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JEE-Main to be single test for engg colleges?

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is contemplating making JEE-Main the single entrance test for undergraduate engineering courses, reports **Pavan MV**. At present, the CBSE conducts JEE-Main for admissions to IITs, NITs, IIITs and other centrally funded institutes.

AICTE chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe said: "We are planning to make JEE-Main the single entrance test. Different states are following different syllabi; so having a single entrance test for engineering is still in the planning stage." **P 15**

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NEET-like single entrance test for engineering likely

Ministry Also Plans To Raise 20 Schools To Global Standard

Pavan.MV@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Engineering colleges across the country may go the NEET way. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which governs engineering colleges, is contemplating making JEE-Main the single entrance test for undergraduate BE courses.

At present, the Central Board of Secondary Education conducts JEE-Main for admissions to the premier IITs, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Information Technology and other centrally funded institutes.

AICTE chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe told **TOI** on Tuesday some states are currently using JEE-Main as the entrance test to fill engineering seats in state colleges. "We are planning to make

At present, the Central Board of Secondary Education conducts JEE-Main for admissions to the premier IITs, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Information Technology and other centrally funded institutes

JEE-Main the single entrance test in the country. JEE-Main is based on the CBSE syllabus and different states are following different syllabi; so having a single entrance test for engineering is still in the planning stage."

Like medical admissions, students end up writing multiple entrance tests for engineering courses too. Students in Karnataka write at least

four entrance tests — CET, ComedK, JEE and entrance to various deemed universities.

Sahasrabudhe said AICTE panel will visit engineering colleges with a lack of infrastructure, low student strength, lack of faculty and equipment. If flaws are found, such colleges will be shut down.

"Some colleges approach us to shut due to poor student strength; we have eased this

process also. Earlier, we were collecting Rs 3 lakh to approve closure of such colleges, now it's cut to Rs 50,000. As per the new rule, the intake capacity of seats in engineering colleges, which don't have accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), will not be increased, and AICTE will increase the intake capacity of engineering colleges which have NBA accreditation," he said.

At present, 15% of colleges have NBA accreditation.

Since not a single Indian engineering institute is among the top 100 institutes in the world, the HRD ministry has taken up a new initiative. Sahasrabudhe said the MHRD will identify 10 good private institutes and 10 government institutes, and provide funds and give freedom to improve aspects to become one among the top 100 institutes globally.

Quicker, more accurate monsoon predictions soon

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

There are active phases of rain followed by breaks. This would enable predictions of the subseasonal changes as well SN TRIPATHI, co principal investigator of the project from IIT K

LUCKNOW: How about getting rain forecasts a few weeks or a month in advance? Early and accurate monsoon predictions may soon be reality. An experiment is underway jointly by India and the United Kingdom to improve the skill of rainfall prediction. The experiment is being carried out by several institutions, of which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur is also a partner. SN Tripathi, co principal investigator of the project from IIT Kanpur and incharge of the observational super site at Kanpur said , "There are currently a lot of uncertainties in weather and climate models, particularly when it comes to rainfall prediction. For instance, most climate models cannot predict the decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall over India for the past 50 years. Relationship of monsoon rainfall with several land forcing variables like surface energy budget, soil moisture and aerosol are still not clear in the Indian scenario. These experiments will create a database of all

relevant landatmospheric parameters, which can be used to systematically study these interactions and improve monsoon predictions in future." He said the experiment was being performed to improve the skill of rainfall prediction in operational weather and climate models by way of better understanding and representation of interactions between the land surface, boundary layer, convection, largescale environment and the monsoon. "There are active phases of rain followed by breaks. This would enable predictions of the subseasonal changes as well," said Tripathi. Several sites have been set up as part of this project to continuously monitor relevant atmospheric parameters. Of these, Kanpur is the super site, housing a lot of instruments . "Land to atmosphere energy and carbon fluxes are being measured by an eddy covariance flux tower at IIT Kanpur. Simultaneously, Lidarbased vertical measurements of aerosol, cloud and wind along with surface measurements of aerosol physical, optical and microphyscical properties are also being made at the institute. This site will provide support to the intermittent aircraft measurements over the IndoGangetic plains. In conjunction, radiosondes will be launched from IIT K later this month to understand the vertical profile of the atmosphere," said Tripathi. The experiment started in May. However, many of the instruments used in this project have been operational since several months. The flux tower was set up in September 2015, while the ceilometer was set up in November 2015.

