

# Newspaper Clips

May 9, 2013

Times Of India ND 09/05/2013P-17

## IITs put India on world map

### 3 Institutes Feature In Top 50 Global Univs For Engg Courses

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

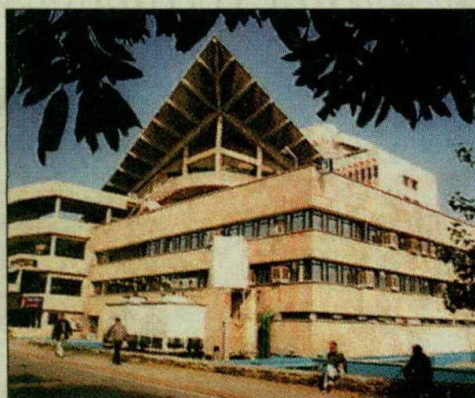
**London:** IIT Delhi's electrical engineering department has been ranked the 37th best globally, the highest entry from India across all categories in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world university rankings.

QS is a reputed British education and career advice company, which, until 2010, produced the rankings with the Times Higher Education.

The IIT Bombay's civil engineering department has been ranked 39<sup>th</sup> while IIT Delhi's mechanical and aeronautical engineering department has been positioned 43rd. Indian Institute of Science ranks 50th in materials science.

IITs have come as the only saving grace for Indian universities in the rankings released on Wednesday. Not a single university or department has made it to the top 200 altogether in 12 of the 30 disciplines covered in the global rankings.

Important subjects without a single Indian institution featuring in the top 200 include medicine, law, economics



IIT Delhi's electrical engineering department has been ranked the 37th best globally, the highest entry from India across all categories in the latest QS world university rankings

and education.

The best performances from Indian universities came in the field of engineering, as expected. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras are all ranked in the global top 50 in at least one of the four areas of engineering: civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical.

Delhi University and JNU have

made it to the top 100 in the world for English literature. Chinese universities, on the other hand, have bagged 37 top-50 rankings in 23 subjects, compared to just four for India.

"These rankings reflect the progress made by the IITs in recent years in engineering, but in many other areas of the academic spectrum, India is lagging way behind its international competitors," said QS head of research Ben Sowter.

"India faces numerous challenges as it attempts to expand participation and increase university funding. These rankings make it clear that it is some way off achieving a truly internationally competitive higher education system," he added.

Covering 30 subjects, the QS rankings by subject are the largest of their kind. The US and UK universities dominate the list, with Harvard ranking number one in 10 subjects, ahead of MIT (7), University of Oxford (4), UC Berkeley (4), University of Cambridge (3), Imperial College London (1) and UC Davis (1).

Times Of India ND P-17  
09/05/2013

## IISc develops needle-less device for vaccination

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** HRD minister of state Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has designed and successfully tested a new concept of needle-less vaccine delivery system.

Tharoor said the new method has been developed based on the collaborative work between the laboratory for hypersonic and shock wave, the department of aerospace engineering, and the microbiology and cell biology departments. IISc is the only organization in the world that has developed such a device.

Tharoor said, using the new technique, typhoid vaccines have been successfully delivered into mice in the laboratory. He said this method utilizes the instantaneous mechanical impulse generated by micro-blast waves to achieve subcutaneous delivery of vaccines.

Tharoor claimed animals did not feel pain during vaccine delivery because the depth of penetration of the drug is very small. He said animal trials have also shown that by using this method, a lower quantity of vaccines is required to provide resistance to animals against infection, when compared to conventional methods.

# IITs, IISc mull certificates for online courses

NPTEL would send a proposal in this regard to HRD ministry soon

VINAY UMARJI

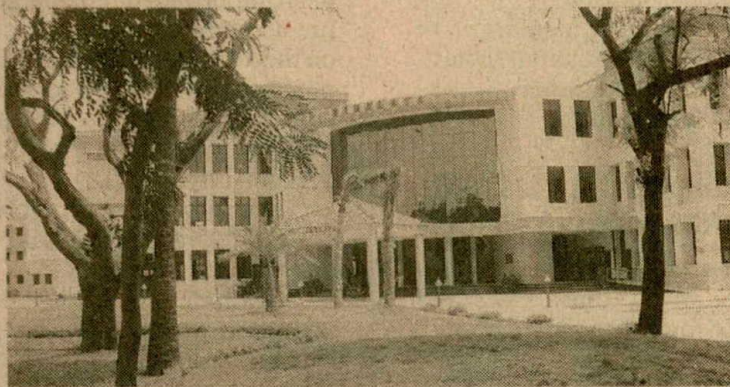
Ahmedabad, 8 May

If the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, have their way, those registering for online courses under the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) would soon be given certificates.

