

Newspaper Clips

January 10, 2013

Mail Today ND 10/01/2013 P16

Techies beat all in race to bell the CAT

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

The results of the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2012 seem to have strengthened the resolve of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to now focus on attracting brilliant students from the humanities stream.

With only six candidates from humanities background scoring 99 percentile (and above) in the CAT results declared on Wednesday morning, the composition of the IIM classrooms will continue to remain acutely skewed even this year.

Sample this: Nine out of the ten CAT toppers this year are engineers. Eight of these students with 100 percentile come from IITs. Of the 1,895 candidates who have scored 99 percentile and above, 1760 (or 93 per cent of 99 percentile scorers) are of engineering background.

Only 6 humanities students scored 99 percentile

Although this composition is not an aberration, on January 24, all IIMs directors will do some serious "stock-taking" to consider what measures can be taken to ensure that more humanities students make it to the classrooms, including taking a look at the CAT format.

"We would like to evangelise the fact that management is not the exclusive domain of engineers. We have to take the fear out of quantitative analysis associated with the study of management which probably keeps humanities students from applying and eventually keeps them out of our classrooms as well," Debashish Chatterjee, director IIM Kozhikode, which is the organizing institute this year, told MAIL TODAY. "All IIM directors will do stocktaking on January 24 and this issue will most definitely come up," he added.

According to Chatterjee, apart from considering changes to the CAT format another way by which IIMs could attract more arts students is by spreading awareness on the measures taken by them to take the fear out of

Areesh Mittal, who is currently studying at IIT Delhi, is one of the candidates with a 100 percentile.



AREESH MITTAL

Studying industrial engineering (4th year) at IIT Delhi

FOR Mittal, pursuing an MBA was never part of his career plan. "I filled in the forms at IIT Delhi were doing it. But after I did, I got serious about preparation," the 21-year-old who hails from Ludhiana, said.

With just two months of taking mock tests, Mittal did what lakhs of aspirants fail to achieve — score 100 percentile on first attempt. Although he has applied to all the IIMs, he is hoping to convert his call at either IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore or Calcutta.

CAT 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- 10 candidates scored 100 percentile, all boys. Of the 10, nine are engineers
- Rahul Saran, an undergraduate science student at St. Stephen's College, is among the CAT toppers
- Four girls share the honour of scoring 99.99 percentile, highest score from among the girls
- In all 255 girls and 1,640 boys scored more than 99 percentile
- Only six candidates out of 1,895 candidates who scored 99 percentile are of humanities background

quantitative analysis. "Not too many know that at IIM-K, for instance, we conduct preparatory courses for arts students who feel they are slightly challenged with numbers," Chatterjee added.

Currently, the classrooms of these premier B-schools have a skewed com-

position with as much as 80 per cent of the batch consisting engineers. At IIM Ahmedabad, for instance, 95 per cent of its new batch, for the last three years, has been students with engineering background.

This time, a total of 191,642 candidates appeared in the 21-day long test-

ing window from October 11 to November 6 last year. In terms of city-wise performance, Mumbai has the highest 99 percentile scorers at 180 students followed by Delhi (168), Bangalore (157), Hyderabad (105), Kolkata (92) and Chennai (85).

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JASKARAN SINGH

Working as a software developer at Infosys in Bangalore

THE first three attempts at CAT, for Singh, were not too great because he wasn't prepared to face the test.

"Solving a problem at home and solving it under pressure is very different. Although I was better prepared in terms of practice at the time of my third attempt, I couldn't do what I have done today because I wasn't ready to deal with the mental pressure of taking CAT," Singh said, who completed his engineering from NIT in Bhopal. But Singh knows that cracking CAT is only the first step. "I know that despite my score I might not get a call from IIM Bangalore because of school marks. I'll focus on converting my calls from IIM-A and IIM-C," he added.



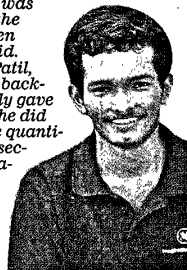
SUMIT PATIL

Studying mechanical engineering (4th year) at IIT Madras

PATIL'S father was worried to receive a call from his son at 3.30 am on Wednesday.

"Initially I had decided that I'll let them know my result only in the morning, but once I checked my (100 percentile) score I couldn't wait and called them at that unearthly hour. My father was initially worried but then obviously was elated to hear the news I had given them," Patil said.

According to Patil, his engineering background definitely gave him an edge as he did quite well in the quantitative analysis section. The celebration, however, will not last too long for Patil because his submission is due next week.



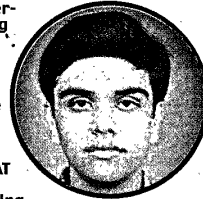
SIDDHARTH SHARMA

Studying Btech (4th year) at IIT Kanpur

PRACTICE is the only way to crack CAT, Sharma says. "I studied everything thoroughly. Practice makes you perfect at scoring 100 percentile," the 21-year-old said.

Sharma, like most young IITians decided to appear for CAT only after he started studying in IIT.

Envisioning his future beyond two years at present is difficult for him. "All I know is that I enjoy the finance aspect of management and I'll study that. It's too early to tell you where I see myself in five years. I know that I like challenges and I'll continue to challenge myself in future," he said.



Times of India ND 10/01/2013 p-9

Mumbai tops CAT count, city 2nd

168 Delhiites secure 99 percentile

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: In terms of city wise performance at the CAT 2012, Delhi ranked second with 168 candidates securing 99 percentile and above. Mumbai leads with 180 candidates. In all, 10 aspirants have got 100 percentile scores, of which DU student Rahul Saran is the only one not from engineering background. Other toppers include one B Rajesh who runs an MBA coaching centre in Chennai. Rajesh top scored for the second consecutive year and said that he takes the exam because he loves the experience.

CAT results were declared at 3am on Wednesday. The number of women candidates increased this year and four girls scored 99.99 percentile.

IIMs introduced some changes in 2011 to attract more people from non-science streams. Though engineers continue to dominate the test, experts say that the changes will be apparent during the overall selection process. "This will come to the fore when they will shortlist candidates for group discussion, interviews and later in the final selections. That's where they have given weightage to academic performance, work experience and gender," said Deekshant Sahrawat, an alumnus of IIM-Kolkata and IIT-Delhi, who runs MBA Guru.

