

Newspaper Clips

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Title : cracking the boards Torn between boards, entrances

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Torn between boards, entrances

PRESSURE Little gap between CBSE exams, IIT-JEE; school teachers say not getting into IIT is not end of road



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NEW DELHI: This year, science students have a double dilemma: preparing for the CBSE Boards and the Indian Institute of Technology-joint entrance exam (IIT-JEE).

With these two crucial exams falling around the same time, students are buckling under the pressure of performing well in both.

The pressure is mounting and with three weeks left for the exams, students are unable to equally divide time between preparing for the Boards and the entrances. While the board exams for all science students end on April 13, the IIT test will be held on April 8.

"My parents have told me that I cannot drop a year in any circumstance. I have no option but to prepare for the IIT and other engineering entrances along with the board exams. It is a lot of pressure because I feel that I may end up

under-performing in both," said Amit Sinha (name changed), a student of Delhi Public School, Mathura Road.

Principals say that the problem has more to do with the increasing number of students appearing for the entrances, which makes it tougher to crack these exams. At the same time, they say not being able to crack the test is not the end of the road.

"Students have to crack the board exams no matter what. It is a choice that they don't have. If they are well prepared, the pressure does not matter. The competition is increasing because of the sheer number. But they must keep in mind this is not the end of the world and there is a world of opportunities for them," said Lata Vaidyanathan, principal, Modern School (Barakhamba Road).

The faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi stress that parents need to understand the kind of pressure their expectations put on their children.

"Several lakh students from across the country appear for the IIT entrance exam but a lot of them have weaknesses. That

EXAMS IN NUMBERS

7.5 lakh Students appearing for Class 12 CBSE Board exams

2.4 lakh Students appearing for Class 10 CBSE external exam

4.5 lakh Students taking IIT JEE 2012 on April 8

13 lakh Students taking AIEEE (Engineering and Medical)

NEED ATTITUDE CHANGE

■ Students from the science stream are often divided between studying for the Boards and entrance exams

■ Children claim it is parental pressure of not dropping a year that adds to their stress

■ School principals suggest that neither the board exams nor the entrances are the end of the road

■ IIT professors claim that there are several other exams that students can take if they don't make it to the IITs

■ Other than IIT-JEE, students also have the option of appearing for AIEEE, BITSAT, VIT, COMED-K, WB-JEE.

is something that the parents need to accept and not put undue and unnecessary pressure on the children. This is just the first of the entrances," said Rakesh Sharma, registrar, IIT Delhi.

Students have the option of appearing for other entrances such as the AIEEE, Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani, West Bengal joint entrance exam, COMED-K and Vellore Institute of Technology, among others.

"There are many other institutions which are as good as the IITs and not being able to make it to one of the IITs is not the end of the road," added Sharma.

HELPLINES

- CBSE has begun its first phase of counselling. Students can call 1800 180 3456.
- Interact with CBSE chairman at jsctet.cbse@gmail.com or mcsharma2007@rediffmail.co
- HT will publish queries and responses by CBSE.

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HindustanTimes

Title : Indian IT makes quiet progress in Europe

Author : Shrenik Avlani shrenik.avlani@hindustantimes.com

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Indian IT makes quiet progress in Europe

CONTINENT DISCOVERED TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCL log big deals; only discretionary spending is seeing delays, say experts

Shrenik Avlani

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MUMBAI: Infotech biggies based in Europe seems to have weathered the current euro zone crisis.

While domestic major TCS signed four big deals in Europe and the UK, Infosys clocked two \$500 million-plus deals of the total 14 deals that the company won in Europe. HCL has also signed deals with AstraZeneca in the healthcare sector and Deutsche Bank in the financial services sector in Europe in the last six months.

TCS CEO N Chandrasekaran said that though the macro-economic conditions in Europe are difficult, the company has won good deals on the ground.

"We are cautious and observing the eurozone crisis but we see a healthy deal pipeline. It's the discretionary spends that are seeing delays," he said.