Meant to benefit students, faculty members and working professionals alike, NPTEL is a joint venture by seven IITs — Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee — and the IISc. The programme offers web and video-based course material for basic sciences, engineering and humanities. It was started along the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's OpenCourseWare programme.

"We are on our way to completing the second phase of the project. Under NPTEL, we are exploring the possibilities of offering certificates to online web and video course users. Currently, there is no compulsion or motivation for students and professionals to learn through NPTEL. Certificates could be an incentive," says Kushal Sen, NPTEL coordinator at IIT-Delhi.

Discussions are underway to decide which entity would offer the certificates. "The certificate could come from NPTEL or IITs, or even from an industry consortium, making users employable. Once the discussions are over, NPTEL would send a proposal to MHRD (min-



## LEARNING INITIATIVE

- NPTEL is a joint venture by seven IITs — Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee — and the IISc
- The programme offers web and video-based course material for basic sciences, engineering and humanities
- The programme introduced engineering courses on *Google* and *YouTube*
- In phase-I, NPTEL had developed 260 courses, which were available online for 4,500 hours, free of charge
- In phase-II, 1,000 more courses were added to the programme
- The course material (both web and video) can be accessed by anyone, irrespective of their location

istry for human resource development) soon," says Sen.

Launched in 2007, the programme introduced engineering courses on *Google* and *YouTube* in the first phase. During this phase, NPTEL had developed 260 courses, available online for 4,500 hours, free of charge. The course material (both web and video) can be accessed by anyone, irrespective of their location.

"So far, NPTEL was being used informally by millions of viewers and online users. But we are in discussions to bring in a formal way of offering

these courses," says Sen. The courses are designed by faculty members of IITs, IISc and other technical and engineering institutions.

After about 6,000 hours of video were uploaded on its YouTube channel, the viewership of the NPTEL course material rose to about 80 million, with about 160,000 subscribers. The technology institutes have also roped in 25-30 engineering colleges for content creation. Today, about 700 engineering and management institutions across the country are using course material designed under NPTEL.

In the second phase, about 1,000 courses were added to the programme.

Sen says, "Within NPTEL, we are discussing the possibility of a third phase, in which the project could be made more formal. Apart from possible certificates for users, we are also talking to the industry, primarily information technology companies, about recruiting those studying through NPTEL. Talks are also underway on the possibilities of using industry premises for conducting online tests for NPTEL participants."

In a boost to the project, most of the grant of ₹96 crore from MHRD has been released, Sen says.

Among the IITs, it is IIT-Madras that officially handles the venture and distributes web contents free of charge to government-funded institutions. Mangala Sunder Krishnan, national web course coordinator at IIT-Madras, was unavailable for comment.

In addition to the courses on *Google* and *YouTube*, as well as web and video courses on the NPTEL website, the project also allows content to be hosted on local websites in institutions (intranet). For a fee of ₹1,00,000, privately-funded institutions receive the entire web course content on DVD ROMs, to be hosted on their intranet.

Faculty members from new IITs are set to develop course material for NPTEL. Various universities, research laboratories and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research are also part of the programme.

Tribune ND 09/05/2013 P-8

# Dronacharyas for profit

## Hard to put down IIT coaching menace

ONE of the objectives of the change in the system for admission to IITs introduced this year was to discourage coaching of candidates outside the school system. It failed. The other objectives — including improving the 'quality' of students joining IITs — are yet to be tested. However, the fact that most candidates who have cleared the first part of the IIT selection process had taken coaching does not mean that they would not have made it had they not taken coaching. No parent wants to risk putting his child at a disadvantage — even if perceived — for an individual has only one shot at life. And that is precisely what the professional marketing teams of coaching centres, backed by huge advertising budgets, target.

