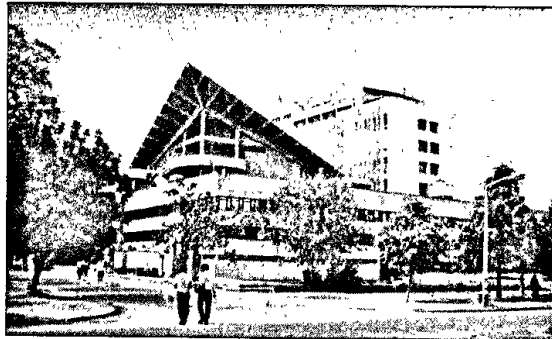


Newspaper Clips

July 24, 2012

Last batch to take JEE in its current form is the new batch at IIT-Delhi



Approximately 850 students joined the institute's undergraduate courses this year.

EXPRESS ARCHIVE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE new batch of students who cleared the Indian Institute of Technology's Joint Entrance Exam (IITJEE) 2012 started classes in IIT-Delhi on Monday.

Approximately 850 students joined the institute's undergraduate courses this year.

More than 4.79 lakh students took the exam for nearly 9,000 seats in the IITs this year. Orientation of the new batch was conducted between July 19 and 21, following which classes began this week.

The students of the current batch, which is the last batch to take the JEE in its present form (single test with 60 per cent eligibility in board exams), considered themselves "lucky" to have made it through this year.

Many were elated in having cleared one of the toughest qualifying exams for engineering in the country.

Bio-technology student Rutha Shenoy from Mumbai, who joined IIT on Monday said the marks in Class XII board exams should not be a consideration for entering the IIT system as the JEE is a rigorous test in itself.

"I did not score high marks in my board exams, but I managed to get through to IIT-Delhi," she said.

Her coursemate Pihu Yadav from Delhi said a single test with 60 per cent marks for eligibility

"gives every student a fair chance" to qualify for the IIT.

Textile engineering student Aditya Raj from Uttarakhand said in rural areas, where students "do not score good marks due to lack of teachers and basic infrastructure", an increase of 20 per cent in the qualifying marks will deny many a chance to study in some of the best institutions in the country.

"Our teachers used to tell us to go for tuition and extra classes if we wanted to pass Class XII," Aditya said.

In the new pattern, students with 80 per cent marks in the Class 12 board exams will be eligible for admission to IITs after clearing two exams — the JEE main and advanced.

Some freshers, however, countered this view. They said having two qualifying tests "will give students a better chance at improving their rank and entering a stream of their choice".

Atul Varma from biochemical engineering said, "The new system should not bother the students so much because those who qualify the JEE usually score a decent percentage in their Class XII exams."

Garvid Goyal, also from the department of textile engineering said that no matter how tough or complicated the JEE exam gets, students will strive to get into the IIT system because the quality of the education these institutions are known for.

Cut-offs released for IIT aspirants may be unreliable

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NEW DELHI: The board examination cut-off marks for eligibility to Indian Institutes of Technology next year may vary significantly from those released this week by school boards as indicators of what to expect, data suggests.

Variation in performance at each board over the years, coupled with expectations that students are likely to study harder for the school-leaving examinations next year, make the released cut-off indicators unreliable.

The Council of Central Boards of Secondary Education (CoBSE) has compiled a list of percentage scores that separate the top 20% students from the rest in each board this year. The CoBSE and the human resources development (HRD) ministry have argued that the cut-off scores are unlikely to fluctuate much next year, and may therefore act as indicators of what students need to score to be eligible for IIT admissions.

But the scores of even just the top 1% students vary significantly over the years for several boards, an analysis of performances in

HOW SCORES SWING			
Board	2008	2009	2010
Andhra Pradesh	81.2%	82.3%	95.2%
Bihar	66.7%	73.4%	74.0%
Chhattisgarh	81.0%	85.0%	87.0%
UP	69.2%	72.6%	77.0%
Jharkhand	67.8%	67.2%	61.4%

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2008, 2009 and 2010 showed.

"There is no reason why scores next year should follow this year's pattern," said Ajit Chaturvedi, head of the Delhi

University statistics department, when asked whether the marks released by the CoBSE could be treated as indicators for 2013.

For instance, in the Andhra board, students who scored more than 81.2% in 2008 were in the top 1%. But just two years later, in 2010, a score of 95.2% — 14 percentage points higher — marked the top 1 percentile.

