Newspaper Clips
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Economic Times ND 05.07.2016 P-08

'Top-Ranked' IIT Madras is Fifth Choice for JEE Toppers This Year

Institute has 103 takers, the same number as the previous year, though MHRD places it at no. 1

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New Delhi: Flying in the face of a ministry of human resources development (MHRD) ranking of national engineering colleges that placed IIT Madras at the top, more than 60% of the top 1,000 rankers of JEE Advanced 2016 have chosen IIT Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur and Kharagpur. IIT Madras ranks at number 5 for the top rankers in the JEE Advanced with only 103 takers.

Last year too, 103 students opted for IIT

Of top 100, 67 opted for IIT Bombay and five for IIT Madras, says Joint Seat Allocation Authority

Madras among the top 1,000 rankers. The MHRD under its National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) first carried out the ranking in four categories — engineering, management, pharmacy and university — this April. More than 3,500 institutes had participated in this edition, the process for which started in December 2015. The objective of the ranking is to facilitate choice and enable higher education stakeholders to make informed decisions.

However, the National Ranking Framework ranking has had no impact on the choice of institute among the top 1000 rankers. Around 262 of these opted for IIT Bombay this year (compared to 272 last year), 196 have chosen IIT Delhi (com-

pared to 194 last year), 167 of these selected IIT Kanpur (172 last year) and 106 chose IIT Kharagpur (107 last year).

With IIT Madras at the top, the other category A engineering institutes in the National Ranking are IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur.
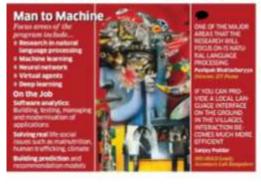
"IIT B has been the number one choice for top rankers and this has been the trend since last eight years," said Ashok Misra, former director of IIT Bombay and currently the Chairman-India Intellectual Ventures. Misra, who has also been chairperson of IIT Council Committee for JEE examination, says, "ultimately it is all about the perception of students and their parents about institutes."

A few students have also chosen new IITs including Gandhinagar, Ropar, Indore and IIT Jodhpur. Last year, none of these institutes figured in the list of top 1,000 rankers.

Economic Times ND 05.07.2016 P-08

Accenture Ties Up with IITs for Research into AI

Research will focus on IT services, social good and target augmenting software engineers with powerful artificial intelligence insights

Man to Machine
Focus areas of the program include...
- Research in natural language processing
- Machine learning
- Neural network
- Virtual agents
- Deep learning

On the Job
Software analytics:
Building, testing, managing and modernization of applications

Solving real life social
issues such as malnutrition, human trafficking, climate

Building prediction and recommendation models

ONE OF THE MAJOR AREAS THAT THE RESEARCH WILL FOCUS ON IS NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING
Pushpak Bhattacharyya
Director, IIT Patna

IF YOU CAN PROVIDE A LOCAL LANGUAGE INTERFACE ON THE GROUND IN THE VILLAGES, INTERACTION BECOMES MUCH MORE EFFICIENT
Sanjay Poddar

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Mumbai: Accenture has entered into a joint research collaboration with IIT Bombay and IIT Patna focused on the different application aspects of Artificial Intelligence. The research, focused on IT services and social good, will look at augmenting software engineers with powerful Artificial Intelligence insights and recommendation for improved productivity.

The focus areas of the program includes research in natural language processing, machine learning, neural network, virtual agents, deep learning and other areas of artificial intelligence. It will include software analytics - building, testing, managing and modernization of applications, solving real life social issues such as mal-

nutrition, human trafficking, climate, etc. through prediction and recommendation models, using Artificial Intelligence.

"One of the major areas that the research will focus on is natural language processing," said Pushpak Bhattacharyya, director, IIT Patna.

IIT has a lot of strength in natural language processing and our academics and researchers will bring that to the table, he said. It will include things like question matching and natural language processing to augment productivity, he said.