The IIMs are also focusing on gender diversities and there are more chances of girl candidates to make it one of the 13 IIMs than ever before.

"IIM Kozhikode initiated 35% recruitment for women in a batch and it has become a national trend now for most IIM," said director of IIM-Kozhikode, Debashis Chatterjee.

DU Maths Grad Takes Pole Position In Delhi

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: Engineers dominate toppers-lists in Common Admission Test (CAT), but holding top position in Delhi is St Stephen's College student Rahul Saran, the only non-engineer in the small group of 10 contestants to have scored in the 100 percentile in India.

"He is a bright student and the department is proud of him," says his teacher, Nandita Narain. Saran, a final year student of mathematics honours, himself is "not interested" in talking.

The first thing Sonali Garg did when she spotted her CAT score was rub her computer screen hard as she wanted to be sure that her score really was a 99.99 percentile. A final year student of chemical engineering — a 'dual' course that fetches an MTech degree — she is one of the four women in the country to have scores in the 99.99 percentile in the CAT 2012. Delhi IIT has over 15 students with scores in the 99 and above percentile including about half-a-dozen girls.

"I studied for about 10 days," says Garg. "I was a director for the college festival. The festival was on October 23 and the exam was on November 3. I had little time to prepare." She didn't go for the year-long coaching classes. "It's not really about preparation but about what happens on the day." The unexpectedly stellar show has also thrown some plans off gear. Garg had landed a job through the IIT placements and was in the process of figuring out the posting, but now she'll study further.

But at least one stu-



ALL SMILES: Sonali (extreme right) gave up a job offer for MBA

A final year student of chemical engineering — a 'dual' course that fetches an MTech degree — Sonali Garg is one of the four women in the country to have scores in the 99.99 percentile in the CAT 2012

dent is planning to forego an IIM degree, for now at any rate, in favour of "work-ex". "A lot of IITians do well every year but not all of them will go finally. The placements happen after the CAT and many students will choose to work," says one student. Celebrations, in any case, are on hold till the calls start coming. "I don't really know who all have got in. Many haven't updated their status on the social media yet," says Sahil Chachan, final year biochemistry and biotech student who scored in the 99.83 percentile.

Engineers lose points at some IIMs, points out Arman Singh Sandhu (biochemical and biotech student) who's in the 99.73 percentile. But they don't have it all easy either. "I had to get out of the habit of using calculators. After five years, I did mental maths."

Times of India ND 10/01/2013 p-17

Top honours for two IIT-B engineers in CAT

255 Girls, 1,640 Boys Score Over 99 Percentile

Hemall Chhapia & Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: Engineers have yet again emerged as the biggest champions of the anxiety-striking Common Admission Test (CAT) that opens doors to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

Results declared on Wednesday reveal that of the 1.9 lakh candidates who wrote the examination last year, 10 achieved scores in the 100 percentile. Nine of those toppers were engineers and two were graduates of the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay.

The financial capital fared better than other major cities. Nearly 17,000 candidates from Mumbai took the test in 2012 as against 21,224 from New Delhi and 19,553 from Bangalore. But among those who achieved scores in the 99 percentile and above, Mumbai's share was 180—ahead of Delhi's 168 and Bangalore's 157.

This year, about 19 candidates scored in the 99.99 percentile and also, 1,895 candidates in between 99 and 100 percentiles.

Engineers' achievements in CAT-2012 were the starkest. Of the 10 candidates with scores in the perfect 100 percentile, eight hailed from IITs and five are in their final year of graduation. Moving down the charts, 79.36% of the 1,885 who secured places in the 99 and 99.99 percentiles are male engineers; data provided by IIM-Kozhikode put their count at 1,496.

While the 2012 CAT results evidenced the continuing domination of male engineers in among the toppers, they also displayed that women non-engineers feature the least in that group. Merely four women engineers from Karnataka, Orissa, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh scored in the 99.99 percentile in 2012. In all, 255 girls and 1,640 boys scored in over 99 percentile.

Prafulla Agnihotri, director of IIM-Tiruchirappalli, said, "There has been talk of re-



ROLL CALL: Merely four women engineers scored in 99.99 percentile in 2012

looking at CAT's format. The deliberations are at a preliminary stage. We want to make CAT more inclusive, so that students from other streams—such as humanities, commerce, economics or pharmacy—are not at a competitive disadvantage." Overhauling the CAT, he added, may take a year or more.

N Ravichandran, director of IIM-Indore, said that although the CAT is a major input for admission, several other factors come into play before a student is taken into IIM.

Nevertheless, engineers' sway holds for now. The highest score of a candidate from medicine background stood in the 99.97 percentile and that of an aspirant from economics stream was in the 99.94 percentile.

Out of the pool of architects who took the test, 11.8% were in the 95 percentile or above category, while 6.8% of engineers fell in that range. This could be explained by the fact that far more engineers than architects try to crack the test. In all, 1.91 lakh candidates appeared in the 21-day-long testing window from October 11, 2012, to November 6, 2012, for admission to the 13 IIMs. The institutes have held back the result of a student for feigning to be two different people with a slight change in the name.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 10, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 11;
DU Maths Grad Takes Pole Position In Delhi

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: Engineers dominate toppers-lists in Common Admission Test (CAT), but holding top position in Delhi is St Stephen's College student Rahul Saran, the only non-engineer in the small group of 10 contestants to have scored in the 100 percentile in India.

"He is a bright student and the department is proud of him," says his teacher, Nandita Narain. Saran, a final year student of mathematics honours, himself is "not interested" in talking.

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"I studied for about 10 days," says Garg. "I was a director for the college festival. The festival was on October 23 and the exam was on November 3. I had little time to prepare." She didn't go for the year-long coaching classes. "It's not really about preparation but about what happens on the day." The unexpectedly stellar show has also thrown some plans off gear. Garg had landed a job through the IIT placements and was in the process of figuring out the posting, but now she'll study further.

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10 get 100 percentile in CAT

DU graduate Rahul Saran also bags top score

New Delhi: The results of the Common Admission Test 2012 for management courses were declared on Wednesday with 10 candidates scoring 100 percentile.