The cut-off for the top 1 percentile in the Bihar board swung between 66.7% in 2008 and 74% in 2010, from 67.8% to 61.4% in Jharkhand, and 69.2% to 77% in Uttar Pradesh over the same period.

But there's another reason to why the cut-off marks released by the CoBSE cannot be treated as reliable indicators,

experts argue.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has introduced a new IIT eligibility criterion, requiring students to secure a spot in the top 20% of their board with the aim of making them focus harder on board examinations.

Hence, the cut-offs corresponding to the top 20% is likely to be pushed up significantly, Chaturvedi said.

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Hindustan Times ND 24-Jul-12

P13

China trip: SP leader, IIT-Delhi student among trouble makers

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The youth affairs ministry has expressed its helplessness over taking any action against members of the delegation to China who was caught in eve-teasing and indecent behavior during the visit.

Among those who created trouble were student of IIT-Delhi and youth nominee of Samajwadi Party, members of the delegation pointed out.

The 100-member delegation is selected on basis of nominations by political parties, media houses, key central government ministries such as Panchayati Raj, educational institutions and youth affair ministry's Nehru Yuva Kendra.

As the nominations are huge

THE SELECTION IS ON BASIS OF NOMINEES' RESUME. THERE IS NO PERSONAL INTERVIEW TO GAUGE ATTRIBUTES

the final list is decided on basis of attributes such as contribution to community service and the leadership qualities.

Most of the time the selection is on the basis of resume of the nominees sent to the ministry. There is no personal interview to gauge the personal attributes.

This was an apparent reason that the government found that some of the delegates were undesirable only after they had left New Delhi and reached Beijing.

The situation became tense when some of the girls complained about the abusive behavior of the six delegates resulting in youth affairs secretary Nita Chaudhary threatened to send them back.

A report was sent to the ministry, after which a senior SP leader called up his party nominee.

Some ministry officials also spoke to other delegates who were creating trouble.

Even though the situation was brought under control within a day or so, any decision on how to improve the system to select the delegates would be taken once youth affairs minister Ajay Maken returns from London.

But, the possibility of initiating any action against any culprits seems remote.

IIT-I ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Institute has highest gender ratio among all IITs



• Students and their parents at the orientation and registration programme at IIT Indore.

HT Correspondent

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INDORE: With 23 female students in B Tech programmes this year, the Indian Institute of Technology Indore has the highest gender ratio among all the IITs.

A total 119 students have been admitted this year into computer science engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering of which 23 are girls, said dean of academic affairs Neelesh Kumar Jain while addressing the students and their parents at the orientation and registration programme, which was organised at the PACI campus on Indore-Mhow road on Monday.

There was excitement, a feeling of pride and little nervousness amongst the new batches of B.Tech and Ph.D students. A total of 52 students have gained



• IIT Indore director Pradeep Mathur

admission into the Ph D programme.

IIT-I director Pradeep Mathur welcomed the students and informed them state-of-the-art teaching facilities and research laboratories available at the institute.

Jain also informed that IIT-I would start a two-year MSc program in Chemistry and Physics and MTech program in engi-

neering disciplines from the academic year 2013-14. Student counsellor Monika Gupta gave a presentation on the various activities of the student counselling cell and gave handy tips to the new students to cope up with the academic pressure. The students later had lunch and visited both the IIT campuses at PACI and IET.

The new B Tech. students would appear for an English diagnostic test on July 24 at the IET campus.

On the basis of the results students will be segregated into different groups for practical and tutorials purposes.

The registration for second, third and fourth year B.Tech students and old PhD scholars has been scheduled on July 24. The students will register for autumn 2012 semester. All the classes for the autumn semester 2012 will start from July 25.

At New IIMs, Women Take the CATbird Seat

A New Wave

Total Number of Women at Older IIMs
out of a total batch size of 1222

IIM Ahmedabad	64 out of 381
IIM Bangalore	100 out of 379
IIM Calcutta	51 out of 462

Total Number of Women at Younger IIMs
out of a total batch size of 1220

IIM Lucknow	144 out of 407
IIM Kozhikode	100 out of 360
IIM Indore	74 out of 453

Lucknow, Kozhikode and Indore devise innovative ways to attract fair sex

SREERADHA D BASU & DEVINA SENGUPTA
KOLKATA | BANGALORE

Newer IIMs at Lucknow, Kozhikode and Indore are racing ahead of their older and more famous counterparts when it comes to gender diversity among students. The three new IIMs together have 318 women in their combined strength of 1,220 students for the 2012-14 batch. But the older institutes—Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta—together have only 215 women out of 1,222 students. That's 48% more women at the newer IIMs.

