

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 30/09/2015 P-10

IITs may revert to single entrance test system soon

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NEW DELHI: The IITs could soon revert to a single entrance test system from a two-step process introduced in 2012 as part of the previous UPA government's examination reforms, in a bid to cut selection delays and administrative hassles.

The two-phase entrance test that comprises the JEE (main) and the IIT-JEE (advanced) came up for discussion at a meeting of the joint admission board on Sunday and a committee was formed to review the system.

"The joint admission board decided to form a committee that will review the two-stage examination process and make recommendations for consideration of the IIT senates," Devang V Khakhar, director of IIT-Bombay and a member of the joint admission board, told HT.

Another official said most of the IITs were in favour of a single entrance examination



■ Students outside an IIT-JEE examination centre. SUSHIL KUMAR/HT FILE

conducted exclusively for the premier technical institutes.

Under the two-phase test introduced in 2012, the JEE (main) is the first stage that also forms the basis for selection to the NITs, IITs and centrally funded technical institutions. Those who clear this test appear for the JEE (advance) conducted exclusively for the IITs.

"The idea behind conducting a two-phase examination was that it would screen out the non-

serious students in the first phase and thus lessen the burden of the IITs in selecting candidates," an IIT professor said.

However, the system made the entire process time-consuming and cumbersome and has also become a hassle for students.

If the system is done away with, it will be another UPA-introduced decision on examination reforms scrapped by the NDA government.

Times of India ND 30.09.2015 P-21

17 Indian institutions among Times' top 800

But None Of Them Make It To Top 200

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New Delhi: India put on a better show than previous editions at The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16, to be released on Wednesday, after the list was expanded to top 800 from 400. But none of them breached the top 200.

The highest ranked institution is the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, placed in 251-300 rank group and the other institution among the top 400 is Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (351-400 cohort). In all, India has 17 universities in the list, matching its BRIC counterpart Brazil. Among Asian countries, China continues to dominate, while Japan and South Korea have fallen behind.

Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, said: "India will have to work harder to compete

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (2015-16)

TOP 10

- California Institute of Technology, US
- University of Oxford, UK
- Stanford University, US
- University of Cambridge, UK
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
- Harvard University, US
- Princeton University, US
- Imperial College London, UK
- ETH Zürich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland



INDIAN INSTITUTIONS AMONG TOP 500

- 251-300:** Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- 351-400:** IIT*, Bombay
- 401-500:** IIT, Delhi
- 401-500:** IIT, Kharagpur
- 401-500:** IIT, Madras

*Indian Institute of Technology

with other emerging economies such as China, which has 37 institutions, and Russia which has fewer institutions overall but a higher proportion in the upper echelons of the table."

"With the population of young people in the country expanding, resulting in further pressure on resources, it is now more crucial than ever that India invests in research

and strengthens its links with other nations. The Centre is yet to implement an initiative in this area," he said.

In Asia, the National University of Singapore holds the number one spot (in 26th place), while China's Peking and Tsinghua universities are at 42nd and joint 47th respectively.

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

HRD Minister Smriti Irani along with others during the launch of National Institutional ranking framework and web portal in New Delhi on Tuesday.



System to rank top institutes unveiled

By **Siddhartha Rai** in New Delhi

THE days of ranking Indian educational institutions by private agencies might soon become history as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) came out with an indigenous ranking framework for engineering and management institutes on Tuesday.

The first ranking list which will cover government as well as private institutes would be completed by early April next year. MAIL TODAY was the first to report that the MHRD had decided to rank educational institutions in the country.

"It is a revolutionary step. Before the next academic year we will manage to give our students a plethora of choices on the basis of the national framework, which is very transparent, which engages not only the institutes, regulators but the citizens at large," Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani said while releasing the framework.

"This is the first time that a reliable, transparent and authentic ranking system is being implemented in the country for Higher Education. The primary purpose of this framework is to galvanize

Indian institutions towards a competitive environment that exists in the world today. I sincerely hope that institutions will use this ranking framework to introspect and make sincere efforts to improve their standing," Irani said in the framework's document.

Empowerment

Irani had earlier told MAIL TODAY that a ranking system for Indian institutions of higher learning is significant as it would empower students as well as parents to make a conscious choice-based on the rankings, removed from the hubris surrounding these

Before the next academic year, we will manage to give our students a plethora of choices on the basis of the national framework, which is transparent. This engages not only the institutes, regulators but the citizens at large.

