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World quiz meet held at IIT Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: City played host to the World Quiz Championship (WQC) once again this year. On Saturday, some of the finest brains in the city furrowed their brows for three hours at IIT Delhi as the race to find the world's best quizzer began at 3pm. They were not alone, though; 2,000 people across 70 countries took the race together, and all at the same time.

This was the eighth time the world championship was hosted in the city; the first was in 2004. That was also the year when WQC ventured out of the UK.

This year's event had 415 takers in India; the highest turnout was in Delhi where 73 contestants vied for the top spot. Other major Indian cities wher e the contest was held included Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Calicut (Kozhikode), Kolkata and Guwahati.

Dr Anurakshat Gupta, the Asia director of International Quizzing Association – the organizing body of the contest – said the primary aim of hosting the tournament is to provide a platform where like-minded people all over the world can come together to do what they like doing the most – quizzing. "It's a niche sport. Our mission is to bring the championship to television and to have quiz recognized as a mind sport," he said.

WQC is a solo, written quiz. This year's test had questions under eight broad topics: history, media, sports & games, world, entertainment, lifestyle, culture and the sciences. There were 240 questions altogether.

Log on and give your opinion about IIT-JEE reforms

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NEW DELHI: Students, parents and all other stakeholders in India's vast higher education system can now go online and tell the government what they think about dramatic reforms to the country's engineering entrance examinations.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry and the department of science and technology (DST) have launched a first-of-its-kind opinion poll on the proposed reforms to tests, including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). The Centre is also using social networking site Facebook to popularise the online poll.

The Centre has proposed replacing the multiple entrance tests conducted by states, private engineering schools, and the IIT-JEE and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) with a single national testing scheme (NTS). Over 20 lakh students

SC: No disclosure of AIEEE answer keys

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to direct the CBSE to disclose answer keys of the questions of the AIEEE prior to declaration of results. A vacation bench headed by Justice BS Chauhan dismissed a petition filed by some students and instead asked them to make a representation to the board, which will consider their representation immediately.

The court was not impressed with students' counsel Somesh Arora argued that like IIT-JEE, the answer sheets of AIEEE should be declared prior to declaration of results. **HTC**

annually appear for about 20 engineering entrance tests to take the multiple examinations.

But the proposal to replace

CENTRE IS ALSO USING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE FACEBOOK TO POPULARISE THE ONLINE POLL

tests like the IIT-JEE has faced criticism from sections within the country's academic community. The poll, sources said, is aimed at accomplishing two goals. "We believe that while sections may support multiple tests, the majority will support the initiative to save students the trouble of having to sit for repeated entrance tests. The opinion poll will help us establish that support, and make the task of pushing the NTS easier," a source explained.

This mass support — which the government is confident it will garner — will also help it counter opposition likely from some states that run their own entrance tests, the sources said.

The online poll will also help the Centre to get suggestions of people across the country and even abroad on reforms.

Hindu ND. 05.06.11,P-4

IIT students' initiative for Burmese refugees

Urvashi Sarkar

NEW DELHI: Taking cognizance of the plight of Burmese refugees living in the Capital, the student chapter of "Students in Free Enterprise" (SIFE) at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has been working with the community since November 2010.

SIFE IIT-Delhi president Abhishek Jain says: "The refugees first started coming to India in the 1960s. The population went on increasing steadily and currently stands at about 9,000."

Living in small neighbourhoods of Vikaspuri and Janakpuri in West Delhi, Abhishek states that the people's status as refugees has robbed them of economic and political rights resulting in abysmal living conditions.

"Since India has not signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, the Government is not obligated to protect them as such. These refugees cannot work in the organised sector, have no resident or work permits and suffer a great deal on counts of health and education," he adds.

The women refugees earn their living by stitching and weaving using traditional handlooms. However, the sale of their products is limited to friends and family. SIFE is trying to help these women sustain their income by facilitating a larger market for their goods and has also collaborated with Dastkar.

The men work in small fac-

tories, workshops or as cooks in roadside dhabas. Some children attend government schools on support by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees allowances. However, since they do not know Hindu or English, the experience at school further marginalises them.

