

Newspaper Clips June 24, 2016

Hindustan Times ND 24/06/2016 P-07

IIT prof gets 25th GD Birla Award for scientific research

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The 25th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2015 has been given to IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal.

The award, which carries a reward of ₹2.5 lakh, is given to eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 years for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science or technology.

Mittal's work focuses on Bluff Body Flows (flows past blunt bodies associated with large unsteady separation and leading to large fluid forces). Mittal is working with the department of Aerospace Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He was instrumental in estab-



■ **Prof Sanjay Mittal, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT-Kanpur.**

lishing the High Performance Computing facility, primarily funded by DST, at IIT, Kanpur. He also heads the National Wind Tunnel Facility. Mittal and his research group have made significant impact in the last two decades towards understand-

ing of instabilities in bluff body flows, a statement issued by K K Birla Foundation stated.

The award was instituted in 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation with the objective to accord recognition to high caliber scientific research undertaken by Indian scientists living and working in India. The selection for this award is made by a Board headed by the President of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, said Suresh Rituparna, director of KK Birla Foundation.

Some of the previous award winners are Asis Datta (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology), Sankar K Pal (Pattern recognition), Dipankar Das Sharma (Solid State Physics) and Subhasis Chaudhuri (Electrical Engineering).

Times Of India ND 24/06/2016 P-18

HRD ministry approves common counselling for IISERs with IITs

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New Delhi: The HRD ministry on Thursday allowed common counselling from next year for admission to seven Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) along with IITs and NITs.

IITs/NITs introduced common counselling last year. Though IISERs were keen for common counselling from this year, the ministry said it should not be rushed. "We advised caution. It is a good idea. Common counselling has found support among students," a highly placed source said after the day-long meeting of the standing committee of IISERs.

There are 1,120 seats in the seven IISERs — 200 each in the five campuses in Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Trivandrum, and 60 seats each in the newer centres of Tirupati and Behrampur.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE: In little less than a decade, the five original IISERs, including the one at Mohali, have made a mark with cutting-edge research in various fields, especially biotechnology

Like in the IITs, it has also been decided that 15% of the supernumerary strength of each IISER will be made available to foreign students. However, the candidates will have to clear the joint entrance test. Indian students make it to

the IISERs through three routes: by clearing JEE, bagging Kishore Vaigyanik Protshahan Yojna (KVPY) awards and being among the top 1% of each school board, including CBSE.

As for NRI students studying in India and getting admission through one of the three routes, the fee charged will be the same as those taken from Indians.

Foreign nationals will also be allowed admission for post-doctoral research. "They will have to fulfil all the existing criteria," a source said.

Outside the media glare in little less than a decade, the five original IISERs started during UPA I have made a mark with cutting-edge research in various fields, especially biotechnology. "In ranking and research, IISERs are just below Indian Institute of Science," a senior official said. In terms of output, each IISER has six-seven US patents and also have on an average 1,000 research papers published in international-refereed journals.

Asian Age ND 24/06/2016

P-13

Delhi student tops IIT-JEE

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Delhi student Deepanshu Jindal topped the IIT-JEE Main 2016 rank list released by the Central Board of Secondary Education on Thursday.

The JEE-Main exam is for admission to the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs). JEE-Advanced is for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Only the students selected in JEE Mains are eligible for appearing in JEE Advanced.

Boys dominated the list of toppers: Of the top 1,000 positions, boys scored 853 and girls scored 147. Ryali Gayathri from Telangana has emerged as best among girls, securing the 11th rank. Speaking to this newspaper, Deepanshu Jindal who is topper from Naraina Institute, Punjabi Bagh, said, "My teachers helped me throughout my journey and I had immense support from my parents. And, as of now, I would be joining IIT-Delhi to pursue com-



My teachers helped me throughout my journey and I had immense support from my parents

— **Deepanshu Jindal**
IIT-JEE topper

puter science after a month before which I would be taking coaching classes. After graduation I would like to go for entrepreneurship."

Pratyush Maini and Rajesh Bansal secured the second and third position respectively.

