

# Newspaper Clips

June 6, 2011

Statesman ND 06.06.2011 p-8

## **Quality of IITs & IIMs**

SIR, — The recent remark of Jairam Ramesh, Union minister for environment and forests, on the quality of teachers and research output at IITs and IIMs was most unfortunate. He cannot be unaware of the conditions, challenges, constraints and limitations these institutes have to face. As an academic associated with one of these institutes for more than two decades, I would like to highlight certain issues.

The minister should have offered his suggestions to improve the quality of teaching at IITs and IIMs, if he thinks it is not satisfactory. He ought not to have generalised while commenting on the standard of research.

The performance of the majority of faculty members has been excellent given the odds. The number of students is increasing and the infrastructure is poor. Even so, the standard of these institutions has generally been deemed as "world class".

The minister may, however, be right when he states that the research output of IITs and IIMs is poor. There is no denying the absence of original research in engineering, technology or management. Being an IIT alumnus, it would have been prudent on the part of Mr Ramesh to examine the reasons for the shortcomings of research. There is hardly any reward for quality research. Laboratories lack 'state-of-the-art' facilities. Functioning is hamstrung by a bureaucratic mindset.

There is a tendency to blindly emulate western research practices. There is no attempt by the corporate sector to bridge the gap between industry and academia. Meritorious students pursue lucrative careers in corporate enterprises.

The ministries of science and technology and HRD should jointly make an effort to set things right.

yours, etc., **pradip kumar ray, iit kharagpur, 31 may.**

# After JEE, now clear Eng test to study at IIT-B

## Those Who Fail Will Have To Undergo A Full-Time, Semester-Long Bridge Course

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

**Mumbai:** Cracking the gruelling Joint Entrance Exam is not enough, it seems. For engineering aspirants who head to the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay will now have to take a test in English proficiency even before first semester classes begin. But that's not all. Those who fail to clear the test will have to undergo a full-time, semester-long bridge course. This, in turn, will push

back their dreams of graduating from the tech school by six months.

This is the first time that an IIT will test students' knowledge of English on the lines of American and European universities. "It has been our experience that some JEE entrants have such a severe deficiency in English that their academic performance suffers in the first semester. This affects their confidence during their subsequent academic ca-



ANOTHER HURDLE TO CROSS

reer at the institute," said an official communication.

Officials at IIT-B said the test would be elementary in nature and students were not required to take additional coaching for it. Students who score less than 20% in the test and have a total JEE score of less than or equal to 150 will have to undergo the bridge course. "We will put them through an intensive preparatory course in English, physics, chemistry and maths," said an IIT-B

faculty member.

It is only after the end of this six-month course that regular engineering classes will begin for them. So, while one set of students will enter the last leg of their first year, another batch will start its engineering lectures only after the bridge course. "Such students will not be allowed to simultaneously register for advanced courses in physics, chemistry or mathematics until they pass the bridge course," said the note.

Times of India ND 6/06/2011

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# AIEEE results out, online choice open till June 27

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** CBSE declared the result for All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE) on Sunday. This year, 11.14 lakh students had registered for the test while 10.5 lakh students finally appeared for it.

General category students with at least 48 marks are eligible to fill in choices for online counselling for BE/BTech and BArch/B Planning to be conducted by the Board.

NSIT, under the faculty of technology, University of Delhi, will admit students for full-time BE programmes on the basis of merit rank in AIEEE.

NSIT offers BE courses in various dis-

ciplines, including electronics and communication engineering, computer engineering, instrumentation and control engineering, manufacturing processes and automation engineering, information technology and biotechnology. The combined intake of these programmes is 619 and 85% of seats are reserved for candidates belonging to Delhi

Aspirants can apply online on [www.nsit.nic.in](http://www.nsit.nic.in) for counselling. It is mandatory for a candidate to deposit one-time, non-refundable processing fee of Rs 1,000 by June 15, 2011, to access the online registration. The last date for submission of online choice is June 27.

