

Newspaper Clips

March 16, 2013

Dainik Bhaskar, ND 16/03/2013 P-2

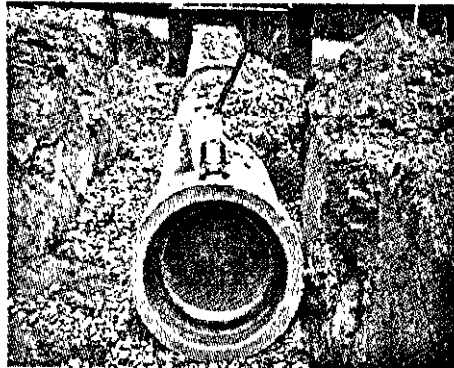
अब आईआईटी बताएगा कैसा हो शहर का ड्रेनेज सिस्टम

स्टडी दिल्ली को जलभराव की समस्या से मुक्त करने के लिए सरकार संस्थान को देगी 80 लाख रुपए

अनिरुद्ध शर्मा | नई दिल्ली

बारिश के मौसम में जलभराव की समस्या से दो-चार होने वाली राजधानी को अब आईआईटी बताएगा कि शहर का ड्रेनेज सिस्टम कैसा हो? दिल्ली सरकार ने आईआईटी दिल्ली को सड़कों पर होने वाली समस्या से निपटने का सुझाव देने के लिए कंसल्टेंट नियुक्त किया है, सिंचाई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग को नोडल एजेंसी बनाया गया है। शहर में लोक निर्माण विभाग, सिंचाई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग, तीनों निगम, एनडीएमसी व डीडीए की हजारों किलोमीटर के छोटे बड़े नाले हैं। आईआईटी को जिम्मा सौंपा गया है कि वह कम से कम अगले 30 साल को ध्यान में रखकर योजना सुझाए। हालांकि आईआईटी का ड्रेनेज प्लान आने के बाद सिफारिशों को संबंधित नालों से जुड़ी एंजिनियर्स ही लागू करेंगी। आईआईटी ने इस दिशा में बारापुला नाले पर अध्ययन शुरू भी कर दिया है।

विधानसभा में भाजपा नेता एससीएल गुप्ता द्वारा पूछे



गए एक सवाल के जवाब में सिंचाई एवं बाढ़ विभाग के मंत्री डॉ. अशोक कुमार वालिया ने कहा, 'दिल्ली में जलभराव की समस्या के समाधान के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली को शहर के ड्रेनेज प्लान को ठीक करने का

दायित्व सौंपा है।' उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार आईआईटी को इस स्टडी के लिए 80 लाख रुपए का भुगतान करेगी। आईआईटी को डेढ़ साल के अंदर यह स्टडी रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंपनी है। आईआईटी को डीडीए के मास्टर प्लान 2021 को ध्यान में रखकर ड्रेनेज प्लान बनाना है।

नालों से जुड़ी सभी एंजिनियर्स ने आईआईटी को अपनी-अपनी समस्याएं बता दी हैं। जैसे सड़क के यातायात नियंत्रण करने वाली ट्रैफिक पुलिस ने राजधानी के करीब 80 स्थानों को चिह्नित कर बताया है कि कहां जलभराव सबसे ज्यादा होता है। तीनों एमसीडी के पास शहर के करीब तीन हजार छोटे-बड़े नाले हैं, बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग के पास शहर के 61 नाले (396 किलोमीटर) और डीडीए के पास करीब 10 नाले हैं। आईआईटी बताएगा कि मौजूदा नाले में क्या सुधार करना है जैसे क्या उसे चौड़ा या गहरा करने की जरूरत है। अथवा किसी नाले की स्थिति बदलने या कहीं नया नाला बनाने आदि के सुझाव दिए जा सकते हैं।

Mere 13.8 per cent crack GATE

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

An approximate 13.8 per cent of a total of 9,84,855 candidates who appeared for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-2013) conducted jointly by the Indian Institute of Science and the seven Indian Institutes of Technologies in January and February this year qualified the crucial examination.

