

Newspaper Clips

May 16, 2012

EE before results are out ... <http://paper.hindustantim>

Aspirants 'top' IIT-JEE before results are out

Vanita Srivastava

■ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nishant R, who sat his IIT-JEE on April 8, is celebrating his "third rank", Sagar has party plans in place and coaching institutes have raised the sales pitch for next year's batch — flaunting their list of "toppers".

The result of the admission test to the country's biggest engineering brand — the Indian Institute of Technology — is still three days away on May 18 but for many "successful" candidates, it's a mere formality.

Technology, a bit of innovation and some homework by coaching institutes have given aspirants a fair idea of their chances in the test.

This year, for the first time optical response sheets were put on the web, allowing students to

CLASSES PREDICT

COACHING SCHOOLS are willing to stick their necks out even before the IIT-JEE results are declared on May 18 and declare the toppers

DR GB REDDY, IIT JEE-2012 organising chairman, however, said it was best to wait.

see answersheets, marks and even request a revaluation. "This system was introduced mainly to bring about more transparency," said Dr GB Reddy, IIT JEE-2012 organising chairman.

Coaching institute FIITJEE, however, carried out a nationwide survey to get a sense of how other students scored to lay claim to first three ranks.

Dr Reddy laughed it off, saying it was best to wait. "I would say it (ranking) is hypothetical."

Hindustan Times ND 16-May-12

P1

Result 2 days away, but IIT party is on

Vanita Srivastava

■ vanita.srivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nishant R, who sat his IIT-JEE on April 8, is celebrating his “third rank”, Sagar has party plans in place and coaching institutes have raised the sales pitch for next year’s batch — flaunting their list of “toppers”.

The result of the admission test to the country’s biggest engineering brand — the Indian Institute of Technology — is still three days away on May 18 but for many “successful” candidates, it’s a mere formality.

Technology, a bit of innova-

tion and some homework by coaching institutes have given aspirants a fair idea of their chances in the test, the toughest in the country.

This year, for the first time optical response sheets were put on the web, allowing students to see answer sheets, marks and even request a reevaluation.

“This system was introduced mainly to bring about more transparency,” said Dr GB Reddy IIT JEE-2012 organising chairman.

But it’s done more than that.

Coaching institute FIITJEE carried out a nation-wide survey to get a sense of how other

WITH ANSWER SHEETS PUT ON WEB, STUDENTS, COACHING SCHOOLS GET A FAIR IDEA OF OUTCOME

students scored to lay claim to first three ranks.

Dr Reddy laughed it off, saying it was best to wait for May 18. “I would say it (ranking) is hypothetical.”

Coaching schools, however, are willing to stick their necks out. “We did an exhaustive market survey... which shows that no one has scored more than 385,” said

Sameeran Choudhary of FIITJEE, claiming third rank for their student Nishanth N Kaushik.

Narayana IIT Academy made a similar claim for Nishant R, with a score of 373. “He’s is getting rank 3,” said Dr K Gopal, vice-chairman, north India operations.

So many students didn’t go to coaching schools, so how were they surveyed, PK Bansal of the Kota-based Bansal Coaching Institute, asked. That doesn’t worry Nishant, who expected to top the exam but is happy ranked “third”. What if it’s wrong? “I wouldn’t bother too much,” said the Hyderabad lad.

Indian Express ND 16/05/2012
P-9

Hindustan Times ND 16-May-12
HT EDUCATION P1

IIT panel looking at JEE error

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

TWO questions worth 14 marks were found to be having errors in the IIT-JEE this year. On Tuesday, Director of IIT-Delhi R K Shevgaonkar said a committee with representatives from all the IITs is "looking into the matter and will take appropriate action regarding the details of the problem".

Sources in IIT-Delhi said the two questions are being treated as "deleted" as they could be "perceived differently by different students".

The problem was found in question number six in Physics paper for which "two out of four options were correct". In question number 12 of the same paper "all the four choices provided were correct".

India ranks 48 out of as many countries: survey

The US tops the U21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems

HT Education Correspondent
■ hieducation@hindustantimes.com

India's higher education system has been ranked 48 out of as many countries and territories while the United States expectedly topped the list in a study by Universitas 21, a global network of research universities.

The U21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems lists countries 'best' at providing higher education. The parameters are divided into four categories: output (research and its impact, as well as the production of an educated workforce which meets labour market needs) - 40% weightage, resources (investment by government and private sector) - 25%, environment (government policy and regulation, diversity and participation opportunities) - 25% and connectivity (international networks and collaboration which protects a system against insularity) - 10%. The research also factored in population size.

