

# Newspaper Clips

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## IIT students now take employability test

**Kirtika Suneja**  
New Delhi, Jun 14

**I**N an effort to improve their students' employability, technical institutions, including the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), are resorting to external employability tests which help the students in selecting their career paths. This assumes importance in the light of the fact that of the 6.5 lakh engineering graduates who pass out from colleges every year, only 25% are employable and nearly two-thirds need to be re-skilled so that they can get jobs in the industry.

IIT-Kanpur, for instance, used the Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test (AMCAT) from assessment solutions firm Aspiring Minds to test almost 500 students at the undergraduate, post-graduate and MSc levels.

The test has various sections — English, Quantitative analysis, Computer programming, Computer fundamentals, Personality, Electronics and semicon-

ductors, Civil engineering, Mechanical engineering and Logical ability.

“The test is voluntary for the students and it guides them according to their aspirations and aptitude and is important to plug the misfits

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**THE INITIATIVE GIVES STUDENTS A CHANCE TO POSITION THEMSELVES FOR A JOB SUITABLE TO THEIR SKILLS AND ALSO BRINGS THEM UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT RADAR OF COMPANIES**

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arising out of job insecurity,” said SG Dhande, director, IIT-Kanpur.

The initiative gives students a chance to position themselves for a job suitable to their skills and also brings them under the employment radar of companies.

Not only the premier IITs, but 17 of the 20 NITs also use AMCAT. The entire 2010 batch of B Tech, MCA and M

Tech of NIT-Jamshedpur underwent the testing on modules which included English, Logical reasoning, Quantitative ability, Engineering and a unique personality test, which allowed the students access to corporates who use the results to hire students with skill sets matching the job requirements.

“The test makes the student aware of his skills, areas of improvement and what the industry is looking for in him. Students get into our database and are then approached by companies for recruitment,” said Varun Aggarwal, co-founder of Aspiring Minds—whose AMCAT has been taken by almost 3.5 lakh students till now.

Students of Calcutta University, Hyderabad University and Indira Gandhi National Open University have also taken the test.

Dhande added that though the external employability test had helped students cope with parental and peer pressure and would continue in the future also, IIT-Kanpur had no plans to make it mandatory.

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## IIT BOMBAY HURDLE

# Academicians split over need for test

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

**June 13:** This is for the first time that IIT Bombay will test students for English, on the lines of American and British universities.

The letter said: "All JEE entrants to IIT Bombay in 2011 will, undergo an elementary test on English proficiency at the start of the semester. Students who score less than 20 per cent will not be allowed to simultaneously register for advanced courses until they pass this test."

The news has thrown a spanner in the celebrations of the toppers and their families and they are now anxiously consulting English lecturers to know more about the test.

All of them are confident of clearing the exam in the very first attempt since it will test their basic English and the cut-off is just 20 per cent.

"Initially, I was shocked to receive a communication from IIT-Bombay regarding the English proficiency test. I contacted my English lecturers who said that it would be very easy to clear the exam. Anyway I am preparing for it seriously," said Prudhvi Tej.

Bhargava Reddy felt the same. "I am already undergoing a personality development course at Vijayawada to adapt myself to the IITs. As part of it, I am undergoing training in English also," he said.

IIT-Bombay's move, however, has evoked mixed reactions from academicians. While some were of

**“It's not enough for engineering students to just know formulas and applications. They should realise that being an engineer is also about being able to understand the technology business.”**

**P. Kamalakar Rao,**  
senior lecturer

the view that it was not necessary to conduct such an exam for students who had already cleared the tough IIT-JEE, others opined that it would be good if their English skills were tested.

"It's not enough for engineering students to just know formulas and applications. They should realise that being an engineer is also about being able to understand the technology business. That's where English proficiency skills are important. With this, they can develop good language and communication skills. I fully support the initiative of IIT-Bombay," said Mr P. Kamalakar Rao, a senior lecturer.

However, another senior lecturer, Mr S. Rajiv Varma, said, "The decision is wrong. This will develop an inferiority complex among some students as they will lag behind their batchmates by six months. If they want, IIT-Bombay can simultaneously train them in English."

## CRUCIAL HURDLE

# Toppers to face IIT-B English barrier

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY

DCI HYDERABAD

June 13: It is not enough that they have topped the IIT-JEE, the nationwide entrance test to the prestigious institution. Now the top rankers have been asked to sit for an English proficiency test at the IIT-Bombay, their college of choice.

Till last year, they could

have just walked into the college. But IIT-Bombay has decided to conduct an elementary test for English proficiency from this year for all entrants, irrespective of their rank.

Those who score less than 20 per cent will be declared "failed" and will not be allowed to attend the first semester classes. Instead they will have to undergo a full-time, semester-long

**Those who score less than 20 per cent will be declared "failed" and will not be attending the first semester classes and undertake a bridge course instead.**

bridge course for six months. This is for the first time that an IIT will test students for English.