— Smriti Irani, Union HRD Minister

institutions. The ranking system has been opened to institutions in the private sector too, though participation has been kept voluntary.

The system itself would put pressure on educational institutions to perform well and provide what they promise in their prospectus, Irani had told MAIL TODAY. While ranking methods have been worked out for engineering and management institutions, those for other domains, including pharmacy, architecture and universities, could be announced in the next one month. The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) outlines a methodology to rank institu-

tions across the country.

The methodology had been prepared by a core committee set up by the ministry to identify the broad parameters for ranking. The parameters broadly cover 'Teaching, Learning and Resources,' 'Research, Professional Practices and Collaborative Performance (RPC)', 'Graduation Outcomes (GO)', 'Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)', and 'Perception'.

Irani credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for encouraging an India-specific ranking framework since no Indian institute had found place in the global ranking list by international agencies.

The framework lays special emphasis on representation of women and socially challenged persons among students as well as faculty, apart from regional diversity and representation of physically challenged students.

"We are working as per the reservation policy. We are not altering it. India is one of the few countries that provides for affirmative action and institutions must be socially relevant," said secretary higher education V S Oberoi.

Dainik Jagran ND 30.09.2015 P-5

प्रदूषण पर अध्ययन कर रहा आइआइटी कानपुर

वीके शुक्ला, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में बढ़ता वायु प्रदूषण सरकार के लिए चिंता का सबब बना हुआ है। सरकार का कहना है कि इसे कम करने के लिए प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। मगर, आपको जानकर हैरानी होगी कि अभी तक दिल्ली के पास ऐसे कोई आंकड़े नहीं हैं जिससे पता चल सके कि किस माध्यम से कितना प्रदूषण फैल रहा है। दिल्ली सरकार इस मामले में आइआइटी, कानपुर से अध्ययन करा रही है। अगले तीन माह में इसकी रिपोर्ट सरकार को मिल जाएगी। जिसके आधार पर दिल्ली सरकार बढ़ते प्रदूषण को कम करने की दिशा में बेहतर काम कर सकेगी।

ज्ञात हो कि दिल्ली में प्रदूषण एक बड़ा मुद्दा बना हुआ है। सरकार मान रही है कि प्रदूषण फैलने के कई माध्यम हैं। मगर, जिन माध्यमों से प्रदूषण फैल रहा है उनपर अंकुश

- ◆ दिल्ली सरकार ने सौंपी जिम्मेदारी, तीन माह में मिल सकती है रिपोर्ट
- ◆ किस माध्यम से कितना प्रदूषण फैल रहा है मिलेगी जानकारी
- ◆ डीजल, पेट्रोल व सीएनसी चालित वाहनों की अलग-अलग होगी रिपोर्ट



नहीं लग पा रही है। दिल्ली सरकार के पर्यावरण विभाग के अनुसार अध्ययन कर रहे विशेषज्ञों की टीम से कुछ दिन पहले बात की गई है। रिपोर्ट तीन माह के भीतर मिलने की उम्मीद है। विशेषज्ञ जो रिपोर्ट तैयार कर रहे हैं उसमें वायु प्रदूषण फैलने के अलग-अलग माध्यमों पर अध्ययन किया जा रहा है। अध्ययन में वाहनों से होने वाले प्रदूषण को प्रमुख रूप से शामिल किया गया है। इसमें

डीजल, पेट्रोल व सीएनसी से चलने वाले वाहनों की अलग-अलग रिपोर्ट होगी। जिसमें इस बात का उल्लेख होगा कि किससे कितना प्रदूषण फैल रहा है। इसी तरह खेतों का कूड़ा जलाने से होने वाले प्रदूषण को भी रिपोर्ट में शामिल किया गया है।

इसी प्रकार दिल्ली के औद्योगिक इलाकों का अलग से अध्ययन कराया जा रहा है। जिससे यह पता चल सके कि प्रदूषण फैलाने

