

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 05/07/2013 P-11

To crack IIT, students do better in boards

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: The new format for IIT selection has pushed students to do better in their board exams. As per the new format, only the top-20 percentile students from each board are eligible to compete for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). As students competed to make it to the 20 percentile, the cut-off required to be in that bracket has gone up substantially.

For instance, those who scored 67.5 % in Karnataka board last year were in the top-20 percentile bracket. This year, only those who scored more than 86% marks made the cut — a sharp increase of nearly 18%. Similarly, Chhattisgarh board and Meghalaya board have seen a jump of 10%, Tamil Nadu board (13%), UP board (8%), Mizoram board (20 %), Kerala (18%) and in Andhra Pradesh (5%).

In some boards such as Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, there has been a marginal increase.

The idea of encouraging students to pay more attention to board exams is rooted in the fact that students ignore it to focus on cracking IIT entrance.

NITs: Students may move SC

NEW DELHI: A group of students is planning to move the Supreme Court next week to challenge the complicated process used for deciding ranks in JEE(Mains) for admission to the NITs.

“We will file a case in the SC next week. We will try our best to get thousands of students out of this mess,” said Kshitij Garg, who started the online petition against CBSE chairman on June 6. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had earlier issued a notice to the HRD ministry on a petition challenging the normalisation procedure on June 27. Similar petitions are pending in Delhi and Punjab and Haryana high courts.

VANITA SRIVASTAVA

By tying the IIT entry to the performance in the board exam, aspirants are forced to focus on it resulting in higher scores. But some argue that this may also be due to liberal evaluation of boards.

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JEE ranks stump students

'Normalization' Formula Plays Havoc With Merit List

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: The JEE (main) merit list — the final rankings for admission to National Institutes of Technology (NIT) and other technical institutes like Delhi Technological University — has left students puzzled. Even students who are ranked high in the JEE (advance) — the entrance test for IITs — are ranked lower than 700 in the JEE (main) list despite scoring more than 300 out of 360.

Kartikeya Gupta, the all-India fourth rank holder in JEE (advance) and Delhi topper, scored 323 in JEE (main). But he has been ranked 738 in the JEE (main) merit list issued by CBSE on Tuesday. In fact, two students with the same JEE (main) score but a difference of eight marks in their Class XII boards results have been placed 1,900 ranks apart.

Students say the normalization formula for marks is "skewed" and may hurt their career prospects. Also, they



Students say the normalization formula for marks is 'skewed'

claim, the 60:40 weightage to the entrance score and board exam marks is not being calculated properly, leading to errors in the result. For example, Ruchir Thaman of DPS R K Puram and his friend scored 247 in the JEE (main). While Ruchir scored 461 (92.2%) out of 500 in the Class XII Boards, his friend scored eight marks more than him. "But the merit

list ranked me at 5,814 and my friend at 3,962. How can a difference of just eight marks in the boards lead to a difference of 1,900 ranks? Had the entrance score alone been considered, both of us would have been ranked within 2,000 in the merit list," said Ruchir, who may not be able to get a computer science seat in any of the NITs.

Fears about the normaliza-

tion process distorting rankings have come true, given the numerous errors. Rohit Bhardwaj from Rajasthan Board passed Class XII with 82.62% and scored 192 in JEE (main) while his friend Deepak Choudhary got 82.15% in the boards and 188 in JEE (main). "But I am ranked way below him as there is an error in percentile calculation," said Rohit.

In another case, a student who scored 95% in Class XII and 210 in the JEE is ranked much higher than another student who scored 92% in the boards but 260 in the JEE. A 15 marks' advantage in the boards has outweighed the other's 50-mark advantage in the JEE. However, originally, it was decided to assign weightage to the JEE and board exam scores in a 60:40 ratio. But after the JEE (main) results were announced, the JEE Interface Group came up with the novel normalization formula that has put many candidates at a disadvantage.

