

# Newspaper Clips

## February 8, 2012

Financial Chronicle ND 8/02/2012

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### Kolkata gears up for a three-day Pan IIT 2012 conclave

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
Kolkata

IN SPITE of Mamata Banerjee's continuing aversion towards the Tatas (since the Singur episode), one of the large Tata Group companies, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution (formerly known as Tata Ryerson) is quietly working on organising an event which can turn out to be the biggest conclave of tech gurus, technopreneurs and captains of industry in Kolkata.

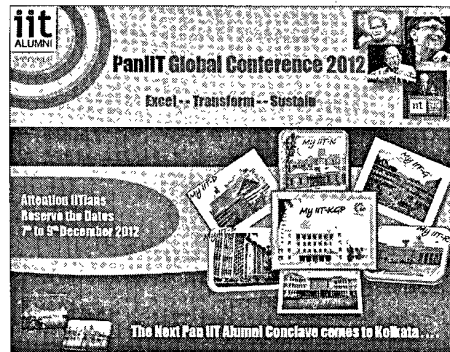
Pan IIT Alumni India (PIAI), the body of alumni associations of all existing IITs-settled in India and abroad will hold its next Global IIT Alumni Conference in Kolkata. Pan IIT takes up initiatives, activities and projects on the basis of deliberations and

global networking. Global IIT Alumni Conferences called Pan IIT take place every alternate year in India and the US.

Pan IIT conclaves first began at San Jose, US in 2003 and so far the event has taken place in Delhi, Maryland (US), Mumbai, Santa Clara (US), Chennai, Chicago (US), Noida and New York (US).

It may be recalled that ever since Mamata Banerjee government assumed office in May 2011, Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata and toppers of other Tata Group companies have been among the notable absentees in any of the state government's interfaces with industry. In fact they were not invited in most of the cases.

However, this time round,



THE MEGA EVENT: The first announcement for PanIIT Global Conference 2012 was made on Alumni Portal of IIT-Kharagpur website

Sandipan Chakravorty, managing director, Tata Steel Processing And Distribution and an alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur, who has already started burning midnight oil of the conclave, is sending out mailers to all IITians to "make it the best and most effective Pan IIT event till now".

"The whole endeavour aims at offering all IITians the opportunity to combine the fun of networking with serious efforts to give something back to the society," Chakravorty said, adding that the theme for Pan IIT 2012 would be "Excel, transform, sustain". The event would take place between December 7 and 9 in Kolkata.

The three-day meet will offer enough scope to the young and old IITians to meet with their

batchmates and get to the latest about their alma mater.

"On the serious business part, Pan IIT 2012 will provide networking opportunities for members of the IIT system and thereby contributing proactively to the development process. One can also broaden one's business network through one on one meetings, where possible and even transform one's entrepreneurial ideas into success," said Chakravorty.

From the IITs' perspectives, a conclave of this nature and magnitude is expected to engage with the IIT governance and vision, provide a forum for advocacy and eventually enhance and strengthen the brand IIT.

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**Hindu ND**  
**8/02/2012** P-20

## 3 IITians among Scopus award winners

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Three IITians are among the eight young scientists who have won the prestigious Scopus award, instituted by the National Academy of Sciences and Elsevier, a leading provider of scientific, technical and medical information products and services.

The winners are Sanjib Senapathi, IIT-Madras; Sagnik Dey, IIT-Delhi; Satyajit Banerjee, IIT-Kanpur; Partha Sarathi Mukherjee, IISc, Bangalore; Prahladh Harsha, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai; Sundergopal Sridhar, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad; Ritesh Agarwal, P.G. Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; and S.B. Shivachandra, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteshwar, Uttarakhand.

The winners were selected from more than 250 applications received from research institutes and universities across the country.

### 'World superpower'

Speaking at the award function, Elsevier Management Committee chairman Youngsuk Chi said: "India is quickly adapting to its role as a world superpower in research and has built up an incredible pool of talented scientists at world-class institutions that engage in cutting-edge research."