After the US, overall, the top five countries "nominally" providing the 'best' tertiary-level education include Sweden,

Canada, Finland and Denmark. "However, broken down into the smaller sections, it was interesting to see that the US, traditionally seen as a country with one of the strongest education systems, did not always hit the top spot. Government funding of higher education as a percentage of GDP is highest in Finland, Norway and Denmark. Taking private expenditure into account changed this significantly: on that measure funding is highest in the United States, South Korea, Canada and Chile, unsurprisingly, given the structure in these countries," say the authors of the study carried out at the University of Melbourne.

For international research collaboration, China, India, Japan and the US are in the bottom 25% of countries.

Rank	Country	Score
1	United States	100.0
2	Sweden	83.6
3	Canada	82.8
4	Finland	82.0
5	Denmark	81.0
6	Switzerland	80.3
7	Norway	78.0
8	Australia	77.8
9	Netherlands	77.4
10	United Kingdom	76.8
40	Brazil	47.2
41	Thailand	46.6
42	Iran	45.8
43	Mexico	45.3
44	Croatia	44.9
45	Turkey	44.4
46	South Africa	43.4
47	Indonesia	37.5
48	India	34.4

Times of India ND 16-May-12

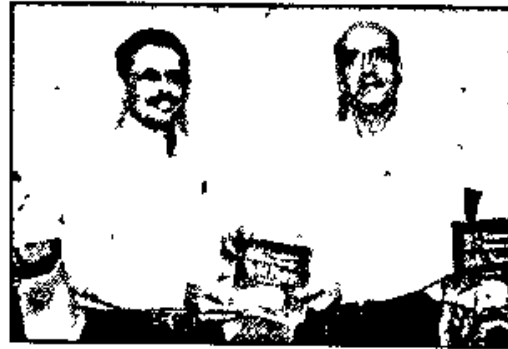
P6

Harvard, IIM-A take cues from Metro

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Metro is getting international recognition. Harvard Business School and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, have picked up Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) management strategies for further study. That Metro man E Sreedharan's style of functioning has impressed many was evident from the case studies by the two business schools which dwell on his feat of completing projects before deadlines.

This was revealed at the launch of a book on the management strategies that spelt Delhi Metro's success. Penned by DMRC's chief spokesperson, Anuj Dayal, the book explores the journey of Delhi Metro from conception to operation stage in detail, giving full credit to Sreedharan, who is now enjoying his post-retirement days. "The book, '25 Management Strategies for Delhi Metro's Success: The Sreedharan Way', was released by



TASTE OF SUCCESS

Sreedharan's successor Mangu Singh, who effused praise on his predecessor. The book also talks about all powers being vested with the managing director and cites it as one of the principal reasons for the organization's success. In the book, Dayal says integrity of the people involved in building the system, professional competency, cleanliness and safety, crisis management and delegation of powers are some strategies that are followed at Delhi Metro.

In his speech about Delhi Metro's journey, Singh said, "It was the biggest infrastructure project ever taken up in the country. We didn't have expertise in this field. But Sreedharan tasted success".

Times of India ND 16-May-12

P2

Bluetooth used again to rig exam

Cheating At EPFO Recruitment Test On Lines Of Last Year's AIIMS Leak

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: It would have passed off as just another case of exam fraud but for the profiles of the accused and their modus operandi.

When police on Sunday busted a gang of youths dictating answers for a competitive exam from a private school in Karala (near Narela), they were surprised to find among the accused a Narcotics Control Bureau inspector from Delhi, a Food Corporation of India manager from Lucknow, an MTech professor from a technical institute in Gurgaon, two teachers and an aspiring civil services aspirant. And in a rerun of last year's AIIMS paper leak case, the accused had provided their clients Bluetooth devices to cheat.

Unlike the AIIMS test, Sunday's exam was meant for the selection of low-profile social security assistants in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) yet, police claim, the gang charged up to Rs 7 lakh to provide the answers, and paid Rs 25,000-40,000 to each of their 'experts'.

The crime branch's special investigation team (SIT), which caught seven suspects, found the names of 24 candidates who had paid Rs 7



Mohammed Ilyas

NABBED: The accused reportedly charged up to Rs 7 lakh per candidate

lakh each. Five of these are women from exam centres in Najafgarh and Rohini in Delhi, and Rewari, Jhajjar and Rohtak in Haryana.

