

Newspaper Clips

June 25, 2013

Hindustan ND 25/06/2013 P-4

आईआईटी में 220 सीटों का इजाफा

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) ने 220 सीटों की बढ़ोतरी की है। बढ़ी हुई सीटों को इसी सत्र में शामिल किया जाएगा। सभी 16 संस्थानों को मिलाकर अब कुल 9,867 सीटें हो गई हैं। पहले 9,647 सीटें थीं।

जेईई एडवांस कमेटी के चेयरमैन

एच. सी गुप्ता ने सीटें बढ़ाने का मुख्य कारण जेईई एडवांस की परीक्षा में ज्यादा छात्रों के चयन को बताया है।

उन्होंने बताया कि जेईई मेन की परीक्षा में से शीर्ष डेढ़ लाख छात्रों को ही एडवांस की परीक्षा देने की अनुमति थी मगर करीब दो हजार छात्रों की मेरिट एक समान थी जिसके कारण उन्हें भी चुना गया। कुल 1,52,351 छात्रों ने परीक्षा

दी। बाद में एडवांस के परिणाम में तय संख्या से ज्यादा कुल 21,110 छात्र चुने गए।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक आर.के शेवगांवकर ने बताया कि जिन संस्थानों की सीटें बढ़ी हैं उनमें आईआईटी भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद, जोधपुर, गांधी नगर, पटना, धनबाद और वाराणसी शामिल हैं।

Business Line ND 25/06/2013 P-7

IIT Madras ready with tech specification to make Aakash 4

T.E. Raja Simhan

Chennai, June 24

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, is ready with the technical specification to manufacture Aakash 4, the ultra low-cost tablet personal computer for students.

Likely to be priced at \$50-\$60 (less than Rs 2,000), the Aakash 4 tablet will be an upgraded version of Aakash 2.

The project driven under the guidance of Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras, the Aakash 4 tablets will be based on open specification.

This means multiple vendors can manufacture the tablets unlike the Aakash 2, an



Bhaskar Ramamurthi,
Director, IIT Madras

Android-based tablet computer that was developed by the British company Datawind.

There was some confusion, but the Centre has finally decided to go ahead with Aakash 4. Around ten

vendors, including big players such as HP, Lenovo and Dell, have evinced interest in developing the low-cost tablets, said Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras.

"They [the vendors] have come to the conclusion that the specification that has been made here is good enough for use in education. Is it comparable to iPad, of course not. It is not a toy, but will be of use for the students. That's all I know," he told *Business Line*. The Government will issue the tender and the vendors need to bid to mass manufacture the product, he said.

The Aakash 4 tablets will be delivered through non-

commercial channels. This means, the Government will procure and sell to students directly. There will not be any financing cost or marketing cost, and no tax on the product. Students will pay only for the actual material cost. If the same unit is sold in the market, the cost will be easily doubled, he said.

Recently, Union IT and Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal clarified that the ultra low-cost Aakash tablet is "alive and kicking" and the Government was working on the third and fourth generation of the tablet. In fact, the Aakash project was his brainchild when he was the Minister for Human Resources Development.

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आईआईटी ने 220 सीटें बढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली (नेदु) । देश के प्रतिष्ठित आईआईटी संस्थानों में छात्रों के लिए खुशखबरी है । यहां विभिन्न आईआईटी संस्थानों में कुल 220 सीटों की बढ़ोतरी की गई है । बढ़ी हुई सीटों पर इसी सत्र से दाखिला मिलेगा । पहली बार जेईई एडवांस के रूप में आयोजित हुई परीक्षा में जेईई मेन के टाप 1,52,351 उम्मीदवार बैठे थे । इनमें से 21110 नरैंक प्राप्त की है । देशभर से 14,336 को काउंसलिंग के लिए शार्ट लिस्ट किया गया है । आईआईटी की कुल 9885 सीट के लिए सफलता प्राप्त किए 2110 उम्मीदवारों में से 18,718 लड़के व 2,392 लड़कियां शामिल हैं ।

जेईई एडवांस कमेटी के
चेयरमैन एचसी गुप्ता के मुताबिक
इस बार 220 सीटों का इजाफा
इसलिए किया गया है क्योंकि इस
बार जेईई मेन की कट आफ में
डेढ़ लाख से करीब दो हजार छात्र
अतिरिक्त उत्तीर्ण हुए ।

IIMs face an 'inflation' problem with CAT

Scorecards of more than 80 students altered; other B-schools say betrayal by IIMs; probes on

KALPANA PATHAK & VINAY UMARJI
Mumbai/Ahmedabad, 24 June

In a development that could have far-reaching implications on the credibility of the Common Admission Test (CAT), scorecards of more than 80 candidates who appeared for the exam have been tampered with.