**Hindustan Times, ND**  
**8/02/2012** P-5 HT Education

## From no campus to two campuses

### PART 8: IIT-BHUBANESWAR

The institute is likely to have a permanent campus by 2014

Priya Ranjan Sahu

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IIT-Bhubaneswar was the first among the eight new IITs to start operations with a sanctioned intake of 40 students each in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. The classes for the first batch of students started in 2008, from the campus of the college's mentor institute, IIT-Kharagpur. IIT-Bhubaneswar's campus became operational a year later. This campus is temporarily housed in IIT-Kharagpur's Extension Centre building in Bhubaneswar. A permanent campus is under construction at Aragul, which, according to the institute's registrar, will begin functioning by 2014. The institute is the first



A snapshot of the campus

IIT to set up a separate 'marine campus' to start this year, for conducting research about the ecology, disaster management, the marine eco-system and fisheries development. This campus, located near Chilika Lake, will be called the School of Earth, Ocean and Environment Sciences.

### BASIC FACTS

- Opened on: June 23, 2008
- Highest rank to gain entry this year: 3000
- Lowest rank to gain entry this year: 4000
- Seats: 120 seats; 7 are vacant
- Previous years' vacancies: 2008-25; 2009-3; 2010-0
- Faculty: Currently, there are 50 full-time faculty members, with additional visiting faculty.
- Students: 471 students: 46 girls and 425 boys
- Teacher-student ratio: 1:10

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Campus: Currently operating out of IIT-Kharagpur's Extension Centre in Bhubaneswar, but will have a full-fledged 950 acre-campus by 2014. It also has a 75-acre marine campus starting this year
- Hostels: 80 higher income group flats have been taken in a State Bank of India colony, 78 of which

serve as hostels

- Mess: There are two eateries
- Labs: 16 laboratories, plus one language laboratory, and two computer centres
- Classrooms: 15 classrooms, plus four virtual classrooms where faculty from IIT-Kharagpur can stream lectures
- Sports facilities: The institute has tied up with the Indian Institute of Mine and Mineral Technology for its grounds, where students avail facilities for training
- Placements: Companies such as Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro were invited last year

### STUDENT LIFE

- Annual festival: Alma Fiesta, a socio-cultural inter-collegiate fest
- Clubs: There are six popular student societies including the E Cell, dance society, robotics society, music society and dramatics

Deccan Herald ND 8/02/2012

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# AICTE to launch vocational courses soon

## Institutes can now enroll a maximum of 500 students

**NEW DELHI:** Students in polytechnic, engineering and other colleges can now pursue vocational courses, with the All India Institute of Technical Education on Tuesday launching a national curriculum framework for in the upcoming academic session.

The programmes to be offered under the scheme will be industry specific. It will offer vocational courses in information technology, media, entertainment, telecommunications, mobile communications, automobile, construction, retail, food processing, tourism, hotels, jewellery designing and fashion designing among many other sectors that have been identified for implementation.

Since the courses to be offered will be "sector specific", industries will be roped in to impart vocational education to the students.

"We will start the process of identifying industries or their associates shortly to implement the programme," Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said while launching the National Vocational Educational Qualification Curriculum to be implemented in polytechnic, engineering and other colleges from 2012-13 academic session.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will seek to provide the requisite statutory approvals to any institutions wishing to conduct these programmes throughout the country. The institutions can choose a maximum of 500 students in any five sectors with

100 in each sector.

The scheme envisages seven levels with each certificate level offering a course of approximately 1,000 hours. Each 1000-hour course will be made up of a certain number of hours for vocational competency based skill modules and the rest for general learning simultaneously integrated and providing a diploma for vocational education. After the certificate level five, the course will lead to a degree in vocational education.

A minimum class ten qualification is required for one to take up the courses. "There will be no age bar for those willing to take the courses," Sibal said. The courses will also be launched later in schools with the first level starting from class nine.

A student can choose to avail of competency based skill learning along with general education in this scheme without losing the possibility of changing course and moving at any certificate level into a formal system of education and vice versa. "This would ultimately provide a full multi-entry exist system between vocational education, general education and the job market," the HRD Minister said.

According to ministry, the programme is expected to cater to at least five million students for vocationals and diplomas every year, which can help provide self-employment or meaningful employment, if even one-third of the institutions are approved to conduct these programmes.