BG Srinivas, head of



We are cautious and observing the euro zone crisis but we see a healthy deal pipeline. It's the discretionary spends that are seeing delays

N CHANDRASEKARAN

European operations and board member, Infosys, said Europe was Infy's second-largest market, contributing around 22.6% to the company's revenues.

"Despite the crisis in Europe,

we see good opportunities for growth and have been investing in expanding our capability across Europe and enhancing our strengths in the near shore centres in Czech Republic and Poland, which are beginning to reap benefits for the company," said Srinivas.

"As economic uncertainties prevail, the biggest challenge facing IT service providers is to remain relevant to changing customer needs," a HCL spokesperson said. "Organisations are increasingly looking at IT services as strategic growth enabler."

"European companies are now open to offshoring their projects due to the economic crisis," said Ankita Somani, analyst, Angel Broking.

"Earlier they used to out-source to local vendors. Also there is a lot of vendor churn in Europe which is landing a lot more deals in India," she added.

Indian Express ND 09-Feb-12

P7

Ved Prakash, IIM-B director in race for top UGC post

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE search-cum-selection committee for the appointment of a new chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has short-listed a list of top contenders. The list includes IIM-Bangalore director Prof Pankaj Chandra, Koraput Central University V-C Prof Surabhi Banerjee, former V-C of Hyderabad University Prof S E Hasnain and acting chairman of UGC Prof Ved Prakash.

The committee will now

hold interaction/interviews with each of them before sending a list of three names to the HRD Ministry later this month.

While Banerjee is the official biographer of the late Left leader Jyoti Basu, her appointment as Pro V-C of Calcutta University had earlier run into trouble. She currently heads the new Central University in Orissa.

Prof Hasnain has been a contender for the top jobs at DU, JNU and a clutch of other top central educational institutes.

Prof Chandra, a visiting

professor at a host of international varsities, has a number of publications to his credit and is also on the board of several firms and institutions.

It is learnt that while Prof Prakash's candidature was at first re-considered owing to the fact that his area of expertise and experience is largely in the school education sector, the fact that he has been engaged with UGC for nearly a year now has brought him back in the reckoning. Prakash is also considered the government's favourite for the job.

INITIATIVE

Powered with promise

Hydrogen-powered three-wheelers, produced by UNIDO with Government backing, are on pilot run



A CLEAN DRIVE: Dr. K. Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation on the driver's seat of the hydrogen fuelled auto rickshaw

PHOTO: SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

Sujay Mehndia

The world's first fleet of hydrogen-fuelled three-wheelers or auto rickshaws has made its debut in the Capital and is currently on its pilot run.

The 15 vehicles will be refuelled from a station at Delhi's Pragati Maidan, where the fleet is presently operating. The Government had been closely following the project, while both the refuelling facility and hydrogen storage tanks on the vehicles received their necessary approvals from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation.

Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Farooq Abdullah recently welcomed the development stating that hydrogen holds great promise for a cleaner urban environment. Hydrogen can replace polluting and diminishing fossil fuels with a fuel whose only emission is pure water. If hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources, then it is the cleanest fuel from well to wheel, he remarked.

The \$1million project took three years to complete, with half of the costs co-funded by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies (UNIDO-ICHET) based in Istanbul, Turkey. "The hydrogen-powered rickshaws and the refuelling station were established as part of the DELHY-3W project that aims to demonstrate hydrogen technologies developed by Indian partners for the Indian transport sector," according to UNIDO-ICHET managing director, Mustafa Hatipoglu.

UNIDO director general, K. Yumkella said the development is proof that India has the expertise and skills to develop, implement and assess hydrogen energy

technologies in view of its Hydrogen roadmap and the 2020 Green Initiative for Future Transport. "It is also evidence that UNIDO International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies in collaboration with UNIDO headquarters and UNIDO regional office could put flesh and bones in innovative energy concepts, in collaboration with local industry and academia," he remarked.