The research will also focus on social good. "If you can provide a local language interface on the ground in the villages, interaction becomes much more efficient," said Sanjay Poddar, managing director, research and development - Lead at Accenture Lab

Bangalore. Accenture Labs is the dedicated technology research and development (R&D) organisation within Accenture, focused on developing innovative solutions.

The joint research program will have a physical footprint across IIT Bombay, IIT-Patna and Accenture Labs, Bangalore. PhD researchers will be based across these three locations for the joint research program.

"This joint research program is one among the unique research programs with IIT focused on Artificial Intelligence," said Poddar.

"Each one of us will play to our strength as a team. Accenture Lab has cutting edge research on artificial intelligence. This collaboration with IIT will give the opportunity to scale up the research with smart researchers in academia," he said.

Deccan Herald ND 05.07.2016 P-07

IIT-Kharagpur to study Indian philosophy for solutions

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, is conducting a scientific investigation into core concepts of Hindu philosophy and spiritual practices to find answers to the problems of humanity.

The principles of 'karuna' (compassion) and 'dana' (generosity) in Hindu philosophy to ancient practice of 'dhyana' (meditation) for 'moksha' (liberation), are among the ideas which will be explored.

The premier technical institute has set in motion a scientific study on Indian 'ragas' and 'sangeet' of both Hindustani and carnatic genres, to ascertain "hidden features" in their traditional rendition and their effect on the audience.

A group of senior faculties of the institute is also engaged in developing a scientific rationale of Indo-European language systems through an "in-depth investigation" into the contentions that a Proto-Sanskrit was the mother of Indo-European language systems.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has assigned these research projects to the IIT-Kharagpur under an umbrella programme, 'Sandhi', launched during the UPA regime in 2013 to discover "ancient Indian knowledge" and their application in modern science and technology for development.

A scientific investigation into the Hindu philosophy of 'moksha' aims at "reviving" the "art of dying," believed to have been developed by the Hindu spiritual masters in ancient India, to evolve an "End-of-Life Care strategy" to help those in deathbed "die peaceful," according to the concept note of the project. "India is going through a demographic and epidemiological transition. As a result, most aged in India are experiencing a highly protracted 'medicalised death' in acute care hospitals, entangled in tubes and machines. At the other extreme, there are many who are dying of abject neglect," it noted. The proposed project is expected to provide guidelines in developing a model which would free hospitals of their care overload, optimise resources in end-of-life, build a continuum of care structure and create an interface with biomedicine and indigenous healing traditions, it added.

Business Line ND 05.07.2016 P-04

IIT-B gets ₹1,800 cr for solar scheme

Mumbai, July 4

Power Minister Piyush Goyal has said the Centre will provide assistance of ₹1,800 crore to IIT-Bombay for its Solar Urja Lamp (SoUL) programme. Under the programme, the institution will disseminate solar lamps to 10 crore school children across the country. "The mission commissioned with distributing 10 lakh solar lamps to school children. Now, we want IIT Bombay to scale up the programme to 10 crore students across the country. MNRE will provide the required financial support of ₹1,800 crore for this mission," Goyal was quoted as saying in a release issued by IIT.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 05.07.2016 P-09

अच्छी खबर ◆ 15 अगस्त को लॉन्च होगी ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम सामग्री, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की योजना

घर बैठे कर सकेंगे आईआईटी की तैयारी

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भारत के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग संस्थाना आईआईटी की तैयारी कर रहे विद्यार्थियों के लिए खुशखबरी है। अब तैयारी के लिए लाखों रुपए खर्च नहीं करने होंगे। फ्री में कोचिंग सुविधा मिलेगी। यह सुविधा केंद्र सरकार आने वाले 15 अगस्त को आईआईटी-जेईई की तैयारी करने वाले छात्रों के लिए नि:शुल्क ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम सामग्री लांच करने जा रही है। इस योजना का सबसे बड़ा फायदा उन विद्यार्थियों को होगा जो पढ़ाई तो करना चाहते है, लेकिन महंगी कोचिंग फीस की वजह से नहीं कर पाते है। पाठ्यक्रम सामग्री यथाब पर टेक्स्ट और वीडियो के रूप में मुहैया करवाई जाएगी। साथ ही तैयारी की समग्री के अलावा छात्र वहां टेस्ट प्रैक्टिस भी कर सकते है।