में इनकी भूमिका कितनी है। जल प्रदूषण को भी अध्ययन में शामिल किया गया है। जिसके दायरे में प्रदूषित हो चुकी यमुना भी शामिल है। बाजारों में चलने वाले जनरेटरों से होने वाले प्रदूषण का स्तर मापने के लिए इसको भी अध्ययन में शामिल किया गया है। अध्ययन में दिल्ली- एनसीआर क्षेत्र को शामिल किया गया है। दिल्ली के पर्यावरण मंत्री आसिम अहमद ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार के साथ हुई बैठकों में उन्होंने इस बात को रखा था कि दिल्ली में प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए कोई भी प्रयास बगैर एनसीआर क्षेत्र को शामिल किए सफल नहीं हो सकता। इसलिए एनसीआर क्षेत्र को शामिल किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हम इस समस्या की तह तक जाना चाहते हैं। दिल्ली के लोगों का स्वास्थ्य सरकार के लिए अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। इसलिए सरकार इस दिशा में सख्त कदम उठाने से भी नहीं हिचकेगी।

IIT-Gandhinagar develops BP wristband to keep your heart safe

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/IIT-Gandhinagar-develops-BP-wristband-to-keep-your-heart-safe/articleshow/49158557.cms>

AHMEDABAD: About 15% to 17% of total heart attacks in India are related to high blood pressure (BP). In such a scenario, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) has developed a mechanism to accurately measure a patient's BP. The institute has secured patent for the invention.

The device is in the form of a wristband that can noninvasively measure a patient's diastolic and systolic BP. Presently, devices that measure BP only count systolic reading. Devices that measure diastole predict with the help of models dependent on body weight, body mass index and age. Such readings are frequently marked by errors. Some foreign-made devices that can measure multiple physiological parameters are quite expensive.

The new device has been developed by Prof Uttama Lahiri and electrical engineering students Dhaval Solanki and Poojan Oza. Prof Lahiri said: "The device also has an arm-pressure cuff and pulse plethysmogram-based sensor. The sensor is used for measuring blood pulsation at the fingertip. For BP measurement, it has a cuff that has to be positioned on the upper arm about one inch above the tennis point."

She said the machine can also measure pulse rate, hemoglobin, saturation of peripheral oxygen and perfusion index. Change in perfusion index helps doctors decide anesthesia and pain measurement. The wristband has an LCD screen and some vital light displays that automatically change colour in an emergency. It shows red for emergency, green for normal and yellow and orange for precautionary steps.

Senior cardiologist Dr Sameer Dani said: "This device can be a novelty if it measures high BP with precision. Also, wearing a wristband is much more convenient." He said: "If all Indians with high BP are recognized and treated, we'll have 30% less heart attacks and strokes. High BP, if ignored, can lead to heart attack and even paralysis."

IIT-BHU floats mega plans for 100 year celebrations

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/IIT-BHU-floats-mega-plans-for-100-year-celebrations/articleshow/49151888.cms>

VARANASI: IT still has four years to its centenary celebrations but Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) is all set to make them special. To that end, the university is going to launch several mega projects named 'Centenary' by 2019. Interestingly, the institute has started planning during the ongoing centennial celebrations of BHU.

"We have mammoth plans for furtherance and development of IIT-BHU as it is country's premier institute. We have presented several projects before the finance committee of institute and have got approvals as well. These include, Centenary Fund, Centenary Seminar Complex, Centenary Library, Centenary Cultural Activities Complex and Centenary Information Technology Services Center (CITSC)," Dean, resource and alumni of IIT-BHU, Prof. AK Tripathi told TOI on Monday. IIT-BHU will host its first-ever alumni meet from December 30 to January 1 this year. "We do not want our alumni meet to be only about exchanging pleasantries and reliving good old days, so we sent a mailer to our alumni seeking their suggestions and ideas about proper implementation of these mega projects scheduled for a launch during the centennial celebrations of IIT-BHU in 2019-20," he said.

Elaborating on the proposed projects, Tripathi said, "Every alumnus, having spent crucial years of his life in the institution, wishes to contribute towards its welfare. Our Centenary Fund is just an extension of the concept adopted by university-founder Malviyaji who laid its foundation stone with contributions and donations. This fund will be open to donations not just from alumni but from anyone willing to contribute," he said.