The possible inclusion of hydrogen in the portfolio of alternative transport fuels in India could create the right market conditions for mass production of hydrogen vehicles and refuelling infrastructure, leading to comparable costs and reduced urban pollution in cities like New Delhi as well as in other Asian metropolises that might implement such technologies.

Delhi's Indian Institute of Technology (IITD) was the DELHY-3W project co-ordinator, carrying out exhaustive lab tests on the vehicular engine under varying operating condition and providing the technical expertise to convert the internal combustion engines to run on hydrogen.

Mahindra and Mahindra developed the vehicle with all necessary changes to the engines, safety systems, fuel tanks and fuel lines.

Air Products USA acted as project partner and sponsor by providing the hydrogen refuelling station and management and technical services. UNIDO's India regional Office facilitated the realisation of the project. India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) is hosting the project and helping disseminate the Indian know-how.

Aakash 2 not to be world's cheapest

DISTANT DREAM Suppliers want higher price for faster, stronger version of tablet

Chetan Chauhan

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NEW DELHI: The updated version of the world's cheapest tablet, Aakash 2, may not come as cheap — \$50, or ₹2,450 — as promised by HRD minister Kapil Sibal earlier this month.

Both public and private sector suppliers of the tablet have made it clear that the water and shock-proof tablet with a four times faster processor and a longer battery life may cost about \$100 (₹4,900) each.

Sibal said Aakash 2 would not cost more even with higher specifications, as the ten-fold increase in the ministry's order — from one lakh to one million — would help bring down the price.

The minister launched the Aakash tablet in October. Montreal-based Datawind won the order to supply one lakh tablets to the government at \$50 each. The Centre then subsidised

REACHING FOR AAKASH

- Govt wants **Aakash 2** to run at -20 degrees to 50 degrees Celsius and withstand steep fall
- It'll have a **1.2 gigahertz** — instead of the 366 megahertz — microprocessor and a **RAM of 700 megabytes**, double the original size
- With similar specifications, Maypad costs ₹4,900, while Classpad costs even more — ₹7,350 each
- The tablets sold under the MIT's One Laptop Per Child project are priced at ₹11,270 each

the sale of the tablet to students. But since the first version failed to meet the expectations of 600 Indian Institute of Technology students across the country, the IIT-Rajasthan set stricter test criteria for the tablet.

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Aakash 2 not to be world's cheapest

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The institute wants the waterproof Aakash 2 to run at -20 degrees to 50 degrees Celsius temperature and withstand steep and sudden fall.

It has specified a 1.2 gigahertz — instead of the 366 megahertz — microprocessor and a random access memory of 700 megabytes, double the original size.

Two public sector companies, Indian Telephone Industries and Bharat Heavy Electricals were willing to manufacture a million updated tablets, but not at original price.

"The US dollar appreciation will push up the cost. Insulation costs are also very high."

A government official said,

THE INSTITUTE WANTS WATERPROOF AAKASH 2 TO RUN AT -20 DEGREES TO 50 DEGREES CELSIUS

"It will be difficult to sell even at \$100 each." Maypad, a tablet with similar specifications, costs about \$100, while the others, such as Classpad, cost even higher — about \$150 (₹7,350).

The tablets sold under the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project promoted by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) match the Aakash 2 specifications, but are priced at \$230 (₹11,270) each.

Molecular marvel: World's first 'biological computer' is here

Made From Biomolecules, It Can Decipher Images On DNA Chips

Washington: Scientists in the US claim to have developed the world's first 'biological computer' that is made from biomolecules and can decipher images encrypted on DNA chips.

A team from the Scripps Research Institute in California and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology claims it has created the computing system using biomolecules, *Angewandte Chemie* journal reported.

In the research, when suitable software was applied to the biological computer, the scientists found that it could

decrypt, separately fluorescent images of Scripps Research Institute and Technion logos. And, although DNA has been used for encryption in the past, this is the first experimental demonstration of a molecular

cryptosystem of images based on DNA computing, say the scientists led by professor Ehud Keinan.