From the city, a St Stephen's College passout was the only one to get a full score. Eight students are from Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and five of ten students are in their graduation.

The results were supposed to be declared online at 3 am. However, due to a minor technical glitch they were out only after 4:15 am.

An Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode officer said candidates, who scored 100 percentile, are from

IIMK DIRECTOR: The number of girls registering and appearing for the test showed a considerable up trend. This development might be seen as a response to gender diversity being sought in the classrooms

various IITs like Ropar and Bangalore.

"From Delhi, DU student Rahul Saran has scored 100 percentile. He did his Mathematics (honours) from the college," the officer said.

The IIMK had co-ordinated

2012 CAT exams. Saran refused to talk to the media.

Four girls have scored 99.99 percentile, the highest score for the year among girls. They are final year engineering students from Karnataka, Odisha, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. In all, 255 girls and 1,640 boys scored more than 99 percentile.

Debashis Chatterjee, IIMK director said CAT 2012 saw a significant increase in registrations for the first time after moving to a computer based testing platform. The growth in registrations is all encompassing, cutting across the categories and gender, he added.

"The number of girls registering and appearing for the test showed a considerable up trend. This development might be seen as a response to gender

diversity being sought in the classrooms," the director said.

He said candidates from less privileged sections are also registering in more numbers and are excelling in the test.

Female registration increased from 56,050 in 2011 to 60,876 in 2012.

A total of 2.5 lakh aspirants registered for the 2012 exam with around 9,000 more candidates than in 2011. A total of 1.91 lakh candidates appeared for the exam between from 11 October and 6 November 2012.

In terms of city-wise performance, Mumbai has the highest 99 percentile scorers at 180 students followed by Delhi (168), Bangalore (157), Hyderabad (105), Kolkata (92) and Chennai (85).

DH News Service

Business Standard ND
10/01/2013 P-14

8 of the top 10 CAT scorers are IITians

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 9 January

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) today declared the Common Admission Test (CAT) results for 2012. Ten candidates scored a 100 percentile. Of these, one is an undergraduate science student at Delhi University and the other nine are from an engineering discipline. Eight with the perfect scores come from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and five among those are in their graduation year.

Among girls, four scored 99.99 percentile, the highest for this year. They are engineering students in their final year, and belong to Karnataka, Odisha, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. In all, 255 girls and 1,640 boys scored more than 99 percentile.

A total of 191,642 candidates appeared in the 21-day testing window, from October 11 to November 6.

"CAT 2012 is significant, as there is an increase in registrations, the first time after it moved to a computer-based platform. The growth in registrations is all-encompassing, cutting across categories and gender. The number of girls registering and appearing for the test showed a considerable uptrend," said Debashis Chatterjee, director, IIM-Kozhikode.

"This development might be seen as a response to the gender diversity in classrooms being sought by most. In addition, candidates from the lesser privileged sections of the society are also registering in increasing numbers and excelling in the test," he added.

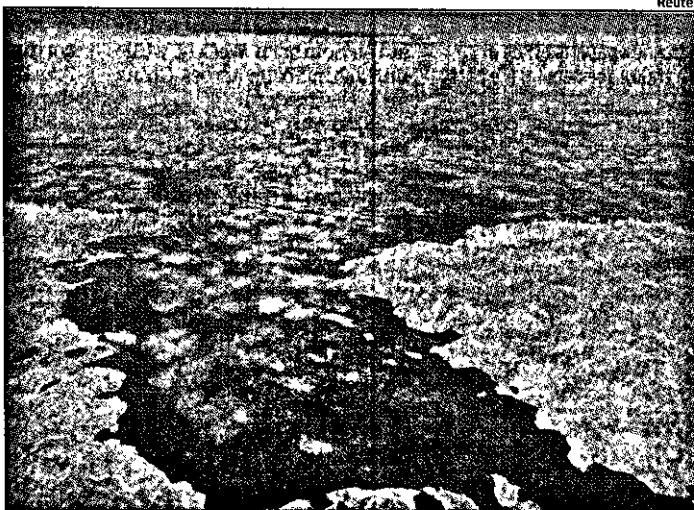
Floating ice on Saturn's moon Titan may harbour 'exotic life'

Washington: Nasa scientists have discovered blocks of hydrocarbon ice in seas and lakes on Saturn's moon Titan that may host exotic forms of life. A new study by scientists on Nasa's Cassini mission found that blocks of hydrocarbon ice might decorate the surface of existing lakes and seas of liquid hydrocarbon on Titan.

"One of the most intriguing questions about these lakes and seas is whether they might host an exotic form of life," said Jonathan Lunine of Cornell University, co-author of the study. "And the formation of floating hydrocarbon ice will provide an opportunity for interesting chemistry along the boundary between liquid and solid, a boundary that may have been important in the origin of terrestrial life," Lunine said in a statement.

Titan is the only other body besides Earth in our solar system with stable bodies of liquid on its surface. While our planet's cycle of precipitation and evaporation involves water, Titan's cycle involves hydrocarbons like ethane and methane. Ethane and methane are organic molecules, which scientists think can be building blocks for the more complex chemistry from which life arose.

Up to this point, Cassini scientists assumed that Titan lakes would not have floating ice, because solid methane is denser than liquid methane and would sink. PTI



HOPE OF LIFE: An artist's impression of what hydrocarbon ice forming on a liquid sea of Saturn's moon Titan might look like

Aliens living on moons like Avatar's Pandora?