"With suggestions and architectural designs from alumni of IIT-BHU, we would construct a building which would house a modern and hi-tech library system comprising integrated ICT-based tools and services to meet the requirements of students. For this, we might seek grant-in aid and funding from various sources and alumni. In the same building, an Information Communication Technology Services Center would also be developed as it plays a vital role in efficient execution of various processes in an academic institution," he said.

He said the reason for another seminar and cultural activities complex, apart from the already existing Swatantrata Bhawan, was to conduct plenary and keynote sessions in mini-halls.

"Several departments hold various sessions for facilitating interaction among students occasionally. Now, due to non-availability of small and mini halls they are organized just about anywhere in the campus. With the establishment of seminar complex near our Gandhi Technology Alumni Center, things would be streamlined. Suggestions are being sought from alumni in this too," he said. "The cultural activities complex, on the other hand, will come up around Swatantrata Bhawan," he added.

IIT बीएचयू ने बनाई ऐसी मशीन, प्लास्टिक के कचरे से बना रहे पेट्रोल

प्ला <http://rajasthanpatrika.patrika.com/story/india/iit-bhu-varanasi-petrol-made-from-plastic-waste-1343051.html>

स्टिक के कचरे से पेट्रोल। सुनने में भले ही अचरज लगे, लेकिन है सोलह आना सचा। बीएचयू आईआईटी ने एक ऐसी मशीन बनाई है, जो प्लास्टिक के वेस्ट को द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम में तब्दील कर देती है। इसकी लागत सिर्फ 20 रुपए प्रति लीटर आती है। इस अनोखे प्रयास से न सिर्फ पर्यावरण को पॉलीथिन मुक्त बनाने में मदद मिलेगी, बल्कि ईंधन की आपूर्ति भी सुनिश्चित की जा सकेगी। बीएचयू आईआईटी की मानें तो यह मशीन एक वर्ष में आम लोगों के लिए उपलब्ध हो जाएगी।

पहले तैयार हो रहा द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम

केमेस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट के प्रोफेसर एमए कुंरैशी ने अपने रिसर्च स्कॉलर के साथ मिलकर यह मशीन तैयार की है। इसमें कचरे में फेंके गए प्लास्टिक से द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम तैयार किया जा रहा है। इस द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम के तीन ईंधन कंपोनेंट हैं, पेट्रोल, डीजल और केरोसिन। इसके अलावा इसमें कोक भी मिलते हैं, जिससे कॉस्मेटिक के सामान बनाए जाते हैं।



एक साल की मेहनत, 20 हजार रुपए की लागत से बनी मशीन

प्रो. कुंरैशी ने बताया की इस मशीन को बनाने की रूपरेखा एक साल पहले ही शुरू की गई थी, पर इसे बनाने में 6 माह का वक्त लगा है। मशीन को बनाने में 20,000 रुपए की लागत आई है। अब इसके बाद एक बड़ी मशीन बना रहे हैं, जिसकी लागत 50,000 रुपए आएगी। इस मशीन को बाजार में आने में एक साल का वक्त लगेगा।



ऐसे चलती है मशीन

इस मशीन में प्लास्टिक को डालने के बाद ऑक्सीजन के बिना इसे 400 से 450 डिग्री सेल्सियस तापमान तक गर्म किया जाता है। मशीन के एक भाग में प्लास्टिक के कचरे की गंदगी साफ की जाती है। दूसरे भाग में पाइरोलाइजर की मदद से प्लास्टिक कचरे को हवा की अनुपस्थिति में गर्म कर द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम तैयार किया जाता है।

Why are management aspirants rejecting offers from new IIMs?

LONG WAY TO GO Students say the new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) do not inspire confidence because they don't have adequate infrastructure or full-time faculty

Rozelle Laha

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Anshika Raman, name changed on request, scored a 98.3 percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2014, but despite being shortlisted for five new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), namely Visakhapatnam, Bodh Gaya, Sirmaur, Nagpur and Sambalpur, she refused to appear for the admissions process. "The older IIMs are known for their alumni, a crucial component that is missing in the new IIMs, as is infrastructure and full-time faculty. Even though the new IIMs are being mentored by older IIMs, it does not make them institutes in which I would invest a high fee and two years of study. Eventually, recruiters do not ask you about the faculty members who taught you. They will only want to know which IIM we graduated from," she says.