NSIT helpline: 011-25099036, 25099043

HINDU ND 6/06/2011 P-5

# Students from Andhra shine in AIEEE too

## IIT-JEE toppers come out with flying colours

Special Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** Four students from the State figured in the top 12 ranks of the country in the B.Tech category of AIEEE-2011, the results of which were released here on Sunday, and all the four students belong to Sri Chaitanya group of institutions. However, the State top ranks in the BC and ST categories were bagged by students of Narayana group of institutions.

The toppers in the open category include J. Varun, who secured the 5<sup>th</sup> rank; I. Prudhvi Tej (7<sup>th</sup> rank), Bhargav Reddy (9<sup>th</sup>) and B. Surender Reddy (12<sup>th</sup> rank). Interestingly, Prudhvi Tej was the all India IIT-JEE topper, while Varun and Bhargav Reddy were also in the top 10. The visibly excited toppers said they would prefer the IITs and that too IIT Bombay. Interestingly, all the three are classmates and lived in the same hostel in Sri Chaitanya College in Vijayawada. Prudhvi wants to get into Civil Services, while Varun and Bhargav want to concentrate

on IIT education as of now.

### State in top league

The Sri Chantanya group chairman, B.S. Rao, and the academic director Sushmasri, who felicitated the toppers, said that 10 students from their institutions got ranks within 100 in the open category, an achievement that puts the State in the top league in the country. At the same time, six rankers in the State from the top 10 come from their institutions. The rankers include M.S.R.K. Teja (33<sup>rd</sup>), P. Pradeer Varma (46), P. Anurag Reddy (64), N. Venkatesh (74), P. Manish (84) and T. Sri Meghana (85). In the B.Arch category, all India second rank was bagged by Prudhvi Tej, while S. Vijay bagged 3<sup>rd</sup> rank, Tarun Kumar Reddy bagged 5<sup>th</sup> and J. Varun bagged 9<sup>th</sup> rank.

Students of Narayana group bagged top ranks in the reserved categories. Ramakrishna Banoth, who was the All India topper in the ST category in IIT-JEE, secured all India 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in AIEEE. Rajeev Kumar and Pranav

Chandra Jujavarapu got all India 4<sup>th</sup> ranks in ST and SC categories, respectively.

Jadhav Shiva Kumar and Pranay Gorantla bagged all India first rank in the ST and OBC categories in the B.Arch category.

The Narayana Group Chairman, P. Narayana, said that among the 100 toppers in open category in the State 61 are from their institutions. He said the toppers in the reserved categories reflect the academic guidance provided to the students coming from poor economic and social backgrounds.

Bhashyam Educational Institutions said that among the 86 candidates who appeared from their group 11 figured in the top 100 of various categories in the B.Tech division. The NRI Academy said that 16 students from their group secured ranks in top 100 in various categories and this achievement was in the third year of its establishment.

The Delta Academy said that 55 of their students among 123 appeared got seat-getting ranks.

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# IIFT to set up institute in Uganda

**Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN**

**New Delhi:** The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, has been made the nodal agency for setting up India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade (IAIFT) in Uganda. IIFT will help establish the B-school in Kampala under the Indo-Africa Summit Declaration at a cost of about Rs 70 crore.

According to K T Chacko, director, IIFT, "We will help set up and run the institute for the first five years. IIFT will help in providing faculty, teaching, management development programmes and research before handing it over to the local authorities. The brick and mortar structure will be built by the government of Uganda."

As part of India's contribution to knowledge building in Africa, it has committed to help the African Union in setting up institutions to boost Africa's human resources and their professional skills.

Business Standard ND 6/06/2011 P-1

# Soon, study a lesson prepared by the Tatas

## Group to enter education, invest ₹100 cr to begin with

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA  
Mumbai, 5 June

**T**he Tata group is making an aggressive foray into education, which it has identified as one of the six areas for future growth.

The other areas are business support services, an unmanned vehicle project, project management in the defence sector, logistics and producing advanced materials for aerospace and medical sectors.