Hindustan ND 05/07/2013 P-2

जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में नंबर कम पर रैंक ऊपर

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

असमंजस

केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) द्वारा आयोजित की गई संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (मुख्य) परीक्षा में कुछ अजीब मार्कशीट देखने में सामने आ रही हैं जो छात्रों के लिए असमंजस की स्थिति पैदा कर रही है।

जेईई परीक्षा में कुछ छात्रों की मार्कशीट में ऐसा देखने में आया है कि जिनके बारहवीं कक्षा के अंक और जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा के अंक अधिक हैं उनकी रैंक ज्यादा है जिनके बारहवीं कक्षा में और जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा के अंक कम हैं उनकी रैंक कम है।

दरअसल जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में मुनीत नामक छात्र जिसने बारहवीं कक्षा की पढ़ाई जम्मू कश्मीर बोर्ड से की। उसका बारहवीं कक्षा में पर्सेंटाइल स्कोर 99.25 है, जबकि जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा का पर्सेंटाइल स्कोर 98.55 है। उसका जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में 15638वां रैंक है। वहीं जम्मू कश्मीर बोर्ड से ही बारहवीं कक्षा की पढ़ाई करने वाले अर्जुन सूरी का बारहवीं कक्षा में पर्सेंटाइल स्कोर 98.87 है और जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा का पर्सेंटाइल स्कोर 98.04 है। उसका जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में 12077वां रैंक आया है।

- अधिक अंक पाने वाले छात्रों की रैंक आ रही है कम
- अंकों का नॉर्मलाइजेशन करने की नीति को बताया गलत

आईआईटी के एक प्रोफेसर ने नाम न छापने की शर्त पर बताया कि अंको को नॉर्मलाइजेशन करने की नीति गलत है। बारहवीं कक्षा के अंक और जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा के अंकों को जोड़ने की नीति से यह गलती होना लाजिमी है। इस तरह से लाखों छात्रों के भविष्य के साथ अन्याय होगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के शिक्षक संजीव सांघवी कहते हैं कि इस नीति से छात्रों के समक्ष असमंजस की स्थिति है। नॉर्मलाइजेशन के फॉर्मूले से बेहतर तरीके से आकलन नहीं हो पा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी इस नीति से बच गई वरना बड़ी परेशानी पैदा होती। सुपर-30 के आनंद कुमार ने कहा कि सीबीएसई को अपनी नीति का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना चाहिए। गौरतलब है कि जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में 12वीं कक्षा के अंकों को 40 फीसदी वरीयता दी गई थी।

आईआईटी में काउंसिलिंग से पहले ले रहे फीस



शिक्षा

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्रों को भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) के रवैये से भारी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। संस्थानों में छात्रों से काउंसिलिंग के पहले 60 हजार रुपये की फीस ली जा रही है। जो छात्र बैंक ऋण पर निर्भर हैं, उन्हें सबसे ज्यादा मुश्किल

आ रही है। बैंक काउंसिलिंग के बाद ही ऋण दे रहे हैं।

सुपर-30 के संचालक आनंद कुमार ने बताया कि उनके छात्रों को सबसे ज्यादा दिक्कत हो रही है। क्योंकि उनके ज्यादातर छात्र कम आय वर्ग के हैं।

दरअसल, काउंसिलिंग प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद आईआईटी सीट एलॉटमेंट लेटर जारी करते हैं। इसके बाद ही बैंक शिक्षा ऋण देने की प्रक्रिया शुरू करते हैं। जबकि आईआईटी काउंसिलिंग से पहले ही 60 हजार

परेशानी

- बैंक ऋण के सहारे आईआईटी में एडमिशन लेने वाले छात्रों को हो रही है सबसे ज्यादा दिक्कत
- काउंसिलिंग से पहले साठ हजार की बजाय सिर्फ एक हजार फीस लें आईआईटी: आनंद कुमार

रुपये जमा करवाते हैं। आईआईटी में फीस 90 हजार रुपये सालाना है जिसे बाद में समायोजित

कर लिया जाता है।

कुमार के अनुसार या तो आईआईटी पहले एलॉटमेंट लेटर जारी करें या फीस पहले न लें। तीसरा विकल्प यह है कि सरकार बैंकों को निर्देश जारी करे कि काउंसिलिंग से पूर्व ही शिक्षा ऋण स्वीकृत करें।

