

Newspaper Clips

June 23, 2016

Times of India ND 23.06.2016 P-1

Delhi will send most IIT students this year

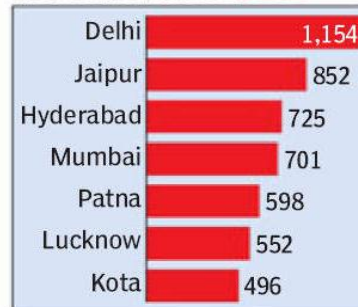
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Mumbai: The national capital will send the largest pool of candidates to the Indian Institutes of Technology this year.

Delhi has pipped Jaipur, which traditionally topped the charts and cornered the lion's share of seats at these institutes. Three Maharashtra cities—Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur—figured in the top 10 cities for the first time, said experts. MP's Indore and Bhopal will send 805 students to the IITs.

Mumbai has improved to fourth position on the chart from sixth position last year. Lucknow is a new entrant to

CRACKING JEE



the top club. In the last two years, Jaipur, Delhi, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Patna and Mumbai, in that order, sent most students to the IITs.

► 50% from 15 cities, P 10

50% of successful students hail from 15 cities

► Continued from P 1

This time, out of 14,385 candidates who qualified to join the IITs, those from 15 cities comprise 50% of the students who made the cut. Till last year, fewer cities dominated the list and half of those who qualified for the IITs came from only eight locations.

The city-wise data has been analysed by the IITs, based on the communication address provided by the aspirants. Most students, said faculty, provide their perma-

nent address so that no correspondence is lost.

"We were noticing the slow rise of Delhi since a few years. Mumbai and its satellite towns, too, have a better rank. But if one goes by the absolute numbers, we see that there has been an overall drop in candidates from all these cities," said a JEE chairman.

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Each of the top three cities in this year's list – Delhi, Jaipur and Hyderabad – historically saw about 2,000 students qualify for the IITs each year. But the distribution of students is rather different this year

tion of students is rather different this year. Interestingly, Vijayawada which saw

1,448 students qualify in 2014, witnessed a meteoric drop in the candidate count this year.

Fall in numbers from the big metros has been accompanied by an increase in students from smaller towns and many more cities have sent students to the IITs this year.

Interestingly, Kargil will send 10 students to the top engineering colleges and so will Latur, which has seen 24 candidates qualify.

Orai in Jalaun of Uttar Pradesh, too, did well with 26

students qualifying for IITs. "While diversity adds richness to the classroom, each edition of the JEE hopes to be more inclusive so that students from every corner of the country can make it to our campus," said another JEE chairman.

"We also feel that while coaching class-trained students who come from the metros and the big cities come with a certain mindset, those from the smaller towns are also equally sharp and go on to achieve big things," he added.

Indian Express ND 23.06.2016 P-11

Varsities can apply to UGC for tie-ups with foreign institutes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS looking to partner with universities abroad for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes can now approach the University Grants Commission (UGC) directly for permission, according to the amended regulation for collaboration between Indian and foreign institutions.

Earlier, under the UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaborations between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutes) Regulations 2012, only foreign universities were allowed to apply for academic collaboration with Indian counterparts. The higher education regulator tweaked the rules on Wednesday, making only Indian universities and colleges eligible to apply for permission.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani attributed the change to the poor response from foreign universities. The UGC has not received a single proposal for partnership from foreign institutions under

the old regulation, she told reporters on Wednesday.

"Since they are not familiar with our rules and regulations, it seems they find the process very cumbersome. Hence the poor response. So, it was decided that the onus of seeking permission should be on the Indian partner," a senior ministry official told *The Indian Express*.

Under the amended regulation, only local institutions that have secured the highest accreditation grade from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) are eligible for academic partnership. Similarly, the partnering university abroad should have also secured the best grade from the accreditation agency in its home country.