शहर में भी है कई कोचिंग संस्थान : बड़े शहरों में कई ऐसे संस्थान हैं जहां आईआईटी-जेईई की कोचिंग कराई जाती है। लेकिन छोटे शहरे में आईआईटी जैसे

स्ट्रेस दूर करने 12 घंटे हेल्पलाइन सुविधा

आई आईटी की तैयारी कर रहे विद्यार्थियों के लिए एक और योजना शुरू की जा रही है। इसकी सहायता से तैयारी के समय होने वाली दिक्कतों को दूर किया जा सकेगा। 2017 में 12 घंटे हेल्प लाइन सुविधा शुरू की जा रही है। इसकी

शीर्ष संस्थानों में दाखिले के लिए कोचिंग की कमी है। यह सुविधा शुरू होने से विद्यार्थी घर बैठे तैयारी कर सकेगा। इसके लिए इंटरनेट की सुविधा होना जरूरी है। वहीं कोचिंग में लगने वाली तैयारी अभी से शुरू कर दी गई है। यह हेल्पलाइन सेवा जो विद्यार्थी तैयारी के दौरान स्ट्रेस फील करते हैं और गलत कदम उठा लेते है उनके लिए है। सभी को मोटिवेट और स्ट्रेस फ्री करने की पहल की जाएगी।

मोटी फीस की खींचतान होगी।

विशेषज्ञ करेंगे तैयार : केंद्र सरकार के इस योजना के लिए सेंट्रल बोर्ड के सदस्य, आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञ, कोचिंग संस्थान और अन्य केंद्रीय विद्यालयों के शिक्षकों और प्रोफेसरों की विशेषज्ञ समिति की स्थापना से पाठ्यक्रम की समग्री तैयार की जाएगी।

कोचिंग की फीस बहुत ज्यादा : जेईई की कोचिंग के लिए हर साल हजारों की संख्या में राजस्थान कोटा कोचिंग के लिए जाते है। हजारों रुपए फीस देकर तैयारी करते है। जिनके पास पैसे की कमी होती है या कोई और कारण की वजह से वे नहीं जा पाते है तो उनके लिए राजस्थान में कई कोचिंग सेंटर है, जो तैयारी करवाते है। वहां की भी फीस भी हजारों में है। ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम शुरू होने से विद्यार्थी और उनके पेरेंट्स दोनों को राहत मिलने वाली है। कई विद्यार्थी हुनरमंद तो होते है लेकिन पैसे की कमी की वजह से तैयारी नहीं कर पाते है।

PM may inaugurate IIT Dharwad this month-end

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/PM-may-inaugurate-IIT-Dharwad-this-month-end/articleshow/53052172.cms

Dharwad: Preparations to house the transit campus of IIT Dharwad on the outskirts of the city are almost complete and efforts are on to get PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the premier institution.

Authorities are planning it on July 31. The technical team from IIT Bombay is coordinating with the PMO and the HRD ministry if Modi and minister Smriti Irani will be available to inaugurate IIT Dharwad.

IIT-Kharagpur brews new green tea tech

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-Kgp-brews-new-green-tea-tech/articleshow/53052055.cms?

KOLKATA: Health freaks who love their cuppa can raise a toast to IIT-Kharagpur that has developed a new technology for green tea production. This innovation will enhance the flavour, slash production time and cut costs as well. The institute had been at it through the last year and has now started marketing the technology.