"In contrast to electronic computers, there are computing machines in which all four components are nothing but molecules," Keinan said.

"For example, all biological

systems and even entire living organisms are such computers. Every one of us is a biomolecular computer, a machine in which all four components are molecules that 'talk' to one another logically," he said.

The hardware and software in these devices, Keinan notes, are complex biological molecules that activate one another to carry out some predetermined chemical work.

The input is a molecule that undergoes specific, predetermined changes, following a specific set of rules (soft-

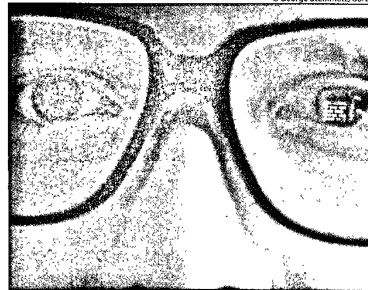
ware), and the output of this chemical computation process is another well-defined molecule.

But, what a biological computer looks like?

"This computer is built by combining chemical components into a solution in a tube. Various small DNA molecules are mixed in solution with selected DNA enzymes and ATP. The latter is used as the energy source of the device."

"It's a clear solution—you don't really see anything.

Molecules start interacting upon one another, and we watch what happens. PTI



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

Now, glasses with in-built computer

London: Google is to soon launch hi-tech glasses with in-built computer displays, a media report said, quoting a company insider as saying.

Speculation is rife that hi-tech 'heads up display' glasses are being developed at Google's secret 'Google X' lab for months. Now, sources claim to have seen a prototype of the product, *Daily Mail* reported.

The glasses will be armed with cameras, an Android operating system, and could be

on sale soon, the source said. Google specialist Seth Weintraub says, "Our tipster said it looks something like Oakley Thumps. These glasses, have a front-facing camera and could aid in augmented reality applications."

"The heads up display is only for one eye and on the side. The navigation system currently used is a head tilting to scroll and click. We are told it's very quick to learn." PTI

President stresses need for building human resource

PBD BUREAU/PTI

KURUKSHETRA (HAR), FEB 8

PRESIDENT Pratibha Patil today stressed the need for building human resources, saying it is the talent and work of our people that will shape the future trajectory of becoming a good and strong nation.

"We have to focus on building our human resource...it is human beings who set up factories and run them. It is human beings who establish institutions that are engaged in multiple activities, from providing services to undertaking research and scientific activities for the betterment of humanity," she said speaking at the convocation function of Kurukshetra University here.

"Human beings stand at the centre of creative thinking and of ideas, which can bring many changes of head and heart, material and spiritual," she said.

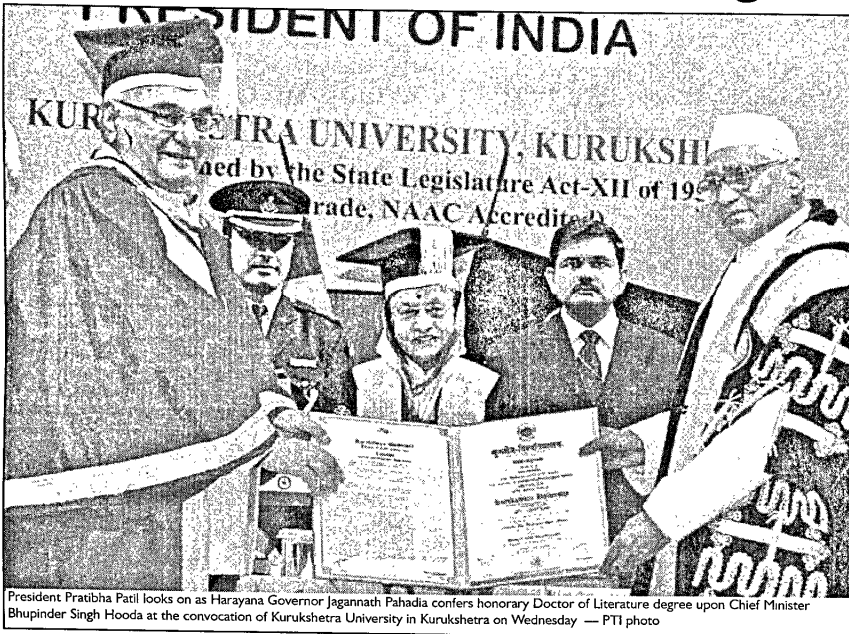
On the occasion, degrees of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa were conferred on Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam,