सबसे बेहतर यह है कि काउंसिलिंग से पूर्व आईआईटी छात्रों से एक नाममात्र की फीस एक हजार रुपये जमा कराएं और जैसे ही छात्र का एडमिशन हो जाता है तो एलॉटमेंट

लेटर जारी करें ताकि वह बैंक से ऋण लेकर फीस जमा करा सके। कुमार के अनुसार मौजूदा व्यवस्था में उनके कई छात्रों को एडमिशन लेने में भारी मुश्किल का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। वे काउंसिलिंग की तैयारी करने की बजाय फीस जुटाने के लिए दर-दर भटक रहे हैं।

कुमार ने कहा कि ऐसे और भी कई छात्र हो सकते हैं। इसलिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय तुरंत कदम उठाए। आईआईटी को निर्देश जारी किया जाए।

Hindustan ND 05/07/2013 P-13

सेन-मूर्ति को आईआईटी देगा मानद उपाधियां

कानपुर। आईआईटी, कानपुर के 45 वें दीक्षांत समारोह में शुक्रवार को 1,327 मेधावियों को डिग्रियां दी जाएंगी। आईआईटी के दो पूर्व छात्रों शिक्षाविद् प्रोफेसर अशोक सेन और उद्योगपति एनआर नारायण मूर्ति को डी-एससी की मानद उपाधियां दी जाएंगी। राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शिरकत करेंगे। विशिष्ट अतिथि राज्यपाल बीएल जोशी होंगे।

GATE to go online from 2014

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will take the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) online from next year because of its growing popularity.

The Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur, on Thursday released a tender advertisement inviting service agencies to send technical and commercial bids to it as it is holding GATE this year.

"The growing number of applications we are receiving from candidates has prompted us to take the examination completely online. We have been in the past, conducting a few papers online," said a professor from IIT-Kharagpur.

In 2013, GATE saw a record 1.21 million registrations, the highest. Last year, 7,50,000 had registered for GATE.

With public sector undertakings shortlisting candidates through GATE, the number of GATE takers has swelled. Earlier, however, GATE was used as a qualifying examination for the ministry of human resource development assistantships.

"Conducting exams is an academic exercise and given GATE is a fairly standardised test and is conducted on an all-India scale, it brings economies of scale to public sector units and they can concentrate on interviews," Umesh Bellur, organising chairman, GATE 2013, IIT-Bombay had recently told *Business Standard*.

GATE is administered and conducted by the Indian Institute of Science and the IITs. Those passing this examination are eligible for admission to post-graduate programmes with government scholarships or assistantships in engineering colleges and universities.

Over the last few years, the exam has been gradually incorporating online mode in some of its streams. Out of 21 papers in GATE, 15 papers were conducted in online mode for GATE 2013. GATE 2012 and GATE 2011 had 6 and 4 online papers respectively, while there was no online component till GATE 2010.

According to the tender notice, examination for GATE 2014 might be conducted for 21 papers in 12 sessions with 2 buffer sessions.

KALPANA PATHAK ■ Mumbai

Pioneer ND 05/07/2013 P-8

Plan to promote reforms in higher education system

HRD to fund pvt varsities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Perceiving a substantive increase of students in the higher education sector in the next seven years, the HRD Ministry has decided to fund even private universities meeting certain norms of the UGC.

The funding by the Centre will be up to 90 per cent and it will be available to private institutions based on certain norms. There will be eligibility criteria for private universities and States to achieve a high and sustained impact of higher education through monitoring and evaluation of the entire system.

The scheme emphasises to promote reforms in the State Higher Education System by creating a facilitating institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the State level. It will help to promote autonomy in State universities and include governance in the institutions. The State Government and the Centre through the Project Appraisal Board will monitor the project annually.

HRD Ministry officials said that the scheme will be that central funding from the



There will be eligibility criteria for pvt universities and States to achieve a high and sustained impact of higher education through monitoring and evaluation of the entire system

Ministry and UGC to institution will be through the State Council of Higher Education as against the direct funding by the Centre and UGC to educational institutions of higher education presently.