Andhra Pradesh emerged on the top with 22,476 of its natives making it through the GATE-2013. The four other States with highest number of qualified candidates are: Uttar Pradesh (22,400), Maharashtra (9,951), Bihar (9,820), and Kerala (8,992).

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, the organising institute for GATE

2013, announced the results on Friday. Of the total 12,00,728 candidates who registered for GATE-2013, 9,84,855 candidates (82.02%) appeared for the examination. Of those who appeared for GATE-2013, 1,36,699 (13.88 per cent) qualified the examination. Women candidates comprised 39.75 per cent of the total registrants this year.

Admission to postgraduate programmes with Government scholarships or assistantships in Engineering Colleges, Institutes and Universities is open to those who have qualified through this test.

The organising institute conducted the GATE-2013 in four sessions spread over two days in January and February this year.

As many as 2,02,223 can-

didates appeared for the computer-based online exam in fifteen papers in 572 centers spread over 123 cities and towns across the country on January 20, while the offline exam for 9,98,505 candidates in the remaining six papers was conducted in 992 centers spread over 183 cities and towns across the country on February 10, 2013.

Nearly 81 per cent of the total number of candidates who appeared for GATE 2013 were from four papers: Electronics and Communication Engineering (2,56,135), Computer Science and Information Technology (2,24,160), Mechanical Engineering (1,65,814) and Electrical Engineering (1,52,381).

Among those who have

qualified GATE-2013, 72,125 belong to General category, 41,237 to OBC-NC, 18,936 to SC, and 4,401 to ST categories. There were in all 1,136 physically challenged persons among the total number of qualified candidates in various categories. An approximate 20.9 per cent of the total qualified candidates.

"Fifteen Public Sector Units (PSUs) have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with IIT Bombay to receive the official GATE 2013 results across various papers for employment screening purposes. Qualified candidates have to apply separately to each of the IITs and IISc to seek admission to post graduate programmes," Prof. Umesh Bellur, Organising Chairman, GATE 2013, IIT, Bombay, said here.

Hindustan Times ND

16/03/2013 P-10

WINDS OF CHANGE

IITs, IISc open GATE for 'other' gender

Bhavya Dore

■ bhavya.dore@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: In a first, this year the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) introduced 'other' as a gender choice for candidates, along with 'male' and 'female', and 36 candidates marked themselves as 'others'.

"This is also a category in society, we didn't want to leave anyone out," said Prasanna Gandhi, vice-chairperson, GATE 2013.

GATE is a qualifying examination for pursuing Mtech and Phd programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), and several other engineering colleges.

Three of the 36 candidates who claimed to be of 'other' gender have qualified. The last date for filling forms was September 30, 2012 and the results were declared on Friday.

The test was conducted online for 15 papers on January 20 and offline for six papers on February 10. IIT Bombay was the organising institute for the exam

GATE 2013

9,84,855

Total candidates appeared

1,36,699

Total candidates qualified

1,08,124

Total candidates qualified (male)

28,572

Total candidates qualified (female)

3 Total candidates qualified (other)

22,476

Highest no. of successful candidates from Andhra Pradesh

this year.

Qualified candidates can now use their GATE scores to apply to masters' programmes. The scores are also used by 15 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to recruit students.

Andhra Pradesh (22,76) has the highest number of qualifying candidates followed by UP (22,400) and Maharashtra (9,951).

Business Standard, ND 16/03/2013

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Google chief Larry Page adds two IIT alumni to his 'L-Team'

Top-deck shake-up sees head of mapping and commerce stepping aside

BLOOMBERG

San Francisco, 15 March

Google said Jeff Huber, head of mapping and commerce, is stepping down to work on new projects amid management changes aimed at helping Chief Executive Larry Page pursue areas of growth.

Google is splitting the two businesses Huber led, according to a person familiar with the matter. Alan Eustace, senior vice-president in charge of areas including search, will now oversee mapping, while Susan Wojcicki, senior vice-president of advertising, will lead commerce, said the person, who asked not to be named because the changes aren't public.