CAT is used by the Indian Institutes of Management and other B-schools for admission.

IIM-Kozhikode (IIM-K), which convened CAT 2012, said it learnt about the tampering through a tip-

off. "Acting on the basis of a complaint, a comparison of CAT 2012 scores available on the website with the master database of the scores (those received from Prometric, which conducts the test) shows that scores of 80 examinees have been tampered/alterd, resulting in inflation of scores for these examinees." Only non-IIM schools using the score are likely to be affected.

CAT 2012 was held between October 11 and November 6. More than 160 B-schools accept CAT scores to admit students. Though

admissions are over at many B-schools, the process is on at a few.

IIM-K Director Debashis Chatterjee said a panel has been set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to look into the matter. "The incident has also been reported to the police, which is investigating." IIM-K had filed a First Information Report on June 15.

Some B-schools that accept CAT scores said they felt betrayed by the IIMs as they were not informed of the development immediately.

"IIMs were supposed to inform us," said Harivansh Chaturvedi,

Director, Birla Institute of Management and Technology (BIMTECH), Noida. "We trust CAT. It is not a run-of-the-mill examination. This is disappointing. IIMs should take responsibility for this goof-up. We are a member of CAT. We pay them lakhs (of rupees) every year to source students."

BIMTECH said it had admitted 10 students with the "inflated" scores, and had cancelled the admission of one so far. It admits 300 students using CAT scores every year.

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by M/s Web Weavers."

IIMs said given that they used the master database for shortlisting, the admission process has in no way been compromised in any of the IIMs. "Non-IIM institutes that have a formal relationship for the use of CAT scores are being alerted and scores from the master database are being provided to them. The IIMs are reviewing the process by which data are managed and published externally. The rest of the examinees' scores on the website, www.catiim.in, were found intact and matching with the master database received from Prometric," IIM-K added.

Publication of results on the site is being done by the third party for three years. S S S Kumar, CAT 2012 convenor and faculty member at IIM-K, said: "If we don't take any immediate action, the CAT image could take a hit."

IIM-K said timely alerts were sent to institutions using the CAT scores. IIMs are mapping the process of CAT scores from the time the institutes get these from Prometric till the scores are passed on to the non-IIM B-schools. "Once we received the scores from Prometric, we had put it up on the website, which is managed by a third-party vendor. It is on the website that the tampering happened. We are trying to find the gap between receiving of the scores and passing it on to non-IIM B-schools. We are, however, proactive and ready to help these institutes,

since we have nothing to hide," said Rohit Kapoor, the current convenor for CAT 2013 and a faculty member at IIM-Indore.

CAT 2013 will be held over 20 days between October 16 and November 11.

To ensure such an incident is not repeated in CAT 2013, the IIMs are also evaluating the option of managing the website on their own and gaining further control over the process. "The process is already strong, since we could detect the breach. While the investigation is on, we are providing original scores to the B-schools that we received from Prometric," Kapoor added.

IIM-K said in an emailed reply to this newspaper the external data management and associated systems are under thorough review and once the IIMs are through with the review process, a foolproof system will ensure such eventualities do not arise.

This is the second such case reported in the past two months. Last month, Mumbai-based Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies had unearthed a national-level MBA admission test racket, where 87 candidates had forged their identities to secure places on the final merit list for admission to various management programmes offered by it. The institute conducts its own admission test, NMIMS Management Aptitude Test.

According to Mumbai police officials, the accused candidates had spent ₹15 lakh to secure

admission and at least six individuals had impersonated for 87 or more students across the country.

IIMs face an...

IIM-K said the conduct and evaluation of test was entrusted with Prometric. "As per the practice in the previous years, the test results were published on the website, www.catiim.in, which is managed and hosted

Women to Outnumber Men at IIM-K in '15

Of the 361 students admitted this year, 54.29% are women – the first for any IIM

DEVINA SENGUPTA

BANGALORE

The Class of 2015 at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) will be unlike any other in any other premier B-School in the country — it will have more women than men.

