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June 12

More scrutiny for scholarships

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-more-scrutiny-for-scholarships-2469350>

Many students submit fake income certificates to declare that their family earned a paltry income to secure a scholarship: Senior official, IIT Delhi

The process of awarding scholarships to students will now come under central government scrutiny. Students will be granted scholarships based on their financial status, on their Income Tax returns filed, investment proof and actual proof of annual family income.

The government plans to start the process of scrutiny with the IITs. In fact, IIT Delhi is already in the process of coming up with a form with these prerequisites, which will be handed out to students in the upcoming session.

According to sources in the HRD ministry, educational institutions feel the need to have a rigorous scrutiny process in place as a large number of students submit fake income certificates to bag scholarships.

"There have been many cases where students submitted fake income certificates to declare that their family earned a paltry income to secure a scholarship. We would later find out that these students have attended renowned coaching institutes to prepare for IIT and other exams," said a senior official at IIT Delhi.

A student can avail of a merit-based scholarship if his/her family income is less than 4,50,000 per annum.

On the basis of such complaints, it was decided in a meeting of the IIT Council in 2016 that IITs will have a detailed scrutiny form for students availing scholarships on financial grounds.

Confirming the development, Professor V Ramagopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, said, "Our scholarship form will elicit in-depth information on a student and his/her financial background."

IIT-JEE: Gender gap still wide, only 14% of qualifiers are girls

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/iit-jee-gender-gap-still-wide-only-14-of-qualifiers-are-girls/articleshow/59101269.cms>



CHENNAI: Sarvesh Mehtani of Panchkula's Bhavan Vidyalaya topped the Joint Entrance Exam (Advanced), countrywide, this year. Pune boy Akshat Chugh (Delhi Public School) was all-India second (with a score of 335), and Delhi's Ananye Agarwal (Hope Hall Foundation School) was third. The merit list was announced on Sunday.

Ramya Narayanasamy, from Madhapur, Hyderabad, with an all-India rank of 35, was the topper among the girls, and Shafil Maheen of Talakkad, Kerala, bagged top place in the south zone. With 10,240 of a total of 50,455 candidates across the country, IIT-Madras zone accounted for the most successful candidates in the JEE (Advanced) test results. IIT-Bombay, with 9,893 qualifiers, was second among seven zones.

It was followed by Delhi, with 9,207 qualifiers, Kanpur (6,809), Kharagpur (6,138), Roorkee (5,050) and Guwahati (3,118), said a statement from IIT-Madras, the organising institute for JEE (Advanced) this year.

The IIT-Roorkee and IIT Delhi zones each has three candidates in the top 10 ranks, IIT-Bombay has two, and Madras and Kanpur one each. The south zone also had the largest number of qualifiers in the top 100, with a total of 29.

Around 2.2 lakh students were eligible to write the JEE (Advanced) this year, with the quota increasing by 20,000 over 2016. The number of students eligible to take the test climbed from 1.5 lakh in 2015 to 2 lakh in 2016 due to an increase in IIT seats. As many as 1.72 lakh students registered for the 'Advanced' round of the entrance examination, of which 1.59 lakh — up from 1.47 lakh in 2016 — took the test for the 10,000-plus seats across the 23 IITs.

The gender gap on IIT campuses remains as wide as ever. While 33,358 girls registered for the exam, there were three times more boys (1.38 lakh). A total of 43,318 boys accounted for 86% of the successful candidates this year, with 7,137 girls qualifying.

Seven candidates qualified under the foreign category. Despite the IITs earmarking 1,000 slots for foreign candidates, only 598 foreign students registered for the Advanced round, of which 109 appeared and seven qualified. This year, foreign students had six centres to choose from, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Ethiopia and the UAE.

Chandigarh boy takes top spot in JEE Adv

<http://www.dnaindia.com/education/report-chandigarh-boy-takes-top-spot-in-jee-adv-2469253>



Sarvesh Mehtani, whose father is an income-tax officer in Chandigarh, scored 339 out of 366 in the exam

The much awaited results of the Joint Entrance Exams (JEE) Advanced for admissions to Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and other premier engineering institutes across the country were announced on Sunday morning. A total of 1,59,540 students had appeared for the JEE (Adv) held on May 21 of which, 50,455 students qualified.