The education foray is led by Tata Industries, which is providing the necessary software, hardware and electronics equipment, besides connectivity to schools.

The group is looking to invest over ₹100 crore to begin with. It has already tied up with 40-50 schools. According to the plan, standardised education content will be loaded on a central server from which it will be delivered to schools.

At first, the curriculum will cover classes five to twelve and also offer content to improve the skills of teachers. The company will also look at tying up with government schools to deliver digital lectures.

Tata Industries will also provide schools the flexibility of choosing

subjects and offer packages which may include all subjects, a group of subjects or even one subject.

"The model does not replace the teacher in the class but complements him. Also, due to differences in the quality of teachers, a standardised content will help even teachers augment skills," said a person close to the project.

**ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, standardised digital education content will be loaded on a central server from which it will be delivered to schools**

Tata Industries is clear that it will not set up schools. Company sources say the project will make money, though it may not give huge returns.

The Tatas will be joining companies such as Educomp which are foraying into the space. Educomp runs both digital and physical schools and Extramarks.com. HDFC is looking at small towns to either set up schools or take over defunct boarding schools.

Industry experts expect penetration of smart classes among private schools to rise from 8 per cent at present to 12 per

cent by the end of 2012.

Tata Industries is also leading a move into business support services, which will go beyond call centres. People in the company say these will include services for media companies and for motor and third-party insurance administration. The company is already providing telecommunications support to Tata Sky and is looking for work the insurance sector regulator insists should be undertaken by a third party.

The Tatas have already funded an unmanned vehicle of some former students. The product could be used in surveillance and disaster management. Sources say the idea is to support a new concept.

The group has also made a foray into defence project management for providing technology and software to companies supplying defence equipment. Under the rules, foreign companies that get defence orders have to buy 30 per cent inputs (in value terms) from India. The group plans to benefit from this.

"We are not going to position ourselves as buying agents but take responsibility of delivering what is required," said a source.

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# DU to kick off student study trips; Australia, China on list

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: After young faculty, meritorious students in Delhi University may just get an opportunity to go abroad in the new session. DU has decided to send three batches of 25 students each for study tours to Australia and China, and a three-city trip to Colombo, Dhaka and Kathmandu this October.

The university will conduct a selection process after the students resume classes in July. Most of these students selected from DU colleges are likely to be from the economically weaker section.

"We have decided to send our second- and third-year students abroad for study tours from October 1 to 15. We are already in talks with the concerned people and I am also going to write to the ministry of

external affairs and the embassies of these countries," said DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh.

Prof Singh added: "This programme is for undergraduate students only. They will be selected for it through a transparent selection process."

The students will have to write a 100-200-word-long piece on why they should get this opportunity or how will it help them

grow. "Their result of first year will also be taken into account. We want to give this exposure to those students who otherwise can't afford such a chance," he said.

DU is already in talks with the Australia-India Institute in Melbourne for hosting the first batch of students going from DU. While there, the students will also sit through a few lectures on Gandhi by an Australian professor: "Students will not have to pay anything for this tour. The cost will be partly borne by us and partly by the institute," Singh said. He further said he

was also trying to invite students from European countries to come to the university in December.

"We already have had such programmes for the faculty but now we want to provide such opportunities to our students. We should start the selection process as soon as they get

back to colleges in the new session," Singh said.

DU had earlier sent its young faculty members to European universities to pursue one-year master programmes in emerging disciplines so that they could come back and add value to the existing courses in the university. At least two batches of teachers have already gone abroad for this programme.

"We have had such programmes for the faculty but now we want to provide such opportunities to our students," VC said

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## WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), University of Calcutta and University of Mumbai featured in the 'QS World University Rankings' for arts & humanities. JNU was included in the top 100 in English literature and language while University of Delhi with the University of Calcutta and University of Mumbai, were in the top 200. The inclusion puts the spotlight on humanities, and away from the traditionally perceived excellence of the technological subjects.

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## UK top profs set up new univ to rival Oxbridge

London: A group of prominent British academics said on Sunday they are starting a private liberal arts university in London to rival the country's elite institutions in Oxford and Cambridge.