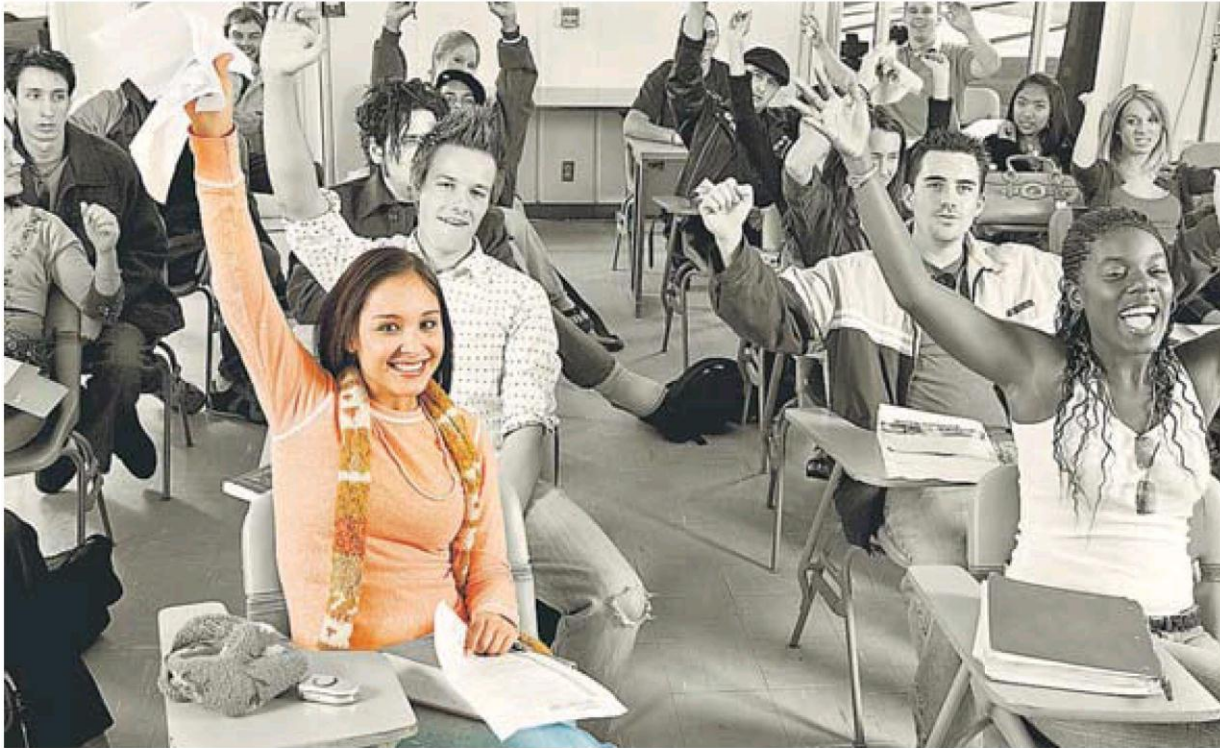
It is now mandatory for Indian institutions entering into a twinning arrangement to send its students to study at the offshore university for least two semesters in case of an undergraduate programme and one semester in a postgraduate programme. The MoU signed between the two institutions should be valid for at least three years.

Although the regulations do not allow the collaborating partners to offer a joint degree, the degree awarded by the Indian university at the end of the programme will also bear the name and insignia of the foreign university. The transcripts carrying the credits earned in India and abroad will have to be signed jointly by both institutions.

Indian educational institutions that already have a collaborative arrangement will have to apply for permission within six months of the new regulations being notified. These institutions have a year's time to secure 'A' grade from NAAC. The regulations will be notified soon.

Irani added that under the new rules, all applications received by the UGC will be acknowledged within a month and processed in two months. The applications will be judged based on infrastructural facilities, student-faculty ratio, course fee and curriculum of the Indian and foreign partner. A committee of experts, including a representative of the Association of Indian Universities, will vet all collaboration proposals.