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

THE SUN PEDAL RUN

Ex-IITian riding solar powered bicycle through six states

Sondeep Singh Sandhu
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

BATHINDA: After graduating from IIT Mumbai in 2013 and working for a private firm thereafter, Sushil Reddy was set for life. But he had some other plans in his mind. Concerned over global climate change, Sushil, hailing from drought-ridden-Maharashtra, left his job this year and started putting his education gained in IIT to practical use.

This is when Sushil, who has earned integrated master's degree in solar energy science and engineering from one of India's premier most engineering institute, began designing a solar energy powered electric bicycle and decided to ride six states with it and spread the awareness on solar energy. On Tuesday, this 27-year-old lad reached Bathinda after entering Abohar in Punjab on Monday from Rajasthan's Ganganagar. From Punjab, he would go to Uttarakhand, then Delhi and from there, to

■ Sushil Reddy on his solar bicycle in Bathinda on Tuesday.

SANJEEV KUMAR/HT.

Mumbai via Rajasthan. On this mission, he is not alone. Accompanied by three friends- Rajinder Bhaskar, Krunal Tailor and Himanshu Singh- they started from IIT on May 8 and travelled

through various parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Sushil and Rajinder ride on the bicycle whereas Krunal and Himanshu Singh travel on a four-wheeler behind them as support team. They

all travel about 100 to 120 kilometres daily on average. On their way, they spread awareness among school children, engineering and other college students and professional engineers at various

> Earlier I had designed a bicycle with solar panel fitted on as roof and travelled from Mumbai to Goa in December 2015, but it had some technical limitations so I changed the design again

SUSHIL REDDY, developer of the solar powered bicycle

cities. They also talk to passers-by on road, who come to them after getting intrigued with bicycle's design, tell them about the benefits and uses of solar energy. Sushil said, "Earlier I had designed a bicycle with solar panel fitted on as roof and travelled from Mumbai to Goa in December 2015, but it had some technical limitations so I changed the design again.''

He said now he has modified a manually operated geared cycle into electric plus manually operated cycle. He fitted a 250 watt electric motor in

rear axle of the cycle which draws its power from a lithium-ion battery and generates about 300 horsepower. The battery takes two hours to charge completely from the solar panel, which is resting on a small trolley, hooked to the cycle.

Riding under the motto- The Sun Pedal Run- he said that solar energy was the best source of energy and could be used as the best alternative source of all non recyclable sources.

Sushil said that when he designed the cycle in March 2015, he contacted the sponsors and planned the bicycle ride through six states in 70 days. He now wants to raise funds for a non government organisation to provide solar energy system to a school in Jatrana village of Rajasthan. Sushil and his team will go to Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana and then would go to Chandigarh. After that they will go to Roorkee in Uttarakhand and then Delhi, from where they would head to Mumbai

Go for first class and miss breakfast

BEYOND BOOKS When you get up late for the first lecture in the morning you have to make a few sacrifices - missing the most vital meal of the day, for instance. But IIT Bombay is fun as there's lots to do for everybody

Anmol Gupta
■ hteducation@hindustantimes.com

There's this ever intriguing question in the minds of the general public - how exactly does the oft-hyped IITian spend his/her day (the 'her' here actually seems like an overstatement; for the sex ratio at IIT Bombay is around 9:1, we guys really don't get the best of everything, you know).

The average IITian wakes up from his blissful sleep by 8 am. With a superhuman effort, he picks himself up from his bed, and casts a casual glimpse around his room, a room that has been testament to half-hearted promises of tidying up - the chair looks like an open trunk of clothes, clothes that have for long demanded a trip to the ever-elusive washing machine, but to no avail.

He goes ahead with his morning chores; there's a 71.3647% chance that he won't bathe today, that's where our beloved face-washes and deodorants come into action. Normally, he would have his lectures starting from around 8:30 am – so breakfast, as always, goes for a spin. Catching the bus (we fondly call them the tum-tums) is the next mission on his mind and more often than not, the result is not in favour of our poor subject.

He reaches the lecture halls, just in time for the lecture to begin and sits at his place which is pretty much the same seat on which he sits for most of the year. There, he either listens to the professor intently (yes, this happens as well) or uses the blessed WiFi on his smartphone or even better, utilises this time to its best by taking a small nap; after all, "A nap a day can keep

all your worries at bay!".

