

Newspaper Clips October 11, 2013

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Farhan to perform at IIT Delhi

By *editor*

Created 10 Oct 2013 - 00:00

Farhan Akhtar is a man in demand. The talented director-actor-singer has been recently approached by 67 colleges across India, including 15 IITs. All of them want Farhan to come to their college and perform. Recently the actor had rocked Dubai and Calcutta with his performance. Due to his work commitments, Farhan could not spend much time for his live performances.

A source says, "A few days ago Farhan had a stellar performance at IIT Roorke, Uttarkhand. He got a tremendous response there

from the audience. Farhan is now scheduling a round of performances across these colleges. By the end of this month he will also grace IIT Delhi along with his band."



[1]

Rendezvous'13 - IIT Delhi's Grand Show

By [Anshuman Sahay](#)

From [IIT Delhi, New Delhi](#)

Posted Oct 8th 2013 3:00AM

[Comments](#)



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Date : 18th to 21st October 2013

culture, and international fiesta. "A meeting" is what "Rendezvous" translates literally and the fest is no exception with extraordinary and exceptional footfall of more than 50,000. Rendezvous has become the synonym of a perfect amalgamation of what signifies vigor of youthfulness.

A place where dance & dramatics fuses with debating with an added zing of informal events viz. paintball, rappelling & overnight LAN gaming or rather tête-à-tête with celebrities & head banging performances. How would you describe an event of such proportions as rendezvous? One that transforms the innovation and technological center of the country overnight into the cultural melting pot of India! Maybe it's just a time for the so called 'Geeks' of the country to let off some heat, but we'd like the rest of you to join us as well.

This year the treat is even bigger with performances better than ever, with International Collaborations, RDV brings to you international musical performances, films showcase, and food festivals too. Come and be a part of the magnificent extravaganza that surely would capture the eye rolls of many and much more shutterbugs. Be a part of the best 4 days of your life: 18-21 October.

IIT Kharagpur to conduct engineering exam, JEE Advanced 2014

October 10, 2013

The [Joint Entrance Examination \(Advanced\) or JEE \(Advanced\) 2014](#) will be conducted this year by [IIT Kharagpur](#) on **25 May, 2014**. Paper 1 would be conducted from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and Paper 2 would be conducted from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

JEE Advanced is the common entrance exam for admission to undergraduate [engineering](#), architecture and sciences programmes offered by all 16 [Indian Institutes of Technology \(IITs\)](#) and the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad.

Only the top 1.5 lakh students who qualify the [JEE \(Main\) 2014](#) will be eligible to take the JEE (Advanced) 2014 exam. JEE Main is expected to be conducted by the CBSE on **6 April, 2014**.

The exam fee for JEE Advanced 2014 has been increased to Rs. 2000 (general & OBC) from Rs. 1800 last year and to Rs. 1000 (SC, ST, PwD) from Rs. 900 in 2013. However, like last year, female candidates need not pay any exam fee.

IITs go extra mile to draw top-class faculty; offer start-up grants of up to Rs 1 crore

By *Sreeradha D Basu & Shreya Biswas*, ET Bureau | 11 Oct, 2013, 04:30AM IST

MUMBAI|KOLKATA: Last month, when IIT Kanpur opened its overseas office in New York - the first of its kind across any IIT - fund-raising was one of the drivers behind the move. The other was faculty hiring.