Of the 361 students admitted this year, 54.29% are women, according to the institute. This is a first for any IIM. “This will help with our placements, with companies looking at hiring more women employ-

ees,” says Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM-K. “Besides, gender diversity brings in a different perspective to learning.”

Only 28% of students in IIM-K's last year batch were women.

The other IIMs too have admitted a larger pool of women this year, as ET reported (June 17), but none have managed to run the diversity score this high. The top three IIMs, namely Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta, have 20.8%, 26.8% and 23.2% women in their 2015 batch respectively, as

of June 17. The admission process in the country's top management schools was recently tweaked to ease gender inequality. IIM-K gave 5 extra points to a woman candidate for an interview call, after which all candidates were admitted on merit.

Many others like IIM Calcutta, Rohatak and Udaipur awarded extra marks to women candidates.

The number of women appearing for CAT has been climbing gradually. From 53,732 in 2010, it went up to 60,876 in 2012.



IIM-K gave 5 extra points to a woman candidate for interview call, after which all candidates were taken on merit

Gender parity rules in top B-schools

Chetna Mehra

Chennai, June 24

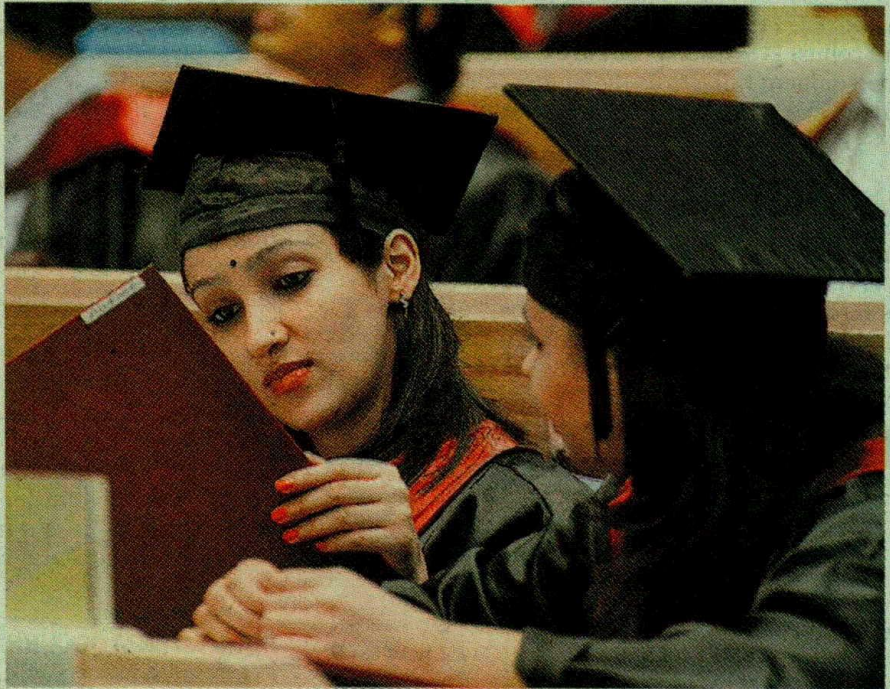
The top three IIMs have announced that they are increasing the intake of women students this year, but gender diversity is something other top-rung B-schools can boast of having had since much earlier.

Business schools such as the Indian School of Business (ISB), and Chennai's Great Lakes Institute of Management (GLIM) are not in the high league of the IIMs, but from their initial years these institutes have taken in a higher proportion of women students. Delhi University's Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) and XLRI, Jamshedpur have also experienced this diversity for a few years now.

Over the years, these B-schools have contributed powerful women business leaders to the world including Leena Nair, Global Senior Vice-President for leadership and organisation development at Unilever. 43-year-old Nair is an XLRI alumna, from the 1992 batch. FMS also boasts of popular alumnae. Neelam Dhawan, Managing Director of HP India, is one of them.

At ISB, women account for 25 per cent of the current batch. In 2013 it was 28 per cent. ISB has maintained the percentage of women students at 26-29 per cent for the past few years. "We encourage more women to apply to our full-time management programme during the admissions information sessions," says V. K. Menon, Senior Director of Careers, Admissions and Financial Aid at ISB. He adds that the institute doesn't have any special criteria for women and that there is a stringent and bias-free admissions process.

