with no setting up pains," says Anan-

thraman. If you lose one USB, just unplug the other one from PC to secure all your data. And you can also disable the other USB remotely by using a passcode generated at the time of pairing the devices for the first time.

"I find it ruffling that my personal data is sitting on some other server. After recent concerns about privacy, Dropbox redefined its user terms and they are not comforting. And these services are not free beyond a certain point, say 2GB," he says.

Regarding future plans, they are currently focusing on the US and Europe but are very keen on India. "Kal is in Delhi looking at options and talking with distributors," he says. "Next year, we plan to hit big retail stores like Staples and BestBuy in the US."

आनंद दुनिया के श्रेष्ठतम अध्यापक

लंदन की प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका मोनोकन ने यह सम्मान प्रदान किया है

पटना ■ एजेंसियां/डेस्क

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) की प्रवेश परीक्षा में निर्धन छात्रों को निःशुल्क शिक्षा देकर सफलता दिलाने के लिए चर्चित संस्थान सुपर 30 के संस्थापक आनंद कुमार को लंदन की प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका 'मोनोकल' ने दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ 20 शिक्षकों की सूची में शामिल किया है, जिन्होंने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन का सूत्रपात किया है।

क्लास एक्ट ग्लोब-टॉप 20 टीचर्स के नाम से जारी इस सूची में आनंद भारत से अकेले है। आनंद के अलावा इस सूची में नीलटूरोक, पाइरी केलर, मुनीर फेशह, सराह एलिजाबेथ आईपिल जैसी हस्तियां शामिल हैं। पत्रिका के अनुसार आनंद ऐसे शिक्षक हैं जिनकी लोकप्रियता बॉलीवुड स्टार



से कम नहीं है। अभी हाल में ही एशिया में सबसे ज्यादा बिकने वाली एजुकेशन मैगजीन एशिया एजुकेंटर ने अपने ताजे अंक में आनंद के संघर्षपूर्ण जीवन पर विशेष आलेख प्रकाशित किया था। इस आलेख में पत्रिका ने आनंद को 'इनक्रेडेबल इंडियन' की संज्ञा दी है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि इससे पूर्व पिछले वर्ष टाइम मैगजिन ने सुपर 30

को द बेस्ट ऑफ एशिया बताया, वहीं न्यूज वीक मैगजीन ने इसे विश्व के चार सर्वोत्कृष्ट प्रयोगधर्मी स्कूलों की सूची में शामिल किया था। यूरोप के प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका फोकस ने भी प्रशंसा की है। डिस्कवरी चैनल, एन एच.के. जापान, अल जजीरा और फ्रेंच 24 जैसे प्रतिष्ठित चैनल आनंद पर वृत्तचित्र बना चुके हैं।

इस प्रतिष्ठा और उपलब्धि से खुश आनंद कहते हैं कि बच्चों की मेहनत का ही यह परिणाम है। उन्होंने कहा कि वह शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में प्रयोग करते हैं और जब लोग इसे सराहते हैं तो उन्हें भी खुशी होती है। गौरतलब है कि सुपर 30 की स्थापना पटना में 10 वर्ष पूर्व की गई थी। अब तक 236 छात्रों को सुपर 30 के माध्यम से आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा में सफलता मिली है।