At 12:30 pm, he gets back to the hostel for the lunch. Since most of the people have skipped the breakfast in order to get their attendance marked for the morning lecture, you can find quite a good number of people in the mess at this time regardless of the quality of the food. There's still a lot of time for the next session to begin (at 2 pm), which means either another session of lectures/tutorials or a three hour gruelling lab session. Till then, this he rests for a bit or just chats with his friends in the mess/hostel lounge.

Finally at 5 pm, the classes/labs come to an end and our hero is back to the hostel, heading straight towards the mess. It's the time for the best meal of the day, the evening-snacks! He sits at a table with a group of friends, savouring the food, his mind boggling with thoughts on "life, universe and everything" at the same time gossiping with his friends over general stuff on the campus (read: just another club event).

At night, he generally eats in the mess or if he has got enough money, he would head to the hostel canteen. So, to shed light on some of them, if one is interested in tech – you can find him/her in our beloved Tinkerer's Lab, where most of the techie-geeks find bliss, or if you're more into cultural activities, there's the Student Activity Centre where some really amazing events are planned; for the sports enthusiasts, the Gymkhana grounds and indoor courts are like a second-home; and then there's the class of people who simply love their academics to the core and would spend hours at a stretch in the library or in their own rooms, 'mugging' as we like to call it. Of course, there's always time in the day for those never-ending debates on topics relevant or irrelevant, from politics to sports, from movies to TV series, from life in the campus to life in the city – the list goes on and on...

Any IIT Bombay guy would definitely check onto his social accounts at least once in a day (mostly during the night) to keep himself updated on the stuff happening around in the campus – updates on events, new online trends (read: spamming), networking, chatting, or just casual newsfeed browsing.

With all these 'tasks' done for the day, our guy lends his body to his beloved bed again.

The author is a second-year biological engineering student at IIT Bombay

❯ The leisure part of the day (one gets a good deal of that here, trust me) is spent in a large number of ways - it's tough to define what an 'average IITian' does during this 'lukkha' time (that's the word we use for leisure)
ANMOL GUPTA, student, IIT Bombay

■ Students at airplane flying competition at Techfest, IIT Bombay's annual science and technology festival.

■ Students attend a lecture in the Seminar Hall at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. SANTOSH VERMA/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Just another day at IIT Madras

Sharika Mahadevan
■ hteducation@hindustantimes.com

It 5pm. That's when my roommate's alarm started chiming. I tried waking her up, but all I received was loud snores in response. So, I gave up.

Rubbing my eyes, I grabbed my watch to check the time and realised that I was late for my athletics practice that starts at 5:15 pm. Quickly changing into my sports attire and grabbing my jogging shoes on my way out, I rushed out of my hostel to get to the 'Manohar C Watsa stadium'.

Rains unfortunately played havoc, and the meet was called off. Despite that, the upgraded infrastructure of the stadium has made it a hit amongst residents and students and personally speaking, the stadium is probably my favourite place in the institute, with young and not-so-young energetic people bustling around. Stepping into the stadium took my lethargy away, and the coach rounded up all the athletes for a rigorous, yet fun, session till 7 pm.

I rode my bicycle towards the mess after the athletics practice.

Having come to the mess alone, my companion in the mess hall was my mother, with whom I exchanged my day's events over the phone. After gobbling down whatever I had picked after a very careful survey, I started the trek back to my hostel. On my way back, I spotted the music club jamming near the library. The Cultural Clubs scene in IIT Madras is very strong, and events are held throughout the year to encourage students to participate and learn extra-curricular activities. Places like the Central Library lawns and the Himalaya Lawns act as popular spots for team meetings and a myriad of institute teams ranging from Saarang and Shaastra to IViL engage in racking their brains to come up with new initiatives in these places.

On my way to the hostel, I also passed the Gymkhana where the rest of the jocks were finishing their final warm-downs. The floodlights were switched off which meant it was some time past 8 pm.

I finally returned to my room to find my roommate up. We talked for sometime, and the fact that I have been able to find friends who understand and support me, even if they can't relate to me, has been one of the things that I appreciate about IIT Madras.

After taking care of my social life on Facebook and Instagram and catching up with the latest Coldplay tracks, I slowly moved to take care of my to-dos. Having no immediate task at hand, I found myself at a fork, torn between this novel Team of Rivals and preparing for my exams. I read Team of Rivals until I felt sleepy and had just enough energy to set an alarm on phone.

My alarm started buzzing from 7 am. I found myself waking up after 15 minutes and calculating the time left before the 8 am class. With roughly 20-30 minutes at hand, I cycled quickly to the mess hall. Vadas are a personal delight and being on good terms with the caterers earns us a lot of leeway and as classes are spread out through the day.