The million dollar question still remains — does coaching help further a student's chance at getting into the IITs? The answer is yes, at least vis-a-vis a student not taking coaching, all other factors remaining constant. After all, a student imagining for himself what a paper would be like and how to prepare for it cannot compete with one backed by a team of professionals analysing exam and success patterns for years. One charge against coaching is that it has led to not-so-good students also succeeding in getting into IITs. It may not be as much a case of incompetent students — given the competition, hardly anyone unintelligent can make it — as their imagination curtailed by a system of spoon-feeding.

There is no denying that a system that charges anything from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh just for the two-year preparation for an entrance test and gives a child virtually not a day's break for that period does seem unholy. There would be many candidates to lay the blame on — population; lack of good institutes; lack of alternatives in education; unreal ambition; unequal access to good schooling, et al. By giving weightage to the school board score, the government has sought to check the practice of coaching. Perhaps a far wider assessment of aptitude and personality — more than crash courses can influence — is required before that can begin to happen, if at all.

Amid Questions On Whether IITs Will Find Enough Reservation Students, Candidates Brace For Round 2

# With JEE quota cut-offs hitting new low, will IITs restart bridge course?

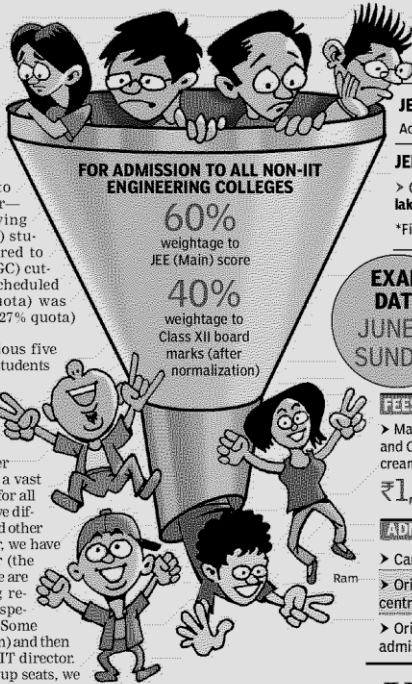
Hemali Chhappia | TNN

The cut-offs for JEE (Main) quota candidates were reduced to new lows to make the numbers, it emerged on Tuesday after results were declared.

For 1.5 lakh candidates to make the cut for the next tier—JEE (Advanced)—the qualifying score for scheduled tribe (ST) students (7.5% quota) was lowered to 60% of the general category (GC) cut-off of 113. The reduction for scheduled caste (SC) students (15% quota) was 55.75% and for OBC students (27% quota) 38.5% of the GC cut-off.

Yet, compared to the previous five years, there may not be enough students to fill up reserved category seats. The question is, will the IITs relax quota cut-offs even more? Or will they reopen their preparatory school?

Before 2013, JEE was a one-tier exam process, allowing the IITs a vast pool of candidates to pick from for all categories. Thus, the comparative difference of marks between GC and other students was low. "But this year, we have a smaller pool to pick from for (the next stage, JEE-Advanced). There are wide score variations among reserved category candidates, especially those belonging to STs. Some have done very well (in JEE-Main) and then there is a huge drop," said an IIT director. "In case we fall short of filling up seats, we



## THE NEXT STAGE

**JEE (MAIN) RESULTS**  
Accessible on <http://jeemain.nic.in>

**JEE (ADVANCED)**  
> Candidates | 1.5 lakh out of 12.6 lakh who registered for JEE (Main)  
\*Figures are approximate

### FOR ADMISSION TO IITs

> Candidates need to take JEE (Advanced)  
\*13 IITs and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad

**EXAM DATE**  
JUNE 2, SUNDAY

> Eligible candidates should register online at <http://jeeadvonline.iitd.ac.in> or <http://jeeadv.iitd.ac.in> from May 8 to 13  
> Candidates must pay registration fee as applicable through challan (generated during registration process) of all SBI branches having core banking solution (CBS) on or before May 14

**FEES**  
> Male, GC and OBC (non-creamy layer) ₹1,800  
> Male, SC, ST, physically disabled ₹900  
> Female, all categories Free

**RESULTS**  
JULY  
first week

**ADMIT CARD**  
> Can be downloaded from May 15 to 31  
> Original admit card will be issued at the examination centre upon verification of downloaded admit card  
> Original admit card should be preserved till the admission process is complete

**PREPARATORY COURSE**  
> The IITs generously reduce cut-offs for reserved category students to fill seats  
> Such students are made to attend a preparatory, or bridge, course for one year  
> The arrangement started in the mid-90s  
> It was the IIT administration that wrote to the government for permission to run the special course

could admit a few students to a preparatory course," said another director.