“The main component of

the programme is to set up new universities and upgrade the existing autonomous colleges to universities. The other attempt will be to convert colleges to Cluster Universities and set up new Model Colleges. The strategy will also include converting existing Degree colleges to Model Colleges,” said a HRD Ministry official.

HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju said collective effort should be made to raise standard of higher education and increase employability. “Research should be given more priority in the context of higher education,” Raju said following a Consultative Committee meeting of the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) on Thursday. RUSA will increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) from 18 per cent to 30 per cent with an estimated cost of ₹99,000 crore.

Other related points that came up for discussion were expanding the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions in order to achieve enrolment targets; correcting regional imbalances in access to higher education by facilitating access to high quality institutions in urban and semi-urban areas creating opportunities for students from rural areas to get better access to better quality institutions; and improving equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes.

Deccan Herald ND 05/07/2013 P-2

Education system failed to achieve objective, needs reforms: Apex court

NEW DELHI: Education system in the country has failed to achieve its objective and it has to be reformed immediately, the Supreme Court has said.

“It is unfortunate that today education instead of reforming the human behaviour, in our humble opinion, appear to have failed to achieve its objective. Instead we find troubled atmosphere in the society at large, which calls for immediate reformation with the efforts of one and all,” a bench of justices B S Chauhan and F M Ibrahim Kalifulla said.

The bench said in comparison to earlier times, the literacy level has increased but it did not result in better human value which calls for transformation in education system.

“With great respect, it will also have to be stated that bereft of improvement in the

educational field when we pose to ourselves the question as to what extent it has created any impact, it will have to be stated that we are yet to reach the preliminary-level of achievement of standardised literate behaviour.

“In fact, in the earlier years, though the literate level was not as high as it now stands, the human value had its own respected place in the society,” the bench said.

The court passed the order on a petition filed by Maharishi Mahesh Jogi Vishwavidyalaya of Madhya Pradesh challenging the state government’s decision to amend the law under which the university was set up.

The apex court said it is still a matter of concern that so many people are illiterate and it is imperative that the institution, the teachers, the parents,

the students and the society play a role in bringing transformation in the present system.

When the British rule ended in 1947, the literacy rate was just 12 per cent. Over the years, India has changed socially, economically, and globally.

After the 2011 census, literacy rate in India, during 2011 was found to be 74.04 per cent. Compared to the adult literacy rate here, the youth literacy rate is about nine per cent higher.

“Though this seems like a very great accomplishment, it is still a matter of concern that still so many people in India cannot even read and write. The number of children who do not get education especially in the rural areas are still high,” the bench said.

PTI

Newer IIMs Stay Low on Gender Balance

Number of women at four IIMs has dropped; only three manage to better last year's numbers

Skewed Ratio

NO. OF WOMEN
2013-15
2012-14

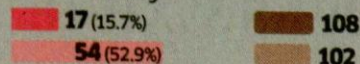


BATCH SIZE
2013-15
2012-14

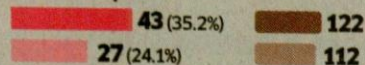
IIM Rohtak



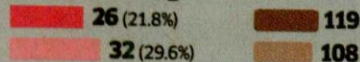
IIM Trichy



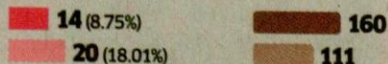
IIM Raipur



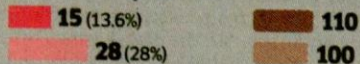
IIM Shillong



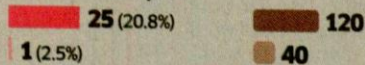
IIM Ranchi



IIM Udaipur



IIM Kashipur*



Data from individual institutes

Figures in brackets indicate growth over the previous year

* IIM Kashipur is still in the process of completing its registrations



SREERADHA D BASU
MUMBAI

Most of the newer Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have a long distance to cover before they can catch up with their older counterparts on gender diversity. The percentage of women in the 2013-15 batch at four IIMs in Tiruchirappalli, Ranchi, Shillong and Udaipur, has dropped – in some cases sharply. Only three of the seven new IIMs – Rohtak, Raipur and Kashipur – have managed to surpass last year's numbers.