The All-India Rankings are based on the JEE Main score (60 per cent weightage) and Class 12 scores (40 per cent weightage). Admissions to B.E. and B.Tech. courses in engineering institutions like NITs, IIITs are made on the basis of these rankings.

Gurgaon boy bags rank 2 in JEE, wants to do research



“My focus has always been on understanding concepts. It never mattered how much time I would spend poring over books. Whenever I got confused, my teachers would come to my rescue.”

By scoring 320 out of 360, 17-year-old Pratyush Maini of Gurgaon bagged All-India Rank (AIR) 2 in the Joint Entrance Exam (main). The results of JEE (mains) were announced on Thursday evening.

A student of DAV Public School in Sector 14, Pratyush also bagged rank 1 in science stream in Class 12 Central Board of Senior Education (CBSE) examinations with 98.2%. He now plans to study electrical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

“It was very important for me to score well in the JEE (mains). I want to do research under renowned professors. My family and I are ecstatic,” said Pratyush.

The former head boy of his school, Pratyush said he always focused on quality over quantity. Studying for five hours a day, Pratyush said he was very attentive in the classroom and the coaching classes.

“My focus has always been on understanding concepts. It never mattered how much time I would spend poring over books. There were times when I would get confused by new concepts and terminology, but the teachers were always at my rescue,” he said.

An all-rounder, Pratyush is a sports enthusiast and plays tennis in his free time. He also plays keyboard to de-stress.

“My parents never stopped me from learning and having fun. They also say one must follow one’s passion. This is my mantra in life,” he said.

He further added that FIIT-JEE Gurgaon helped him in increasing his overall aptitude and confidence as well.

“A lot of people say one should not take coaching, but FIIT-JEE helped make all the difference. I found students and coaches who were well read and always pushed me to strive more. Also, I was always interested in the subjects and my goals were clear,” said Pratyush.

Are girls good at maths? Toppers are in medicine, gender gap at IIT is still wide

But JEE Pass Percentage For Females At All-Time High

Yogita Rao, Shreya Roy Chowdhury & Shoeb Khan | TNN

Last month, TOI ran a front-page headline on Sukriti Gupta, a Delhi girl, topping the science stream in the CBSE Class 12 exams with physics, chemistry and math (PCM) marks of 100, 100 and 99, respectively. She was the fourth girl to top the exam in the last 10 years.

Last week, when this year's IIT joint entrance exam (advanced) results were announced, our headline was about three boys from a coaching institute in Kota sweeping ranks 1, 2 and 3. The topper among girls - Riya Singh, also from Kota - came in at no. 133.

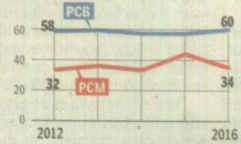
The CBSE and IIT-JEE exams are held within a few weeks of each other, and yet girls do brilliantly in the first, including in the science subjects, but trail behind in the other.

Why? Are girls shying away from mathematical or engineering disciplines or do boys have a natural advantage, as Lawrence Summers controversially suggested when he was president of Harvard University (and got pilloried for)? Data from school-leaving and competitive exams in other fields belie the perception that girls may be short on quantitative skills. ISC board Class XII results, for instance, show that nearly two-thirds of the first 100 in the PCB (physics, chemistry, biology) category are girls, though when it comes to PCM (physics, chemistry, math) scores, boys outnumber them by 2:1 among the

CRACKS IN THE CLASS(ROOM) CEILING

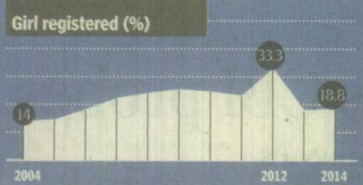
PERFORMANCE AT ISC CLASS XII EXAMS | Girls make up almost two-thirds of top 100 scorers in PCB (physics-chemistry-biology), and one-third of PCM (physics-chem-math) toppers

Number of girl candidates among top 100



REGISTRATION FOR IIT ENTRANCE

Participation of girls has steadily risen in the last 15 years; almost one of every 5 registering for JEE now is a girl



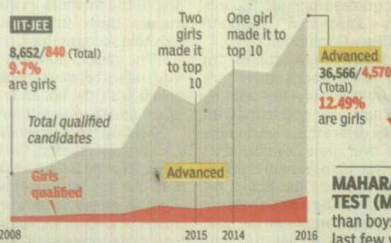
top 100 (see graphic). Number of girls qualifying for MBBS is also higher than boys. Clearly, the proportion of girls excelling at the Class XII level across states and national boards in all disciplines is far higher than the IIT rank list would suggest.