Moons similar to the one depicted in Hollywood flick 'Avatar' may be among the most common places to find alien life, scientists believe. Astronomers came to the conclusion after identifying up to 15 new planets orbiting the life-friendly 'habitable zones' of stars. All are giant gaseous worlds similar in size to Jupiter or Neptune. While such planets would not themselves be suitable for Earth-like life, they could be circled by moons on which there are forests, oceans and living creatures, researchers now believe, the 'Daily Mail' reported. Pandora, the fictional moon in James Cameron's movie 'Avatar', is just such a world. So far only one of the 15 newly discovered objects has been confirmed as an exoplanet with 99.9% certainty. The rest still fall into the category of 'candidate' planets while further evidence is collected. The confirmed planet, known as PH2 b, orbits a sun-like star in the constellation Cygnus several hundred light years away. PTI

Hindustan Times ND 10/01/2013 P4

St. Stephen's student bells the CAT with a perfect score of 100

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

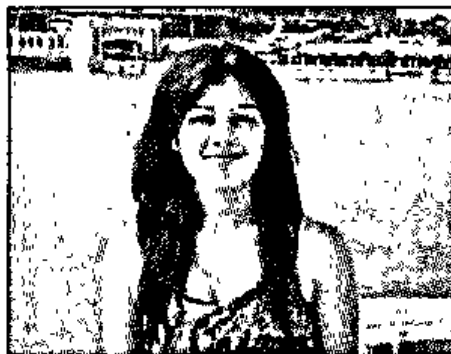
NEW DELHI: Cheers broke out in DU's St Stephen's College and IIT Delhi as soon as the results of the Common Admission Test (CAT) were declared on Wednesday.

Rahul Saran, a third-year BSc Mathematics (honours) student at St Stephen's College, is among the 10 applicants who scored a 100 percentile in the competitive exam that gives students entry to MBA courses in a number of institutes across the country, including the IIMs.

Saran, however, did not want to speak about his achievement. His teachers, though, said he was a conscientious student.

"He truly deserves all the success. He is a very hard-working student and it is a wonderful feat that he has accomplished," said Nandita Narain, who teaches mathematics at the college.

At IIT Delhi, meanwhile, Sonali Garg became the highest scoring woman with a per-



**The most important thing
is focus and keeping a
cool head.**

SONALI GARG
IIT-Delhi, scored 99.99 in CAT

centile of 99.99. She is joined by three other women from other parts of the country.

Garg, who is in the final year of chemical engineering programme at the top institute, said she gave the preparation for the test only a week.

"I had a very busy semester as I was also the director for an event at our annual fest. I just got a week to prepare for the test. According to me, the most

important thing is focus. It is very easy for engineers to crack the test because mathematics and logic come easily to us. It is about keeping a cool head," Garg said.

Hailing from Chandigarh, Garg did her schooling from Sacred Heart School, Chandigarh, and scored 94.2% in her class 12 board examinations. She also sat for the GMAT this year and scored an impressive 730 marks out of 780.

An analysis of the results revealed that Delhi stood second in terms of city-wise performance with 168 students scoring more than 99 percentile. Mumbai ranked first with 180 candidates scoring more than 99 percentile.

Of the 10 toppers, nine come from engineering backgrounds while one — Rahul Saran — is a mathematics undergraduate student.

While the result was declared at 3am on Wednesday, students could not access it till around 5am as the server crashed, keeping the students waiting.

Mint ND 10/01/2013 p-5

ADDRESSING SHORTAGE

Postgrad students at IITs, NITs to be allowed to teach juniors

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

NEW DELHI

The government plans to plug the shortage of teachers at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) by allowing postgraduate and doctoral students to teach undergraduates.

The trainee teachers will be selected from the top 15% of the students in these institutes and will be placed just a notch below assistant professors in salary and other privileges, according to government officials and documents reviewed by *Mint*.

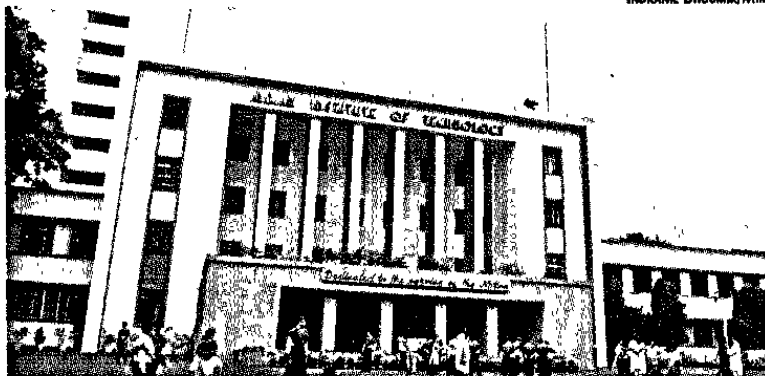
The programme is aimed at creating a pool of high-quality teachers for central government-funded technical institutes that face a shortage of up to 40% in teaching staff; providing an attractive teaching-cum-research career path to undergraduate students; and enabling bright students to "teach and earn while you learn" to become good academics and researchers, a government document said.

The teachers will also get annual salary increases like regular employees, besides other employee privileges, according to officials and the documents.

An assistant professor gets around ₹53,000 in monthly emoluments.

There is a catch though—until they complete their PhD, such teachers will only get half their pay. The rest will be held for them and paid out in three annual instalments, but only if they choose to remain teachers.

"This is a guard against people



Recruitment drive: The trainee teachers will be selected from the top 15% of the students in these institutes and will be placed just a notch below assistant professors in salary and other privileges.

leaving for other sectors after getting well-trained for a career in academics," said an official seeking anonymity.

According to the new plan, candidates will get a maximum eight years to complete their MTech and PhD, failing which they won't be considered for regular teaching posts.

In such a situation, the candidate will forfeit the 50% money kept aside in a recurring deposit.

Eligible NIT students will complete their courses in the classroom and the national knowledge network-enabled virtual learning mode. The last semester will be spent at a preferred IIT.

"Each NIT would work out a perspective faculty recruitment plan for the next five years based on current vacancies, projected growth, faculty recruitment through other channels, retirements and expected resignations," according to one of the documents.

India currently has 30 NITs and 16 IITs.

The trainee teachers will start with laboratory and tutorial

classes and research, progressively playing a bigger role in academics.

To start with, NITs can select 300 candidates for the scheme in the 2013-14 academic year, rising to more than 2,000 such teachers by 2020.

"This will address the teachers' shortage partially, but effectively," said the official cited above.

The older IITs face a teacher shortage of 25-40%; it's worse at the NITs.

For example, NIT-Allahabad has 462 sanctioned teaching posts, of which 310 are vacant. Out of 375 posts at NIT Surathkal, 204 are vacant.

This scheme will be reviewed every year by the human resource development ministry and, after three years, by an external committee.

One of the officials said the scheme can be extended to other central government-funded technical institutes and those approved by the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education.