Changing higher education landscape



Gauri Chhabra

For students who are about to begin applying for college in the class of 2016, there are several emerging trends that may have a significant impact on the application process and the overall college experience. Everything from traditional academic institutions, online universities and specialised skills programs are making headlines as the higher education market changes its colours to meet the demands of a crowded and competitive market.

So what do the continuous shifts in Higher Education landscape mean? For one thing, it means that the landscape is rapidly evolving and changing. Higher education is increasingly crowded, and therefore we can continue to see market shifts at a rapid-fire pace. It also means colleges must stay on top of the latest trends and stay nimble in this ever-changing era. More important, for students it means the need to get ready to face this fluid landscape. Here are some trends to watch out for:

MORE APPLICANTS

The volume of college applications has been increasing rapidly. In the past, applying to six or seven colleges might have been considered more than sufficient. Now some students apply to as many as 15 or more institutions. Does ap-

Emerging educational trends to watch out for the class of 2016

plication volume naturally decrease acceptance rates? Theoretically, yes. If a college receives 5,000 more applications this year than it did the previous year, but does not plan to increase the size of its class, then its acceptance rate will naturally decrease. This is not a guarantee, however. If you hope to attend a highly selective institution, then yes, it is wise to apply to a higher volume of colleges and universities to increase your chances of admission to one.

SOARING CUT-OFFS

While increasing college application volume can likewise increase the pressure on school students looking to apply to college, with shooting cut offs, the trend is not as all-consuming as it is sometimes thought to be. Delhi's St Stephen's College declared its admission cut-offs and the minimum benchmark for the first list in the general category didn't see an increase, a first in years. The most sought-after course of Economics saw the cut-off go down by 0.25% for science, commerce and humanities streams. The highest cut-off was for English at

99% for commerce students, the same as last year. The only subject that saw an increase of 0.5% was for the BA program for science and commerce students. The cutoff increased to 96.5% for science and 97% for commerce. Therefore, in this race of increasing applications and soaring cut offs, the key to success on all applications is ultimately hard work and careful research.

SPECIALISED DEGREES

A growing number of colleges are offering specialised degrees. The market for specialised master's programs in accounting, management, finance, and a number of other business disciplines has never been stronger. There is a whole new suite of degrees, sometimes as many as half a dozen or more, in response to a new generation of students. Previously, specialised MBA programs focused upon a particular discipline such as an MBA in Finance, Marketing, or HRM. While these programs were the most popular MBA programs, the choices have now increased to other fields which include an MBA in Accounting, Supply Chain Management, Entrepreneurship, Media Studies amongst numerous others. There are even more untraditional MBA specialisations such as Wine Marketing and Management; Luxury Brand Management; Avia-

tion; Oil, Gas and Energy, Health Management. The students are hungry for the specialised knowledge these programs offer and are looking to distinguish themselves in an increasingly competitive job market. The surge in interest in these programs comes at a time when many business schools are at crossroads, with their flagship MBA programs struggling to attract students. If your career interests can be narrowly defined, it may be worthwhile to research Business schools that can provide you with a tailored program.

SKILL BUILDING

Gone are the days when degrees from traditional four-year universities reigned supreme. In today's information economy, employers are looking for graduates with skills immediately applicable for career advancement. As a result, vocational education is back in vogue, teaching students the specialised, technical skills they need to succeed in the job market.

Colleges have and need to redesign their programs to be shorter term and focused exclusively on skill building. Colleges, students and employers alike are shifting their focus more to gaining the 'right skills' than the 'right degree.'

Today, employers are hiring based on skills and competency as an alterna-

tive to hiring based on college degrees. This way of thinking has led many colleges to start breaking down their programs into skills types and then developing validation tools to test how well the students have acquired those skills. These competency-based programs have the potential to revolutionise the way students are prepared for the workforce.

OPEN ONLINE COURSES

What is a trends discussion without the inclusion of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)? In the future, MOOCs have the potential to transform higher education, but it's still very much in the nascent stage. Perhaps if more online courses include live instructor interaction or if MOOCs are able to establish partnerships with companies that provide better opportunities for students to find work, we may see more of a transformation. IIM Bangalore has started MOOC's in the areas of Fundamentals of Business Management, introduction to Managerial Economics etc.

