Now, region to play role in IIT eligibility

NEW RULES Strategy adopted after taking factors like syllabus, Q-papers into account

Vanita Srivastava
■ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Scoring 50% in the Meghalaya board exams will make you eligible for IIT-JEE 2013, but it could seem like a distant dream even if you score 86% in Andhra Pradesh.

Officials say this is because, from next year, the eligibility criterion is that one has to be in the top 20 percentile of his/her 12th board. However, there is a wide variation in the 20 percentile cut-off across the boards because of the difference in number of students, syllabus, question papers, and leniency in giving marks.

Meanwhile, the Council of Boards of School Education has compiled and released this year's data of 20 percentile to help students set their board target. "The graph will go up next year because children will be focusing on their boards," said an IIT professor.

The compiled data sets the highest percentage requirement for Andhra Pradesh, at 87.20, and lowest for Meghalaya, at 49.40. The figure will be lower for quota students.

The new pattern for the IIT-JEE examination, to be put into practice from next year, has made it essential for students to figure in the top 20 percentile bracket of the Class 12 boards. So, even if you figure in the list of top 500 students, but do not find a place in the top 20 percentile of your board, you don't stand a chance.

STATE-WISE LIST

Board marks students have to score to be eligible for IIT-JEE test

Less than 50%
Meghalaya, Nagaland

50%-60%
Assam, Chattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

60%-70%
Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, National Open School

70%-80%
CBSE, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu

Above 80%
Andhra Pradesh

All the students, irrespective of their board marks, will be allowed to appear for the main and advanced tests of the IIT-JEE. However, the final rank will depend on their performance in the advanced test, subject to the condition that they fall in the top 20 percentile of their boards.

Till 2012, the minimum marks for eligibility was 60%. However, students are at a loss with the scenario changing next year.

BOARD CUT-OFFS
■ For more details regarding eligibility for the IIT-JEE, students may log on to:
hindustantimes.com/boardmarks

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Class 12 student gets a perfect 100 in three foreign exams

Mallica Joshi

■ mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A love for Physics, Jane Eyre and quizzes is perhaps what helped Shreya Vardhan achieve what no one else has.

The 15-year-old student of Class 12 has managed an unheard of feat. She has scored a 100% in all the admission tests that she took for a foreign university.

She has managed to score full marks in the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

According to many education experts, this is unheard of.

"We often see students who get a 98% or a 99% in their SATs and then we see those who have a very good score in TOEFL as well. But managing a 100% in SATs, TOEFL as well as AP exams is something that I have never heard. It is a great achievement," said Usha Alburqueque, career counsellor.

But Vardhan does not feel that she has done anything out of the ordinary. "Yes, I am very happy, but I am like any other kid. I do like to study but I also play tennis and read fiction. My favourite authors are Jane Eyre, John Grisham and Jawaharlal Nehru," she says.

■ **Shreya Vardhan at her study table at home.** ARIJIT SEN/HT

"She has always been a very bright kid, a topper in class. One thing about her is that she likes to read a lot. That is what, I think, helped her score so well. All the trunks in my house are full of books," said Reena, Vardhan, Shreya's mother.

The daughter of an army officer, Shreya has been living in Delhi for the last one year and is a student of Delhi Public School, RK Puram.

According to her, acing the SATs was quite easy. "The questions are much easier than the ones we have in Classes 12 and 11. It's the same with TOEFL too. The questions are easy but one needs to practice the listening section," she said.

Few takers for engg courses

Slander campaign against colleges to blame, say owners

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JULY 19

SHOCKING **FACTS**

■ There are about 6,000 engineering seats in various private and government engineering colleges in the state

■ However, only 3,000 students have filled in forms for attending the counselling being conducted by Himachal Pradesh Technical University

■ Sources say of them, only 1,500 students are expected to attend the counselling

■ This means that even if all students who attend the counselling take admission, only about 25 per cent seats will be filled

The much-talked-about concept of making Himachal an education hub seems to have failed. The state of engineering and polytechnic colleges that mushroomed in Himachal over the past few years is appalling.