Prime Minister of Mauritius and Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

The degrees were conferred by Haryana Governor Jagannath Pahadia, who is also the Kurukshetra University's Vice Chancellor.

The President awarded gold medals to the toppers of different departments. Degrees to 181 PhD Scholars, number of M.Phil and Post Graduates were also awarded.

Patil said that she was happy to note that all the eleven gold medalists honoured today were girls. She called upon the boys to work hard as boys and girls are the two wheels of chariot and both wheels



President Pratibha Patil looks on as Haryana Governor Jagannath Pahadia confers honorary Doctor of Literature degree upon Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda at the convocation of Kurukshetra University in Kurukshetra on Wednesday — PTI photo

have to be sturdy. Patil said the energy of the youth and their enthusiasm must be guided into constructive and productive work.

"...so good education facilities and good quality education, from primary to high education levels must receive great attention," she said.

Touching upon the roles which universities can play, she said as a nation-building programme can leave no part of the nation untouched, education must cover a wide range of

disciplines and fields. She said that education should be a process that makes an individual complete in all respects.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, she said, a nation needs, "strong souls, strong brains, strong arms".

Patil further said that it is for this reason that she has continuously spoken about the importance of exchanges between students and educational institutions, as a way to build deeper co-operation between countries.

"Education should also

help in developing respect towards nature. We have a responsibility to preserve the planet for future generations. Towards this end, our youth needs to be made responsible and responsive to environment."

As teachers play a key role in shaping future of our students, the President said the faculty of a university which is its lifeblood, like a good friend should always advice and guide their students, on how best to face challenges that confront the world.

Test opens doors for management grads

Bridging the gap between academia and industry, a pan-India test will help management grads reach out to recruiters

RAI UMRAOPATI RAY

THE ASIAN AGE

Abhishek Kumar from Gaya, Bihar is a happy man today. Much to his delight, he has joined TCIL as a marketing officer at a salary of ₹18,000 per month. An MBA graduate from an institute in Varanasi, Kumar was only able to prove his mettle when he decided to take the Management Aptitude and Skills Test and score a good percentile. He got three job offers within weeks.

Popularly known as MAST and conducted by the All India Management Association (AIMA), this is a screening test to spot talented and job-ready management graduates. "The test opens new avenues for all management graduates who are from the not-so-well known institutes and colleges. I could not have dreamt of getting an offer like this at the start of my career. It is a good platform for graduates like me coming from smaller cities," says Kumar.

The test is the product of a joint research conducted by AIMA, an apex body of management in the country, and the Indian Market Research Bureau, which showed that despite the large number of management graduates passing out annually, most of them were not appropriately



The Management Aptitude Skills Test conducted by AIMA is a new ray of hope for management graduates from not-so-well-known colleges and institutes as it promises lucrative job offers —PTI

placed.

Says Rekha Sethi, director general, AIMA, "With this test, we have taken up the task of bridging the gap between academic education and the industry. The 2,000 plus management institutes are churning out over 3,00,000 students every year. Most of these schools do not necessarily have the bandwidth or the access to attract pan-India recruiters to screen their students. Students struggle to understand which job would best fit their unique managerial skill sets and aptitude."