To be sure, things aren't as bad even on the IIT front. In 2013 and 2014, girls bagged ranks 6 and 7. Also, broader data actually reveals a narrowing of the gender gap, although parity is still a long way away. Of the roughly 36,500 candidates who qualified for entry to the premier IITs this year, 4,570 (or 12.5%) were girls - the highest ever in absolute numbers (in previous years, it has hovered around 10-11%).

The IIT Race

IIT aspirants are overwhelmingly boys. Just about 18-25% of those at the Advanced stage in the JEE pool are usually girls, although their success rate is improving. In 2016, 16% of girls who appeared for JEE Advanced

PERFORMANCE OF GIRLS AT JEE | Percentage of girls qualifying has increased gradually and hit an all-time high of 12.5% this year, but success rate still lower than of boys



MAHARASHTRA COMBINED ENTRANCE TEST (MEDICINE) | More girls signing up than boys for state medical entrance exams in last few years; their success rate is also better

Year	Total candidates (in lakh)	Male (%)	Female (%)	
2014	1.5	Appeared	44.2	55.8
		Passed	16.8	23.9
2015	1.9	Appeared	44.9	55.1
		Passed	8.2	10.0
2016	2.8	Appeared	49.7	50.3
		Passed	7.1	9.8

cleared it as opposed to 27% of boys; this was an improvement on 2014 when 14% girls had qualified and 2013 when it was 10.24%. IIT-JEE chairman at Kharagpur, Adrijit Goswami, says, "Percentage of girls has been low compared to boys, but you will notice the percentage has been consistently improving."

Riya Singh, this year's female topper who is from Singrauli district in Madhya Pradesh, says she is not surprised by the gender imbalance at the IITs. To start with, she found herself to be one among only three girls in a class of 50 at an IIT coaching institute in Kota. "It was very disappointing to see such a small section of girls in the qualifying lot despite the fact that they have been outshining boys in all other major exams. It indicates that our society does not prefer girls in engineering, which is mostly seen as male bastion," said Singh.

Kota, which produced four of the top 10 ranks this year (all from one coaching

institute), has about 80,000 students enrolled for JEE coaching, of whom girls constitute about 15,000-16,000. The same applies to Mumbai, which is growing into another hub for IIT coaching. Praveen Tyagi, the MD of a Mumbai-based coaching institute, says less than 15% of students migrating from the interiors for intensive tutoring in his classrooms are girls, and the reasons are purely social. "In a majority of families in the north, from where most aspirants come, expectations are more from the boys. Also, parents are too worried about the safety of their girl child to send them away for coaching or for college," he said.

The social factor

Director of IIT-Roorkee, Pradipta Banerji, said under-representation of girls at IITs is but a reflection of society. "Parents are not willing to send their girl child to far-off institutes. It is not necessary that they will get admission to an IIT closer home. So they would

rather prefer to send them to an engineering institute in their neighbourhood," said Banerji.

Banerji has a point. The gender gap in engineering colleges in the southern and western states is narrowing. In Karnataka, for instance, total number of girls and boys who took the state entrance test in 2016 were virtually the same. Of 1.71 lakh who appeared for it, 83,526 - just short of half - were girls, and the ratio has been about the same over the last five years. In Maharashtra, of the 89,242 admitted to various engineering colleges in 2015-16, 27% were girls. Dayanand Meshram, the joint director of Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra, said girls are slowly moving into male-dominated branches such as civil and mechanical too. At Anna University in Tamil Nadu, 36% of total candidates admitted to engineering courses were girls.