It was in 2012 that for the first time the IITs did not hold a preparatory course for ST students. For SC students, 2012 was the third consecutive year when the course was not held. Only four seats remained unfilled, that too because the eligible students did not get streams of their choice.

### Performance in JEE (Main) 2013

Category	Cut-off	Relaxation
General	113	NA
OBC	70	38.5%
SC	50	55.75%
ST	45	60.18%

### Candidates for IITs

Category	2013*	2012	2011
OBC	40,500	1.37 L	1.42 L
SC	22,500	46,609	47,479
ST	11,250	18,540	19,305
	NA	4	66

**Vacant seats**  
\*To take JEE (Advanced) In years before 2013, JEE was a single exam process

# High scorers tell tales of grit, determination

Hemali Chhappia & Juhika Desai | TNN

Mumbai: Though a merit list of the candidates who cleared JEE (Main) has not been drawn up, a student from Ranchi is probably the highest scorer. Anagh Prasad, who scored 345 of 360, said he was not surprised with his performance. "This is exactly what I was expecting," said Anagh, whose father is a doctor and mother a forest officer.

From Mumbai, the top scorer is probably Aditya Kale of Sulochanadevi Singhania School. Aditya, who scored 331, hopes to study electrical or mechanical engineering in IIT-Bombay. "My love for maths and physics has helped me score so high. A similar syllabus for JEE (Main) and JEE (Advance) helped me



High scorers Aditya, Charmi and Pradyot

prepare simultaneously for both."

Next is probably Pradyot Prakash from IITian's Pace Jr College, who scored 322. "I wanted to be an engineer since Class VIII. My family members motivated me," said Pradyot, whose father is a banker and mother chemistry teacher.

The girl topper is probably Panak Jain, who scored 340. "I love maths and want to

# Scores don't tally with answer keys of coaching classes

Hemali Chhappia & Yogita Rao | TNN

Mumbai: Most candidates who failed to clear JEE (Main) cannot believe their scores. They are finding the gap between expectation and reality too wide to bridge with the acceptance that they did not perform well.

"I expected to score 156, but scored 37," said Lekha Warke. Her father, Nilesh, said Lekha had matched her OMR sheet with the answer keys provided by coaching classes. "Even if there were errors in the answer keys, the difference with the result should not have been so high."

Chemistry teacher Prashant Pandey of the coaching centre Rao IIT Academy said of a student that he had scored less than expected. "The CBSE (organizers of JEE-Main) did not release an answer key, but this student has clearly scored less than he should have. He had a lot more correct answers, not to mention that some questions in the online test were out of syllabus."

Ruchit Birla, a student of IITians' Pace College, Thane, said he expected a score of 250, but got 95. "This is very demoralizing."

An IIT-Bombay professor whose daughter appeared for the exam said he was not satisfied with the scores put up by the

CBSE. His daughter expected a score of 129, but got only 36. "There was a doubt in one question, which we challenged by (following procedure). Even if the challenge was turned down, her score should not have been so low," the professor said. "They (CBSE authorities) have removed the OMR sheets from their site."

Even if there were errors in the answer keys, the difference with the result should not have been so high

**A candidate**  
How can students make such claims based on answer keys provided by coaching centres? How do we know these claims are genuine?

**CBSE official**  
A CBSE official questioned the failed candidates' claims. "How can they make such claims based on answer keys provided by coaching centres? Our evaluation is done on the basis of solutions prepared by our subject experts. How do we know these claims are genuine?"

Will the board release an answer key? "It is yet to take a decision," the official said. "Last year, nobody challenged our model answers."