The New College of the Humanities will be led by AC Grayling, a renowned philosophy professor, and the faculty will include Richard Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist and successful author; economics professor Niall Ferguson, and other prominent educators.

Grayling said the new college is needed because of substantial cuts mandated by the British government that will reduce the teaching of the humanities and social sciences throughout the British higher educational system.

"The provision of the humanities — history, philosophy, literature — is shrinking," he said. "It has an intrinsic value, but also the UK economy is a service economy and these graduates go into law, journalism, government. It's a resource for this wide range of endeavours."

The new college will be a small institution boasting at least one teacher for every 10 students and offering one-to-one tutorials and extensive contact between teachers and students. Grayling said this type of teaching standard is difficult to maintain, even for Oxford and Cambridge. **AP**

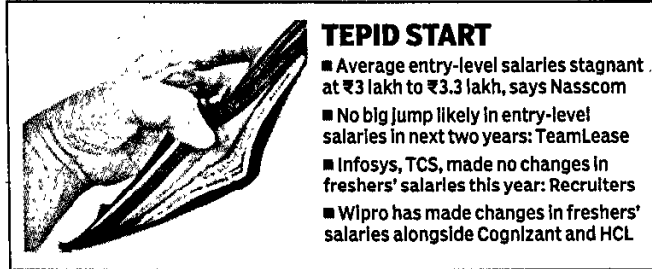
# Entry-level salaries in IT lose charm

■ Pay stagnant for last 3 years on rising training costs, pressure to maintain cost edge

Shreya Roy & Debojyoti Ghosh  
Bangalore, Jun 5

**T**HE entry-level salary that attracted many freshers to the Indian information technology sector has been stagnant for the last three years despite the industry scaling up the value chain in the global market. While fresh hiring in IT is likely to go up 12% year-on-year this fiscal, fresher salaries have remained constant, thanks to a demand-supply imbalance, increasing training costs and pressures to keep the Indian cost advantage going.

Som Mittal, president of IT trade body Nasscom says, "Entry-level salaries have remained the same for the past two to three years. On an average, freshers' salaries have stayed



## TEPID START

- Average entry-level salaries stagnant at ₹3 lakh to ₹3.3 lakh, says Nasscom
- No big jump likely in entry-level salaries in next two years: TeamLease
- Infosys, TCS, made no changes in freshers' salaries this year: Recruiters
- Wipro has made changes in freshers' salaries alongside Cognizant and HCL

at the level of ₹3 lakh to ₹3.3 lakh, and most companies have not revised it."

Infosys, which plans to make 26,000 campus offers in FY 12, has not made any changes in entry-level salaries in the past two years. It has maintained its policy of offering ₹2.75 lakh to freshers, which is normally hiked to ₹3.2 lakh upon confir-

mation. TCS, the country's largest IT recruiter, has also not increased base-level salaries, say staffing firms. Of its guided 60,000 intake this fiscal, TCS planned to make 37,000 campus offers.

While hiring in large numbers, companies pick up a major portion of graduates from tier-II and tier-III

colleges. These recruits are often said to be unemployable and not job-ready and large sums of money are spent on their training. This is one of the key factors keeping entry-level salaries down.

"Freshers' salaries have not gone up because they are already expensive. In addition to their salaries, we spend an average of ₹2 lakh per year, per head on training. Freshers normally take six months for the initial training, and then take a year's time to learn on the job, which is a lot of expense in terms of man hours," says Nandita Gurjar, senior vice-president and global head, HR, Infosys. "Besides, there is a very large supply of freshers in the market for IT today," she adds.

■ Continued on Page 2

## Entry-level pay in IT cos...

Bulk hiring in itself is an expensive procedure, and recruiters feel that for IT services companies, whose business model has revolved around low cost, volume-driven manpower at the entry level, higher fresher salaries will be damaging on margins. "Companies are absorbing large numbers of graduates in BSc computer science, BCA, MCA and MBA."