Speaking about local resentment against the community, Abhishek says: "They did not come here seeking opportunities. They are political refugees escaping persecution in their home country."

The aim of the student organisation is to "help the Burmese refugees feel respectable in a foreign land, free from unnecessary hostility and discrimination and to provide them with some opportunity for decent sustenance". Supporting it, college outreach programmes and health camps have been organised. A placement cell has also been established.

Hyderabad 16-yr-old youngest to top IIT-JEE creme-de-la-creme

Mumbai: Like the past six years,IIT-Bombay zone,home to Kota,will send the largest pool of students to the Indian Institutes of Technology.Top honours,however,went to the southern zone that produced possibly the youngest-ever rank 1 16-year-old Prudhvitej Immadi of Hyderabad and bagged four other slots in the top 10.

Of the seven zones (sliced on the basis of the old IITs),the western region saw the highest number of students qualify 3,336.IIT-Madras zone will send 3,126 candidates to the 15 tech schools.Delhi zone took third place with 2,138 successful candidates,with Dravyansh Sharma of DPS Ghaziabad ranking seventh overall.

STRIKE RATES

IIT Zone	Success %
Bombay*	4.04
Madras	4.97
Delhi	3.13
Kharagpur	2.60
Roorkee	2.11
Kanpur	2.02
Guwahati	1.06

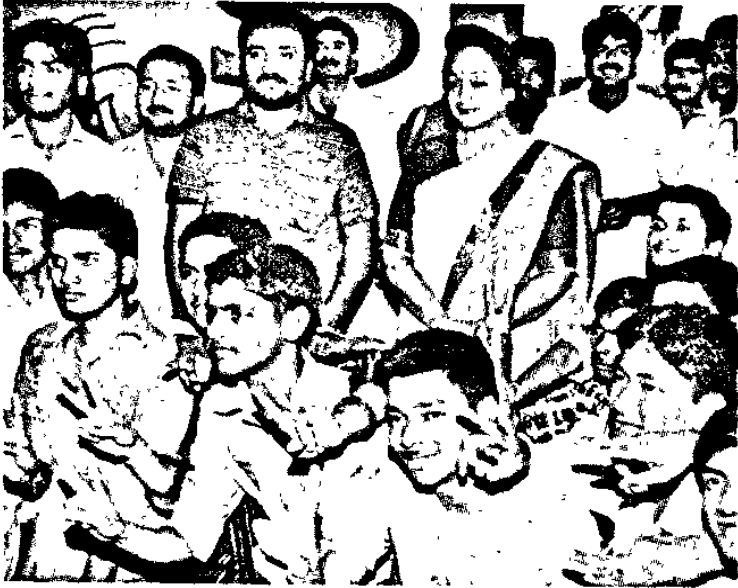Source: JEE cell, IIT

% of students who took the exam & qualified

*IIT-Bombay zone comprises Mumbai (481 out of 8,325) & Jaipur, including Kota (1,508 out of 39,483)

24 from 'Super 30' crack JEE | P 18

SONU KISHAN

Meira Kumar with Anand Kumar and Super-30 students.

Meira the motivator

LOK SABHA Speaker Meira Kumar chose a novel way to celebrate her two years in office. She travelled all the way to her home state Bihar to interact with the batch of successful underprivileged students from the coaching institute known as Super 30.

A majority of students from the institute have made it to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) this year.

Meira arrived at the coaching institute run by young mathematician Anand Kumar on Friday evening and interacted with its 24 students who have cracked the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) this year.

"I complete two years as the Lok Sabha Speaker today," she said. "There could not have been a better way of celebrating it."

Meira said that it was a

By **Giridhar Jha**
In Patna

very happy moment for her. "I had been trying to come here to congratulate the Super 30 students ever since the results (of IIT-JEE) were declared," she said.

The first woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha praised Anand for his selfless service to society. "I have great appreciation for your work," she said.

She said it was extraordinary that poor students had been cracking one of the toughest examinations earlier considered the preserve of the elite.

Meira, in fact, wanted to contribute to the cause being championed by Super 30 from her MP local area development fund but could not do so because Anand did not accept any financial contribution from anybody.