GLIM says gender diversity is important and the institute constantly strives to take more female students every year by making slight changes in the weightage. Though it refuses to divulge details, it says all factors being equal, girls are to be given preference. The percentage of women in GLIM's PGPM batch has dropped from 33 per cent last year to 25 per cent this year.



Over the years, B-schools have contributed powerful women business leaders to the world. — V. Sudershan

At FMS, the number of women in the 2013 batch was 53 out of 215. The number fell to 41 out of 219 students in 2014. The 2015 batch, however, can see an increase in the number of girls once again. The records show that the number of women admitted to business schools other than IIMs is not low the past few years. According to Madhu Vij, a senior faculty at FMS Delhi, the majority of CAT-top-percentile holders are male students and this could be the reason for fewer girls entering the IIMs.

FAMILY PRESSURES

Ravneet Bawa, an ISB student, who has almost 12 years of experience in the IT industry, and who stays on the school's Mohali campus with her one-year-old child, has a different take on the issue.

"Women, after a while, tend to divert attention from their careers owing to family commitments," says Bawa, who also heads ISB's Women in Business initiative. "With the help of our alumni, we at ISB are trying to

create a support system that allows women to get through the difficult times when they can keep that great job and climb up the leadership ladder," she adds.

The alumnae of the new Gurgaon-based School of Inspired Leadership endorse this view. "Soon after a career of three-and-a-half years, I realised my core strength was management and decided to write the GMAT," says Suchita, who is now working as consultant with TCS, Chennai. "In most cases a woman's career goes for a toss after she gets involved in her married life and kids, and I wanted to complete my post-graduation well before getting married."

About 38 per cent of the current batch in this school comprises women. Last year they made up 30 per cent.

The much-older XLRI Jamshedpur has maintained a better percentage of women over the years. The 2014 batch of XLRI's PGDBM batch has around 16 per cent of women students but for the HR course it's higher at 39 per cent.

50 Metro stations at high risk: UN study

'DMRC Ignored Disaster Threats During Planning'

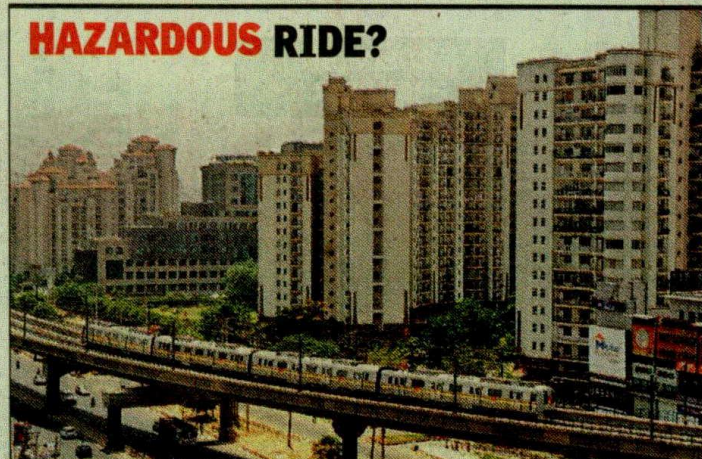
Pradeep Thakur | TNN

New Delhi: Lessons have not been learnt from past disasters, it seems. Delhi Metro, which ferries over two million passengers a day, is on a high-risk earthquake and flood zone and may lead to a huge loss of life in case of a disaster, says a recently released UN report on disaster risk reduction.

The Global Assessment Report (GAR), released by the United Nations office on disaster risk reduction, UNISDR, has also estimated the loss of revenue as over Rs 4,100 crore if a disaster had struck Delhi Metro in 2012. Despite awareness of earthquake and flood risk, much of the expansion of Delhi Metro has taken place in highly hazard-prone areas, the report adds.

"In terms of direct risks, more than 50 stations (phases I & II) are located in areas of high-earthquake hazard, exposing the line to earthquakes of up to a magnitude of 8 on the Richter scale," says the study, which was released on June 3 for the Asia-Pacific region. One of the stations was also built in a high-flood hazard area. In both cases, hazard information was available on municipal zoning maps, it says.

