

# Newspaper Clips

## October 2, 2013

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# 50% of IIT entrants not from coaching classes

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: After the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) results, coaching classes get busy spinning success stories. Each student who makes it to the hallowed Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) may just be reduced to a rank, but it is their golden ticket to netting more candidates for admission. But information collected by the tech colleges reveals that close to half of those who make their mark in the entrance test prepare for the exam on their own.

The IITs ask every student who takes the JEE whether he/she prepared for the test 'on his own or via other methods', which, in short, covers all sorts of coaching provided. This includes classroom series, distance-learning, referring to tutorial notes or appearing for mock tests. Candidates are also informed that their selection would be based on the marks they have scored, irrespective of their preparation method.



The coaching classes, however, said the data may not be authentic

Data provided by candidates shows that about 50% students said they studied on their own. Their share has altered over the years. Data analyzed by the JEE cell reveals that while 60% of the students who made it to the seven old IITs in 2007 opted for some form of coaching, in 2008, this figure dropped to 45%.

Praveen Tyagi, proprietor of IITians Pace coaching class, said the statistics were not authentic. "My students ask me if they should disclose that they took coaching. We, like most other classes, advise them against that. For, we fear some day the IITs may

decide to favour those who didn't take coaching."

Heads of coaching centres say it isn't easy to bag a rank without professional help. Vijay Singh, who taught at IIT-Kanpur, recalled the coaching phenomenon became big only in the mid-90s. "Even in the 80s, a tiny proportion of the class did prepare for JEE through a coaching class. But Kota emerged in the early 90s as a coaching hub, and in one particular year, a large percentage of students who qualified from Bombay zone (with covers Rajasthan too) was from there," he said.

The coaching syndrome is so deeply ingrained that IIT insiders too doubt the authenticity of the data they have collected. A faculty member who teaches maths in IIT-Guwahati did not agree with claims made by students. "Surely, there are some students who make it from extremely poor and disadvantaged backgrounds, but I feel most other candidates take some sort of coaching," he said.

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# Delhi govt seeks to reserve 12,000 DU seats for locals

## Surprised Centre May Not Clear Sop

Manash Pratim Gohain  
& Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Days before the code of conduct for Delhi assembly elections was to come into effect, the Sheila Dikshit government on Tuesday sought to give Delhiites a major gift by reserving for them approximately 68% of undergraduate seats across 28 Delhi University colleges which receive city government grants.

The move, however, is unlikely to be cleared by the Centre. The Union human resource develop-

### FULL COVERAGE: P 11

ment ministry reacted with surprise at the decision. Ministry sources said the fact that the order had come at a time when college admissions were over showed it had been done with elections in mind.

The decision was announced by Delhi higher education minister A K Walia, who said reservations for students from Delhi would be 90% in 12 DU colleges which are 100% funded

## 68% QUOTA IN 28 COLLEGES

► Delhi govt proposes to provide **90% quota to students from Delhi in colleges** which are 100% funded by it

► **50% quota to Delhi students** when state govt is providing 50% grant for capital work and 5% as recurring grant

► **16 colleges slated for 50% quota:** Bharti, Gargi, Kalindi, Maitreyi, Rajdhani, Shivaji, Satyawati, Vivekananda, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, Kamla Nehru, Laxmi Bai, Moti Lal Nehru, Shyama Prasad Mukharji, Sri Aurobindo, Swami Sraddhanand, Shaheed Bhagat Singh

► **12 colleges slated for 90% quota:** Acharya Narendra Dev, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhagini Nivedita, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja Agrasen, Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women

► **About 12,000 seats to be reserved across 28 DU colleges for Delhi students**



by the city. In 16 other colleges which receive 50% capital grants and 5% recurring grants from Delhi government, the local quota would be 50%. Based on 2012-13 enrolments across these 28 colleges, the move would translate into 12,000 first-year seats being reserved for city students.

Walia said the decision was in response to a court order. "The high court had, in its recent order, direct-

ed the state and the university to resolve the issue. Based on that, we have come up with this formula for reservation in colleges that are fully or partially funded by us," he said.

The minister added that the decision would be sent to the DU vice-chancellor and MHRD for further action within a day or two.