# Registration begins for JEE-Advance

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The online registration of candidates who qualified for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advance for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) began on Wednesday. The last date for the online registration is May 13.

The nationwide test for selection of candidates for admissions to 15 premier technical institutes as well as Indian Institute of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, will be conducted by Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs on June 2.

About 1.5 lakh candidates from all categories including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been selected for the JEE-Advanced on the basis of their performance in the JEE-Main, results of which were declared on Tuesday.

For online registration, eligible candidates for JEE-Advance can visit website <http://jeeadvonline.iitd.ac.in/> or <http://jeeadv.iitd.ac.in/>.

After successful registration and payment of prescribed fee through bank, the candidates can download their admit card

from May 15 to May 31. Only those candidates who carry valid admit cards, downloaded from the website, would be allowed to write the examination, according to a circular issued by the JAB.

At the examination hall, the downloaded admit card should be presented to the invigilators for verification. The original admit card for the JEE (Advanced) - 2013 will be issued to the candidates in the respective examination centre on the day of examination after verifying their candidature, it added.

Hindu Chennai 08-05-2013 P-2

# When anxiety trumped euphoria

## Results for IIT-JEE round one declared; next test on June 2

Vasudha Venugopal

**CHENNAI:** Engineering aspirants will have to make quicker decisions this year about accepting or foregoing admissions to a particular college.

Premier institutions, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will finalise their admissions only towards the end of June or July, but admissions to State colleges and deemed universities will be over by then.

Nearly 1.5 lakh students across the country, who cleared the cut-off in the main paper of the IIT-Joint Entrance Exam (JEE), results of which were declared on Tuesday, will have to write another test on June 2 - IIT-JEE advanced, which will finally determine their entry to the country's top engineering colleges.

The results of this second test will only be declared in the last week of June. Those students, who have set their sights on NITs, will have to wait till July 7, when the rank list will be announced and their admission secured.

Nearly 35,200 students in Tamil Nadu took the IIT-JEE mains.

State and deemed universities however, are finishing their admission procedures much faster this year, in order to begin the academic year sooner. While Anna University has decided to finish its first round of counselling in June, deemed universities have said they will close their merit-list

admissions by the end of May.

With this difference in schedules, many students said they would rather accept a seat at a private college as it would be safer than waiting for the off chance of getting into an IIT or NIT.

Another issue is the fact that the State rank list, usually released at this time, has not come out this year, leaving students wondering about where they stand, score-wise, compared to students from other States, and if they are eligible for the 'home State reservation' quota at NITs.

S. Nagarjun, a parent said, "Since my son has already put in so much effort to clear JEE, both mains and advanced, I won't force him to get into a State college. But giving the private colleges' coun-

selling session a miss is not advisable, as JEE advanced can be difficult and students can lose out here. I may have to shell out around Rs. 30,000 to at least book a seat," he said.

"Until last year, a student had many options. This time, she has to decide fast and choose careful-

### Differences in counselling schedules this year leave students in quandary

ly, depending on her JEE mains marks, board exam marks, her score in the advanced test and counselling dates of other universities," said T. Nishant, of coaching centre FITJEE.

Even for the top scorers though, there is a struggle ahead. T. Sundar, a high-scoring aspirant

said he has been focusing on JEE advanced alone, as it is a six-hour test, and the syllabus was vast.

The most worried lot however, are students who have secured between 150 and 220 on JEE mains. "Ideally, I would like to get into one of the NITs, but without knowing the State rank, it is very difficult to know where I stand," said Krunal Patel, a student who has scored 190.

CBSE officials said a rank list would have to collate students' performances in board exams and JEE mains, and that could only be done once all the boards released their class XII results.

"Since JEE 2013 is, for the first time, linked with class XII results, the slight delay when compared to last year is inevitable but does some good, as students are expected to make mature decisions," said dean, Sastra University, S. Vaidhyasubramaniam.