Hinting at insiders' involvement, police said one of the accused obtained all four versions of the exam papers while two others photocopied and transferred them to

the solvers. After this, the answers were dictated over mobile phones. The candidates had stitched Bluetooth devices near their collars and were wearing tiny earphones to avoid detection.

What really surprised police was that all of the accused were well qualified and employed.

The answers were dictated over phones. Candidates had stitched Bluetooth devices near their collars and were wearing tiny earphones to avoid detection

The alleged mastermind, Rahul Yadav (26), is pursuing MBA from a college affiliated with IP University and was to join the NCB in Delhi as an inspector on May 28. His family runs poultry and timber businesses in Badli. Yadav's cohort, Ram Kumar, is an MBA and works with the FCI in Lucknow. He is said to have managed the backend operation. Another gang member, Sumit, could not be caught but is believed to have smuggled the papers out of the exam hall at Pushpanjali Enclave in Pitampura.

"We believe Sumit had set up some persons at the exam centre to get hold of the four sets of papers and make a quick exit," said additional CP (crime) Ashok Chand.

Sources said most of the candidates who paid the gang were from outer Delhi

areas or Haryana and had met Ram at his coaching class. "Ram also recruited the paper solvers," DCP (SIT) Joy Tirkey said.

The solvers themselves were no less qualified. Vijay Kumar (32), a teacher with an MCD school at Kapashera, is preparing for the state civil services while Manoj Kumar (27) is an MTech who teaches at an institute of technology in Gurgaon. Sunil Kumar is a teacher with a government primary school in Rewari while Yashpal Singh (34) is a social security officer with Employee State Insurance Corporation in Haryana. Another accused, Devesh Dinkar (27), is a science graduate from Bihar preparing for the civil services.

"When we raided the private primary school at Karala, the accused were answering questions from the copies of the papers over mobile phones," added DCP (crime) Sanjay Jain.

Police are now on the lookout for Sumit in Dadri. A separate probe is on to ascertain why candidates were not frisked for electronic items at the exam venue.

Altogether 26,701 candidates from the city took the test for 1,943 posts of social security assistants available across the country.

Changing mindset of academics

SOME initiatives that the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) announced last month and the reaction of the teacher's community to them became newspaper headlines. They clearly indicate how few of our academics are still not willing to accept the change that is so vital for making India strong to face the competition from across the world in a knowledge-linked economy.

One news item pertained to the creation of 'meta universities' in India. The National Knowledge Commission, which is driven by Sam Pitroda, has been toying with this concept for a long time, and now, the MHRD minister Kapil Sibal plans to set up a meta university in Delhi in which Jamia Millia Islamia University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, would take part. Meta universities represent second-generation universities that are free from physical boundaries and able to operate in virtual space, taking advantage of the innovation and flexibility possible in such domain. Hence, the existing capabilities and resources of these institutions will be utilised and no separate funding for these institutions is proposed for the purpose. The main purpose of meta universities is to share learning resources by different universities by using the latest technologies available in order to enable students to benefit from learning resources available in different institutions. Since, the government does not interfere in the academic matters of higher educational institutions, it is left to these institutions to collaborate and identify the courses and areas to be offered thorough

Arun Nigavekar



CHANGE OF STATUS: The MHRD desires that a few of India's best colleges and research centres be empowered to award their own degrees to students without having to depend on larger universities

the meta university. The vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University reported that in a meeting held between these institutions, the areas of climate change, public health and education have been identified.

The other news is linked with the concept of autonomous colleges that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been pushing for since the past three decades. The southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, have successfully implemented this concept, whereas, other states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have partially succeeded. However, many other states mostly in the northern belt have not yet shown the willingness to go for autonomous colleges. Hence, when the MHRD announced that St Stephen's College would become autonomous, the teachers in Delhi University, as

expected, opposed the idea. The teachers have claimed that such a move might deprive the university of one of its best colleges that has earned the reputation for being a prestigious institution all over India. Also, the teachers doubt that the college won't function well if it was made autonomous. It was debated that the concept of autonomous colleges is unacceptable and already had been rejected by Delhi University when it was first introduced in the country because their primary aim was to make institutions more self-sufficient by increasing their resources. The teachers claim that the concept of making colleges autonomous creates a sense of diversity rather than unifying entities that are socially diverse. Delhi University has already lost the Delhi College of Engineering and since St Stephen's is one of the jewels

of the university, making it autonomous will not be a wise move.