Hari Bhumि ND 10/01/2013 P3

योजना | दाखिले के लिए निर्धारित प्राप्तांक में कुछ रियायत देने की मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय ने जताई मंशा

आईआईटी में लड़कियों को छूट मिलेगी

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो . नई दिल्ली

देश के सर्वोच्च इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान आईआईटी में लड़कियों को दाखिले में छूट मिल सकती है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आईआईटी परिषद के जरिए संस्थान में दाखिले का प्रावधान तय करने के लिए गठित उच्चस्तरीय आईआईटी संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा परीक्षा बोर्ड (जैब) के समक्ष इस आशय का प्रस्ताव किया है।

मंत्रालय का कहना है कि इस पर अंतिम निर्णय जैब बोर्ड लेगा। हाल में आईआईटी परिषद की बैठक के दौरान कुछ सदस्यों के साथ बातचीत में केंद्रीय मंत्री एम पल्लम राजू की ओर से यह कहा



गया कि लड़कियों को संस्थान में दाखिले के लिए निर्धारित प्राप्तांक में कुछ रियायत दी जानी चाहिए। बीते वर्ष आईआईटी-जेईई में कुल 4.68 लाख छात्रों ने भाग लिया था, इनमें उतीर्ण कुल

13,602 छात्रों में लड़कियों की संख्या मात्र 1,491 यानी लगभग 11 प्रतिशत थी। सरकार की मंशा लड़कियों की संख्या को न्यूनतम एक चौथाई तक पहुंचाने की है।

ज्ञात हो इस वर्ष आईआईटी में दाखिला नए प्रारूप के तहत हो रहा है जिसमें पहले जेईई मुख्य में उतीर्ण छात्रों में पर्सेन्टाइल के आधार पर चयनित छात्रों को जेईई एडवांस में शामिल होने का अवसर मिलेगा। इसमें पास होने के बाद ही आईआईटी का प्रवेश द्वार खुलेगा। मंत्रालय की मंशा जेईई एडवांस में लड़कियों को उतीर्णता के लिए कुछ प्रतिशत की रियायत दिलाने की है। इस वर्ष जेईई मुख्य और जेईई एडवांस की

परीक्षा क्रमशः सात अप्रैल और दो जून में होगी। जेईई मुख्य के लिए ऑनलाइन परीक्षा आठ से 25 अप्रैल तक होगी। जेईई मुख्य को केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) आयोजित करेगा। इसमें उतीर्ण छात्रों को आईआईटी के अलावा दूसरे केंद्र प्रायोजित इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में दाखिले का अवसर मिलेगा जबकि इनमें 12वीं बोर्ड के प्राप्तांक के आधार पर छानटे गए सर्वश्रेष्ठ 20 पर्सेन्टाइल घरकों को आईआईटी एडवांस में शामिल होने का मौका दिया जाएगा। उम्मीद है कि आईआईटी बोर्ड मुख्य परीक्षा में उतीर्ण कुल डेढ़ लाख छात्रों को एडवांस के लिए चयनित करेगा।

BITS Pilani bets big on R&D, to follow IIT model

Aims to be among the top research-driven institutes in Asia by 2020; invest ₹1,000 cr

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 9 January

To be among the top research-driven institutions in Asia by 2020, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, plans to invest ₹1,000 crore to increase the batch size across its Bachelors and Masters & PhD programmes by 50 per cent and 400 per cent, respectively, over the next seven years across its campuses at Pilani, Goa and Hyderabad.

This means the class size at its Goa and Hyderabad campuses will go up from 600 students to 900. At Pilani campus, the class size will go up from the present 800 students to 900. The strength of its batch sizes for Masters and PhD will be up from 100 to 500.

"The logic is, in addition to being a good teaching institute, we also want to become a research institute. Thus, the focus is more towards PhD," said, K E Raman, director, BITS Pilani, K K Birla campus, Goa. Raman added the institutes would take time to scale up, as they need to hire faculty.

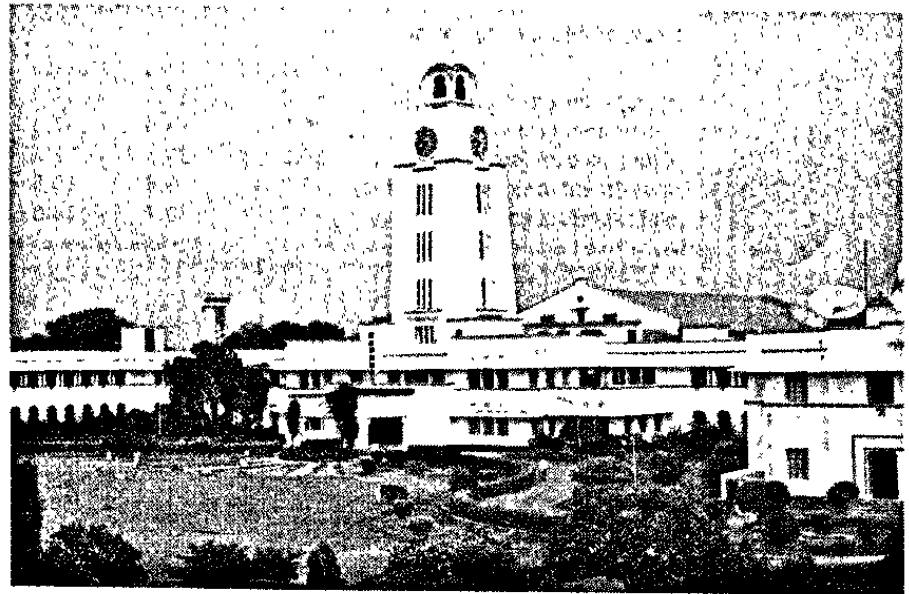
"We have a good number of science faculty. But getting engineering faculty is a little difficult. That is one of the reasons why we would take time to expand," said Raman.

BITS, like its peers, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), is working to transform itself into a research-led university.

In fact, the Council of IITs this week, with a view to increase the number of PhDs from 3,000 at present to 10,000 by 2020, approved the recommendation of the Empowered Task Force headed by Anil Kakodkar for "strengthening the PhD programme at the IITs".