**DH News Service**

Mint ND 8/02/2012 P-3

**EXAM BODY**

# India to set up testing authority on ETS lines

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA

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NEW DELHI

**I**ndia has decided to establish a statutory institution along the lines of the US-based Educational Testing Service (ETS) that operates the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and the SAT exams.

The body will take over the preparation and administration of entrance exams, besides the delivery of national-level exams through a dedicated group of professionals, researchers and independent experts having knowledge of the assessment and testing field, without involving teachers.

It will begin by managing tests such as the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) and the joint entrance exam of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT-JEE), both key graduation entrance tests for engineering and science fields.

"We have decided to put in place a national testing authority as a statutory body," said Kapil Sibal, minister for human resource development (HRD).

To start with, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be home to the institution, which will graduate into a full-fledged authority catering to national requirements. "It will conduct all kinds of national entrance exams," Sibal said.

CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi said, "It will be an Indian ETS. It will do research for preparing question papers, administer and conduct exams."

The authority may not conduct the centralized engineering exam being formulated by merging AIEEE and IIT-JEE in the coming academic session as little time is left, but will provide research help. It will run such exams at the national level subsequently.

As the planned centralized exam will give weight to school board marks, the national authority will help the state boards improve their standards as well, said another HRD ministry official, who did not want to be named. "Providing assistance to the state school boards will be key as school-leaving marks now hold good weight while selecting students for IITs or other top central engineering and science courses," the official said.

Indian higher education has suffered from poor standards, said Amit Bhatia, chief executive of Delhi-based Aspire Human Capital, an assessment and human resource company.

"If they are trying to improve it then it will have good results, but in the short term," he said. "In the long run, the efforts should be on innovation and creativity. Over-standardization will lead to the licence *raj* again."

Since the government does not have enough resources to undertake this on its own, it should be a public-private exercise, he said. "Policymakers need to ask that whether we need an open-minded approach or strict regulation." Relieving teaching staff from administrative work will benefit students and the education system, Bhatia said.

**Tribune, ND 8/02/2012**

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# **Coaching masters**

## **An industry worth \$2 million**

**I**T'S a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black! While the HRD Ministry has been clamouring against the coaching system — accused of commercialising education — it finds its own teachers need support of coaching to crack the basic eligibility test for getting a job of elementary or primary teacher. Barely two years ago, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had announced more weightage to be given to the class 12 board examination for IIT entrance and had proposed raising the required minimum of 60% marks to at least 80%. He said the government's move was an attempt to check the growth of IIT coaching centres. The concern was well founded because by an estimate, the coaching industry in India is nearly worth \$2 billion. Almost every day one receives pamphlets from coaching centres spread in every nook and corner of major cities and towns, displaying tiny mug shots of their trophy winners — those who cracked IIT-JEE or CAT and so on. Shockingly, if there are coaching centres that start instructing students on how to clear the JEE as soon as in class 7 or 8, primary schools too advocate parents to send their children for coaching.

All this is indicative of serious dearth of basic integrity in our education system, which lacks confidence in its efficiency, right from primary schools to the university level. The repercussion of this malaise has now boomeranged into a serious crisis — such a faulty system cannot provide efficient teachers, who are the basic pillars of all educational institutions. The eye-opener has come to the fore, as only 14 per cent of wannabe teachers for primary and elementary schools could crack the Central Teacher Eligibility Test, and only 1 per cent could clear it in Punjab.

Now, since coaching centres have been helping the students crack all sorts of examinations, the same institution has come to the rescue of the aspiring teacher. TET GURU, offering mock tests to aspiring teachers, with 2500 registered users, offers 2000 practice questions online. Will the students of such teachers be coached to ask only those very questions? One wonders!

# Window seats raise blood-clot risk

## No Greater Danger From Flying Economy Class, Says New US Study

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**New Delhi:** There's nothing like traveling business class with its sprawled out seats, personal entertainment options and enough space to stretch your legs.

But if you aren't that lucky, an economy class ticket on a long-distance flight (more than six hours) might not be so bad for your health.

Debunking the "economy-

class syndrome," new evidence-based guidelines from the American College of Chest Physicians released on Tuesday says, "Traveling in economy class does not increase your risk for developing a blood clot even during long-distance travel." However, sitting on a window seat for long and remaining immobile for long hours could lead to developing a blood clot.

