

Newspaper Clips

June 21, 2013

IIT-JEE RESULTS LIKELY TODAY, COUNSELLING FROM JUNE 24

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The result of Joint Entrance Exam (Advanced) 2013 for admission to different Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) may be announced after 5 pm on June 21.

Officially, the results were to be announced on June 23, but there is a strong likelihood of it being declared before that. Despite an early declaration of results, the filling of courses will, however, commence only from June 24.

“We want to give more time to the students to decide on the courses,” Dr HC Gupta, organising chairman, JEE (Advanced) 2013, said.

More than 14,000 students are expected to be called for counselling. There are 9,885 IIT seats including 4,844 for the general category.

The JEE (Advanced) 2013 for admissions to undergraduate programmes in the 16 IITs and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, was conducted on June 2.

Around 1.5 lakh students were shortlisted from JEE (Main) Exam 2013 for the JEE (Advanced). This year, admission to IITs will be subject to the condition that the student is in the top 20 percentile of his/her board.

The answer keys for both the Paper-1 and Paper-2 were made available on the website for students from June 13 to 17.

Indian Express ND 21/06/2013 p-8

IIT Madras to work on next version of Aakash

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE HRD Ministry has asked IIT Madras to work on the next version of the Aakash tablet. However, IIT Bombay will continue to field test the tablet. HRD Minister Pallam Raju said his ministry was “supportive of the R&D on the Aakash tablet”. IIT Madras’s Prof Ashok Jhunjhunwala, who is closely involved with the project, is expected to head it at the institution.

Incidentally, the ministry had shown little interest in the project. Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal had swung into action getting his ministry to finalise specifications for the tablet’s next version. He had given a proposal to the PMO to establish manufacturing hubs for the tablet in India and to route this through the Department of Science & Technology.

While the project was first given to IIT Rajasthan, it was taken away from the institute due to differences between the IIT and Canadian manufacturer Datawind. The project was then given to IIT Bombay. While the HRD Ministry under Sibal had announced plans to invite bids for five million Aakash tablets, there has been a change in the approach under Raju. The ministry is of the view that instead of getting ‘obsessed’ with hardware, the aim should be to reach quality educational content to students.

Asian Age ND 21/06/2013 p-3

TRIPURA

Prez laments poor state of education institutions

AGE CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA, JUNE 20

President Pranab Mukherjee is disappointed over lack of qualitative improvement of the country's educational institutions despite vast infrastructural expansion with a network of 659 degree giving institutions and 33,000 colleges apart from specialised institutions like IIT'S, NIT'S and others. "Only the physical infrastructural expansion is not enough, improving the quality of education is the need of the hour," he said while addressing the 10th convocation of the Tripura Central University. He urged everyone for self-introspection to find out the reasons for the decay in our moral fervour.



President Pranab Mukherjee inspects a guard of honour at Agartala airport on Thursday.
— PTI

India-US education dialogue to focus on free access to online courses

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

WHEN Secretary of State John Kerry arrives for the fourth India-US Strategic Dialogue next week, educational ties between the two countries will be one of the main issues on agenda.

And the focus of the Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue, which Kerry and HRD Minister Pallam Raju will open on June 24, will be technology-enabled learning and massive on-line open courses. The two nations are expected to forge partnerships to enable institutes free access to web-based courses and course material, sources said, and an agreement to allow IIT Bombay to access such material from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is in the works.

India has shown much interest in free access to technology-enabled learning since edX, a non-profit set up by Harvard and MIT that takes interactive online classes to students across

the world, and Coursera, an education firm that partners top universities to offer course material free of cost, made presentations to Raju's delegation during his last trip to the US.

The dialogue will also discuss the issue of community colleges that India proposes to set up.

Higher education is a major focus area of Indo-US relations. In an attempt to deepen people-to-people engagement with India, the US is working to get more Americans study in India, from 5,000 now to 15,000 over the next five years.

The Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue was initiated in 2009. The following year, as part of the dialogue, an exchange programme between Montgomery College and several Indian institutions was worked out and in 2011, about 300 leaders in the field of education in both countries came together to expand co-operation. In 2012, the dialogue focused on the plan to set up 200 community colleges in India over the next few years.

Times of India ND 21 June 2013 p-10

Discount cards to help students

Ambika Mehrotra | TNN

New Delhi: Being hard up will no longer stop one from accessing necessary goods and services. Students of Delhi University can use a range of 'discount cards' at a variety of eateries, bookstores, apparel stores and even gyms and beauty parlours for a cheap milkshake, book or facial.

Schemes launched by DU students for fellow students, these cards offer discounts from 20% to 50%. Most are valid for three years.

Many of these cards were launched in 2011 and are available through networks of student representatives spread over campus colleges. Even the one-time subscription charge is student-pocket-friendly, ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 1,500.

The 'Paisa' Card, Taf Bazaar Card and Desconto are some cards which offer 20-50% discounts. "One-time investment in these discount cards has proved to be very cost-effective. We have ended up saving a lot of money," Chandni Bakshi, a third year

MONEYSAVERS

<p>PAISA CARD</p> <p>➤ Available with student representatives in every college</p> <p>One-time subscription charge ₹50</p> <p>VALIDITY 3 years Discount available at eateries & cafes, bookstores & garment stores</p>	<p>TAF CARD</p> <p>➤ Available with student representatives in every college and TAF members</p> <p>One-time subscription charge</p> <p>WHITE CARD ₹300</p> <p>BLUE CARD ₹1,500</p> <p>VALIDITY 2 years Discount available at mostly eateries</p>	<p>DESCONTO CARD</p> <p>➤ Available with student representatives in all colleges</p> <p>One-time charge ₹250</p> <p>VALIDITY Life time Discount available at eateries, gyms, footwear stores, beauty parlours</p>
---	---	--



student from Kirori Mal College, said.

An initiative by DU students, the 'Paisa' Card has acquired over 12,000 subscribers. "The 'Paisa' card has made it possible for us to

go anywhere we want without worrying about the money in our wallets!" said Palak Maheshwari, a final year DU student.

Desconto is a similar service fetching student reduc-

tions in over 125 brands all over NCR. They are available for Rs 250 and, interestingly, this one's validity lasts a lifetime.

"I came up with the idea because it helps students save money. We got over 15,000 subscribers over a period of just two years," said Apoorv Jain, a third year student from Delhi College of Engineering who was the founder of the Desconto Card. At present, 200 people form the Desconto team and they also sponsor fests in Delhi University.

The Alumni Fraternity, or 'TAF', launched the TAF Bazaar cards which are available in two grades—Blue Card (Rs 1,500) and White Card (Rs 300). They cover 111 brands—mostly food. At present, 13,000-14,000 students own TAF Cards.

Hitin Sethi, director, TAF, and head of TAF Marketing Ventures, said, "We launched the cards in 2011 and the response has been amazing. Our vision this year is to help students get great deals online."

India's unemployment increased 2% in FY12 as slowdown hits hiring

FE

fe Bureau

New Delhi, June 20: India's unemployment rose by 2% during July 2011-June 2012, almost the same rate as in 2009-10, as the economic slowdown prompted companies to slow hiring to cut cost.

The rise in unemployment rate comes despite 13.9 million new job creation between 2010 and 2012, as the country's workforce increased to 472.9 million from 459.0 million, data collated by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation showed.

During 2011-12, economic growth slipped to 6.2% from 9.3% in 2010-11, mainly due to industrial slowdown and decline in overseas orders for Indian merchandise. The growth rate further fell to decade's low of 5% in 2012-13. This had prompted many companies to cut jobs or freeze hiring. With thousands of fresh graduates pouring into the job market and job creation almost stagnating, unemployment rate rose. India



THE RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COMES DESPITE 13.9 MILLION NEW JOB CREATION BETWEEN 2010 AND 2012

still fared better than developed nations especially for some debt-ridden European nations where unemployment rate was much higher.