### WHY STUDENTS ARE CONFUSED

- Until last year, IITs released JEE results by mid-May. This year, students have to take another test on June 2, and then wait for results to be declared on June 23

- Until last year, admissions to NITs would begin by June 14. This year, students have to wait till June 7, just to get the rank list. Only then will counselling for NITs start

- Until last year, Anna University counselling would begin only in mid-July, giving students enough time to finish counselling to IITs and NITs. This year, the university has expedited the process

- Private universities will begin their counselling procedures from May 15. Most students, believing it is safer to have a confirmed seat, may pay non-refundable admission fee starting from Rs 30,000

- This could forfeit their chances of getting into premier institutes such as IITs, NITs whose admission lists release much later

## THE TOP SCORERS

**NITHIN RAMESAN | Score: 326**

I have been preparing for four years for this test. I took the offline test because I wanted more time to prepare for JEE Advanced

**SOORAJ NARAIN | Score: 330**

It is important not to get demoralised while studying. Every mark is important here, so coaching and continuous testing help

**AJAY KUMAR | Score: 305**

This is just the first step. JEE Advanced is a greater battle, and it is all about how you perform in those six hours. It is lot of pressure

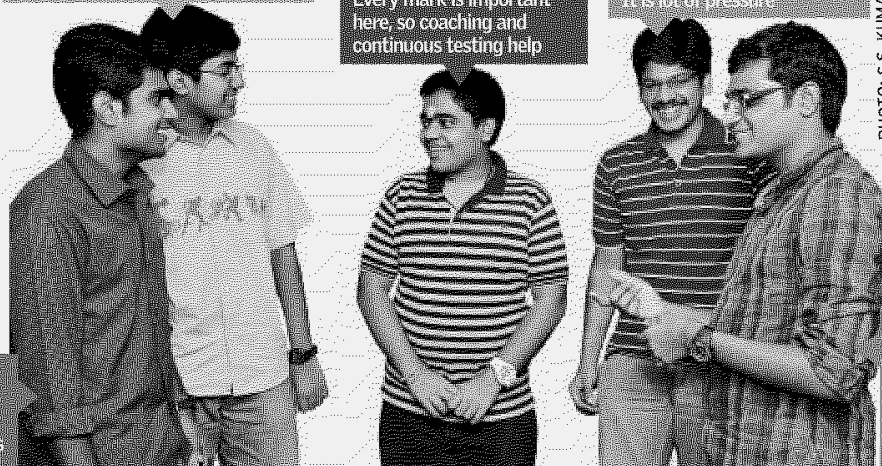


PHOTO: S. S. KUMAR

**SHIMON JOSEPH | Score: 300**

I was expecting a higher score. It would have helped had they released the official answer key. I want to do electrical engineering at IIT-Madras

**SAI PRAVIN | Score: 331**

I am from Salem and have been staying in a hostel here for the past two years, preparing for JEE. I want to take up computer science at IIT-Bombay or in California

# City's top scorers in JEE-Main now aim for IIT-B

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MAY 7

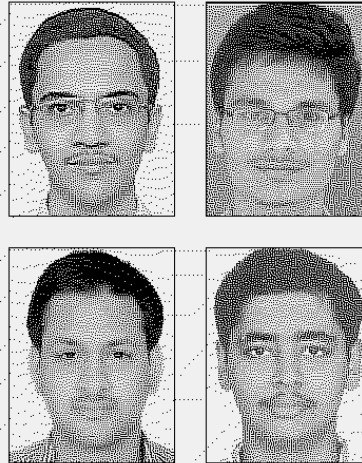
MANY of the city's high scorers in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main), who are eligible for JEE (Advanced) for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), have their eyes set on IIT Bombay. The reasons, according to the aspirants, range from campus life and flexible curriculum to faculty, location in the country's financial hub and placements.

Since 2005, when 52 of the top 100 JEE rankers opted for IIT Bombay, the institute has retained its position as the most preferred destination among top rankers. In 2012, 86 candidates listed IIT Bombay as their first choice and 77 got admission offers from the institute.

The results of the first JEE (Main), which replaced the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), were declared Tuesday. Of the 12.49 lakh candidates who appeared for JEE (Main) this year, 1.5 lakh have now become eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced). Around 12.62 lakh had registered for JEE (Main).