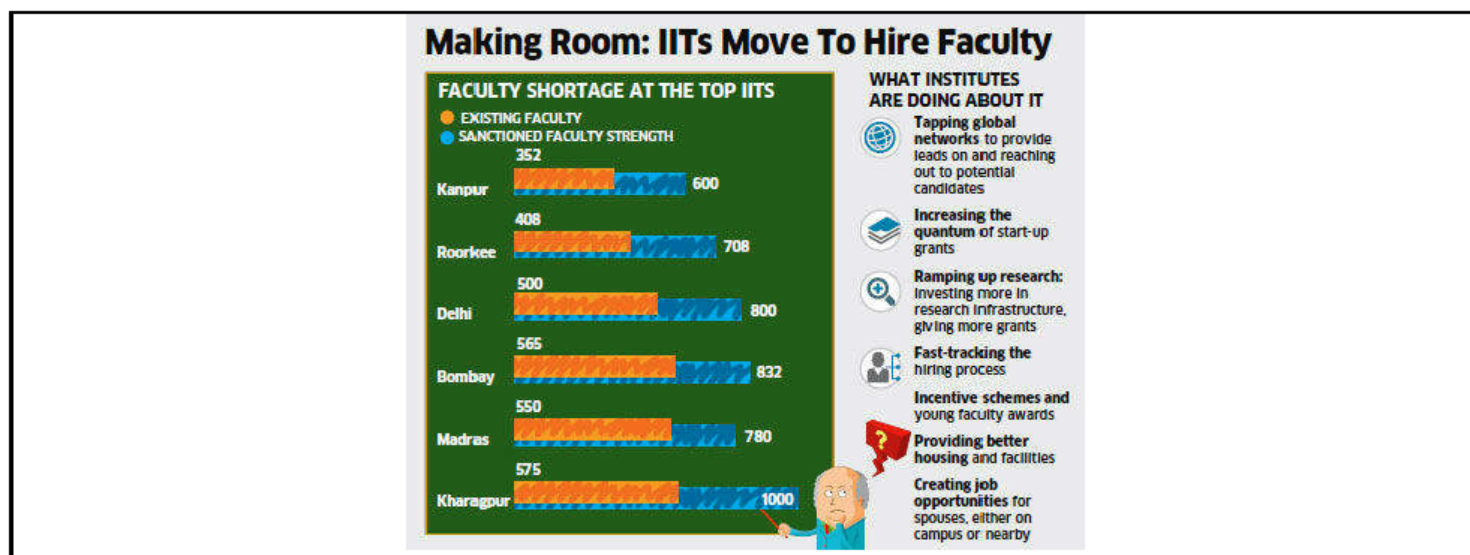
Nearly 60% of the institute's faculty comes from North America, and the NYC office will be involved in reaching out to such potential candidates, encouraging them to apply and help address their concerns.

It shows just how seriously the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are taking their hiring efforts.

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From start-up grants that can go up to Rs 1 crore, incentive schemes funded by donor money, special young faculty awards and job scouting for spouses to setting up faculty search committees and fast-tracking the hiring process, the premier engineering institutes are going all out to get the best and the brightest on their rolls.

According to recent data, over 40% of the teaching slots in the older IITs are lying vacant. Recruitments have not kept pace with the huge expansion in the number of seats because of the 27% OBC quota implementation. The teacher-student ratio at most of the older IITs averages 1:15, as compared to the ideal 1:10 ratio.

However, reaching the optimal faculty numbers will take between five and 10 years. Right now, quality is critical to the IITs at Mumbai, Kanpur, Roorkee, Delhi, Kharagpur, Chennai and Hyderabad. In the meantime, they are tapping global networks, beefing up infrastructure and focusing more on research to attract and maintain a steady flow of good faculty.

In the past 10 months, IIT Kanpur has offered two to three top-notch candidates start-up grants of as much as Rs 1 crore, up from the usual Rs 25 lakh. During this time, it has made offers to 50 candidates, of whom some 30 have joined. "We have to think of ways to circumvent the fact that we have pay scale constraints," says [Indranil Manna](#), director, IIT Kanpur.

IITs are focusing on research prospects, which academics often give more importance to than compensation. IIT Roorkee, for instance, has invested Rs 185 crore in research infrastructure in the past two years to attract potential candidates. An initial research grant of Rs 10 lakh is given to every individual who joins, says IIT-R director [Pradipta Banerji](#). In the past few months, three faculty members have submitted proposals worth Rs 3.5 crore, which they will get.

IIT Kharagpur is toeing a similar line. The institute has increased the faculty start-up grant from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 28 lakh, which is now given within a month compared with six to 12 months earlier. "We are also giving total grants of Rs 14 crore for special research that is competitive and collaborative. If we see a huge interest in this, we will increase the overall quantum of grants next year," says PP Chakarabarti, director, IIT Kharagpur.

IIT Roorkee has created a global network of researchers and foreign faculty members to give leads on bright candidates willing to relocate and work in India.

It has also formalised a network of faculty search committees and fast-tracked the hiring process to close it within a month, one-sixth the time it took earlier. At IIT Delhi, faculty members routinely reach out to potential hires while conducting overseas seminars or conferences. Candidates are regularly interviewed over [Skype](#).

"Our Young Fellow Incentive Scheme, funded by donor money, gives up to 50 fellows per year, an additional Rs 1.2 lakh over and above their salary. It's for candidates who do outstanding research or bring something unique to the department," says IIT-D director RK Shevgaonkar. IIT Bombay too has a young faculty award to all assistant professors for the first four years. The institute has streamlined and decentralised the hiring process and departments are quite active in faculty search, says director Devang Khakhar.

At IIT Madras, director Bhaskar Ramamurthi says they making it possible for new faculty members to access a Rs 1 lakh grant for professional development much earlier than they did before. "These faculty need to attend international conferences and be heard in their peer group. We are trying to facilitate that," says Ramamurthi.