PERSONALISED LEARNING

Colleges are trending toward more open and participatory styles of learning. In some ways, individualised instruction has always been the ideal form of teaching – hence the emphasis on student-teacher ratio and office

hours – but improved technology has truly made it possible to deliver a more customised experience. Personalised learning is the logical extension of this shift, where tools like apps deliver individualised content to each student. As a student, your role here is two-fold. First, remember that this trend is new to your instructors too. Do not be shy about asking for help or clarification, as your questions and comments can help your professors improve their classes for everyone.

The second important element is you and your engagement with learning. In personalised learning, students are active participants in directing their own education. It is up to you to pursue the extra help available when a topic is unclear. So, be engaged and proactive.

CHANGING ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Where students were once able to present a highly-curated portfolio of grades, personal essays and test scores, colleges now have the opportunity to view applicants more candidly. Social media tools like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter make it possible for admissions staff to both speak with and quietly observe prospective students via informal channels.

You may, for example, write a personal essay extolling the virtues of hard work and diligent study. If your Facebook page contains picture of you at the beach during school hours, however, colleges may not take your words seriously. Conversely, social media offers students the chance to engage directly with admissions staff. You have the opportunity to humanise yourself in a way that essays simply cannot match, and you have the opportunity to explore campuses and student life in detailed and creative ways. There is no arguing that social media is only increasing in significance, both generally and in the college admissions realm. Be aware of its risks and possibilities as you interact with prospective colleges.

SUMMING UP

This is a dynamic time in education when you need to capitalise on the best of the old world while embracing the new. As these trends continue to unfold, we can expect to see even more innovation in education. As students, it is for you to make the most of it.

(The writer is a Punjab-based education counsellor with 14 years of experience. She can be contacted at gauri@kareerkafe.in)

IIT-Kharagpur campus turns battle zone, 30 injured in clash

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

MIDNAPORE: Tension gripped IIT- Kharagpur campus on Wednesday after a clash broke out between supporters of the BJP workers' union and other labour unions, leaving at least 30 labourers and workers injured.

Some of the injured persons were admitted to local hospitals.

Due to labour unrest, work at an ongoing girls' hostel, which is named after Sister Nibedita, was hampered. Later, police and IIT authorities intervened to bring the situation under control.

The labour unions alleged that supporters of Bharatiya Majdur Sangha (BMS), the labour unit of BJP, is responsible for the situation. The union, however, said BMS members attacked the workers, who were engaged in the construction work. The BMS leadership claimed that they were attacked when they demanded that their supporters should be taken as labour.

According to sources, this is not the first time such a clash broke out on the IIT- Kharagpur campus.

BMS apparently demanded that their supporters should be taken as labourers, since supporters and workers of CITU, AITUC and INTTUC were already engaged. The altercation led to the clash.

Sources said BMS supporters stopped the work and placed their party flag at the site. Soon, workers, who were engaged in the work, started protesting.

"As soon as the workers protested, BJP and BMS men attacked the workers and beat them up with spades, rods and other materials," claimed Asit Pal, an INTTUC leader.

Shyam Ghosh, a CITU leader, also alleged that the BJP supporters were responsible for the clash. "Those responsible for the attack must be arrested and strong steps should be taken against them," he said.

However the BMS leadership denied the allegation. "There is a nexus between INTTUC, CITU and AITUC and they run a syndicate. They attacked us. Eight of our supporters sustained serious injuries," Parthapratim Banerjee, the district organising secretary of BMS, said.

The IIT authorities claimed that they have nothing to do about it. "The labours and workers are workers are entrusted by the construction company that will decide how many workers will work. There should not be any labour unrest because it will delay the construction work of the girls' hostel," an IIT- Kharagpur official said.