The six older IIMs have all outdone last year's performance (ET, June 17).

At IIM Shillong, which is in its sixth year, the percentage of women has fallen to 22% this year from nearly 30% of the batch last time. IIM Ranchi has seen the numbers drop to 8.75% this year from 18% in the 2012-14 batch and IIM Udaipur, to 13.6% in the 2013-15 batch from 28% last time. The sharpest fall has been in the case of IIM Trichy, where, at 52.9%, more than half the class of 2012-14 comprised women. This year, it's a mere 15.7%.

With the exception of IIM Shillong and IIM Ranchi, all the new IIMs awarded extra points to women in the interest of gender diversity. It worked in some cases, like that of IIM Raipur or IIM Rohtak, where the institute has seen the percentage of women jump nearly five-fold to 47.6% from 9.6%.

"There is a feeling in the government as well as corporates that increased representation of women is the need of the hour. That's true of educational institutes as well," says IIM Rohtak director P Rameshan. The institute gave women students extra points for gender diversity at the time of shortlisting.

IIM Trichy, on its part, gave one percentage point extra to women candidates, marginally lower than what was given last year. But Godwin Tennyson, chairperson, placement and external relations, IIM Tiruchirappalli says that cannot be the only reason for the higher proportion of women last year.

"The percentage of women admitted in an IIM has many drivers starting from the percentage of women who cleared CAT and qualified for the admission selection process. A candidate gets admitted based on about seven dimensions: written analysis test, personal interview, work experience, performance at undergraduate level, masters degree or professional qualification, gender and CAT score," says Tennyson. "So, the chance of someone getting admitted to an IIM is a complex function with many moving parts. We cannot filter out a single dimension that really contributed to the admission of a student," he adds.

IIM Shillong, on its part, says it has always focused

on meritocracy and diversity of the participants, and not on gender diversity for their PGDM course. Diversity is not about one programme alone, says MJ Xavier, director of IIM Ranchi. So while the institute's PGDM programme has seen a fall in the number of women, their PGDHRM programme has a much higher proportion of women – nearly 37%, or 16 out of 43 students.

"Between the various programmes including FPM, we have around 20% women on campus. Without giving marks for gender diversity, we have still managed to attract a lot of women," says Xavier. "However, since most people are giving extra marks for women, I may be forced to do that from next year," he added.

Added the IIM Ranchi director: "We are trying to achieve diversity across many dimensions such as educational background, work experience, masters degree and gender. Overall, all these dimensions contribute to the learning experience in the class. At the same time, we also try to ensure that quality of the batch is not compromised for diversity."

With corporates trying to shore up their gender diversity numbers and IIMs serving as one of the most critical pipelines of managerial talent, there's a buzz across campuses about getting more women on board. Already, there have been changes made in the pattern of CAT: 50% weightage to language skills as well as a written test during the admission process, both designed to get more women.

The number of women applicants in CAT has also seen an increase to 60,876 in 2012, which represents 28.4% of total applicants compared with 27.3% in CAT 2011.

Debashis Chatterjee, director of IIM Kozhikode, which at 54.29%, has the highest number of women across all IIMs, says the institute was responding to market demands for diversity. For the past 40 to 50 years, 8% to 10% was the average composition of women in IIM classes, he says, adding: "That was lopsided, the diversity skewed in terms of gender. Now it's not only about correcting the balance, but also about creating the necessary aspirations among women."

Global B-schools, he says, now decide diversity profiles before they admit students. "Once diversity is made a consideration, more women apply. IIMs don't have to give points to women. They just have to change their lens," says Chatterjee.

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Asia's first

AP to get engineering college for blind

HYDERABAD: Asia's first engineering college for the blind is proposed to be set up near Hyderabad. The novel initiative has been undertaken by the city-based Devnar Foundation for the Blind with the help from professors at Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, in developing the course material.