Raman also rejected offers from IIM Indore and Kozhikode as "speaking with alumni from these two older institutes, I gathered that many students don't get to do summer internships there and felt that my chances of landing a summer placement at the institutes being mentored by them were nil." She now plans to take CAT 2015 and bag a seat in one of the older IIMs - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta or Lucknow.

A Press Information Bureau release dated June 24, 2015, on the Centre's approval for setting up new IIMs, had stated that "It is intended that these six new IIMs will commence their first academic session from 2015-16. Each institute will start with an intake of 140 students in the

IT'S TIME THEY IMPROVED THEIR ACT

New IIMs have started sessions late, have faculty shortage and internship problems

No full-time faculty

Average performance of IIM Ranchi, Rohtak, Trichy, Udaipur and Kashipur in placements

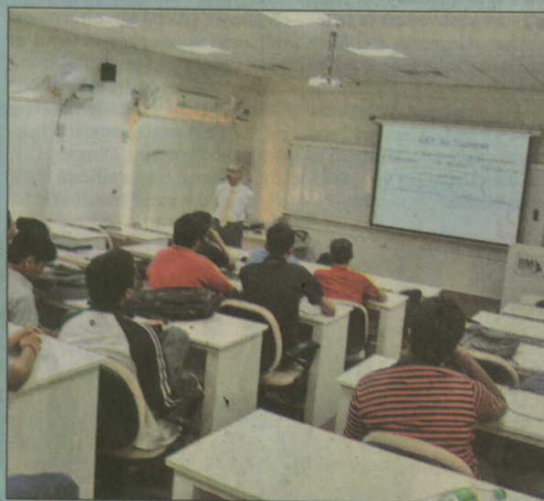
Delay in starting the session

Fear of not getting summer internship offers

BATCH SIZE AT IIMs

Intakes in new IIMs were initially estimated at 140

Sirmaur	22
Bodh Gaya	30
Sambalpur	49
Amritsar	50
Visakhapatnam	54
Nagpur	55



Pioneer institutes such as IIM-Ahmedabad, Calcutta etc are known for their faculty and infrastructure. HT FILE PHOTO

postgraduate programme (PGP) courses. It is expected that the annual intake will increase to reach a level of 560 students each year by the end of seven years." The batch sizes of the newly set up IIMs are very small as of now. While IIM Bodh Gaya has 30 students its first batch, Sambalpur has 49 students, Amritsar has 50 students, Visakhapatnam 54 students, Nagpur 55 and Sirmaur 22 students.

The IIM brand has failed to convince students to join the new IIMs for a diploma. A cursory glance at the low placement figures last year at some of the relatively newer IIMs (Raipur,

Rohtak, Ranchi, Kashipur and Udaipur) when compared to their older counterparts, too, tells its own story.

"Students now talk about short-term and long-term goals, profiles offered post an MBA, peer interaction, student-faculty ratio and so on. The latest IIMs are bound to fall short of expectations on most of these fronts and so students would not (join) them as readily as they would the older IIMs. I have advised a fair number of students to think about their current situation with regard to their jobs, expectations from an MBA and the overall opportunity cost before joining the latest IIMs and most

of them have decided to prepare and re-appear for CAT even if it means getting into a decent non-IIM post a year of preparation," says Shashank Prabhu, a CAT expert, who was also an All India CAT 2011 topper.

Another important issue for management aspirants is that even if they are okay with the lack of infrastructure, full time faculty members and alumni, they cannot ignore the delayed start to the sessions at the new IIMs. While faculty members think that this time gap in starting operations can be bridged easily, students feel that they might lose out on their summer internships.

Dr Ajay Garg, a senior official at IIM Sirmaur, says, "The academic input at our institute is the same as IIM Lucknow. The institute spends a considerable amount of time on campus fests, about 10 days each on summer internships and final placements. However, IIM Sirmaur will not have such events so save on days. With a reduced term break span and a smaller batch size to be placed as summer interns, IIM Sirmaur will make up for the three-month delay in operations, and reduce it to just about a month. By the time the second year starts, we will be at par with the rest of the IIMs."