Page is realigning the senior staff in charge of the businesses Google will need as it seeks to step up growth and lessen its dependence on Web search, which now accounts for most of revenue. "Jeff is an extraordinary executive," Mountain View, California-based Google said in an e-mailed statement yesterday. "He just finished his first decade at Google—having worked on some of our most complicated issues like ads, apps, payments and geo—and now he is eager to work in more of a startup-like environment."



Sridhar Ramaswamy

- PhD, Computer Science, 1989 – 1994 from Brown University
- B Tech., Computer Science, 1985 – 1989 from IIT MADRAS

Source: LinkedIn

A spokeswoman for Google, declined to comment on the reorganisation.

Sridhar Ramaswamy, senior vice-president of engineering, is joining the so-called "L-Team," the



Sundar Pichai

- MBA from Wharton School of Business
- Masters in engineering and materials science from Stanford University
- B Tech, Metallurgical and materials engineering, 1989–1993 from IIT Kharagpur

Source: PFI

group that reports directly to Page, according to another person. Ramaswamy, who had previously reported to Wojcicki, has worked on search advertising and Google Shopping.

Schmidt to give start-up tips on India visit

Google's Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt plans to give tips to start-up entrepreneurs on his maiden two-day visit to India next week.

Software industry body Nasscom is organising an interactive session with Schmidt on March 20, as part of its start-up initiative.

On its Facebook page, Nasscom for Start-ups, the body has asked entrepreneurs to post questions, which would be directed to Schmidt.

Another incubator, Kochi-based The Start-up Village, too, has been running a social media campaign, giving them an opportunity to meet Schmidt in Delhi.

BS REPORTER

The L-Team is now made up of Eustace, Wojcicki and Pichai, along with Vic Gundotra, who oversees social initiatives, and Salar Kamangar, who leads video-sharing service YouTube, the person said.

Times of India 16/03/2013

P-17

Language row won't hit UPSC prelims

Current Norms For Language Papers, Medium Of Examination To Apply

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

New Delhi: The tug of war over language in the civil services examination — that selects candidates for elite central services, including the IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS, among others — won't affect the preliminary test slated to be held on May 26.

Sources indicated that the commission may opt for the earlier pattern for the language papers and medium of examination after holding a meeting with various stakeholders. However, other changes like giving

weight to general studies paper remain unaffected. Keeping the notification in abeyance will only affect notified changes in the exam that had sought to give additional weight to marks obtained in the English paper. Earlier, the English test paper was only qualifying in nature, where its marks had no bearing in the final selection.

The revamped pattern also carries other contentious provisions related to regional languages, prohibiting candidates to opt for any particular language as their optional subject if they didn't

According to the revised UPSC pattern, students won't be allowed to write their exam in a particular language if there are less than 25 candidates opting for that medium of instruction.

study it at the undergraduate level. Similarly, they won't be allowed to write their examination in a particular language if there are less than 25 candidates opting for that

medium of instruction. In that case, they will have to write their exam in either English or Hindi.

Hence, a medical science or history or political science graduate cannot opt for Bengali, Marathi, Malayalam or any other literature of regional language as his or her optional subject. Similarly, if less than 25 candidates opt to write their main exam in Gujarati or Sindhi or any other regional language, they won't be allowed to use that medium and will have to write their papers either in English or Hindi.

The notification, issued on March 5, had drawn criticism from CMs with a number of them, including Shivraj Singh Chauhan (MP), J Jayalalithaa (TN) and Narendra Modi (Gujarat), writing to PM Singh demanding withdrawal of the notification. Key UPA ally DMK too had objected to the move.

They had noted the revamped exam system not only favourably tilts towards the aspirants who know better English but also discriminate those who are otherwise proficient in regional languages.