The Devnar Foundation, which runs a school and a junior college for the visually impaired children, has developed a digital library using indigenously developed software by downloading the textbooks and general knowledge books material onto a CD with MP3 format.

"We are ready with the syllabus. The government has positively responded to our request for allotment of about two to three acres of land. We also have donors ready to help and also the faculty to teach," said foundation chairman A Saibaba Goud. An ophthalmologist-philanthropist, Goud started the Devnar Founda-

The novel initiative has been undertaken by the Devnar Foundation for the blind with help from professors at BITS, Pilani.

tion in 1991 to impart education and vocational skills to the visually impaired children. The organisation has won wide acclaim and several national awards for its work.

Eight students from Devnar School went on to complete engineering from the mainstream engineering colleges and one of them doing further studies in Boston, USA. This prompted Goud to set up the engineering college for the visually challenged.

Despite having the highest number of engineering colleges in the country, none of the 700 institutions in Andhra Pradesh customised the courses to accommodate the

needs of the visually impaired.

"Many students are enthusiastic and eager to study after intermediate but they have Problems in mainstream colleges," the foundation chairman said. Devnar School for Blind has been offering English medium education from the primary school up to 12th standard.

"It is a long-cherished dream for us to provide a right platform for the visually impaired students to pursue professional courses," he said.

"We have applied to the BITS, Pilani, and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, for affiliation. We are planning to restrict the intake to 40-50 students per year and select them strictly on merit," Goud said.

Students at Devnar School are taught how to operate computers from sixth standard and they become proficient enough to handle computer and browse the Internet by the time they reach ninth standard.

DH News Service

DELHI UNIV FAILS TO MEET UNDERGRAD RUSH

Private Univs Soak up Demand in Delhi

SHREYA BISWAS
KOLKATA

A demand-supply mismatch for undergraduate courses in Delhi University has created a windfall for private universities and institutes in the region. This year, the increase in number of applicants hit a new high of 43%. Nearly 2.5 lakh students have applied for 54,000 seats, and the admission process is still on.

Individual course applications spell out the discrepancy even more starkly. The university offers a centralised admission form where students can indicate their choices for streams but not colleges, while colleges admit students based on cut-off lists for different subjects. For Economics, for instance, the number of applications has more than doubled to 50,000 from 21,000 last year. For Commerce, it has gone up to 60,000 this year from 28,000 last year. "On the one hand, private colleges are increasing their seats and launching new campuses. On the other, government colleges have seen no increase in seats, forget about launching new campuses," says Shri Ram College of Commerce principal PC Jain. Private universities have seen demand grow manifold. At Amity University, the number of applications is expected to touch 2 lakh this year, compared with 1.5 lakh in 2012. It has increased its total number of seats to 12,500 this year.

Sharda University too has seen a similar trend. It has 2,000 seats for undergraduate courses across various streams. The number of applications has doubled thus far to 20,000, compared with 2011. "For the past few years, the number of applications have been growing at over 50% year on year," says PK Gupta, chancellor.

The reasons for this trend could be many, although a clear picture will emerge once the admission process ends by July 10.

Primarily, the demand for quali-

Tilting Scales

Applications & Seats For Undergraduate Courses in Delhi



Delhi University Colleges

Applications (lakh)	TOTAL SEATS	Popular Courses (Applications)	
		ECONOMICS	COMMERCE
2012 1.75	54,000	21,000	28,000
2013 2.5	54,000	50,000	60,000

Private Universities

Amity University		Manav Rachna Intl University	
Applications in	Seats in	Applications in	Seats in
2011 - 1.35 lakh	2011 - 8,000	2011 - 7,000	2011 - 2,700
2012 1.5	10,000	8,100	2,700
2013 2.0*	12,500	15,000	3,000

*Expected

SOURCES: Delhi colleges, office of the Dean of Students Welfare

ty education has increased. "We see that in the students we interview. People come from various regions of the country - Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and even the North East - and all they want is quality education," says Pradyuman Kumar, officiating principal, Hindu College.