Students, however, do not agree. For Raman, "It will not be easy getting good summer placement offers. By the time we start approaching companies for summer placements, they would have already completed the process at other B-schools. So, they might not show interest in us as we will be approaching them late. Moreover, being the first batch from the institute might not work in our favour as most recruiters judge the worth of an institute by the alumni clout of the institute."

Talking about his experience as a placement committee member, Prabhu, who is an alumni of FMS Delhi, says, "Most of the popular campus recruiters have intern requirements and projects listed around the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third quarter. So, we need to start contacting them right from May-June to be able to attract good companies on campus. The summer months are important as a lot of companies rely on pre-placement offers and inter-B-school competitions to hire students."

Get set as IIMs alter intake rules

CHANGED While IIM Lucknow has done away with the group discussion process, IIM Ahmedabad has removed minimum academic performance as the eligibility criteria for shortlisting candidates

Bauri Kohli

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All those aspiring to take the Common Admission Test (CAT) this year and joining one of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) need to be prepared for some major changes. In the second and concluding part of our series on surprises in CAT 2015, we look at some of the IIMs, including IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Lucknow, and the changes in the admission policy.

Elaborating on IIM Lucknow's admission details, Sai Kumar Swamy, director, Triumphant Institute of Management Education, Delhi, says: "IIM Lucknow's selection criteria is a two-stage process. In stage 1, the merit list is generated for the Written Ability Test (WAT) and personal interview. The components used for generating this merit list are the CAT score, Class 12 marks, graduation marks, work experience, and other factors such as academic and gender diversity. Of these, the highest weightage is accorded to the CAT score—38 marks out of 50 marks of this stage. The other components have weightage between two and three marks.

"The minimum CAT cut-offs for the sections has been set at 85 percentile and 90 percentile overall. The obvious implication for this is the massive weightage

given to the CAT score at stage 1 for a shortlist for the second stage. The other factors are variables that cannot be influenced and aspirants should focus on the CAT and stop worrying about the other components. The second stage involves two components viz. WAT and personal interview which have a weightage of 10 marks and 40 marks, respectively. IIM Lucknow has done away with their group discussion component which is good news for all aspirants. The final shortlist will be based on the cumulative marks obtained in both the stages," says Swamy.

With the group discussion being removed from the selection process, candidates would be wondering if it is a good move. According to Satya Narayanan, chairman and founder, CL Educate Ltd, "It is a positive move. This is in line with the general belief of almost all the IIMs that a group discussion may not be the best way to determine the managerial aptitude of a person. IIM Ahmedabad was the first

THE SIX NEW IIMs HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT A COMMON PROCESS OF WAT AND PI TO BE COORDINATED THIS YEAR BY IIM KASHIPUR

IIM to do away with the GD. In the subsequent years, IIM Bangalore followed by the six other IIMs replaced it with essay writing. Usually, the more aggressive participants tend to dominate the discussion leaving no space for anyone else to make their point. Thus, it does not necessarily mean that the person who wasn't heard didn't have any thoughts on the topic. The weightage for personal interview has also been increased from 30 to 40 marks. Till last year, the weightage for the PI was 30 marks and 20 marks were equally divided between GD and WAT. With the discontinuation of the GD, the weightage for the personal interview becomes 40 marks. PI is certainly a better way to judge a candidate's attitude and to know his opinions in various things."

IIM Ahmedabad has revised the admission process for the 2016-18 session, providing huge relief to aspirants, by removing the minimum academic performance as the eligibility criteria for shortlisting candidates under category-wise selection.

Narayanan, however, says that things are not as they appear. "IIM A first changed the eligibility criteria wherein say an engineer was excluded if he/she did not score more than 80% in Class 10 and 12 (average) and more than 78% in their BTech. Luckily the criterion was amend-



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KEY CHANGES

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- IIM Ahmedabad has removed the minimum academic performance as the eligibility criteria for shortlisting students under category-wise selection
- At IIM Raipur, the minimum CAT 2015 overall percentile requirement has been reduced for differently-abled students from 70 percentile to 65 percentile
- At IIM Trichy, the weightage given to personal interview has been brought down from 17% to 15%

ed to do away with the minimum requirements in graduation for most students. Students falling in the top 100 category across streams will, however, need to qualify based on this criteria. The institute shortlists students for essay and interview round in two ways—(A) through their academic credentials (given overall CAT percentile more than 90 and section-wise more than 80) under each set of stream (engineering, medicine, commerce etc.) and (B) through their CAT percentiles within each category (general, SC/ST etc). While the earlier version had minimum graduation requirement in both (A) and (B), the latest version has done away with the requirement for (B)," he says.