"Faculty from IIT Bombay is said to be the best and the institute is considered the best among all the IITs. I have heard that campus life here is better as compared to the other IITs. My preparations are on in full swing as I want to secure a good rank to get into IIT Bombay. Though I haven't yet zeroed in on the discipline, electrical, computer science and mechanical engineering are some of the preferred ones," said Aditya Kale, a Thane resident, who secured 331 out of 360.

A top scorer from Maharashtra with a score of 335, Yash Bhalgat



(Clockwise from top left) Yash Bhalgat, Aditya Kale, Vivek Pandit and Pradyot Prakash

is also an IIT Bombay aspirant. "I have heard that the quality of education offered at IIT Bombay is good. I am working hard for a good rank to get into IIT Bombay. It will also be closer to my hometown," said the student from Pune.

Pradyot Prakash, who scored 322, also wants to join IIT Bombay. "I have heard that IIT Bombay has a good campus culture. Events like Techfest and Mood Indigo give you exposure and opportunity to hone your talents. Besides the fact that I will be closer to home, excellent placement opportunities and good industry exposure are the other reasons why my first choice is IIT Bombay," said Prakash, a Nerul resident.

Others like Yashraj Bhosale from Pune (321), Vivek Pandit from Ghatkopar (320), Rishabh Iyer from Powai (317) and Devang Thakkar from Thane (305) also prefer IIT Bombay.

JEE (Advanced) will be held on June 2 and eligible candidates will have to register from May 8-13.



Times of India Hyderabad 08-05-2013 P-1

# City boys top JEE Mains exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ramoorthy P

**Hyderabad:** Students from Hyderabad secured the top two ranks out of 13.5 lakh examinees in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains, which brings them closer to getting admissions in IITs.

Sixteen-year-old M Viswa Virinchi, a resident of Kukatpally, secured the first rank with 345 marks, and could be the youngest to crack the exam this year, officials said, while Owais Khan Mohammed, a resident of Tolichowki, secured the second rank with 341 marks.

Interestingly, the two toppers are classmates from Sri Chaitanya Narayana IIT Academy, Madhapur. The third student Ravi Jagannath Vishal, who secured 340 marks, is from Visakhapatnam.

## ► No bookworms: P8

"I had expected a good rank but did not think that I would top the mark list," said Virinchi. His friend and classmate Mohammed said he worked very hard but the second rank came as a surprise. "I hope to secure a good rank in IIT-Advanced too," Mohammed, who wants to get into IIT-Bombay, said.

JEE Mains is considered to be a qualifying examination for JEE Advanced and also an entrance test for National Institute of Technologies (NITs) and other government-run top institutes directly on the basis of this



Toppers M Viswa Virinchi and Owais Khan

showing. The third rank holder Ravi Jagannath Vishal whose father is a senior manager (projects) in HPCL said that he is glad to have done well as he had put in 12 hours of study every day.

JEE mains examination was held in various centres across the country last month. According to the new rules, about 1.5 lakh passouts will be selected for the IIT-Advanced examination on June 2, the entrance test meant for admissions to IITs.

Out of a total of 1.5 lakh students who cleared the examination, about 31,514 were from Andhra Pradesh, JEE-Main zonal office in Hyderabad revealed.

"Students from AP have been doing well every year in AIEEE which was replaced by JEE-Mains. As much as 21% of the students in IITs are from AP. We are quite proud of the state's performance in this examinations," said Rahul Shukla, coordinator, IIT-JEE Zonal Centre, Hyderabad, in a media conference.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 09/05/2013

P-1

## 13 साल के सत्यम ने फिर पास की आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा

पटना: बिहार के भोजपुर निवासी 13 वर्षीय सत्यम कुमार ने फिर आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा पास की है। वे इस परीक्षा को पास करने

**यंग  
इंडिया**

वाले सबसे युवा छात्र बन गए हैं। सत्यम ने पिछले साल आईआईटी परीक्षा साढ़े बारह साल की उम्र में पास की थी। उन्हें सीबीएसई ने विशेष अनुमति दी थी। तब उनकी रैंक 8137 थी। सत्यम ने इस बार अपनी रैंक सुधारने के लिए वापस परीक्षा में बैठे। अब वे एडवांस की तैयारी कर रहे हैं।

## BREATHER FOR VARSITY

# HC refuses stay on DU's 4-yr undergraduate courses

Harish V Nair

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**NEW DELHI:** In a major relief to the Delhi University administration, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the introduction of four-year undergraduate programme.