Besides, private colleges offer more options. Amity University, for instance, offers courses in built environment (real estate and construction), forensic sciences, Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and a three-continent course, which gives students an option to study in London, New York and Singapore besides India. "This draws a lot of students who want challenging career options and good

exposure," says Atul Chauhan, chancellor, Amity University.

"We typically see a surge in the number of applications around July 10-15, when students get some clarity on their chances of securing admission to Delhi University," says Prashant Bhalla, president, Manav Rachna International University (MRIU).

Not every private institution is seeing unprecedented demand, though. As Sharda University's Gupta says, the sector is in the throes of a churn. "A large number of colleges are about to close down; a smaller number is seeing a surge in applications," he says. Nevertheless, the trend looks like it is here to stay for a while.

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FUNNY BUSINESS

Work vs Prison

- In prison, you spend the majority of your time in an 8x10 cell. At work, you do so in a 6x8 cubicle.
- In prison, you get three meals a day. At work, you only get a break for one meal and you have to pay for it.
- In prison, you get time off for good behaviour. At work, you get more work for good behaviour.

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IIMs to train lower court staff in managerial skills

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Judicial officers of subordinate courts will soon be trained at Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in batches to improve the quality of judgments and their managerial skills.

The Supreme Court, after discussions with high courts and the law ministry, is seeking to devise a curriculum and a module for the National Judicial Academy in consultation with IIMs to train the faculty of state judicial academies who will later train judicial officers to improve their skills.

Till the time the national and state judicial academies are strengthened with such programmes, judicial officers will be trained in batches at IIMs. The issue was taken up at the chief justices conference in April and the modalities are being worked out, a law ministry official said.

Further, it has been decided that the HCs

will set up sub-committees on the lines of the National Court Management System to enhance the quality, responsiveness and timeliness of courts. These sub-committees at state level will provide inputs and suggestions to the NCMS for formulation and effective implementation of national policy on management of courts. The HCs were also asked to prepare a vision statement for high courts and district courts. Madhya Pradesh HC came in for praise for devising a five-year plan and annual plans. Others were asked to adopt similar policy.

Improving infrastructure at subordinate courts with computerization and citizen centric services was emphasized; human resources development strategy including recruitment and training of judges, court staff and court managers. There are plans to set up forensic labs in states, including labs for DNA test centres in each state.



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France eases visa norms for Indians

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: France on Thursday announced easing of visa norms for those wanting to pursue higher education, in a move aimed at attracting more Indian students. The move comes at a time when the United Kingdom is contemplating heavy cash bonds for Indian visa applicants.

"There is no competition between the UK and us. We have our own visa policy, they (the UK) have their own visa policy," French ambassador to India Francois Richier said here.

France, he said, is not challenging anybody but has introduced a number of measures to enable Indian students to study in his country. "It is about opening our arms and hearts for Indian students by facilitating their stay, not only in their visa area but other things like training, taking care of jobs when they are back in India. It is a package thing," Richier said.

The French envoy said that since France shares a genuine partnership with India, it has chosen to open its frontiers even wider to Indian students.

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India-born Samridh slams 313 for Oxford

London: Oxford University's Indian origin student Samridh Agarwal cracked a magnificent triple-century against Cambridge in a first-class match at the FP Fenner's ground in Cambridge. Skipper Samridh cracked an unbeaten 313 and became the first ever cricketer to score a triple century in an University match and also eclipsed the previous record of 247 set by another Indian origin player Salil Oberoi.

It might be interesting to note that before Oberoi, the University record for the highest individual score was held by Iftikar Ali Khan Pataudi -- father of the legendary Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi.

Due to Samridh's efforts, Oxford managed a mammoth 550 for seven declared and then bowled out Cambridge for 119 in their first innings. Following on, Cambridge are 179 for five in their second essay.

The 22-year-old Agra born Samridh is in his final year of his graduation in Material Sciences at the Oxford University. He faced 312 deliveries and hit 41 fours and three sixes. "It is my last year here and I especially wanted to do well. It was a nice feeling to reach 300 and then to bowl them out cheaply was a bonus," he said. ❦