It started as a Tea Board project that was given to the agricultural engineering department of IIT-Kgp a year ago. The institute has been collaborating with the Tea Board since 2008 after its experimental tea garden became a reality. Despite the heat at the plains of Kharagpur, the scientists were able to use Darjeeling tea clones successfully so that the tea produced has 50% fine Darjeeling flavour and is akin to the finest liquor of Assam tea. The institute has been successfully producing CTC and Orthodox teas in its Gopali garden and the technology knowhow is also successfully transferred to the Tea Board.

The institute has now prepared a range of green tea by infusing flavours - from jasmine and rose to mango and orange. While flavoured green tea is not uncommon in the market, the natural infusion process from real fruits and flowers has already been patented by IIT-Kgp. "We realised that in the steaming technique that is used to process green tea after the leaves are plucked, the enzymes PPO and PO are destroyed. As a result, the tea assumes a pale colour and has little flavour. These enzymes are responsible for giving black tea its colour and flavour. We have tried out a lot of flavours and to top it all, our tea is completely organic," explained B C Ghosh, head of the institute's agricultural engineering department.

A brand new flavour has been prepared by the researchers of the institute and this variety of green tea is being called 'Smoky Tea'. "We have infused woody flavours by burning sandalwood, neem wood or mango wood," said Ghosh.

However, the breakthrough has been with two varieties - 'Quick Tea' and 'Snow Tea'. For the former, the time taken in between plucking and processing is just 25 minutes. A technological innovation using heat treatment through a specially

designed trough has made this possible. In the latter case, the processing or drying has been done at minus-30 degrees Celcius. "We already have gardens like Ambootia queuing up for the technology because we have been able to reduce the cost of production by at least a fourth," added Ghosh.

Forecast of cloudburst possible in near future, says IIT prof

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Forecast-of-cloudburst-possible-in-near-future-says-IIT-prof/articleshow/53049769.cms

ROORKEE: Against the backdrop of widespread damages caused by cloudbursts in Uttarakhand, an expert at IIT-Roorkee on Monday said that the country may soon be able to make a precise forecast of the natural phenomenon with the improvement in satellite technology.

Over 20 people have lost their lives in the last four days due to heavy rain and cloudbursts in parts of the hill state.

Prof Kamal Jain, an expert of remote sensing in civil engineering department of IIT-R, said that as of now it was not possible to make a precise forecast about the cloudburst in any area. But it may be possible in the near future.

"We have seen tremendous improvement in satellite imaging technology in the last two years. Earlier, we were able to take images of an area of 35x35 square km from satellites. But now, we are able to take images of an area of 8 x8 sq km.

"The cloudburst incident generally occurs in an area of 1 x1 sq km of a land of particular region. Therefore, we need a technology that could make satellite imaging of such smaller area," the professor said.

However, he maintained that this level of satellite technology would be achieved in coming years but in a gradual manner.

"Satellite imaging technology would be able to take sharper, focused and high resolution pictures of a small area in the coming years. The possibility of precise forecasting of cloudburst might happen then," Jain said.

Millennium Post ND 05.07.2016 P-12

Govt, CPSU entry-level wages higher than private sector: IIM-A report

Study was commissioned by 7th pay panel to help revise salaries to attract talent to Govt jobs

AHMEDABAD: Government and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) pay more salary for entry-level jobs compared to private companies but the salary in private companies increases with experience, shows a study conducted by IIM-Ahmedabad for the 7th Pay Commission. The study was commissioned by the 7th Central Pay Commission and IIM-A was asked to undertake it, so that the commission could revise pay in such a way that government jobs attract talent.

The study provides comparison of salaries in the government sector, CPSUs and private sectors at the entry, 3rd, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th years of experience. It was submitted to the 7th Pay Commission in October last year. It shows that across a majority of job roles, government or CPSUs pay more than private companies at entry-level.