But such bulk recruitment is expensive. Companies are trying to keep overall costs under control by maintaining steady salary levels, without which, they will lose the edge," says Aditya Narayana Mishra, president (staffing), Ma Foi Randstad. However, staffing companies say that Wipro—which plans to change its 60:40 ratio of freshers and laterals to 70:30 has made some changes in freshers' salaries, alongside Cognizant and HCL. "We have seen companies offering 10 to 12% higher salaries compared to previous years, with average salaries in the ₹22,000 to ₹25,000 per month range. Although this is a positive trend, the hikes are nominal, and freshers salaries are not expected to increase drastically in the next two years," says Sangeeta Lala, vice president, sourcing, of staffing company TeamLease.



# आईआईटी कानपुर को मिला 36वां स्थान

**कल्पना पाठक व विनय उमरजी**

एशिया के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों के मामले में भाषायी अवरोधों के बावजूद चीन के विश्वविद्यालय भारतीय संस्थाओं से बेहतर हैं। हाल में जारी क्यूएस एशियन यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग 2011 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 6 चीनी विश्वविद्यालयों को शीर्ष 30 विश्वविद्यालयों में जगह मिली है जबकि भारतीय संस्थानों में आईआईटी कानपुर सबसे आगे है जिसे इस सूची में 36वें स्थान पर जगह मिली है।

क्यू एस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग के संपादक और सलाहकार मंडल के प्रमुख मार्टिन इंक ने कहा, 'भारतीय अंग्रेजी का उपयोग आसानी से करते हैं, इसके बावजूद चीनियों का प्रभुत्व है। चीन भी अब इस पर काम कर रहा है।'

इंक के अनुसार भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षकों की संख्या बहुत कम है। इसीलिए यहां स्तरीय छात्र-शिक्षक अनुपात भी बहुत अच्छा नहीं है। 'भारत से आने वाले उच्च स्तर के शोध पत्रों की संख्या भी बहुत कम है इसलिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षक और छात्र यहां नहीं आना चाहते हैं। भारत में इस क्षेत्र में बहुत अधिक काम और निवेश की गुंजाइश अभी बनी हुई है।' इंक की यह बात हाल में केंद्रीय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्री

जयराम रमेश की हाल ही में कही गई बात से अलग नहीं है। रमेश ने हाल में कहा था, 'आईआईटी और आईआईएम की प्रतिष्ठा विश्वस्तरीय छात्रों की वजह से है, न कि विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षकों की वजह से।'

क्यू एस एशियन यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग 2011 में 7 भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में से 5 ने अपने पिछले प्रदर्शन में सुधार किया है।

**क्यूएस एशियन  
यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग  
2011 की रिपोर्ट में  
विश्व के शीर्ष 30  
विश्वविद्यालयों में से 6  
चीनी विश्वविद्यालयों  
को जगह मिली है  
जबकि इसमें भारत  
को जगह नहीं मिली है**

आईआईटी कानपुर के निदेशक एसजी धांडे ने कहा, 'हम इस बात को अच्छी तरह जानते हैं कि हमें अपने शोध पारिस्थितिकीतंत्र में सुधार के लिए अधिक निवेश की जरूरत है ताकि हम अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर

प्रतिस्पर्धा कर सकें। शीर्ष स्तर पर भी एक शोध परिषद की जरूरत है, इसके लिए हम मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से बातचीत कर रहे हैं। लेकिन हम यह भी जानते हैं कि कई बाधाओं के बावजूद हम सही दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।'

आईआईटी बंबई ने भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय में अपना शीर्ष स्थान गंवा दिया है और यह 2 स्थान फिसलकर 38 वें स्थान पर आ गया है वहीं आईआईटी दिल्ली इस साल 2 स्थान उछलकर 37वें स्थान पर काबिज हो गया है, 2010 में आईआईटी दिल्ली 39वें स्थान पर था। आईआईटी मद्रास और आईआईटी खड़गपुर पहली बार शीर्ष 50 की सूची में शामिल हुए हैं।