There are about 6,000 engineering seats in various private and government engineering colleges in the state. However, only 3,000 students have filled in forms for attending the counselling being conducted by Himachal Pradesh Technical University. Sources said of them, only 1,500 students were expected to attend the counselling.

This means that even if all students who attend counselling take admission in engineering colleges, only about 25 per cent seats would be filled.

The state of polytechnic colleges is even worse. The sources said there were about 10,000 polytechnic and engineering diploma seats in the state. However, just 500 students had come through counselling conducted by the state technical education department.
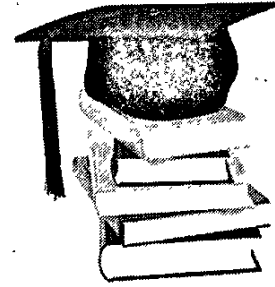
Owners of engineering colleges and private universities are blaming politicians and certain vested groups for carrying out a slander campaign against the institutions that have come up in the state.

An owner of an engineering college in Kangra district said on condition of anonymity that most engineering colleges had raised loans ranging from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore. In case the colleges failed to fill at least 60 per cent seats, they would not be able to reach the break-even cost of running the institutions.

If such a scenario continued for another year, many colleges might be forced to close down, he said.

The Chancellor of a private university said they had set up colleges investing amounts ranging up to Rs 100 crore in Himachal with a view that students from across the country would be attracted to take admission here due to the serene environment in the state. However, politicians and other vested groups had carried out such a malicious campaign against the institutions that had come up in the state that students from other states were not willing to take admission in Himachal.

Leave aside students, even senior faculty was not coming to many institutions in Himachal due to "bad branding" of the institutions here caused by statements, of state leaders. Many promoters had put expansion plans of their institutes in the state on hold due to discouragement on the part of state politicians, he said.

The sources also blamed the overall slowdown and a sudden decline in the tendency of students towards technical education for the poor state of technical institutes in the state.

The tendency of students towards technical education has declined due to the slowdown in the Indian industry and shrinking jobs in the private sector.

This year more students had opted for courses such as BCom and BSc than engineering or diploma courses.

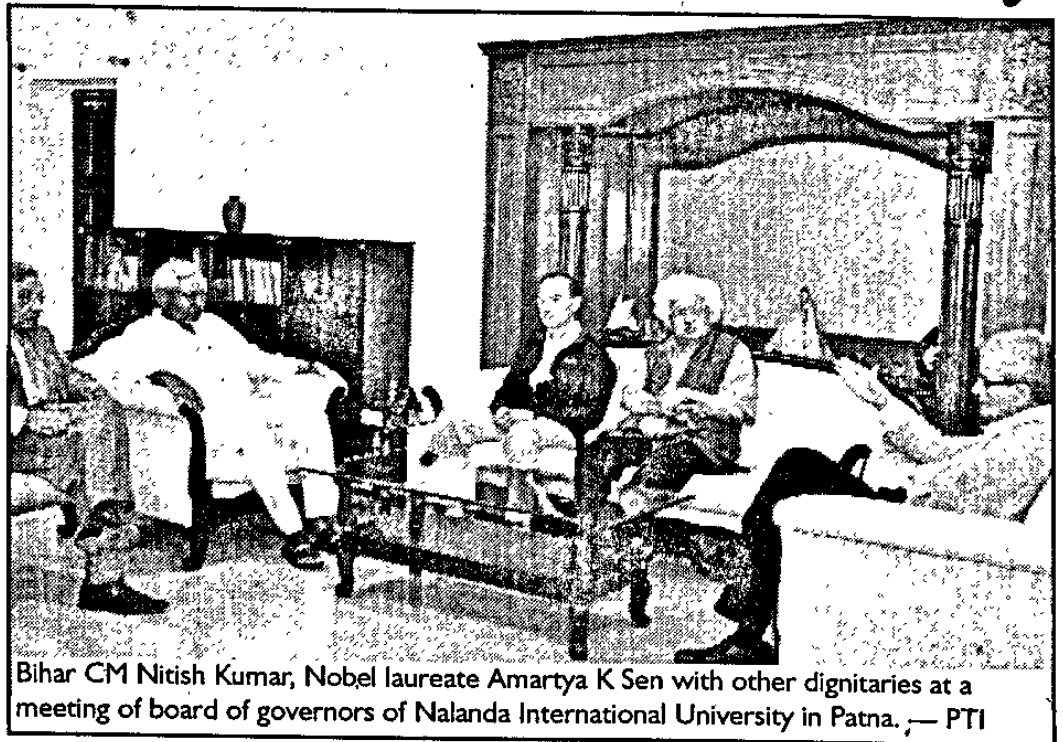# Amartya Sen to be Chancellor of Nalanda International University