A PhD programme for persons working in industry and teachers in engineering colleges will be introduced in all IITs, wherein the course requirement would be fulfilled through courses to be delivered

BITS, along with its global alumni association, launched a first of its kind multi-million dollar cross-campus technology initiative BITSCONNECT 2.0



Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, plans to increase the batch sizes of its Bachelors, Masters and PhD programmes

remotely, using the National Knowledge Network (NKN).

The IITs have also relaxed conditions for enrolment into PhD programmes. Admission would be given without a Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) score to students with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of more than 7.0 at the end of the third year, but a GATE score would be required for a scholarship.

However, students from a Centrally Financed Technical Institutions (CFTIs) with a CGPA of more than 7.0 would be eligible for PhD programmes and also assistantship/fellowships without requirement of GATE scores. All others will have to appear for GATE to get into MTech and PhD programmes in the IITs.

To strengthen its research and development unit, BITS has also tied up with University of Southern California. It is also looking at tying up with University of

California, Berkeley, and the University of San Diego. This academic year, it plans to sponsor around 12 faculty members to travel to research universities.

Today, BITS, along with BITSAA, its global alumni association, launched a first of its kind multi-million dollar cross-campus technology initiative named BITSCONNECT 2.0.

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor, BITS Pilani, said, "The launch of BITSCONNECT 2.0 from its three campuses in India signals a significant step forward. This system provides avenues for research collaboration and knowledge sharing among BITS' faculty and students, and for face-to-face communication between members of BITS' leadership."

This will enable the institute to offer at least 14 specialised electives to 1,000s of students across its campuses by professors working from any of its campuses. Besides, Academicians from across the world will be able to collaborate with and mentor research projects in BITS via this technology initiative.

In step with the best in the world

The second of an eight-part series on the one-year full-time MBA at the IIMs looks at the confusion regarding the course content and value



SHIKHAR MOHAN

People harbour a myth regarding the quality of students accepted to the one-year full-time MBA at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). They imagine these candidates are unable to qualify for admission to international B-schools or the two-year course at the IIMs.

There is a belief the Common Admission Test (CAT)-based two-year course at the IIMs is the toughest to enrol for. Students and media engrain this belief by pointing out that 2,14,000 CAT applicants vie for 3,000 seats for the two-year post graduate programme (PGP).

They don't mention that in addition, roughly 2,00,000 seats are available to these applicants. In all, 185 institutes, 13 of them IIMs, accept the CAT score for PGP and other courses, such as PGP-HR, PGP-Agribusiness, PGP-IT and PhD. Hundreds of other institutes also accept CAT scores unofficially.

The story gets better. The applicants can apply to any number of IIMs. So, the application pool at each IIM is largely replicated but claimed as exclusive by each institute. Of the 2,14,000 test takers in 2012, approx 2,04,345 (almost the entire lot of those taking the test) applied to the two-year PGP at IIM-Lucknow and approx 2,00,000 to this course at IIM-Calcutta.

When students and the media talk about the PGP being the toughest course to get into, they calculate the ratio of the seats to the applicants, and speak of a very low acceptance

rate. For example, they would talk of the 210 seats at IIM C's PGP and the approx 2,00,000 applicants to the course and then wow everyone with news of a 0.10 per cent acceptance rate.

By this logic, the acceptance rate for the one-year full-time MBA (PGPEX) at IIM-Calcutta (ratio of 45 seats to 2,70,000 GMAT test takers — we are taking the figure of the entire lot of test-takers as about that many would apply if they were allowed to apply to any number of institutes without charges) in 2012 was ridiculously low at 0.01 cent.

GMAT, accepted at most global B-schools, allows you to send your scores without any charge to only five B-schools. To report your score to an additional institute, you pay ₹1,500. Each school charges a separate application fee, which can be as high as ₹3,500 at IIM-Indore and over ₹13,000 at Harvard. This prevents candidates from applying indiscriminately.

If you are to see the intake at Harvard as some kind of benchmark, you find it has an 11 per cent acceptance rate. Acceptance rates, even if calculated accurately, are a poor indicator of quality of these two courses. The true indicator is the quality of applicants.

The profile of students accepted to the one-year full-time MBA is incredible and in line with that of students at top global B-schools.

On an average, candidates have nine years of work experience, which includes four years of international work experience. The average GMAT score hovers around 710 (similar to the average score at Harvard and Wharton).

Past candidates at the one-year full-time MBA (EPGP) at IIM-Indore included a PGI-educated doctor who led 10,000 troops as an Army major, a nuclear scientist at the Department of Atomic Energy,

a zonal sales head at an MNC, IITians and managers from Fortune 500 companies.

The admission criteria are holistic and, while incredibly difficult, don't lay undue emphasis on just one marker of brilliance — test scores. International schools have long insisted on well-rounded candidates. Stanford has refused admission to 800/800 GMAT test scorers over the years because they fell short on other criteria, and the GMAT score range at Harvard is 570-790. The IIMs are following the same approach.

The admission process spans shortlisting on the basis of the GMAT score, in-depth mission statements, essays capturing work experience and case studies that check a candidate's ability to provide solutions to real-world business problems. Thereafter, interviews are conducted by IIM faculty across the globe.

Importantly, there is no GMAT score cutoff for the shortlisting and the admissions committee considers everything that hints at a potential leader — from a candidate's extra-curricular interests to the stray dogs she saved working for an NGO.

The alumni of the course are proud to say that despite scoring a 650 in GMAT, you can gain admission.

The lower emphasis on percentiles isn't a sign of a standard admission process, but of a progressive and world-class approach to finding well-rounded managerial talent.

Regarding the misconception that candidates at the one-year course failed to make it to international B-schools or crack the CAT, let me give my own example. I wasn't enamoured by

an MBA when I graduated from college. I was passionate about advertising and after six years of work, I decided to pursue an MBA to complement my rise into a managerial role at work.

As a highly awarded brand management and advertising professional, with stints on international advertising award juries, I had a strong profile for global schools. But consider this: Even in 2009, when I was applying to B-schools, a one-year MBA at INSEAD cost approximately ₹50 lakh and a



ONE-YEAR
MBA AT IIMs
DECODED
PART-II

two-year MBA at Harvard cost ₹1 crore, including living expenses! The one-year full time MBA (EPGP) at IIM Indore, at ₹15 lakh, presented better value. This is why candidates choose the IIMs over global B-schools.