The number of unemployed to labour force ratio increasing to 22 per 1,000 in 2011-12 from 20 in 2009-10 measured in terms of usual status basis. while the urban em-

ployment rate rose 3%, it was up 2% in the rural areas. Male unemployment was up 3% and female jobless rate was up by 5% in urban areas while it was nearly 2% for both in rural areas.

The labour force participation rate (LFPR), the ratio of labour force to the population, declined a tad to 39.5% in 2011-12 from 40% in 2009-10, with the LFPR for men almost flat at 55.6% compared with 55.7% earlier while the LFPR for women dropping to 22.5% from 23.3%.

The working population ratio (WPR), the proportion of workforce to population, fell to 38.6% in 2011-12 from 39.2% two years ago as the male WPR nearly dipped to 54.4% from 54.6% while female WPR dipped to 21.9% from 22.8%.

Of the total workforce, the share of self-employed like farmers, traders and businessmen was 52% while regular wage/salaried employees constituted 18% and casual labourers made up for 30%.

Unemployment rises across genders

BS REPORTER

New Delhi, 20 June

For the two years ended June 30, 2012, unemployment rose across genders. In aggregate terms, it rose 0.2 percentage points during the period. Unemployment for women was higher than that for men, according to data released in the 68th round of the National Sample Survey.

If primary work alone is taken into account, unemployment for women rose 0.4 percentage points to 37 per 1,000 people willing to work (3.7 per cent) in 2011-12, against 33 per 1,000 in 2009-10. In the case of men, unemployment rose 0.2 percentage points to 2.4 per cent, against 2.2 per cent in 2009-10. During the period, overall unemployment rose from 2.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

However, if the work under other schemes (for instance, work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) is also considered, the rise in overall unemployment works out to 0.1 percentage points. For men, unemployment rose from two per cent to 2.1 per cent, while for women, it rose from 2.3 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

Unemployment in urban areas, for both men and women, was higher than in

rural areas. In rural areas, unemployment rose from 2.1 per cent in 2009-10 to 2.4 per cent in 2011-12, if primary work alone is considered; in urban areas, it rose from 3.7 per cent to 3.8 per cent. If other work is also taken into account, the rise in unemployment in rural areas works out to 1.7 per cent, against 1.6 per cent in 2009-10. For urban areas, it remained flat at 3.4 per cent.

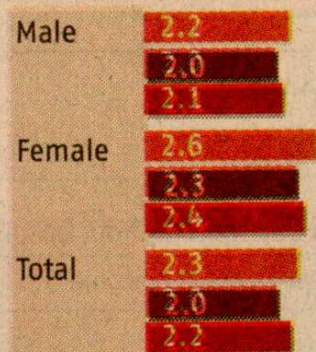
Between 2004-05 and 2009-10 (a period roughly coinciding with the first term of the United Progressive Alliance government), unemployment had declined. However, according to the 12th Plan document, unemployment in the manufacturing sector rose by five million during this period. National Statistical Commission Chairman and former chief statistician Pronab Sen said between 2009-10 and 2011-12, layoffs hadn't been reported. However, the job market might not be recording employment in sufficient numbers, he added.

MORE WITHOUT JOBS

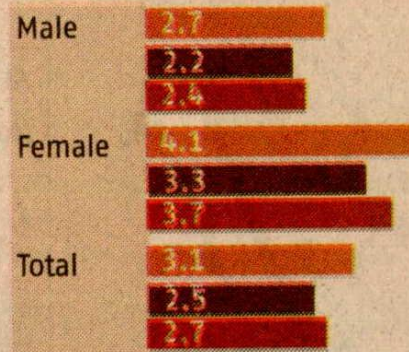
Unemployment rate as % (per 100 persons available for work)

■ 2004-05 ■ 2009-10 ■ 2011-12

Condition 1



Condition 2



Note: In condition one, a person is considered to be employed if he is engaged in either primary area of activity or some other part of his work. In condition two, only primary area of activity has been taken into account. The year runs from July 1 and ends on June 30
Source: National Sample Survey, 68th round

BS

Curse of Indian youth: Vanishing job opportunities

KUNAL KUMAR KUNDU

On Thursday, India's National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released the salient features of the 68th round of survey with regard to employment and unemployment data. While further details are awaited, the available data paints a rather grim picture.