Institutes are also addressing housing concerns. IITs like the ones at Chennai and Kanpur are focusing on better housing on campus, growing vertically where land is at a premium. They are also trying to create opportunities for spouses both within the institute as well as finding them jobs nearby. While some are inducting spouses with PhDs as scientists, others are placing them in administrative roles, automation cells, hostels, computer centres and even schools.

IIT-B looks beyond 'geekiness' to ensure job-fit students

Mihika Basu Posted online: Thu Oct 10 2013, 03:00 hrs

Mumbai : Realising that being a geek may not be enough to impress potential recruiters, three external agencies or organisations are gauging students of IIT Bombay this year on a range of parameters, which include body language, communication and skills, fluency, style, assertiveness, grammar, vocabulary and influence of one's mother tongue, among others.

"Being technically sound may not be enough in today's competitive world. Communication and other soft skills are equally important. Further, most recruiters expect students to have a certain set of skills and persona. Students, however, come from different backgrounds and some may not be very articulate or street smart. They may not be clear about what is expected of them, besides technical know-how. It is crucial to identify areas where they need improvement," said a senior faculty member from IIT Bombay.

Around 1,600 students are part of the final campus placements this year, which starts from December 1.

One test is assessing aspects like language structure, fluidity, comprehension, coherence and enunciation. The sessions are video recorded and based on interactions, which cover several factors, reports are generated. After the evaluation process is over, there are group sessions where the reports are discussed with students. They are advised on ways to interpret the report, how to channelise the suggestions to their advantage and the areas they need to improve upon.

"Recruiters have underlined the need for developing soft skills among the students. These sessions are important as students come to know their deficiencies and where they can improve," said Avijit Chatterjee, professor in charge of placements at IIT Bombay.

Two other tests focus primarily on group discussions and personal interviews. While giving feedback to students on their performance, these sessions also identify the gap areas and the skill sets that they should acquire. Students are given topics and asked to make presentations. Reports are then generated based on their performance.

Meanwhile, according to IIT Bombay's placement office, 210 companies have registered so far for campus placement, and the numbers are expected to go up to 300. Significantly, despite a slow economy, students have received 75 pre-placement offers (PPOs) and pre-placement interviews (PPIs). Last year, the institute received 77 PPOs/PPIs. "The numbers look encouraging. We expect the PPOs/PPIs to go up," said Chatterjee.

BRTS: IIT Bombay experts moot steps for pedestrian safety

DNA, Friday, Oct 11, 2013, 0:05 IST | Place: Pune | Agency: DNA

A safety audit conducted for the proposed Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's (PCMC) Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) suggests a slew of measures for pedestrian safety. The audit was conducted by a team of experts from Bombay Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Powai.

This week, dna had reported on the need for pedestrian safety in PCMC areas, especially on lack of zebra crossings on the Nigdi-Dapodi stretch.

According to the officials of PCMC's engineering department, the report emphasises on raising the size of the proposed bus shelters for BRTS, and increasing the number of zebra crossings on the 13km Nigdi-Dapodi stretch. It also lists safety measures for the vehicles that pass through different subways on the BRTS routes.

Shrikant Savane, executive engineer of PCMC, says, "We have received the draft audit report and the presentation will be made before the officials and mayor Mohini Lande on October 15. After the presentation, the report will be presented to the media and it will be open for implementation."

The IIT team examined the Nigdi-Dapodi stretch where PCMC's first-ever BRTS route is going to start within the next two months. The task to prepare safety audit has been given to IIT Mumbai after Shiv Sena corporator Seema Savale raised questions over the safety aspects of the BRTS, especially at the merger-in and merger-out points from the expressway.

The highway has eight lanes, of which the central portion (including the grade separator) has four lanes. The service roads have two lanes each on either side of the highway. PCMC plans to implement BRT on the service roads. The right lane will be converted into a dedicated BRT routes with bus stops on the right side of each service road.

The main objection on the BRTS route is that it is not at the central carriageway of the road, unlike most BRTS routes at the national and international levels. The road stretch of Nigdi to Dapodi was developed before the decision of implementation of BRTS.

According to political parties who opposed the BRTS route, there are several merger-in and merger-out points on the central part of the road which interrupt free flow of buses on BRTS route and invites accidents due to collision of vehicles merging in and out to the central part of the road crossing BRTS route.

Currently seven merger-ins and eight merger-outs are provided on the Dapodi to Nigdi grade separator road. Seven merger-ins and six merger-outs provided here facilitate the entry and from the service road's to the Nigdi to Dapodi grade separator road.