5day Yoga festival organised at IIT Ropar

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

RUPNAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar organised a fiveday yoga festival in connection with International Yoga Day. Every morning, the participants performed yoga excercises under the supervision of Yogacharya Sudhesh Chandra, founder of Sri Upanishath Yoga Center Mysore, Karnataka. Chandra underlined the value of yoga in our hectic life and shed light on how it is different from strenuous exercises and tricky postures, which is how most people perceive yoga as. He said, "It is an art to make one's body a holy temple for the soul." While speaking on the occasion Professor SK Das, director IIT Ropar said that they were extremely happy to be a part of this global initiative. He said, "Yoga is an ancient Indian tradition, which has been accepted worldwide. In today's time it is essential to be mentally and physically fit and practicing yoga helps us in this."

numbergame

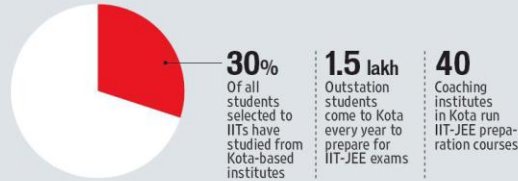
INSIDE THE GREAT KOTA COACHING CASH COW

Jyotindra Dubey

A coaching institute owner in Rajasthan gifted his BMW to a student for securing the 11th position in the IIT entrance. Though it is a new concept, but looking at the booming coaching industry in Kota and the amount of money the institutes make, such expensive gifts may longer be a big deal.

THE PIT-STOP ON THE IIT RACE

Students of Kota-based coaching institutes grabbed the first three All India ranks in the IIT -JEE (Advanced) test this year.



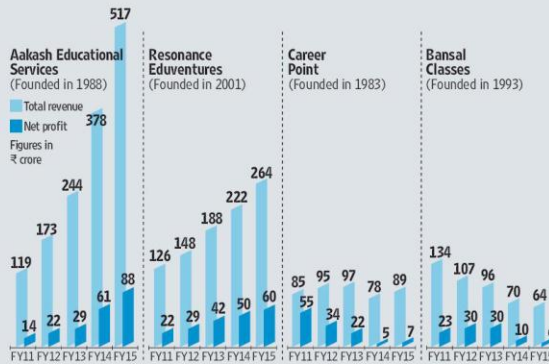
1.5 lakh outstation students come to Kota for IIT-JEE preparation every year. Assuming the candidates take coaching for at least two years, this would indicate a market size of over

₹500 crore

No doubt the coaching institutes have encashed the business opportunity, and are making huge profits out of it. Most institutes, which have started off from Kota, have now expanded all over India, with centres in various cities.

FLOURISHING BUSINESS

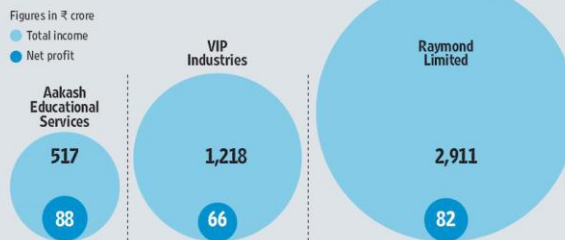
Major institutes based in Kota have seen their revenues and profits jump manifold. Bansal Classes being the only exception.



Coaching institute business seems to be more rewarding than many other industries. Despite giving hefty packages to faculty members, which ranges from ₹30 lakh to as high as ₹1 crore, they still manage to reap huge profits.

HIGH-YIELD BUSINESS

A comparison of Aakash Educational services with quite a few other mid-sized companies earning similar amount of profits — VIP Industries and Raymond — throw up an interesting point. The institutes make lesser profits on a higher turnover base



DOUBLE WHAMMY

The mushrooming coaching industry in Kota is a win-win for IIT aspirants and coaching institute owners alike. Kota is not only associated with success stories of students topping in IIT entrance exams, but it is also making institute owners richer every year. In the years to follow, one can expect more expensive bounties, such as BMW cars, being offered for topping the entrance test.