Hindustan ND 16/03/2013

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सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में किसी एक भाषा को नहीं दिया गया महत्व

बदलाव पर

बवाल



नई दिल्ली | भाषा

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (यूपीएससी) के नए नियमों को लेकर उठे विवाद पर पूर्व अध्यक्ष अरुण एस निगावेकर ने गहरी चिंता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के नए नियमों में किसी खास भाषा पर जोर नहीं दिया गया है, बल्कि इसका उद्देश्य सिर्फ उम्मीदवार की संप्रेषण क्षमता को जांचना है।

यूपीएससी की मुख्य परीक्षा के पाठ्यक्रम में बदलाव को सुझाव के लिए निगावेकर की अध्यक्षता में ही समिति गठित की गई थी। शुक्रवार को उन्होंने कहा कि समिति ने एक ऐसी परीक्षा प्रणाली का सुझाव दिया था, जिससे उम्मीदवार की संप्रेषण क्षमता की बखूबी जांच हो सके, चाहे वह किसी भी भाषा में हो। हालांकि, उन्होंने इस बात पर टिप्पणी करने से इनकार कर दिया कि सिविल परीक्षा में अंग्रेजी को अनिवार्य किए जाने का सुझाव उनकी सिफारिशों में शामिल था या नहीं। निगावेकर ने कहा कि समिति ने इस बात का जिक्र किया था कि 21वीं सदी के नौकरशाहों को बहुआयामी चुनौतियों से निपटने के

निगावेकर के तर्क

• यूपीएससी के पूर्व अध्यक्ष निगावेकर ने नए नियमों को लेकर उठे विवाद पर दी सफाई • निगावेकर की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति ने ही दिए थे परीक्षा में बदलाव के सुझाव • कहा, क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को नहीं किया नजरअंदाज, पर बहुस्तरीय संवाद के लिए अंग्रेजी जरूरी

जया ने विरोध में पीएम को लिखा पत्र

चेन्नई। तमिलनाडु की मुख्यमंत्री जयललिता और मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने यूपीएससी के नए नियमों का विरोध करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह को पत्र लिखा है। उनका कहना है कि सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की अनदेखी से ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के छात्र प्रभावित होंगे।

लिए तैयार होना चाहिए। इस संबंध में एक व्यापक खाका तैयार किया था। इसमें सुझाव दिया गया था कि उम्मीदवार की जानकारी की तुलना में संचालन स्तर पर उसके सक्षम होने की क्षमता की जांच की जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि देश की मौजूदा शिक्षा व्यवस्था को ध्यान में रखकर ही समिति ने सिफारिशें की हैं और इसमें किसी भी विषय में विशेषज्ञता पर कोई खास जोर नहीं दिया गया है। साथ ही यह भी कहा कि बहुस्तरीय प्रभावी संवाद के लिए अंग्रेजी की जरूरत है जो एक वैश्विक भाषा है।

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OBC creamy layer bar raised to ₹6 lakh

Subodh Ghildiyal | TNN

New Delhi: OBCs earning over Rs 6 lakh annually will not be eligible for quota in jobs and education with a group of ministers on Friday deciding to raise the 'creamy layer' bar from Rs 4.50 lakh as part of the revision done every four years.

The increase, however, marks a setback for the

► Moily opposes, P 12

'backward lobby' of ministers that blocked the proposal for fixing creamy layer at Rs 6 lakh in the Cabinet last June, arguing it did not reflect the fall in value of currency and inflation.

A GoM headed by P Chi-

LIMIT UP ₹1.5L

► Backward Classes panel had mooted income bar of ₹12 lakh to qualify for OBC quota in urban areas and ₹9 lakh in rural areas

► GoM led by Chidambaram settled on a uniform income ceiling of ₹6 lakh

► Ceiling started at ₹1 lakh in 1993, revised to ₹2.5 lakh in 2004 and ₹4.5 lakh in 2008

dambaram is learnt to have weighed in favour of retaining the income level suggested by social justice ministry that ran into resistance in the Cabinet last year. It included Pallam Raju, Selja and V Narayanasamy.

Cern now 99.9% certain Higgs boson has been found

Discoveries depend on patience

Scientists taking us for a ride

Less than 800 km from where a new pope has just taken office, a physicists' conference has been taking stock of the God particle. Its spokespersons have pronounced a 99.9% certainty that the new particle discovered in Cern's Large Hadron Collider last July is indeed the Higgs boson, or the key to how matter acquires mass. But whereas last year's pronouncement was greeted with great excitement even by laypersons, this year's has fomented a yawning. While this is par for the course when it comes to the relationship of high science

TIMES VIEW

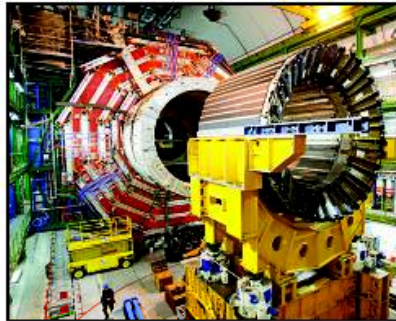
to mass audiences, in no way does it impair the significance of Cern's work.