In response to readers' requests, I am listing links to the accreditation page on Association of MBA's website, which accredits the one-year full-time course at IIM Lucknow (IPMX), the same course at SP Jain, Mumbai, called PGPM, and the same course at MDI, Gurgaon, called NMP, as MBAs and the two-year PGP at these places as Masters in Business and Management (MBM or MIM) — a course for candidates without work experience. The links are (<http://tinyurl.com/iimlamba>), (<http://tinyurl.com/spjainamba>) & (<http://tinyurl.com/mdiamba>)

The writer is a globally awarded brand management & advertising professional and former head, brand, HCL Infosystems. He can be reached at e09shikharm@alumni.iimldr.ac.in To know more about the one-year full-time MBA at IIM-Indore pursued by the writer, visit fb.com/IIMEPGP)

The third part of the series will appear next Thursday

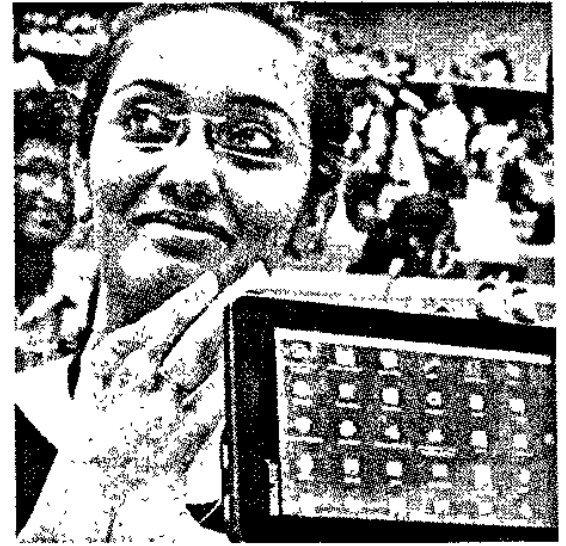
आकाश के एप्स डेवलप करेगी टीम

25 अकादमिक इंस्टीट्यूशंस और प्राइवेट कंपनियां साथ मिलकर करेंगे काम

[शैली सिंह नई दिल्ली]

आकाश के हार्डवेयर को कमोबेश क्रैक कर लिया गया है। सरकार दुनिया के इस सबसे सस्ते टैबलेट में सॉफ्टवेयर लोड करने का प्रयास कर रही है। सरकार ने चार सदस्यीय टेक्निकल कमेटी बनाई है। यह कमेटी सॉफ्टवेयर इकोसिस्टम पर काम करेगी। यह आने वाले सालों में आकाश के लिए एप्लिकेशंस रिलीज करेगी। इसमें शुरूआती तौर पर लर्निंग और एजुकेशन पर फोकस होगा। कमेटी के सदस्य और आईआईटी मद्रास के प्रोफेसर अशोक झुनझुनवाला कहते हैं, 'करीब 25 अकादमिक इंस्टीट्यूशंस और प्राइवेट कंपनियों को आकाश की एप्लिकेशंस बनाने के लिए जोड़ा गया है। हम मार्च तक इसे बढ़ाकर दोगुना करने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।'

आईआईटी मद्रास ने करीब 5,000 इंजीनियरिंग स्टूडेंट्स को आकाश पर चार दिन का क्रैश कोर्स करा रही है। इंस्टीट्यूट को उम्मीद है कि ये स्टूडेंट्स आगे चलकर इसके लिए एप्लिकेशंस बनाएंगे। झुनझुनवाला कहते हैं, 'हम एजुकेशन से जुड़े एप्लिकेशंस डेवलप करना चाहते हैं। यह लेक्चर्स का लाइव ब्रॉडकास्ट या इंटरएक्टिव ई-बुक्स एप्लिकेशंस हो सकता है।' अभी एंड्रॉयड पावर्ड आकाश टैबलेट को सरकार 2,263 रुपए में खरीद रही है। वह इसे स्टूडेंट्स को 24 एप्स के साथ 1,150 रुपए में दे रही है। हालांकि, ये एप्स गेमिंग, मेल और चैट के हैं। आईआईटी बॉम्बे के प्रोफेसर डी बी पाठक का कहना है, 'हमें भारतीय एजुकेशन की जरूरतों के अनुसार एप्स बनाने होंगे। इसलिए हमें अपने यहां आकाश एप्स इकोसिस्टम डेवलप करने की जरूरत है।' कमेटी में आईआईटी बॉम्बे और आईआईटी मद्रास के अलावा सेंटर फॉर डेवलपमेंट एंड एडवांस्ड कंप्यूटिंग (सीडैक) और एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री की एक यूनिट शामिल है। अमेरिका की मैंगो लर्निंग आकाश के लिए गेम्स के जरिए गणित पढ़ाने वाला एप्स डेवलप कर रही है। मैंगो लर्निंग के सीईओ प्रकाश आहूजा का कहना है, 'टैबलेट एक तरह का डब्बा डिवाइस है। इसे लाइव करने के लिए आपको एप्स की जरूरत होती है। हम आकाश को एक फ्री एप के साथ जोड़ देंगे। हमारे 400 से अधिक मैथ्स लर्निंग एप्स में किसी भी एप के डाउनलोड करने पर यूजर को 49 रुपए देने होंगे।'



- सरकार ने चार सदस्यीय टेक्निकल कमेटी बनाई है जो यह सॉफ्टवेयर इकोसिस्टम पर काम करेगी
- कमेटी में आईआईटी बॉम्बे और आईआईटी मद्रास के अलावा सीडैक और एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री की यूनिट शामिल है

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फेसबुक और ट्विटर से ज्यादा सुरक्षित होगी दिव्य रंजन की तैयार की गई 'डार्नस्टर' साइट

10वीं के छात्र ने बनाई सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट

रांची | श्रेयसी मिश्रा

रांची के 14 वर्षीय छात्र दिव्य रंजन ने 'डार्नस्टर' नामक एक सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट बनाई है। 10वीं कक्षा के छात्र का दावा है कि उसकी साइट सुरक्षा के मामले में फेसबुक और ट्विटर कहीं बेहतर होगी। इस वेबसाइट को आईआईएम रांची अपने आधिकारिक सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट के रूप में लांच करेगा।