► **'Will ensure reservation', P 11**



>> A packed auditorium of enthusiastic engineers and experts from the fraternity

# THE CLASH OF THE ENGINEERING TITANS

M R Arvind and Leo Thomas from Genpact claimed the winning spot in the 2013 edition of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind



>> (L to R) The winning duo Leo Thomas and M R Arvind from Genpact

### Ankita Shreeram

It was 8:30 AM in the morning when the Mumbai zonals of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind kicked off but not a single person in the audience bore any signs of sleepiness. Rather, a palpable air of excitement permeated the entire auditorium as the quizmasters challenged participants and spectators with questions that ranged from simple mind-boggling.

The 'bidding round' witnessed much drama as the four teams were allowed to bid for as many marks as they wished, when it was their turn to answer a question. TCS performed excellently in this round and attained a significant lead. One of the teams in its enthusiasm, managed to answer even before the question was

from five categories – logos and symbols; design; home-grown success; Indian PSU's and quality. If one team was not able to answer, the question passed on to the next team and eventually to the audience, if they too were unable to answer. There were barely any questions that went unanswered by any of the parties. The quizmasters regaled the participants and audience with trivia surrounding each of the questions, which ranged from guessing the metro grids for different countries to deciphering a Sukhoi airplane maneuver. The latter had everyone stumped, in-

'Wired' to prepare for the competition," M R Arvind, 24, and Leo Thomas, 26, from Genpact said.

Both Infosys and TCS teams possessed the same score but a tie-breaker paved the way for TCS to claim the second spot. R Jayakanthan, 30, and G Sreekanth, 34, of TCS were candid about the fact that they did not prepare for the event at all; rather they focussed on constantly staying up-to-date with general affairs. "We should have known the answer to the airplane maneuver question," they admitted. After every round, the quizmasters provided the eager audience with copious opportunities to bag prizes as well. However, the winners took home Sony PS3s, Samsung S4s, iPhone 5s and MacBooks. Representatives from the Aditya Birla Group felicitated the winning teams with certificates.



>> A nail-biting finale conducted by quizmaster Raj Dam



>> The finalists of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind 2013



>> The contestants battle it out for the coveted title during the Mumbai zonals

### THE FINALISTS OF THE ASCENT ENGINEERING MASTERMIND 2013:

- Sumanth Chengad and Niranjan Shankar from Texas Instruments - BANGALORE
- M R Arvind and Leo Thomas from Genpact - DELHI
- Mehul Jain and Pratyush Srivastava from Infosys - PUNE
- R Jayakanthan and G Sreekanth from TCS - MUMBAI



>> Satish Pai, CEO, Aluminium Business, Hindalco Industries India delivering the inaugural speech



>> (L to R) Sheba Banerjee, deputy GM - talent staffing, Aditya Birla Group; Dilip Singh Gaur, group executive president, Birla Copper; runner-ups G Sreekanth and R Jayakanthan from TCS; winners Leo Thomas and M R Arvind from Genpact; Parag Paranjpe, group head - talent staffing and employee relations, Aditya Birla Group and Poonam Yadav, VP - talent staffing, Aditya Birla Group

announced! The next round was interestingly titled 'Aa dekhen zara' and each question was in the form of an image.

TCS emerged victorious in the Mumbai zonals and marched over to join the other victors in the power-packed finale of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind. In the first round titled, 'The bell has rung', the teams were allowed to choose

cluding the audience and the quizmaster eventually revealed the answer to be the cobra maneuver.

Round two involved bidding once again and Genpact began to lead in terms of scores. They were eventually declared as the champions of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind with a significant margin. "We went through our engineering textbooks and technical periodicals like

Mehul Jain, 29, and Pratyush Srivastava, 28, from the Infosys team provided a valuable tip, "This is not the kind of information you can get online. General reading done over the years, helps." The 2013 edition of the Ascent Engineering Mastermind once again proved that this country has an unparalleled fervor for technology and quizzing.

>> For more on Ascent Engineering Mastermind 2013, log on to [WWW.ITSMYASCENT.COM](http://WWW.ITSMYASCENT.COM)

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# India can become global hub for skilled labour: Pallam Raju

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 1

MINISTER of human resource development MM Pallam Raju on Tuesday said India has the “potential to become a worldwide hub” for sourcing skilled manpower and earn from the demographic dividend.