Sarvesh Mehtani, a student from Chandigarh, topped the exams with an All India Rank (AIR) 1. Mehtani, whose father is an income-tax officer in Chandigarh, scored 339 out of 366 in the exam.

Pune boy Akshat Chugh bagged the AIR 2 while Delhi's Ananye Agarwal came third. Agarwal had bagged the third position in JEE Mains as well. Udaipur's Kalpit Veerwal, who had bagged the AIR 1 in JEE Mains, got AIR 1 in the SC category in JEE (Adv). Ramya Narayanasamy from Madhapur in Hyderabad stood first amongst girls with AIR 31. Lovesh Kumar Gupta from Gangapur city topped in the Persons with Disability (PwD) category.

| HOW THEY FARED | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| REGISTERED | APPEARED | QUALIFIED |
| 1,72,024 | 1,59,540 | 43,318 |

In a first, a total of 109 foreign students had also appeared for the exams this year, of which, 7 students qualified.

Qualified students will compete for over 11,000 seats in 23 IITs across the country. Seat allotment for students is expected to begin on June 19.

Bonus marks brought down ranks, say top scorers Several top scorers said that the decision to award 11 bonus marks to all the students has not benefited the top scorers. "Students who were able to solve the 'ambiguous' questions are, in fact, at a loss as all the students have got 11 bonus marks, thus elevating the scores of several students," said a student from Mumbai on the condition of anonymity.

Super 30 clear JEE Adv

In a commendable feat, all the 30 students enrolled under the Super 30 coaching institute started by mathematician Anand Kumar qualified the JEE Adv. The institute mentors students from underprivileged backgrounds.

IIT-JEE (Adv): City boy grabs all-India rank 3

<http://www.dnaindia.com/education/report-iit-je-adv-city-boy-grabs-all-india-rank-3-2469155>



Ananye Agarwal will represent the country at the International Physics Olympiad, to be held in Indonesia next month

Delhi's Ananye Agarwal made the city proud after scoring 331 out of 366 marks to grab the All-India rank third in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced examination. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, declared the results on Sunday.

In a rare coincidence, Agarwal also ranked third in the JEE Main examination last month. "I had not expected the third rank. This has come as a great surprise," Agarwal, 18, said. He studies in the Hope Hall Foundation School in RK Puram and passed Class XII with 97.8 per cent.

"I could not believe it when I saw my result today. My hard work has finally paid off. I used to study at least eight hours a day," he said.

Based on JEE Main 2017 rankings, nearly 2.20 lakh top scorers were given a chance to appear for JEE Advanced 2017 on May 21. Only 1.7 lakh aspirants, however, registered for the exam.

Though Agarwal belongs to a family of doctors, he wants to pursue Computer Science at either IIT-Delhi or Bombay. "I have great interest in physics so engineering was my first choice," he said, adding that he will represent the country at the International Physics Olympiad, 2017, which will be held in Indonesia next month.

On being queried whether his parents were satisfied with his choice, he said: "My family has been really supportive. They allowed me join the stream of my interest and choice."

Beside physics, Agarwal also has keen interest in sports and music. "I love to play guitar and lawn tennis. I represented my school in the sport at various tournaments," he added.

Agarwal, who is also the Delhi topper, was a student of FIITJEE. "The second, third and fourth ranks in Delhi were also secured by students from the institute. Kushagra Juneja with AIR 11 got the second position, Kushal Patil with an AIR of 14 stood third, and Shubham Atri secured the fourth rank with AIR 18," the coaching institute's statement read.

UP boy from Super 30 first from his village to crack IIT-JEE exam

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/up-boy-from-super-30-first-from-his-village-to-crack-iit-jee-exam/articleshow/59104054.cms>



As the news came in that he has cracked IIT-JEE, the first thing Adarsh did was to call up his father Panna Lal, who runs a general merchant shop in Hayatnagar, about 10km from UP's Mau district. His father's response was brief: "Acha hai. Khoob padho aur engineer bano (that's good. Study hard and become an engineer)."