NOBEL prize winner Prof Amartya Sen would be the new Chancellor of Nalanda International University.

A decision was taken at the meeting of the governing body of the university, its member and former Singapore foreign minister George Yeo said after the meeting today.

President Pratibha Patil had earlier sanctioned the appointment of the chancellor, Yeo added.

The governing board of Nalanda International University also decided to prepare the project report, discussed appointment of teachers and finalised the proposal for setting up of two Schools from July 2013, Yeo said. Amartya Sen said the School of Historical Studies and School of Ecology and Environmental Studies would start functioning from July next year. Each of the two schools would have 100 post-graduate students, he said.

The Centre had consti-

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Nobel laureate Amartya K Sen with other dignitaries at a meeting of board of governors of Nalanda International University in Patna. — PTI

tuted a monitoring committee headed by Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahuluwalia for Nalanda International University and the committee has asked the governing board to suggest place to set up an international airport, for arrange good road and railway connectivity and search for 200 villages with archaeological importance in the district of Nalanda.

The project report for the airport, rail and road connectivity and identification archaeologically important villages would be submitted to the monitoring committee, Rajya Sabha member and governing board member N K Singh said.

The meeting also dis-cussed how to raise funds for the university, Singh said adding the next meeting of the governing body would take place at Rajgir in February next.

The Architectural design competition for setting up the university was likely to be completed early next year, university vice chancellor Gopa Sabharwal said.

Education institutions may get access to super computing research

Venkatesh Ganesh

Bangalore, July 19

A key government tech research body plans to give access to super computing research across 200 educational institutes in the country.

Garuda, an initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) along with National Informatics Centre (NIC) plans to extend their 'grid computing initiative' from the existing 65 institutes to 200 in the next couple of years.

C-DAC's grid computing initiative is a collection of high performance computing resources that are spread across different cities and allows access to super computing research.

Grid computing played a big role in the recent discovery of the 'God particle' as scientists across the world collaborated with each other.

Access to resources such as storage, IT networking and high end servers that can compute in excess of a trillion calculations per second, used in areas such as numerical weather simulations or drug discovery are provided by C-DAC. Due to high costs and maintenance of hardware and software, educational institutes could not afford to undertake research.

Typically, this would help in drug discovery, disaster management, aerospace engineering, weather prediction, e-learning, protein structure prediction amongst other research areas.

"Our objective is to provide and facilitate collaborative initiatives in Grid computing along with partners such as National Knowledge Network (NKN)," Mr Sarat Chandra Babu, Executive Director, C-DAC, said. For this initiative, C-DAC will be leveraging the NKN for 1 Gigabit network connectivity.

Any educational institute that wants to be a part of this initiative can bring in whatever technology it has and C-DAC will provide the required additional capability in line with the institute's requirements. Additionally, C-DAC will provide a 10 Gigabit network, which is the most important part for high end research collaborative research.

Other issues such as security are managed by C-DAC. "Secured access is guaranteed through certificates signed by the Indian Grid Certification Authority," said Dr Prahlada Rao, Joint Director, Systems Software Development, HPC, C-DAC.

According to C-DAC officials, Garuda played its part in the God particle discovery by providing certificates for Indian scientists who participated in the project.

venkatesh.ganesh
@thehindu.co.in