Because the funding of expensive projects like the LHC and Nasa's Mars rover can collapse without taxpayers' support these days, scientists try hard to seek a mass connect, in language attempting to bridge the gap between their ivory tower and the general economy. Complexities can get lost in the process, such as the fact that the LHC team has now analysed 2.5 times more data than was available in July, and the very reason the Higgs boson was dubbed the

'goddamn' particle (a sobriquet later sanitised) was because it is so hard to isolate.

Gazillions of apples had taken a fall before Isaac Newton came along to ask, why do apples fall? Gazillions of

gravity experiments later, man stepped onto the moon. In all the years in the interim and beyond, applied probability has enabled applications in fields ranging from genetics to computer vision. Given that what we are really awaiting is a new law of physics, intended to be eternal and universal (till the next discovery) – the wait for confirming the Higgs boson hasn't really been that long. As Captain Kirk told the Triskelions, 'All your people must learn before you can reach for the stars.'



It's not for nothing that Nobel prize-winning physicist Leon Lederman once described the Higgs boson as the 'goddamn particle' – later changed by clever publishers to 'God particle'. That conferred on the scientists'

COUNTERVIEW

Meghna Roy

quest an aura of deep mysticism and insight, even making it seem like a spiritual quest, when the reality is that modern science is so abstract and esoteric that it hardly offers anything meaningful in human terms.

Let's take the latest burst of excitement over the Cern scientists declaring to the world that they are now 99.9% certain that the Higgs boson they discovered is actually the elusive 'God particle'. Just a few months earlier, however, celebrations had broken out in the scientific world when

they told us they had detected the same particle with 99% certainty. Mark that it's not still 100% foolproof. More research and insight, the Cern scientists say will be needed into the findings to establish beyond any measure of doubt the existence of the Higgs boson. So what exactly are we celebrating? More uncertainty and confusion? Six months down the line, we may again hear from the Cern scientists about new discoveries about the Higgs boson that could change the entire debate. Funnily, like now, even then the public would be struggling to comprehend a fraction of the scientific terminology.

Scientists may even turn around and say that their research is not meant for easy comprehension by all and sundry. But then why treat each discovery as such a spectacle, even when we're not even very sure about what's being talked about? It's actually much ado about nothing, because scientists need large sums of money to fund their esoteric research. Therefore hype, as in clever coinages such as the 'God particle', is needed to con the taxpayer into paying for all the expensive equipment.

The inspiration behind the movie, Swades

IITian Ravi Kuchimanchi gave up a cushy life in the US to work for villagers in India, stricken with problems

ANURADHA VARANASI
Mumbai

An IIT graduate who was pursuing a PhD in Physics from the University of Maryland in the early nineties, Ravi Kuchimanchi gave up a cozy life in the US to focus on the hardships of rural Indians.

Founder of Association of India's Development (AID), Kuchimanchi is better known as the man who inspired the Bollywood movie 'Swades' in 2004. "When we were in the US, we observed that though there were several NGOs and other organizations set up by NRIs none of them were connected to rural India. That is when we decided to raise money from there to support several groups working in India," says Ravi (48), who used to spend his holidays in his hometown, Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

"We founded AID in 1991 by sending out emails to our friends and requesting them to pitch in a few dollars every month which would be sent to a village in India," added Ravi. The husband-wife duo also started a campaign known as the 'Visit a Village' in the States that motivated several NRIs and Americans alike to visit Indian villages to connect with rural issues.

What started as a support group for sustainable development in rural India, AID now also concentrates on social causes and has been involved in other spheres such as agriculture, education,



Ravi and Aravinda Kuchimanchi with their daughter, Khiyali.

women empowerment, energy, health and livelihoods in several states across the country.