On the other hand, if a comparison is made with gender composition in

medicine, it is obvious girls are not only encouraged to study courses of their choice, they are allowed to travel far and wide in search of better tutoring. In sharp contrast to JEE coaching enrolment figures, girls fill up nearly half the classrooms for medical tuitions in Kota. Data says of 60,000 medical aspirants in Kota in 2015-16, girls were close to 25,000. In fact, at some coaching institutes the share of girls was more than 50%. The reasons could range from a higher level of interest in studying medicine to an aptitude for biological sciences or a combination of factors that include meeting parental aspirations and enhancing eligibility for marriage.

An RTI query has revealed that of the six lakh who applied for the All India Pre-Medical Test 2014, about 55% were girls. In Maharashtra's common entrance test (CET), a majority of applicants in the last three years have been girls. And they outnumber boys even in the success rate in medical entrance. Often, the topper is a girl student, as was the case last year (Harshita Shetty).

Ashok Pandey, chairperson of the National Progressive Schools Conference (NPSC), says there is "no cognitive difference" between boys and girls who take science but girls do "think they are better suited to medicine because of historical, cultural and social reasons." R L Tripathi, director of a coaching chain, says it cannot even be a matter of expenditure on girls versus boys as medical coaching too involves a large investment. Engineering is simply considered a male-centric profession and girls are discouraged, he added. However, going by recent data from some parts of the country, the psychological and social barriers are dropping.

(With inputs from Jimli Mukherjee Pandey, Malathi Iyer, Vinayashree Jagadeesan & Pavan M V)



A recent newspaper report said 55% of 6 lakh applicants for All India Pre-Medical Test 2014 were girls



दिल्ली में गुरुवार को राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी के साथ फोटो खिंचवाते आइआइटी, आइआइएससी-बी और आइआइएसईआर के विद्यार्थी।

At 12.49% in IIT, state bags all-India second rank

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/At-12-49-in-IIT-state-bags-all-India-second-rank/articleshow/52885425.cms>

JAIPUR: Rajasthan fares second in number of students to have qualified this year for JEE-Advanced. The share of domicile students from the desert state was 12.49% out of 36,566 declared qualified for counselling for IITs. The first position is bagged by Uttar Pradesh with its share of 14.82%.

The icing on the cake is that most of the successful students are from Hindi medium and rural backgrounds. Other states like Maharashtra (8.85%) and Bihar (7.42%), which have always made a mark in the IITs, are way behind Rajasthan, says office of JEE-Advanced exam. The share of Rajasthan students includes students from all boards including RBSE, CBSE, ICSE and IB.

State's lion share is due to the emergence of quality CBSE schools in state, which experts feel has created a competitive ecosystem leading to mass selections from Rajasthan at national level exams like IITs, NEET and AIIMS. Explaining the reason behind this unprecedented success, Damodar Goyal of Society for Private Unaided School in Rajasthan, said, "Most of the schools have adopted an integrated system by preparing students for IITs. It has provided an ease for students to take up competitive exams in the highly educative environment," said Goyal.

This year, CBSE schools in Jaipur have bagged three ranks in the top 10 of JEE-Advanced including top rank by Aman Bansal. From past three-four years, students from few selected cities in state like Jaipur and Kota, have been scoring top ranks not only in IITs but also in NEET and AIIMS exam. Data says 12 students from Rajasthan including seven from Jaipur and four from Kota made it in the top 100 list of JEE-Advanced.

The state board-wise rating also put Rajasthan on the third spot. Leading the list was Telangana followed by Maharashtra on the second spot. However, CBSE is leading with 53.47% students.

Data says that six students from RBSE board have made in the top 100 merit list of JEE-Advanced. Upbeat over the data, B L Choudhary , chairman of RBSE, said, "The data reiterates our claim that RBSE is one of the toughest boards in the country . The fact that our toppers of Class XII science stream got selected in IITs further proves the transparency of our evaluation system."