PCMC changes Morwadi merger-in

As per the traffic police's suggestion, PCMC has changed one merger-in at the Morwadi Chowk into merger-out from where vehicles going to Chinchwad station and Chinchwadgaon can get through. PCMC has made merger-in at the Chinchwad Station. PCMC executive engineer Shrikant Savane said that as per the demand of the Empire Estate Colony residents, PCMC made the changes. To reduce the traffic congestion at Chinchwad station near Big Bazar, the changes have been made. The sudden change led to chaos amongst the people but civic officials added that the civic body made it on experimental basis.

The Decompression Day @IIT Jodhpur

(<http://www.coolage.in/2013/10/10/the-decompression-day-iit-jodhpur/>)

There is a concept that the efficiency of a compressor increases as you keep on cooling it. Moving on the same principle, [IIT Jodhpur](#) celebrated its first ever Decompression Day on Oct 8, 2013. This 'Decompression Day' was to help students ease out the pressure just before the mid semester exam.

We at IIT [Jodhpur](#) are having the concept of two mid semester exams in a semester, and this is the most flavourless part of IIT Jodhpur's life. You can spot group of student with books and notebooks spread everywhere in the campus. The population density of reading room and library suddenly increases and all other activities come to a standstill with parks

and meeting hall deserted. You can actually feel the tension in the air during this period.

This time the new director and student president decided to do something to give students a break from this intense schedule. For the same, Decompression Day was celebrated just before the D-Day of exams. The whole student community gathered at the basketball court, with few faculty and the Director himself. The Director wished everyone luck for the exams and said that I on behalf of all your parents guide you to be at ease during this period and have proper rest. He also focused on the importance of these prepared exams for the preparation of unprepared exams that one needs to face in real life.

Later on the students also requested the director to change the two mid semester exam system to a single exam system, as all other [IITs](#) have adopted. To which the director nodded stating that he is in discussion on this matter with the faculty. The students also raised the issue of Morning Drills, Physical Exercise hindering the academics. This is a big pain for students especially in their first year, and they all were cheered with the director's response that the academic committee is working to reschedule it.

The whole atmosphere was cheerful during this celebration and the refreshments added to it by releasing the remaining stress as well. Almost after a get together of half an hour everyone moved back to their dens for the mission. Just wish that this cool down of brains will make them perform more efficiently at exams.

IIT Hyderabad, Ropar best in research quality

Author: Express News Service

- Published Date: Oct 11, 2013 6:00 AM , Last Updated: Oct 11, 2013 1:29 AM

In a recent report commissioned by the new IITs, the newly setup institutes in Hyderabad and Ropar, in Punjab, have been ranked the best in quality of research among all other IITs across the country.

In a recent report commissioned by the new IITs, the newly setup institutes in Hyderabad and Ropar, in Punjab, have been ranked the best in quality of research among all other IITs across the country.

According to data upto September 2013, IIT Mandi and IIT Jodhpur are among the worst performers with h-indices (which quantifies an individual's or institution's scientific research impact on the basis of the number of publications, and the number of citations per publication) of two and three respectively.

The report suggested that the older IITs have an h-index of 40 and above, with 600 to 1,000 annual citations. It also added that, IIT Ropar leads the new IIT pack with an average citation per paper (ACPP) of 2.55. Hyderabad has an ACPP score of 1.95; Gandhinagar 1.67 and Bhubaneswar 1.49.

IIT Hyderabad's research has been cited 535 times, IIT Ropar 362 times, Gandhinagar 105, Patna 97, Indore 87, Bhubaneswar 85, Jodhpur 41, and IIT Mandi 19 times.

As far as teacher strength is concerned, some of the new IITs fare far better than the older ones. IIT Hyderabad has only one per cent of its teaching positions vacant while the corresponding figures are 26 per cent, 46 per cent and 57 per cent for IIT Patna, Indore and Ropar respectively. IIT Bhubaneswar does not have a single regular teacher against a sanctioned strength of 90.

While the older IITs may dismiss this particular report, the new IITs are more than happy with the observations. Prof R K Raina, professor in-charge of Ropar IIT, says, “There are two reasons IIT-Ropar appears in the top rung. One, our director is an alumnus of IISc-Bangalore which is known for its research productivity and second even though we are new, we have been able to procure state-of-the-art infrastructure, best suited for undertaking researches.”

Prof M K Surappa, director, IIT Ropar, reiterated that the institute has been investing in building research infrastructure and environment and though shortage of faculty and infrastructure has affected the new IITs, the new report comes as a stress-buster.

An official from IIT-Hyderabad told Express, “It is good that our institute has been listed as one of the best among the new ones. Our faculty members, even though few, are well qualified and capable of leading the institute to be one of the best in the world.”