"Forget IITs, my father has never heard about even ITIs," said Adarsh, the only UP boy from famed Super 30 coaching of Patna to make it to IIT this year. That's not all. Adarsh, who has secured 7040 rank in the OBC category in IIT-JEE (Advanced), is also the first person from his village to enter the premier engineering institution.

"Given his rank, Adarsh will get admission into the the new IITs," said Anand Kumar, the founder of Super 30. Adarsh wants to be a chemical engineer. Panna Lal runs the house with a meagre income of Rs 7,000 per month. Half of his earnings are spent in funding education of his two elder sons, Anoop and Harsh, who are pursuing MSc from Lucknow University.

With the remaining money he manages food for his youngest son and himself. "He took loans and then work extra hours to repay them. But he has never let us live a day without food. Except food there is nothing at home - no TV, no refrigerator. Festivals are like usual days. We have not bought any new clothes for years," Adarsh told TOI over phone from Patna.

Adarsh's mother passed away one-and-a-half-year ago following a heart ailment. "There were no facilities for treatment in our village. The closest government hospital was SGPGI Lucknow. She was admitted there for 15 days but did not survive," said Adarsh. Adarsh did his intermediate in 2016 from a private school affiliated to UP Secondary Education Board in his village. He had scored 84.3% marks.

One day he read about Super 30 in a newspaper. Determined to join it, Adarsh cracked the Super 30 entrance test. "When we met him for the first time, he was very nervous but we assured his father that we will take care of him. He was determined for IITs and has cracked it," said Anand.

June 11

Arvind Subramanian to conduct course on Indian economy

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/arvind-subramanian-to-conduct-course-on-indian-economy-2223508/>

The Finance Ministry on Sunday launched a seven-day course on Indian economics designed by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Delhi here.

The course — Contemporary Themes in India's Economic Development and Economic Survey — aims to update and educate faculty and students alike on the changes in the economy over a period of time. It would conclude on June 17.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar jointly opened the course at the IIT-Delhi.

"I am glad that Arvind Subramanian donned his robe back of academic (for the course) and has created the architecture of the course that will benefit all. It will be a great help to the teachers and students," Jaitley said on the occasion.

The classes would be conducted between noon and 5.30 p.m. by Subramanian.

History of Indian and global economics, fiscal policy and Goods and Services Tax (GST), are two of the many topics which would be taught to the students.

Jaitley, Javadekar inaugurate workshop under Swayam at IIT Delhi

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20170611/3122404.html>

Union Minister of Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley and Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar today inaugurated a teacher's workshop titled Contemporary Themes in India's Economic Development and Economic Survey at Indian Institute of Technology here. The workshop was launched under Swayam, an information technology platform that hosts Massive Open Online Courses(MOOC's) and provides high quality education on various subjects from school level class 9- 12 to undergraduate and post graduate students covering all the branches. Addressing the workshop, Mr Javadekar said, "Communication is very important in today's age and subject matter is one such part. Through the scheme, the ministry has proposed to provide high quality e-content to all colleges and varsities free of cost." Till today, 350 courses have been launched in India under the scheme and 60,000 students have completed the course. This is the first programme initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that was first done

before being announced. The platform equips with lectures, tutorials, tests and interaction that anybody can acquire at any point of time," he said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/top-50-ranking-not-difficult-if-we-improve-on-perception-iit-d-director/articleshow/59093715.cms>

Top 50 ranking not difficult if we improve on perception: IIT-D Director

BY IANS | UPDATED: JUN 11, 2017, 02.04 PM IST

Post a Comment

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-Delhi), which is now ranked among the top 200 universities in the latest QS World University Rankings, can well be among the top 50 if it improves on parameters such as "perception", "international faculty" and "international students", according to its Director V. Ramgopal Rao.

Rao said that Indian universities lose out on marks on the perception count. Academics and employers consulted by the ranking firms do not perceive Indian institutes to be "research intensive", even though their research papers are published by reputed journals, he said.