Adding credibility to the novel initiative is the support it enjoys with some of the leading companies like J.K. Cements, ITC Lifestyle, Larsen & Toubro, MoserBaer India, Nokia, Britannia,

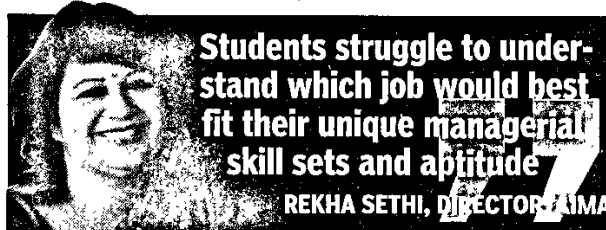
Fabindia and Mother Dairy. "The test caters to the specific needs of the industry and provides them with direct access to students. It is not possible for any recruiter to visit all business school campuses. Moreover, it is developed in a way that is a secure and standardised common measurement yardstick with which to assess candidates from across business schools in India. It evaluates a student's important skills sets in a structured way and makes the recruitment process efficient," says Saugata Mitra, chief people officer at Mother Dairy.

The test is divided into three main sections — psychometric assessment, general aptitude and domain knowledge — to assess skills like critical

thinking, communication skills and competence in discipline. While management students understand their requisite managerial skill sets, corporates too gain access to the best possible talent in a cost-effective way.

"The best thing about MAST is that it provides the student with a level playing field irrespective of the geographical location of the B-schools. It opens doors for students and supports them in reaching out to recruiters at a pan-India level. Thanks to it, I am now employed with Mother Dairy," says Deepak Kumar Nanda who completed his management degree from Bhubaneswar.

AIMA may conduct this test twice a year in the near future. The next MAST is scheduled to be held on September 23 this year. "We are happy with the response. We look forward to more recruiters endorsing MAST and integrating it with their recruitment process so that more students like Kumar can realise their goals," says Sethi.



Students struggle to understand which job would best fit their unique managerial skill sets and aptitude

REKHA SETHI, DIRECTOR AIMA

HindustanTimes

Title : Honoured

Author :

Location :

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Honoured

IIT Kharagpur alumni association honoured its alumni Harish Hande, who has been conferred with the Magsaysay Award for the year 2011, and Jaideep Sarkar, who is at present the private secretary to the prime minister. Hande was awarded for his pioneering work of providing solar power in thousands of houses in villages and slums.

Hindustan ND 9/02/2012

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सीमैट के कॉलेजों की सूची जारी

नई दिल्ली (का.सं)। आल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन (एआईसीटीई) ने उन तमाम कालेजों की सूची जारी की है जो कॉमन मैनेजमेंट एडमिशन टेस्ट (सीमैट) के अंकों के आधार पर दाखिला लेगे। इस सूची में ऐसे कई नामी गिरामी संस्थान हैं जो छात्रों को सीमैट स्कोर के आधार पर दाखिला देगे।

एआईसीटीई द्वारा जारी की गई इस सूची में बिरला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, मिसरा, रांची, वनस्थली विश्वविद्यालय, राजस्थान, के. जे. सोमैया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट स्टडीज एंड रिसर्च, मुंबई, युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ पेट्रोलियम एंड एनर्जी स्टडीज, देहरादून,

जेवियर इंस्टीट्यूट आफ सोशल सर्विस, रांची आदि के नाम शामिल हैं। गौरतलब है कि एआईसीटीई द्वारा कराई जाने वाली ये परीक्षा 20 से 28 फरवरी तक आयोजित की जाएगी। इस ऑनलाइन परीक्षा का आयोजन 61 शहरों में किया जाएगा। तीन घंटे तक चलने वाली इस परीक्षा के माध्यम से अभ्यर्थी एआईसीटीई द्वारा प्रमाणित देश के सभी मैनेजमेंट स्कूलों में दाखिला पा सकेंगे। पहली बार एआईसीटीई इतने बड़े स्तर पर मैनेजमेंट परीक्षा का आयोजन कर रहा है। इस परीक्षा से देशभर के एआईसीटीई द्वारा प्रमाणित कालेजों की तकरीबन चार लाख सीटों पर छात्र दाखिला पा सकते हैं।