Professors at many IIMs say this is because of lower overall cut-offs, more weightage given to academic performance at the secondary, high-

er secondary and graduation levels as well as special points awarded to women by some new IIMs to improve diversity. "It (diversity) depends on the selection criteria, which varies from one IIM to another," says IIM-Indore admissions-in-charge SK Ghosh.

Weightage to academic performance and special points to women have helped a lot

"Those who have more women in their campus may have them because of reduced weightage to the Common Admission Test (CAT)," says Professor Jaydev, admissions in-charge, IIM-Bangalore.

At the shortlisting stage, IIM-Ahmedabad gives 70% weightage to CAT/GMAT and another 30% to the Application Rating Score, a func-

tion of academic performance at class X, class XII, graduation and post-graduation levels as well as work experience. At IIM-Calcutta, the weightage to CAT is as much as 80%. In comparison, the newer IIM at Kozhikode gives only 50% weightage to CAT scores.

"A greater weightage to Class X and XII performance tends to be an advantage for women, given that in India women often fare well compared with men," says IIM-Indore's Ghosh.

IIM-Lucknow also awards two marks to women candidates and none to men in the selection process to improve diversity.

But older IIMs are also now working towards better gender diversity.

Older IIMs Much More Cautious ▶▶ 17

Older IIMs Much More Cautious

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Two years ago, IIM-Bangalore increased weightage for qualitative assessment (including performance and consistency of the student throughout his school, board examinations and graduation marks).

The move paid off in getting more women on board: from 75 two years ago to 100 in this ses-

sion. "Whether we will reduce the weightage is a call that the admission committee will have to take," says Jaydev.

IIM-Calcutta Dean (academic) Anindya Sen says the institute is contemplating reservation of sorts for women, or at least having a policy that invites more of them. "The newer IIMs do not carry the baggage of history. What they have done is laudable, and at least

in this case, they have turned out to be leaders, rather than followers," says Sen.

"IIM-Calcutta is feeling the pull of inertia (of an old system) and breaking it might take a bit of time," he adds.

"Our major constraint is that we can very minimally use subjective factors/assessment," says Ashok Banerjee, IIM-Calcutta dean. "Our student selection criteria are re-

quired to be as objective as possible (due to RTI implications)."

Another senior IIM professor agrees that older IIMs are much more cautious. "A, B and C are much more in the public eye and have to be more careful. While getting in more women students is high on the agenda, they want to do it in a transparent way that does not invite allegations of bias," he said.

Indian Express ND 24/07/2012

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Panel wants technical courses through distance learning

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A GOVERNMENT committee tasked to suggest measures to regulate the standards of distance education has recommended that technical and professional courses, like engineering, be offered through distance learning mode.

Keeping such courses out

of distance learning, the committee headed by Prof Madhav Menon has said, "will be against the accepted policy of the Government of India of expanding opportunities for higher education and making it inclusive as an instrument of democratising education and making it a life long process".

The committee has also called for making a degree

earned through distance learning equivalent to a conventional degree and for legislation-backed regulation of the vast distance and open learning sector, which will be key to raising India's Gross Enrolment Ratio of India to 30 per cent by 2020.

Data quoted by the panel shows that about 36 lakhs students are enrolled in distance learning courses or about 21.9

per cent of the 136.42 lakhs students taking conventional courses. Nearly 52 per cent of the students in open universities are from rural areas.

Besides, against 41 per cent women in the conventional system, the percentage of women enrolled in open universities is about 40 per cent.

Enrolment in distance learning courses (16.3 per

cent) grew faster than in the conventional system (5.6 per cent) between 1975-76 and 2008-09. However, enrolment in technical and professional courses in the open system is less than 10 per cent.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been resisting opening up technical education to distance learning, arguing this will compromise

the quality of education in absence of standards.

The Menon committee, therefore, has said an effective regulatory system must be put in place before opening up technical education to distance learning.

The HRD Ministry has accepted the recommendations and asked the AICTE to set up a committee to formulate such standards.