Sources also told TOI that RBSE is all set to moot a proposal to introduce an aptitude test in the early classes to filter out students who have an interest or inclination towards science. "The whole idea is to increase the number of students opting for science so that the output in terms of engineers and doctors can increase," said a board official.

Asian Age P-02

'Research must to solve N-E problems'

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI, JUNE 23**

Noted astrophysicist and the man behind India's Moon Mission, Jitendra Nath Goswami, called upon IIT Guwahati to initiate some research projects that is necessary for the north-eastern states. While addressing the 18th convocation of IIT Guwahati, Mr Goswami said, "I would like to request IIT Guwahati, and the faculty in particular, to initiate consolidated research projects that are pertinent to the multifarious needs of the Northeast so that one can have scientific rather than ad hoc solutions for problems in many sectors that continue to plague all the north-eastern states." Referring to himself as an Assamese by birth, Mr Goswami said, "I wish to see the universities of the seven sister states contributing significantly to tackling some of the local problems, starting with the perennial problem of floods to conservation of ecosystems."

He however regretted it was not happening. Some small and notable steps have been initiated but it was not enough, he added.

He was of view that IIT Guwahati and the two Central universities — at Tezpur and Silchar — may take a lead and coordinate along with the other universities in the Northeast in chalking out a holistic and workable plan of action to tackle at least some problems.

**Times Of India ND
24/06/2016 P-13**

Flipkart not blacklisted, it is a valued partner: IIM-A

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad's Indian Institute of Management (IIM-A) on Thursday called Flipkart "a valued partner" while ruling out the possibility of blacklisting the e-commerce firm a month after it deferred the joining dates of 18 students from the B-school.

"...no such thing has even been contemplated or discussed at any point of time," IIM-A's communication advisory committee chairperson Vijaya Sherry Chand said. She said the students have offers from other companies and were in advanced stages of negotiations. "It is up to them to decide and firm up their decisions. The details of which companies they will be joining will be available soon."

IIM-A director Ashish Nanda separately said the issue was closed.

The students were hired and promised a compensation of Rs 1.5 lakh for postponement of their joining. The postponement had prompted IIM-A to write a strongly-worded letter to the company demanding an increase in the compensation.

The B-school had said it would set new guidelines for its placements to ensure that no corporate house repeated what Flipkart had done. "Right now, we want to send out a strong message to corporate houses that they should define their recruitment policy appropriately before going to campuses," IIM-A placement committee chairperson Asha Kaul had told **TOI** earlier this month.

Veer Arjun ND 24/06/2016

P-11

आईआईटी खड़गपुर शेल आइडियाज 360 चैलेंज के फाइनल में

नई दिल्ली, (वासं)। शेल इंडिया मार्केट्स प्रा. लि. ने शेल आइडियाज 360 के शीर्ष पांच फाइनलिस्ट्स में आईआईटी खड़गपुर को चुने जाने की घोषणा की। शेल आइडियाज 360 एक वैश्विक प्रतियोगिता है, जो दुनिया में भोजन, पानी और ऊर्जा संसाधनों पर बढ़ते दबाव से निपटने के लिए विचार विकसित करने की खातिर समान विचारधारा वाले छात्रों को शेल के विशेषज्ञों और मेंटॉर्स के साथ जोड़ता है। आईआईटी खड़गपुर लंदन में 27 जून, 2016 को होने वाली इस प्रतियोगिता के निर्णायक चरण में प्रतिस्पर्धा करेगा। आईआईटी

खड़गपुर की तीन सदस्यी टीम - गौरव, अपूर्वा और अंकित ने टैक्नोलॉजी के लिए अपने जुनून के साथ ही व्यापक कौशल के आधार पर ग्रोस्मार्ट नाम के स्मार्ट सॉल्यूशन विकसित कर प्रतियोगिता के फाइनल में अपनी जगह बनाई। आईआईटी खड़गपुर की ग्रोस्मार्ट टीम के गौरव ने कहा, 'टैक्नोलॉजी में हमारी गहरी दिलचस्पी के साथ ही आपसी समझ और एक-दूसरे के बीच सामंजस्य हमारी टीम की ताकत है, जिसने हमें शेल आइडियाज 360 ग्लोबल चैलेंज के फाइनल में पहुंचने में मदद की। इस स्तर तक पहुंचने पर हमें खुशी है और