The five toppers from the state — Immadi Prudhvi Tej (first rank), V. Shaimak Reddy (third), Burle Sai Kiran (fourth), T. Bhargava Reddy (eighth) and J. Varun (ninth) — had all opted for IIT-Bombay.

They received a communication from IIT-Bombay

recently stating: "It has been our experience that some JEE entrants have such a severe deficiency in English that their academic performance suffers inordinately in the first semester and this affects their confidence detrimentally during their subsequent academic career at the institute."

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Hindu Chennai 14.06.2011 p-13

# Registration commences for admission to NIT, IIIT

Staff Correspondent

**MANGALORE:** One lakh of the 3.99 lakh students qualified in the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) have so far registered with the Central Counselling Board (CCB) that will conduct counselling and allot seats in 30 National Institutes of Technology (NIT), five Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT), and 13 Centrally-funded institutions (CFI). The registration will go on till June 23.

The CCB is based at the National Institute of Technology, Surathkal, near here.

The Ministry of the Human Resource Development asked the institution to hold counselling and allotment of seats for 2011-2012 academic year for the NITs, IIITs, CFIs and 23 self-financed Institutions.

According to Sandeep Sancheti, Director of NIT Surathkal and Chairman of the CCB-2011, 34,000 seats are on offer in the engineering

- 2.5 lakh registrations expected
- 34,000 seats on offer in engineering stream

stream while 930 seats are available under the architecture stream. The allotment of seats for the 23 SFIs will be done during the spot round, which will start from August 14, Mr. Sancheti said. The on-line registration on the website [www.ccb.nic.in](http://www.ccb.nic.in) had been on since June 11.

Half of the seats in NITs are reserved for the candidates from the States where the NIT is located and this had been incorporated in the system while generating the unique all India ranking which would form the basis for selection, he said.

Mr. Sancheti said it was in the registration process that the candidate was asked to give the wish-list of the colleges he was seeking admission. Till Monday evening, about 27 lakh choices had been made

that included 38,680 choices made by 2,127 candidates registered from Karnataka.

The registered candidates would be getting the status of the seats every evening. They would be asked to lock their choices between June 18 and June 23, he said. The board expected about 2.5 lakh registrations, he added.

G. Srinikethan, Professor in the NIT Surathkal and Coordinator of the CCB, said four NIT Surathkal faculty members had been answering questions made to the helpdesk (0824) 2474086. On an average, the helpdesk received 800 calls a day.

The common complaint had been about inability of candidates to login after registration. "In some cases, the coaching centre has filled the details during the registration

and the candidates do not have the password." In one case, a candidate from Kashmir called to inform about the loss of the AIEEE admit card. When he came back to register after getting a duplicate copy of the admit card, the candidate was shocked to see somebody being registered in his number, Mr. Srinikethan said.

He said the board had decided to freeze such registrations. "We have asked candidates to approach reporting centres with necessary documents to prove identity for re-initiation of registration," Mr. Srinikethan said.

Mr. Srinikethan said a team from NIT-Trichy was leaving shortly to Andaman to train the staff of the Higher Education Secretariat for counselling and seat allotment. The Higher Education Secretariat of Andaman and Nicobar Administration in Port Blair was one of the 39 Reporting and Help Centre set up in the country.

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## PIO prof to head MIT's largest dept

Boston: Indian-origin academician Anantha Chandrakasan has been named head of MIT's department of electrical engineering and computer science (EECS), the largest academic department at the prestigious American institute.

Chandrakasan, the Joseph F and Nancy P Keithley professor of electrical engineering at MIT, will assume his new role beginning July 1.

He will take over from Eric Grimson, who was named MIT's chancellor in February.

EECS is the largest academic department at MIT. Nearly 30% of undergraduates at the institute major in the department's programmes. **PTI**

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## UK to cut student visas by quarter of a million

London: Almost a quarter of a million fewer overseas student visas are expected to be issued over the next five years as immigration curbs take effect, according to a government estimate published.

The home office assessment published on Monday suggests that the curb on overseas student numbers from outside the European Union will reduce total net migration to Britain by 230,000 between now and 2015 and make a significant contribution to the government's goal of reducing net



**WAIT TO GET LONGER**

migration to 'tens of thousands' each year.

But the annual reduction, averaging 46,000 a year, is only around half the figure quoted by the home secretary, Theresa May, when she gave details of the visa changes in March, when implying the changes would cut net migration by 400,000 in total by 2015.

A more detailed impact assessment of the student visa changes is due to be presented to parliament later this week, when the government is expected to come under fur-

ther criticism about what many see as a 'false economy.'

The government's move to cut the annual flow of 300,000 students into Britain stems from its pledge to reduce net annual migration from outside Europe to below 100,000 from the 2009 level of 184,000.

But the impact will come from non-EU students, who account for some 139,000, but which, according to the Home Affairs Committee, could 'cripple' the country's thriving education sector at up to £40bn a year. **AGENCIES**

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