Without regular muscle



**SIT BACK AND RELAX**

contractions, blood starts to pool in the legs and can create conditions for a clot to devel-

op in deep veins.

Thrombosis can be symptom-free or trigger cramps and soreness. It is most dangerous in cases where these clots travel to the lung, blocking blood flow causing venous thromboembolism, also economy-class syndrome.

According to head of neurosurgery at Max Hospital Dr Sandeep Vaishya, link between air travel and DVT is strongest for flights longer

than eight to 10 hours.

"Longer you stay immobile, the higher the chances of DVT. So in long flights, one must have a lot of water and keep stretching their legs," Vaishya said.

In a study by WHO, risk of developing blood clots on a flight rose up to fourfold with the risk starting to rise on flights of more than four hours and peak on flights of more than eight hours.

# आईआईटी: कैसे करें स्ट्रेस मैनेजमेंट

आईआईटी और एआईईईई जैसे एग्जाम को लेकर स्ट्रेस नेचरल है। लेकिन अगर सब कुछ एक प्लानिंग के साथ की जाए तो स्टूडेंट्स हद तक अपने स्ट्रेस को कम कर सकते हैं। इंजीनियरिंग की तैयारी से जुड़े सीवी कल्याण कुमार (डायरेक्टर, फिटजी) और मोहित बंसल (डायरेक्टर, विद्या मंदिर क्लासेज) भी इस बात से सहमत हैं।

कल्याण कुमार के मुताबिक स्टूडेंट्स की नजर बेहतर परिणाम पर होनी चाहिए। उन्हें परीक्षा-अभ्यास के दौरान सवालों को हल करने में तेजी दिखाएं। उन्हें 'समरी प्वाइंट' तैयार करना चाहिए, ताकि प्रत्येक विषय के सभी कांसेप्ट को याद रखना आसान हो सके। एक दूसरे से जुड़े कांसेप्ट्स का विश्लेषण किया जाना चाहिए। इससे परीक्षा से कुछ दिनों पहले या फिर परीक्षा के दिन भी तेजी से पाठ दुहराने में सहाय्यता होगी।

स्टूडेंट्स को 100 प्रतिशत 'हिट रेट' का लक्ष्य रखना चाहिए। मोहित बंसल के मुताबिक स्टूडेंट्स तैयारी के दौरान से ही प्रश्नों को हल करने के लिए अपनी स्ट्रेटजी रखनी चाहिए और परीक्षा में उसे इंप्लीमेंट करना चाहिए। इसमें,



**स्टूडेंट्स को 100 प्रतिशत 'हिट रेट' का लक्ष्य रखना चाहिए। उन्हें तैयारी के दौरान से ही प्रश्नों को हल करने के लिए अपनी स्ट्रेटजी रखनी चाहिए और एग्जाम में उसे इंप्लीमेंट करना चाहिए।**

अंक अहम है और इतने से ही रैंक पर असर पड़ जाता है।

जानकारों का यह भी कहना है कि

एक बात यह है कि आप जिस भी प्रश्न के उत्तर दें, सही दें। इससे आपका समय भी बचेगा और इससे बड़ी बात कि आप एग्जाम में नेगेटिव मार्किंग से बचेंगे। आईआईटी जैसे एग्जाम में एक-एक

बेकार किताबें खोलकर बैठे रहने से कोई फायदा नहीं है। अगर पढ़ते-पढ़ते थक जाएं, तो ब्रेक जरूर लें। पढ़ाई के दौरान हर डेढ़ घंटे बाद 5 से 10 मिनट का ब्रेक लेना उचित है। एकाग्र होने के लिए योग आदि का सहारा भी लिया जा सकता है। परीक्षा केंद्र पर कम से कम 20 मिनट पहले पहुंचें। समय सीमा में काम समाप्त करने के लिए यह जरूरी है कि काम सटीक हो और तेजी से हो। कभी भी भाग्य भरोसे न रहें। याद रखें, कठिन परिश्रम और लगन ही सफलता की कुंजी है। **एनबीटी एजुकेशन**