"As a result, the Metro line is exposed to high flood and earthquake risk even for short-return periods of one-10 years," according to the assessment. It cites case studies, saying considerations for site locations were not governed or even directed by reasons of disaster risk — these were a result of other political economy questions. "Although mea-



► Delhi and Gurgaon fall in Zone IV (high earthquake risk zone), 50 stations (phase I and II) fall under high-hazard category

► Special land use changes and building bylaw exceptions made in the case of DMRC which have increased exposure to hazards

► Shastri Park Metro station built on Yamuna flood plains (O zone), which is restricted for any kind of construction; yet exceptions were made

► Now, there is a further expansion planned around Shastri Park in the form of a theme park

asures may have been taken at the construction phase to address this risk, disaster risk reduction does not seem to play a role in the decisions at the time of planning," the study says.

The report was based on a comprehensive risk assessment study carried out through Bangalore-based Indian Institute for Human Settlements.

The study warns of mass casualties in case of foreigners, too, who are travelling to India as more than 3,00,000 passengers from over 60 countries of the world are expected to use the Airport line per day once it is running at full capacity. In all, "over two million passengers are travelling per day on the Delhi Metro, a number that is larger than the popula-

tion of about 100 countries in the world", it says.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation claims its structures have been constructed keeping in mind the topology of the area. Besides, "all elevated structures have certification under BIS-1893, IRC, IIT Kanpur-RDSO guidelines, the highest safety codes for any elevated structure. The underground structures follow Japanese guidelines," says a spokesperson.

The UN study, however, is not convinced. It says the direct risk to Metro stations and lines may have been reduced due to application of risk-sensitive building codes but this is not necessarily the case for new real estate developments surrounding the stations.

India counters US over patents

Says It Should Draw Upon Indian Experience To Check 'Undesirable Practices'

Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The government has taken on the United States, defending its intellectual property regime, and has gone to the extent of suggesting that Washington could draw from the Indian experience in checking frivolous patents.

Arguing that the Indian IPR regime is fully Trips-compliant, the commerce department has written to the US Trade Representative, saying that the "law encourages genuine innovation by discouraging trivial, frivolous innovation, which leads to evergreening". The letter, which sources said was sent last month, went on to suggest the US government could also consider strengthening its

WHO ARE ADOPTING INDIAN MODEL



- Argentina has issued guidelines to reject 'frivolous' patents
- Peru, Columbia, other South American countries have placed curbs
- The Philippines has similar provisions
- Australia is planning to make the law tougher, say officials

patent laws to discourage "undesirable practices".

In fact, the Indian Pharmaceuticals Alliance had also taken up the issue with the US Congress. Government officials said the Indian position was supported by a majority of countries and the US and EU were only repeat-

ing what Big Pharma wanted them to say.

The Indian patents law contains a special provision that prevents evergreening of a patent or granting fresh monopoly rights to companies that resort to minor tweaking in the composition of the medicine to gain ex-

clusive rights. The Supreme Court had held the validity of the provisions—section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act—that strengthens the government's argument.

In fact, several countries such as Argentina and the Philippines have incorporated similar provisions in their domestic laws. Officials said even Australia was contemplating the introduction of a similar clause, while Andean Community countries—Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador—rules out new use patents.

The statement from India comes in response to the USTR's criticism of the Supreme Court verdict turning down Novartis' patent plea for a cancer drug as well as the furore generated after the

patents office used provisions under the Indian law to waive Bayer's rights over a renal cancer medicine in favour of Natco, an Indian company, to significantly bring down the cost of the drug.

"Unless overturned, the decision could potentially compel innovators outside India—including those in sectors well beyond pharmaceuticals, such as green technology and information and communications technology—to manufacture in India in order to avoid being forced to license an invention to third parties," USTR's annual report on intellectual property rights (IPR) had said. TOI was the first to report it on May 2, when Indian officials had said that US was not painting a correct picture.

HT Mumbai



UK varsity course for engineers

UK's University of Sheffield's department of mechanical engineering has opened applications for its MSc in mechanical engineering and industrial management programme. The yearlong course is for those engineering students who are interested in pursuing a management career within the industry. The fee for the programme, which commences in September, is £16, 750 and the University guarantees a scholarship worth £2000. Deadline to apply is June 30. For details: www.shef.ac.uk.