"Anand modestly told me that he does not take donations from anyone," she said. "I respect his feelings. My good wishes are with him," she said.

e-paper

Ecology priority, varsities take green pl

JNU & Jamia Promote Bicycles, DTU Makes 33% Power On Campus

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Harnessing natural resources and safeguarding the ecology seems to have become a priority for most universities in the national capital region.

If Jamia Millia Islamia is turning its reclaimed land into a green patch, JNU students have taken it upon themselves to reduce carbon emission and promote cycling on the campus. While TERI University prides itself to be the first green campus in the city because of its innovation in cooling the classrooms and the hostel naturally, Delhi Technological University (DTU), too, started green initiatives like generating 33% of energy from alternative sources developed on the campus.

The relatively new NIIT University (NU), Neemrana, is also not falling behind. In its pedestrian-only, 100-acre, fully residential campus in the foothills of the Aravalli is built to minimizes its carbon footprint through earth-air tunnels.

Bharat Bhusan, a horticulturist who is responsible for greening Jamia's 'wild area' near the Ansari Auditorium complex and the engineering faculty, said this nearly 20-acre land was under threat because of encroachment. "After reclaiming the land, we have planted over 1,500 trees and made pathways. We have tried to restore the natural flora and fauna since June 2010 and we are witnessing the results as some of the migratory birds have returned this year," he said Bhusan.

The students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have joined hands to make the campus eco-friendly and are envisaging the university premises as a role model for other campuses in future. The JNU community chose its foundation day to take the 'green pledge' last year.

The president of JNU's Mahi Mandvi hostel, Fakhruddin Ansari, said: "Of late, there has been a lot of deforestation and we have seen a significant rise in the number of vehicles inside the campus. On November 14, 2010, we launched the eco-club of the university. Our aim is to reduce carbon emission on the campus, shifting from use of two and four wheelers to bicycles and expanding the usage of solar energy."

But it was the TERI University which added a new chapter to the concept of 'green campus' in 2009 when it opened its new premises at Vasant Kunj. According to Rajiv Seth, registrar of the university, its main features include passive solar design, unique energy efficient cooling system and water and waste management system that "would help reduce 40% energy consumption as compared to a similar structure built on the conventional lines".

The cooling systems have three features — variable refrigerant volume (VRV) system, earth air tunnel (EAT) and thermal storage. The EAT system is primarily for the hostel. Through this system, the temperature of hostel rooms can be maintained within 27 degrees Celsius during summer and around 19 to 24 degrees Celsius during winter.

Another campus which is planning big in terms of going green is DTU. According to the revisited master plan, this 164-acre campus will be out of bounds to all vehicles, one-third of the energy it uses will be generated from alternative sources developed on the campus by 2014-15. All this and more will cost Rs 200 crore.

DTU vice-chancellor P B Sharma said: "To generate 33% of the energy, we shall establish a 1.1MW solar power electricity generation facility within the campus by 2011. To become self-reliant for water resources, the university has recently installed a waste water recycling plant to treat waste water and make it reusable. The plant has the capacity to treat 20,000 litres of sewage water."

At the dry region of Neemrana, the NU campus is designed to integrate with nature. The university aims at minimizing its carbon footprint through earth-air tunnels. It also has rainwater harvesting facilities and a water recycling system which is 97% efficient, thereby making the campus self sufficient.

"The natural lay of the land has been retained by adapting structures to the surface contours. This significantly reduces the impact of construction on local geology. Blasting in surrounding ranges of Aravalli and illegal mining of rocks, earlier a rampant practice, has now been successfully curbed through a positive collaboration with local people," said Rajendra Pawar, founder, NU.

NU has also started its own nursery, which is now home to the 'Jaal Pilu' tree a native plant which has got rare in the region.

Rajesh Mehta

INTEGRATING WITH NATURE: Jamia Millia Islamia is turning its reclaimed land into a green patch. NIIT university in Neemrana (below) is minimizing its carbon footprint through earth-air tunnels. It also has rainwater harvesting and water recycling facilities