Raju said the greatest challenge is to make the large workforce more employable. “Out of around 4 lakh engineering students passing out every year only about 20 per cent are employable. Developing skills is as important as training. A larger effort is needed to create a skilled

workforce with employment potential,” he said at the CII HR Summit here.

“Recognising that the future growth of India will depend on greater skill development, the National Policy for Skill Development aims to create a skilled workforce of 500 million by 2022. The 12th Plan has put a modest target of skilling 80 million by 2017,” he said, calling for greater industry participation in addressing the challenge of skill development.

Addressing the summit, *The Indian Express* Editor-in-chief Shekhar Gupta said, “The country is producing architects and engineers, but we’re not producing enough

thought leaders. We are simply not developing enough skilled manpower to manage the economy as it unfolds.”

Gupta said that India created a skewed skill-set nation, with too few avenues for those not opting for medicine or engineering. “Even our RBI Governor hails from IIT. This country doesn’t have enough economists, or political scientists or sociologists,” he said.

ICICI MD & CEO Chanda Kochhar said, “Every sector of India’s economy would have to perform if the country was to create 12 million jobs every year to absorb the rising numbers entering the workforce every year.”

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## Aiming for the moon: IIT Madras students fight it out at the 'Lunar Rover Challenge'

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CHENNAI: A robot with caterpillar legs which lifts up its body, a four-legged robot which has better balance over the rough terrains and another with a C-shaped legs which can move around easily are some of the ideas for a possible lunar rover to be designed by the students of IIT-Madras.

As many as 38 teams presented their robotic prototypes for the preliminary round of 'Lunar Rover Challenge' on Sunday.

The 'Lunar Rover Challenge' will be an event at the annual Shaastra technological festival to be held in January. Five teams will be selected who will compete with teams from other countries for the Google Lunar X Prize in April.

The teams were asked to come up with a concept for a lunar rover which can descend from the 45 ramp of a lunar shuttle and negotiate the rough and bumpy terrain of the moon. The robot should be designed in a way that it can manoeuvre the craters on the moon. With the safety light switched on, it has to cover a distance of 500 metres and send back real time updates like pictures and videos to the control room on earth.

One of the most interesting concepts was that of the robot with caterpillar legs, said MS Sivakumar, professor of applied mechanics, IITM. "The concept was similar to the natural motion of an insect which lifts up its body on losing balance. The other innovative ideas were the four legged robot and the one with a C-shaped leg."

"These robots can climb on any surface and move to any side," said former marine engineer H P Biswas.

From Chennai, the preliminary round will go to Mumbai and Delhi and the selected teams will present their rovers at Shaastra to be held from January

## Eight young scientists to receive Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for 2013

27 September 2013

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has selected eight young scientists for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for the year 2013.



The awards were announced by CSIR director-general Samir K Brahmachari on the council's 71st foundation day celebrations today.

### **The list of awardees include:**

**Biological science:** Dr Sathees Chukkurumbal Raghavan, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

**Chemical sciences:** Dr Yamuna Krishnan, National Centre for Biological Sciences, (TIFR) UAS-GKVK, Bangalore.

**Engineering sciences:** Dr Bikramjit Basu, Materials Research Centre, IISc, Bangalore; Dr Suman Chakraborty, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IITKgp).

**Mathematical sciences:** Dr Eknath Prabhakar Ghate, School of Mathematical Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.

**Medical sciences:** Dr Pushkar Sharma, National Institute of Immunology (NII, New Delhi).

from US drug regulator FDA  
more reports

**Physical sciences:** Dr Amol Dighe, Department of Theoretical Physics, TIFR, Mumbai; Dr Vijay Balakrishna Shenoy, Department of Physics, IISc, Bangalore.

No awardees were chosen for excellence in the earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences category.

Prime minister Manmohan Singh will present the awards at a date which will be fixed later.

The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, instituted in honour of late Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (born: 21 February 1894; died: 1 January 1955), an eminent scientist, founder-director and principal architect of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is the most coveted national recognition for young scientists and engineers for research and development work done in India.

The prize, instituted in 1957 by CSIR, has so far been conferred on over 450 scientists and technologists in various disciplines of science for their outstanding R&D contribution. Each prize carries a citation, cash prize, a plaque and an honorarium till superannuation.