आगे हमें अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ देने और प्रतियोगिता के विजेता बनकर उभरने के लिए प्रेरित किया है। हम अपने मेंटॉर्स और उन सभी लोगों को धन्यवाद देते हैं, जिन्होंने हमारा सहयोग किया और इस उपलब्धि को हासिल करना संभव बनाया।' इस उपलब्धि पर प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करते हुए शेल इंडिया के कंट्री हेड, एक्सटर्नल रिलेशंस श्री विकास मिश्रा ने कहा, 'शेल इंडिया के तौर पर आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों को फाइनल में जगह बनाने और भारत को गौरवान्वित करने के लिए हम उन्हें बधाई देते हैं। ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की अग्रणी

कंपनी होने के नाते हम ऐसे मंचों को विकसित करने की कोशिश करते हैं, जो दुनिया भर में टिकाऊ समाधानों के लिए इनोवेशन और रचनात्मकता को पोषित करता है। हम इस टीम को शुभकामना देते हैं और उम्मीद करते हैं कि वे आइडियाज 360 में विजेता बनकर उभरें तथा अपने विश्वविद्यालय और देश को गौरवान्वित करें।' प्रतियोगिता के अन्य फाइनलिस्ट्स अमेरिका, सिंगापुर और क्विटेन के हैं। विजेता टीम को नेशनल ज्योग्राफिक के संपूर्ण खर्च पर अभियान के लिए भेजा जाएगा।

IIT-K to confer honorary degree on Vishwanathan Anand

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/IIT-K-to-confer-honorary-degree-on-Vishwanathan-Anand/articleshow/52880740.cms>



Kanpur: The premier Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur will be conducting two separate convocation ceremonies for its postgraduate and undergraduate students this year. While postgraduate students will be receiving their degrees on June 27, the graduating students participate in convocation ceremony on June 28.

The attraction of the event will be the presence of the two known personalities of different fields. Degree of Doctor of Science (Honorary Causa) will be conferred upon Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao on June 27 and internationally acclaimed chess player Viswanathan Anand on June 28. The two personalities would be receiving the degrees in person, said registrar and senior professor of IIT Kanpur, Sudhir Mishra .

A total of 1803 students including 151 Phd students, 513 MTech students, 497 BTech students would be receiving degrees.

The most remarkable fact of this year's convocation ceremonies will be that 151 students will be receiving PHd degrees,

which is the highest number of the PHd degrees ever given by IITKanpur since its inception. Last year 105 students had received PHd degrees.

Mishra said that this number has been on an increase and this year highest number of 151 students would be receiving the PHd degrees which shows that there has been an increase in research activities at the institute.

Prof Mishra informed that while one student of computer science department will be receiving the coveted President's gold medal, two students will be receiving the Director's Gold Medal.

Prof Satish Tripathi, president, University at Buffalo of New York, US will be the chief guest on June 27 while on June 28 vice chairman of Niti Aayog Arvind Panagaria will be the chief guest.

The two would deliver the convocation address to the students.

IIT-K students get reprieve

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Three-IIT-Kanpur-students-get-reprieve-from-senate/articleshow/48080515.cms>

npur: The postgraduate and undergraduate students of IIT-K, who had been terminated a month ago, got a reprieve. Out of 26 students of PhD and MTech who had made a mercy appeal, 20 students have been reinstated. In the UG category, out of 58 students who had been terminated and made a mercy appeal, 48 have been reinstated.

IIT-K registrar Sudhir Mishra informed that 20 students in PG and 48 of UG have been reinstated.

He said that the students are terminated from their course only if they fail to perform and get a score below the standard CPI score. But if their appeal has a genuine reason as to why they could not perform in their exams, they are given another chance and reinstated.

The standard CPI score for PhD is 7.5 out of 10 for MTech. It is 6.5, for UG students the benchmark is a CPI score of 4.