The third news talked about deviating from the present practice of allowing only universities and institutions set up under the acts of parliament or state legislatures or institutions that have been recognised as deemed universities under the UGC Act to award degrees. But now, the MHRD desires that a few of India's best colleges and research centres be empowered to award their own degrees to students without having to depend on larger universities that they are at present affiliated to. According to reports, the MHRD is planning to implement this quickly. The colleges and research centres that will be allowed to hand out their own degrees will be chosen on the basis of age and quality of education that will be measured in terms of their accreditation

rating, student performance and other similar parameters. Colleges that are likely to be the beneficiaries of the plan by the MHRD include Delhi's St Stephen's College and Kolkata's St Xavier's College. A senior government official said that these institutes would receive limited power to award degrees on their own to students.

It is quite obvious that the teaching community in public universities is not willing to look at the challenges of the future and they come out with very flimsy reasons that are well articulated to oppose any change that the government desires to initiate. If they feel St Stephen's is a jewel in the crown of Delhi University, then why are they so worried about accepting the ownership of the learning and understanding that they deploy in the mind of the students? On the contrary, if it's the best education that is imparted at St Stephen's College, then both the teachers and subsequently students would be proud of the degree that is awarded by the college. The autonomy and empowerment to award a degree would give the college more academic, administrative and financial freedom. And, they certainly are not going to lose the government's financial support. Well, St Stephen's is just one example; any other college would have reacted in the same manner. The larger worry is rigid mindset of our teaching community in the very dynamic world of today. The sooner we address this human issue, the better, it would be the best bet for the youth and the nation.

arun.nigavekar
@mydigitalfc.com

(The writer is a former chairman of UGC and former VC of University of Pune)

Times of India ND 16-May-12

P21

Gene therapy may help us live longer

Lifespan Of Aging Mice Extended By 24% By Treating Them With Modified DNA

London: In a pioneering experiment, Spanish scientists claim to have extended the lifespan of aging mice by up to 24%, using a single gene therapy treatment. If this research pays off, then things are looking up for aging humans too, says a team at the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre which has published its findings in the 'EMBO Molecular Medicine' journal.

Earlier studies have shown that it is possible to lengthen the average life of individuals of many species, including mammals, by acting on specific genes — an approach impracticable in humans. Now, the Spanish scientists, led by Maria Blasco, have demonstrated that the mouse lifespan can be extended by the application in adult life of a single treatment acting directly on the animal's genes.

And they have done so using gene



© Zero Creatives/cultura/Corbis
ADDING A FEW YEARS MORE

therapy, a strategy never before employed to combat aging. The scientists induced cells to express telomerase — the enzyme which metaphorically slows down the biological clock.

The therapy has been found to be safe and effective in mice, say the scientists. In fact, in their experiment, the scientists treated adult mice (one-year-olds and two-year-olds), with the gene therapy delivering a "rejuvenating" effect in both cases. Mice treated at age of one lived longer by 24% on average, and those treated at two, by 13%.

The therapy, furthermore, produced an appreciable improvement in the animals' health, delaying the onset of age-related diseases like osteoporosis and insulin resistance and achieving improved readings on aging indicators like neuromuscular coordination.

The gene therapy consisted of treating the animals with a DNA-modified virus, the viral genes having been replaced by those of the telomerase enzyme, with a key role in aging.

Telomerase repairs the extreme ends or tips of chromosomes, known as telomeres, and in doing so slows the cell's and therefore the body's biological clock. When the animal is infected, the virus acts as a vehicle depositing the telomerase gene in the cells.

"This study shows that it is possible to develop a telomerase-based anti-aging gene therapy without increasing the incidence of cancer," said the scientists. "Aged organisms accumulate damage in their DNA due to telomere shortening, (this study) finds that a gene therapy based on telomerase production can repair or delay this kind of damage," they added. ¶11

Times of India ND 16-May-12 P21

New treatment may help slow down dementia effects

Scientists have discovered a molecule which stimulates the brain to make neurons, a major finding which they claim could pave the way for new treatments to slow down the effects of dementia. An international team, led by the University of Queensland, says it's, in fact, one step closer to developing new therapies for treating dementia, reported 'The Journal of Neuroscience' in its latest edition. Team leader Dr Jana Vukovic said the work was aimed at understanding the molecular mechanism that may impair learning and memory in the aging population.