An NGO, Sambhavna, had alleged that the course, which will commence from this academic session in July, was discriminatory against visually-impaired students of the university. The NGO had raised objections on various counts, major among them being that two mandatory foundation courses based on mathematics and science would be a hurdle for visually-challenged students.

"Why should we stay it? The course anyways is beginning only in July. We will hear the petition next week," a bench of Chief Justice D Murugesan and justice Jayant Nath told the NGO's lawyer, Pankaj Sinha. The petition had sought a stay on the course till the university made special arrangements for the differently-abled.

The court, however, issued notice to the Delhi University seeking to know by May 15 what extra facilities and provisions have been made so that the visually-impaired students do

## MORE COURSES PASSED FOR NEW PROGRAMME

- Students will have the option to take courses in two different fields for discipline II under the new four-year programme, the Academic Council (AC) decided on Wednesday
- The AC also passed courses for the new system, including computer science, math, sta-

tistics, economics, geography, political science, social work and commerce

- At the time of going to press, the AC was discussing content of the foundation course

- The AC decided that the new syllabus could be revised every year.

not face any difficulties in adopting the course.

DU's counsel MJS Rupal told the court that the university is considering extra facilities for such students and a meeting on Wednesday was being convened in the to deal with their grievances.

Sinha, a visually-impaired lawyer, told the court that visually-challenged students are exempted from studying science and mathematics after class eight in some cases and after class 10 in most cases. He said with the university making these foundation courses compulsory, which will require prior knowledge of these subjects, it would be unfair to the students if requisite arrangements are not made in advance.

He said another major concern

was access to sufficient reading material for such students such as Braille textbooks, e-texts or audio texts. "Maths cannot be studied in braille," said Sinha. They claimed the course was not discussed with disabled teachers and students.

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# High Court notice to DU on four-year programme

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Delhi University on a public interest litigation by a non-government organisation seeking a stay on implementation of the “discriminatory” four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) by Delhi University from the next academic session.

Issuing the notice, a Division Bench of Justice Dharma Murugesan and Justice Jayant Nath asked the university to file a reply to the petition by May 15, the next date of hearing.

Accepting the notice, counsel for the university submitted that several issues connected with the four-year programme had been addressed by the Academic Council and the grievances raised in this petition had also been considered.

The petitioner, Sambhavana, an organisation of physically-challenged teachers and students in the Capital, said that the existing design of FYUP was discriminatory as it did not take into account the aspirations and specific needs of students with visual impairment and other print-disabilities.

It stated that if the course in its present form was implemented, the visually-impaired students would suffer irreparable loss as a large number of them would not be able to avail of the proposed benefits.

Under the inter-disciplinary programme, students were required to study foundation courses from multiple streams. Two of the 11 foundation courses to be studied over first two semesters would be on mathematics and science. In most cases, visually-impaired students were dis-

couraged or practically barred from taking the two subjects after class XII, the petition said.

It further said that like most schools in Delhi, the university had not made adequate arrangements for teaching the two subjects to these students. Yet, the new programme had made it compulsory for all the students to study courses that required prior knowledge of science and mathematics, the petition stated.

The university had two options in this case. Either it could exempt these students from studying courses that required knowledge of the two subjects or it could tell them to look for some other universities. In either case, it would be treating them as second class students in complete violation of their fundamental and other legislative rights of equal participation, the petition alleged.

HT Jaipur

# UP girl commmits suicide in Kota after IIT-JEE result

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**KOTA:** A girl studying in a coaching centre in Kota reportedly committed suicide on Tuesday after being unable to cope-up with the pressure of failing in IIT-JEE, said police.

Ayushi Tiwari , 18, a native of Uttar Pradesh, used to live in a hostel in Rajeev Nagar area of Kota. After the engineering exam results were declared on

Tuesday she locked herself in her room and hanged herself to death, they added.

The girl has left a suicide note for her parents stating that she “regretted not living up to their (parents) expectations,” said cops.

The hostel owner informed the police about the incident.

The postmortem examination was conducted and body was handed to family members on Wednesday, said police.