Inspired by activists like Medha Patkar, Kuchimanchi and his wife Aravinda, took up issues like dams versus people in the late 90s. When they returned to India, with his knowledge in physics, Ravi developed the pedal power generator that produced electricity for several remote villages. With this facility, school kids now take turns to pedal.

The Kuchimanchis are now concentrating on health and agricultural issues faced in rural areas across 50 states in the country.

"In one such initiative, we popularised a traditional method of keeping food warm by using hay-boxes. It is called the 'Easy Cook-

SUNSHINE STORY

er' which is made and sold in South Indian villages specifically," said Aravinda.

The 'Easy Cooker' saves more than 50 per cent energy and is made by villagers with the help of hay, bamboo shavings and burlap. "In cities, we have the luxury of a gas stove where we can cook rice or anything else on sim-

so that the food doesn't get burned. But with the help of the easy cooker, one can keep the boiling rice or sabji inside so the temperature is regulated and the food is cooked," explained Aravinda.

It is priced at Rs 70 to Rs 100 and allows the bamboo artisans and women's group to earn a decent livelihood as the concept has now gained popularity in several districts across Andhra Pradesh. Kuchimanchi's family also uses the 'Easy Cooker'.

Ravi and Aravinda Kuchimanchi have also been actively participating in the field of sustainable agriculture and organic farming, which they say is a cheaper option for peasants.

"The AID is now concentrating on the agriculture budget in Andhra Pradesh to bring out the key points to improve farming and irrigation and also the farmers' demands," said Ravi.

Other than this, the AID has also been promoting crops such as raagi, baajra, jawar, etc which are not procured by the Public Distribution System (PDS) and hence are not grown by most farmers. "This has resulted in

most people forgetting such coarse grains. This is extremely unfortunate as these crops are not only healthier but also easier and cheaper to grow as compared to rice or wheat," said Aravinda.

The AID has been encouraging farmers and villagers to grow these crops and have been distributing them door to door in 50

To learn more about AID or contact Ravi Kuchimanchi, one can visit www.aidindia.org

This is the eighth in a weekly series on people who are lighting a candle in the darkness.

villages in order to promote these crops. These grains are mostly distributed as a part of the malnourishment programme where hundreds of children up to the age of five years receive one kg bags of raagi grains from the organization.

"Through this initiative, we have observed that in the last five years, the number of young children who are in the third or fourth phase of malnourishment has drastically reduced from 200-300 kids in each village to around 70 this year. However, around 50 per cent of rural children are yet malnourished," said Ravi.

In another initiative, the Kuchimanchis started a Kitchen Garden Programme for landless families in 50 Indian villages. The AID encouraged these families to use the space around their houses to grow vegetables. A bag of desi variety seeds worth Rs. 50 were distributed to around 300 landless families in each village.

This initiative was started three years ago and the organization has observed that each family had managed to grow crops worth Rs. 500 each during winter and monsoon seasons.

"We are now trying to distribute seeds that can be used throughout the year as we received a good response and most of these families are now eating more nutritious food because of kitchen gardening," said Aravinda.

CONGRATS!

Bengal tops competitive engineering exam

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KOLKATA: This year, students from Kolkata are outshining others in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), declared the results on Sunday. While two of the city's students have secured the all-India first place, three others have ranked among the top five.

Bibaswan Kumar Chatterjee, a student of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, has secured the All-India Rank (AIR) 1 in Computer Science and Shimul Kumar Dam, a Jadavpur University student, received AIR 1 in Electrical Engineering.

"I knew I'd do well, but never though I would rank first. I plan to study in Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. My aim is to get into serious research work," Chatterjee said.

For Dam, the overwhelming result has brought with it confusion. "I am happy, but now I don't know which institute to go for. I will have to think. It'll be a choice between the top IITs and IISc," he said.

Besides Bibaswan and Shimul, other toppers from Kolkata include Saugata Datta, AIR 3 in Instrumentation, Abhratanu Pal, AIR 4 in Instrumentation and Rupam Pal, AIR 5 in Electrical.