The most unique thing about IIT Madras is the Centre for Innovation . Funded by alumni and our institute, this is one place where the students are free to explore the world of technology. Robots, astronomy, car racing etc are activities that are carried out in earnest in this place and with cutting edge technology available. Students have gone on to do wonders – like designing a racing car!

IIT Madras is like a home away from home and I couldn't hope to be any place else.

The author is a second year biological engineering student at IIT Madras.

■ Sharika Mahadevan (first from left) with her friends on campus

❯ Classes here can be enjoyed if one possess genuine interest in the topics covered. A lot depends on one's interest and IIT Madras provides immense opportunity for students to pursue what they like.
SHARIKA MAHADEVAN, student IIT Madras

IIT KGP students help aspirants crack the code

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

Many students are coming up with queries on the informational website of IIT Kharagpurr or JEE Advanced qualifiers, why.iitkgp.ac.in, "My rank is 2**, should I join Electronics or mathematics and computing to ensure better placement?" or "My rank is 1000+, I am applying in agriculture and food engineering, what is the prospect of placement in this department?" IIT Kharagpur students from different departments are addressing queries of aspiring students on social media platforms. The faculty team incharge of career development centre says, "Based on the past records, it's evident that those who have maintained a good academic CGPA in any of the disciplines, most of them students have been successful in getting the placement of their choice." Atal Ashutosh Agarwal, a senior student from IIT Kharagpur says, "The placement trend at IIT Kharagpur has shown that the flexibility in curriculum through interdisciplinary programmes, minor courses and cocurricular activities make our students fit into any sector such as core engineering, IT, finance, analytics, consulting et al. It does not matter which discipline you study, you may make a successful in road to placement." Now to even more increase this flexibility in curricula, last year IIT Kharagpur introduced microspecialisations wherein students can study three to four subjects from other disciplines, thus improving their employability in those fields. Students can also enrol for dual degree programmes, thus opting for MTech in interdisciplinary subjects like financial engineering, engineering entrepreneurship, energy engineering, environmental engineering, quality engineering, design and manufacturing or MBA. The institute also offers mentoring, grooming programme and psychometric tests to help students

perform better in placement interviews. The project, Know your Department, which was created to assist the queries similar to the ones mentioned above, has turned out to be a great success too. The facebook page of IIT Kharagpur also had series of queries from JEE Advanced qualifiers who were then routed to the website why.iitkgp.ac.in to guide them accordingly. Students at the institute have also started a Facebook group to directly interact with the qualifying students.

Most Punjabi pop songs romanticise drugs and violence, says IIM-A study

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Most-Punjabi-pop-songs-romanticise-drugs-and-violence-says-IIM-A-study/articleshow/52631696.cms

The Censors may be forcing producers of 'Udta Punjab' to remove 'Punjab' from the film's name, but how is it going to erase the romanticisation of violence and drugs in popular Punjabi culture? Every other Punjabi pop song mentions drugs in one form or another.

The obsession with violence, drugs and liquor in Punjabi pop is no alien fact and has been debated in the community for years. So much so that cricketer Harbhajan Singh's recent tweets asking young people to stay away from such songs had gone viral.

But all this has been backed up by some detailed research by a team led by Indian Institute of Manage ment - Ahmedabad's (IIMA) Prof Dheeraj Sharma. The team studied 50 Punjabi songs each that 200 students between the age of 18 and 25 heard and said that youths in the state have a high propensity towards committing violence and engaging in drug abuse. The songs were not older than five years.

The research team went through the songs and qualified them on a scale one to five where one stood for songs that made no references to drugs and violence while five made a strong and explicit reference. Each student was asked to submit 50 favourite Punjabi songs he or she listened to regularly in a USB.

The researchers found that of the 50, the minimum number of songs on a USB that related to drugs and violence was 10 while the maximum was all 50. "In other words, we were able to obtain a rank from the USB of the respondents on how frequently they listened to songs containing violence and drug usage," said Dheeraj.

The study also found that individuals who listened most frequently to the violent and drug-related songs had a negative attitude towards women, high propensity to commit violence and high intent to engage in drug use."The study does not say that these youth are into drugs.But by knowing their behavioural pattern, we could find their likelihood in being influenced by drugs and violence," Dheeraj added.

There have been previous studies which suggest that specific lyrical disapproval and support will increase listener's curiosity related about drugs. "A study conducted by the US government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), found that music has reasonably significant influence on drug usage behaviour of teenagers," Dheeraj said.