For many jobs, the salary difference narrows and become more comparable and even exceeds for private jobs as employees gain experience. The study looks at the salary patters of nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, dietitians, lab technicians, school teachers, principals of schools and colleges, scientists, technical staff, engineers, clerks, software developers, accounts officer, drivers, gardeners, among others.

"In many of the roles, government is paying higher salaries compared to the private sector, particularly in initial years, for jobs at the lower levels of skill requirement and hierarchy. Salary in government is relatively lower compared to the private sector, particularly in later years, for some highly skilled jobs," the study says.

Salary of entry-level nurses, for example, is more in government hospitals compared to private hospitals and becomes comparable only in the mid-career level. In the case of doctors with MBBS, CPSUs pay more than government or private sector for entry-level doctors, with the differences continuing even after they have gained experience.

For specialised doctors, however, CPSUs pay more at entry level, but the salary of doctors in private hospitals increases significantly after three years and continues to do so, depending on their specialisation.

Government pays more to entry-level scientists till mid-career level compared to private sector, because private sectors value "untested scientists" less but pay more as here "compensation is driven by the ability to provide results and this characteristic rises with number of years of experience," the study says. Physiotherapists and dietitians, the study says, get much higher salary in government and CPSU jobs, compared to private sectors which continue to pay them less even after years of experience.

"Retention is not a major concern for this job role in the private sector," it says. Private sectors tend to pay less for jobs that have low career progressions and are marked with learning only in initial stages of career, the study says, showing examples of jobs of lab technicians, operation theatre assistant and radiographers. In their case, government and PSUs pay more than private sectors not just at entry levels but also at mid and late-career levels, it says.

"The five factors that emerged as relevant ones for determining level and components of salary are: career progression, potential learning on the job, supply over demand in the labour market, requirement of attracting top talent with excellent academic performance, and requirement of retaining key competencies," it says.

For engineers, software developers, network engineers and programmers, CPSUs pay more compared to government and private sectors but the differences narrow with the years of experience. In the case of clerks, receptionists, drivers and gardeners, government and CPSUs pay more salary at not just entry-level but even at later career compared to private companies. —PTI

Statesman ND 05.07.2016 P-01

IIM-A SUGGESTS POLICY TO MAINTAIN 25-30° C TEMPERATURE

Heat affects productivity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Ahmedabad, 4 July

A study conducted by two professors of the Indian Institute of Management here (IIM-A) has suggested a policy initiative to maintain an ambient temperature between 25 to 30 degrees Celsius at workplaces so that general productivity can be increased.

The recommendation is based on the finding of the study by IIM-A's Prof Dheeraj Sharma and Prof Rajesh Chandwani that there is "a direct correlation of thermal comfort at work place and its effect on productivity of the workers".

The finding of the IIM-A study may sound ridiculous to millions of workers who have sweated it out for decades, but the duo's research on "Heat Stress

and its effect on Psychological Aspects of Workers in India" has linked the problem to climate changes too.

However, they are not recommending air-conditioning of all work places as it is not viable due to high costs of insulations and energy consumption aspects.

Instead, the two IIM-A professors have suggested installation of cooling systems which would maintain an optimal ambient temperature of 25 to 30 degrees Celsius.

Since the IIM-A professors have not recommended central air-conditioning of workplaces, it would be unfair for the media to suspect that the study was sponsored by the air-conditioning industry.

Though press meets at the IIM-A are always organised by its own Public Relation (PR) unit, this one to reveal the findings of the study was hosted by an eminent PR agency which has among its clients a major cooling systems company.

The professors refused to disclose the name of the company that has sponsored the study which has shown that heat stress can not only cause physical health hazards but can also have negative impact on the mental and psychological health of the workers.

Recommending that organizations shouldprovide for cooling solutions to reduce workplace ambient temperature, the study claimed that worker productivity can be enhanced up to 12 per cent by increasing the level of thermal comfort at the workplace.