"We lose marks on account of perception terribly. The Western world does not see our institutes as research hubs. They still think we are mainly involved in churning out undergraduates. But, in reality, at IIT-Delhi, we have more post-graduates than undergraduates. But how many of those in the West think of us as a research institute," Rao asked.

He said Indian universities also need to improve their faculty-to-student ratio, the number of international students and the number of international faculty to improve rankings.

"Being a Government of India institute, we cannot offer scholarships to international students. For example, if a foreigner gets enrolled in a Masters programme, he will not get the fellowship to which an Indian student would be entitled. These are MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) restrictions," Rao said.

He also said that IITs cannot hire foreign faculty on a permanent basis.



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IIT-Delhi has been ranked 172nd compared to last year's 185th ranking in the latest QS rankings.

Big Change:
The end of Five-Year Plans: All you need to know

"The current system allows us to hire them on contractual terms, but these teachers are not eligible for the research grants given by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which is our primary funding agency," he said.

Rao said his institute had looked into reasons for Indian universities not being among the top 50 and noted that moving up is not a difficult task.

"Here, for every faculty member there are five Ph.D students. Our faculty to Ph.D students ratio compares very favourably to American universities. Our research output also compares equally favourably to any US university in the top 50," he said.

"We are in close touch with the MHRD. Under the Vishwajeet Programme, we have identified areas where we are lacking and are seeking to address them," he added.

Rao said Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) has been held abroad to attract foreign students to IITs. "But funding remains a big issue, with IITs getting as little as one-tenth of what any American university gets," he said.

IIT-Delhi has been ranked 172nd compared to last year's 185th ranking in the latest QS rankings. The new entrant in the top-200 club is IIT-Bombay which is ranked 179th, up from 219th last year.

However, the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) Bangalore has slipped to 190th position from last year's 152nd. It was ranked 147th the year before.

Rao said a study done at his institute into factors behind rankings is the reason for the slight improvement in its standing in the QS rankings this year.

QS ranks institutions on six counts: Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty/Student Ratio, Citation Per Faculty, International faculty Ratio and International Student Ratio.

Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation are counted as factors that determine "perception" of an institute.

June 10

International Conclave on Higher Education by IIT

<http://businesswireindia.com/news/fulldetails/international-conclave-higher-education-by-iit/53741>

International Conclave on "India: The Global Destination for Higher Education" at New Delhi on Saturday, June 10, 2017, was organized by IIT Kharagpur Alumni Foundation (India) in collaboration with Pan IIT Alumni India. The objective of this International Conclave was to usher in an atmosphere of Excellence and Quality in our top 10% institutes of higher learning so that they start attracting the best students from all over the world and thus India becomes once again a Global Destination for Higher Learning. One of the Key objectives of this conclave was to put in place a joint Task Force of the MHRD & Educational Institutions to achieve this goal.

Minister of State Higher Education Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey inaugurated the conclave as the Chief guest and HRD Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar addressed audience through Video telecast.

Through his message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated IIT Kharagpur Alumni Association and the Pan IIT Alumni Association for organising this international conclave which is a subject of great vitality. He mentioned that historically, in a 'Gyaan Yuga' or an era of knowledge, India has shown the way to humanity. The 21st century, being an era of knowledge is a time of immense opportunity for India to once again make a mark as a centre of quality education. India as a home for the brightest minds have made a mark through their quality research and academic excellence. India also being producer of the sharpest young minds creating academic curiosity. Its the time to harness these strengths and nurture quality institutions to groom thoughts leaders of tomorrow.

*HRD Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar via his Video address mentioned that there is a new dynamism and vigour in the area of higher education in India. Soon India will be a Global Destination again for Higher Learning and occupy its rightful place of being called **Vishwaguru**.*

While inaugurated the conclave chief guest, Minister of State Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey expressed pleasure to see top academicians on one platform to usher in an atmosphere of excellence and quality of top 5 institutes of higher learning to attract the best students from all over the world.

The conclave was attended by Directors from IITs, IIMs, NITs, IIITs and Chancellors/Vice Chancellors of reputed government and private universities that have the potential to attract foreign students. Some top policy makers, academicians, and corporate leaders also attended the conclave.