Business Standard

M Saraswathy | Mumbai October 10, 2013 Last Updated at 19:55 IST

IIT- Bombay's InOpen Technologies ties up with Report Bee

To develop inter active report cards for schools



IIT Bombay incubated startup InOpen Technologies has tied-up with technology services firm Report Bee to make interactive report cards. InOpen Technologies and Report Bee are now strategic partners to revamp the report card into a meaningful and fun feedback system.

They have developed a system to harness granular information about various learning, activities and initiatives happening in the school ecosystem in an organized manner and easy-to-implement mind-map based data collection.

This information is then transformed into aesthetically designed student/parent user friendly report cards. These report cards also feature comments on strengths and weaknesses as well as details related to life skills of each child.

Rupesh Kumar Shah, CEO & Co-founder, InOpen Technologies said, "We will now be able to capture the actual growth of the students which was not possible in the existing report cards. Our combined strengths to impart life skills through Computer Masti and then measuring the impact will be very helpful for the schools in taking important decisions related to their academics."

Through this, both the companies intend to help the educators and parents to access historical trends of student's performance, find out what teaching method works or which student needs help in a specific subject, discover a pattern in sudden improvements and identify their own best and worst practices, right at their fingertips by their consistent and systematic tracking. Using algorithms, the application summarizes every aspect of a student's school history onto a single page.

Ananth Mani, Founder, Report Bee said, "We want the report cards to be like a family album that one enjoys seeing time and again, see various events and like. The reports should talk back to the users. We wanted to create a report card that is a beautiful visual presentation of every student's holistic progress and achievements; A report card that every student will love, parents treasure and schools benefit from."

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 11, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 26;

Climate to change even if bid made to cut emissions

POINT OF NO RETURN

Projected year when Indian cities will reach their 'tipping points', when local temperatures exceed historical extremes recorded in 150 years ending 2005



147 cities
globally will shift
to a hotter climate
regime by 2043

► **Mumbai & Chennai** to be among **first cities to reach tipping pt.**, after which coldest years will be consistently hotter than any in 150 yrs

► In 1st scenario, an average location on earth will experience **radically different climate by 2047**

► In 2nd scenario, global mean **climate departure will take place by 2069**

| City | Climate departure year | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------|
| | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 |
| Mumbai | 2034 | 2051 |
| Chennai | 2034 | 2052 |
| Pune | 2037 | 2055 |
| Surat | 2045 | 2066 |
| Jaipur | 2045 | 2074 |
| Bangalore | 2046 | 2069 |
| Ahmedabad | 2046 | 2075 |
| New Delhi | 2050 | 2081 |
| Kolkata | 2053 | 2081 |
| Hyderabad | 2057 | 2085 |

Manokwari, Indonesia will be first city to reach tipping pt, by 2020

Male in Maldives will be first in **S Asia** to bear brunt by 2025

Anchorage, Alaska will be last city in list to witness climate departure (in 2071)

Predictions made for two scenarios: 1, business as usual, nothing is done to cut CO2 emissions; 2, cities adopt measures to decrease CO2 emissions

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

New Delhi: Mumbai and Chennai may regularly start experiencing hotter temperatures, according to a study predicting the climate 'tipping points' of various cities has warned. Even if concerted efforts are made to cut emissions, Mumbai is predicted to reach its tipping point by 2051, followed by Chennai a year later. Delhi will follow suit by 2050 (in first scenario) or 2081 (in second scenario).

"The results shocked us. Regardless of the scenario, changes will be coming soon," said lead author Camilo Mora of the University of Hawaii. "Within my generation, whatever climate we were used to will be a thing of the past".

Other Indian cities, the

study says, will only be delaying the inevitable by a few years. The list predicts Hyderabad would reach tipping point by 2057 or 2085 (under two different scenarios) and Kolkata by 2053 (or 2081).

The years mentioned against each city denotes the beginning of an entirely new — and hotter — climate regime for that city.

These predictions have come from an analysis of 39 climate models developed independently by 21 climate centres in 12 different countries. The Nature reported that Mora and his team of researchers from the University of Hawaii used those climate models to assemble projections on seven environmental variables, such as near-surface air temperature

and precipitation, for the years 1860-2005.

"The researchers then ran simulations for the next 100 years to identify the years in which climate variables are predicted to exceed historical limits in various locations", said the report. The study — Projected Timing of Climate Departure from Recent Variability — is the first of its kind which pinpointed when global warming will become the norm in the world's major cities.

The complete global list of cities is available online at the University of Hawaii website. The statement also referred to the fact that countries first impacted by unprecedented climates are the ones with the least capacity to respond.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com