For starters, the latest round of the survey confirms the belief that India is experiencing jobless growth. When the results of the 66th round was announced in 2011, it was severely criticised by the government as the usual status data (which is the main activity that people declare themselves to be engaged in on a usual basis over the course of the previous year) indicated falling employment rate (worker population ratio, or WPR) and rising unemployment rate. In the 66th round survey, WPR fell to 392 per 1,000 in 2009-10 from 420 per 1,000 in 2004-05. It fell further to 386 per 1,000 during 2011-12. On the other hand, the unemployment rate increased from 20 per 1,000 from 2009-10 to 22 per 1,000 in 2011-12. This means while there were 9.2 million unemployed persons in 2010, by 2012, the number increased to 10.4 million. What is even more worrying is that, the rise in unemployment rate has come about despite a fall in labour force participation rate (LFPR).

In fact, the fall in LFPR, especially of the women, is another area of concern. This can be partly explained by the increasing number of

young people opting to go for higher education and thereby delaying their entry into the work force. While this might be a good sign, drought of appropriate employment opportunities and rising incidences of unemployed educated graduates fail to inspire confidence about the future.

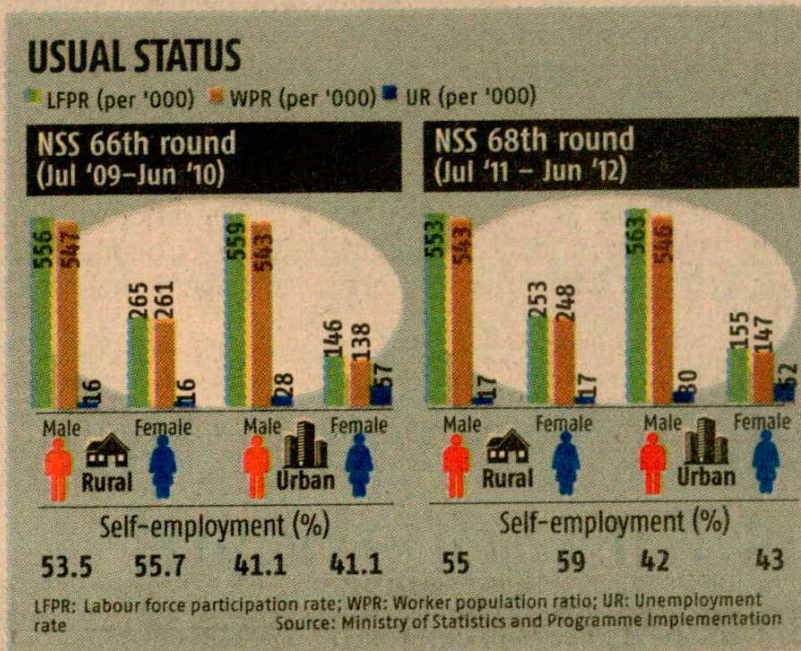
Interestingly, while the 2010

data was also trashed by the government as a year of aberration due to severe drought conditions and the lingering effect of global crisis, the continuation of the dismal trend through to 2012 clearly exposes the structural fault lines within the economy. In fact, the official explanation for a high level of self-employment in 2010 was that it was a condition, forced by extreme drought as people had to give up regular occupation and take up self-employment.

However, though 2012 was a normal year, the shares of self-employment in total workforce actually increased across categories, as can be seen from the table. Quite evidently lack of gainful employment opportunities is forcing more and more people to opt for self-employment, the majority of which is low quality and low productive work.

For a country that has one of the most conducive demography in the world, this data is a grim reminder that India has its task cut out.

The author is a Delhi-based independent economist



NEWS ANALYSIS