दीपाटोली आर्मी स्कूल के छात्र दिव्य रंजन ने वेबसाइट का नाम अपने नाम के पहले अक्षर 'डी' पर रखा है। डार्नस्टर को डिजाइन करने में उसे छह माह लगे। जब वह सातवीं कक्षा में था, तभी से उसने एथिकल हैकर के रूप में अपनी पहचान बना ली थी।

रांची का नौनिहाल

- 'डार्नस्टर' को 15 जनवरी को साइट घोषित करेगा आईआईएम रांची
- वेबसाइट का नाम अपने नाम के पहले अक्षर 'डी' पर रखा है



काम के लिए उम्र नहीं आइडिया होना चाहिए

ऐसे काम के लिए उम्र नहीं, आइडिया परिपक्व होना चाहिए। मेरे डैड चाहते हैं कि मैं आईआईटी क्रेक करूं, पर मैं जानता हूँ कि यह मेरा लक्ष्य नहीं है! - दिव्य रंजन, 'डार्नस्टर' का निर्माता

2011 में फिल्म 'द सोशल नेटवर्क' देखकर उसे नेटवर्किंग साइट बनाने का ख्याल आया। पहले दिव्य रंजन इस साइट को सिर्फ हैकरों के लिए बनाना चाहता था। इस साइट की

खासियत यह है कि इसमें प्राइवैसी सेटिंग अधिक कारगर तरीके से की जा सकेगी। डार्नस्टर को आईआईएम रांची 15 जनवरी को अपने आधिकारिक सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट

के तौर पर लांच करेगा। दिव्य रंजन को कई कंपनियों से प्रस्ताव मिल रहे हैं, लेकिन अभी वह पूरा ध्यान 'डार्नस्टर' को और एडवांस बनाने पर दे रहा है। उसके पिता लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल राजू रंजन बेटे की इस उपलब्धि से खासे उत्साहित हैं।

फेसबुक से अलग कैसे?

दिव्य रंजन का कहना है कि इस साइट में कई फीचर ऐसे हैं, जो इसे अन्य सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट से अलग बनाते हैं। 'डार्नस्टर' पर डाले जाने वाले पोस्ट को यूजर फेसबुक और ट्विटर पर भी पढ़ सकेंगे।

सीसीएस (कंप्यूटर स्ट्रिक्टिंग लैंग्वेज) के जानकार इसके टेम्पलेट, बैकग्राउंड कलर और थीम को बदल सकते हैं। 'डार्नस्टर' में फ्रेंड रिक्वेस्ट भेजने का तरीका अलग होगा।

HT Mumbai



Ranks of Indian students in Germany grow by 70%

Enrolment of Indians at German educational institutions have grown since the 2008 academic year

HT Education Correspondent

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An increase of 70% has been witnessed in enrolment of Indian students at German education institutions since the academic year 2008, according to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). There were a total of 5998 Indians studying in the country last year, up from 5038 in 2010/11. The number of total international students as whole went up from 244,776 in 2009-2010 to 252,032 in 2010-2011.

Christiane Schlottmann, director, DAAD, regional

office in New Delhi, confirms that there has been a change in student mobility worldwide in recent years. Besides the conventional destinations of higher education, students are seeking newer ones in Europe as well as in Asia.

According to Schlottmann, "Stringent visa regulations, limited or non-existent employment opportunities in the host country after graduation and social threats in the traditionally popular destinations are some of the factors behind the changing trend."

The implementation of the EU Blue Card is believed to

be a key determinant.

Besides opening up unlimited job opportunities, the EU Blue Card provides residence permit to grant foreign graduates of German universities unrestricted access to the job market. Other reasons that make Germany the most popular destination for international students in Europe include over 1000 international degree programmes (IDP) taught in English, highly subsidised tuition fees, quality of education, scholarships and above all, social security.

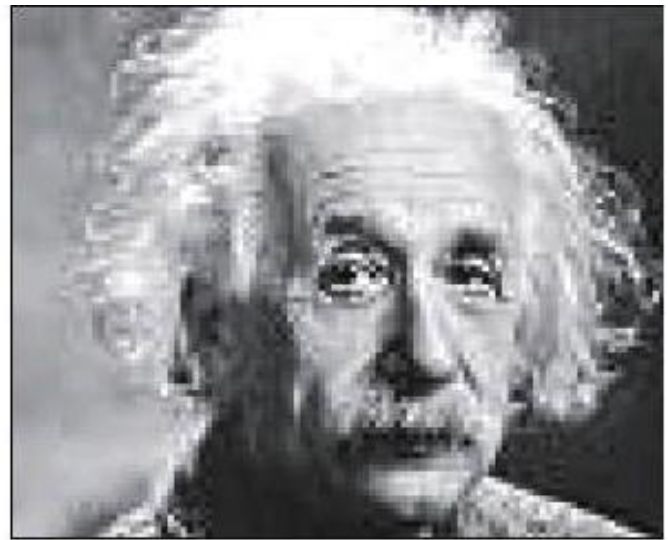
Germany bags the first position beating Australia, the United Kingdom and China, as reported by a recent British Council survey. "Even during the recent world economic recession, Germany has sustained as the economic superpower, thereby providing easy access to international job market. The adoption of the EU Blue Card as a new work and residence permit has already started showing positive results and I believe it will further bolster this trend," said Schlottmann.

SPACE TEST FOR EINSTEIN'S FORMULA

WASHINGTON: The world's most iconic equation, Albert Einstein's $E=mc^2$, may be correct or not depending on where you are in space, a physicist has suggested, proposing an experiment to test the theory in outer space.

University of Arizona physics professor Andrei Lebed has stirred the physics community by proposing an experiment using a space probe carrying hydrogen atoms to test his finding that the equation $E=mc^2$ is correct in flat space, but not in curved space.

According to the Theory of General Relativity, objects curve the space around them.



■ **Albert Einstein**

In the equation $E=mc^2$, 'E' stands for energy, 'm' for mass and 'c' for the speed of light (squared). **PTI**

150 YRS OF WORLD'S FIRST SUBWAY

LONDON: Busy, congested, stressful. This is how the world's first subway system was depicted by London