For the selection of exceptional performers across different disciplines, different cut-offs are set for each of the different disciplines of Class 12 viz. science, commerce, arts and also for the different streams of graduation. The cut-offs are irrespective of the category that the student belongs to. "At IIM Trichy, the weightage given to personal interview round has been brought down from 17% to 15%. The weightage given to gender diversity during the final selection process has been increased from 1% to 3%. At IIM Calcutta, the weightage given to CAT score during shortlisting for PI stage has come down to 67 from 77 points. The weightage given to academic diversity at the

bachelor's degree level during the final selection has increased from two to three points," adds Swamy. At IIM Raipur, the minimum CAT 2015 overall percentile requirement has been reduced for differently-abled candidates from 70 percentile to 65. The six new IIMs (Kashipur, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Trichy and Udaipur) have decided to adopt a common process of WAT and PI to be coordinated this year by IIM Kashipur. If any of the older IIMs (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore, Kozhikode and Lucknow) are willing to share their WAT and PI scores with the six new IIMs, the common candidates who have applied to new IIMs, need not to appear for WAT and PI process separately.

JNU students to hold referendum on UGC's safety guidelines

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: After organising protests against the University Grants Commission's (UGC) safety guidelines, students have decided to take their dissent to the next level.

Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) are all set to organise a referendum on the issue on Thursday. The exercise aims to find out whether students want the controversial guidelines to be implemented on and off the campus.

The referendum is being conducted by Democratic Students Federation (DSF) at JNU.

"UGC says it wants to implement the guidelines so that the higher education institutes can be turned into an oasis of 'safety, security and studies'. We have taken this initiative to conduct a referendum so that the students can give a mandate on whether they will actually feel safe and secure with the implementation of the guidelines or will they shout out and revolt against them and its underlying undemocratic and authoritarian blueprint," said Ishan Anand, DSF member.

The guidelines mention that entry point to hostels should be manned by armed security guards. The guidelines also stress on installing CCTV cameras and identify

entry verification method.

The real major bone of contention of the provision of the guidelines is having a biometric system of marking attendance for students both at the institution and hostels. The guidelines say the move will help resolve the problem of proxy.

The UGC guidelines also recommend establishing university police stations on campus premises and building high-rise walls with barbed wires.

The students are unhappy as the guidelines also necessitate having regular parent-teacher meetings and make it mandatory for students to get their parents' permission before going on any college tour.

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India up 16 spots to 55th in global competitiveness

BS REPORTER

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India has jumped 16 places on the Global Competitiveness Index, according to the latest rankings released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Tuesday. It now ranks 55th among 140 countries, against 71st in 2014-15. But, despite this massive jump, which follows five years of a decline on the list, India still ranks seven notches lower than it did in 2007.

Switzerland tops the latest rankings, followed by Singapore, the US, Germany and Netherlands.

The WEF report attributes the jump in India's ranking "to the momentum initiated by the election of Narendra Modi, whose pro-business, pro-growth, and anti-corruption stance has improved the business community's sentiment towards the government". The report, however, says if a constant sample of 135 countries is considered for both 2014-15 and 2015-16, India's ranking would remain unchanged at 55th.

The Global Competitiveness Index is an annual assessment to gauge the factors driving productivity and prosperity across 140 countries. It measures a country's performance on 12 pillars — institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness,

THE RANKINGS

Comparison between 2015-16 and 2014-15

2014-15 2015-16

 Switzerland	1	1	 China	28	28
 Singapore	2	2	 Russia	53	45
 United States	3	3	 South Africa	56	49
 Germany	5	4	 India	71	55
 Netherlands	8	5	 Brazil	57	75

2015-16 ranking is for 140 countries

2014-15 ranking is for 144 countries

Source: The Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016, World Economic Forum

market size, business sophistication and innovation. The World Bank's ease-of-doing-business survey ranks India at 142. The government has repeatedly promised to implement reforms to push the ranking to within the top 50.

The latest WEF rankings show India's institutions are now "judged more favourably" (ranked 60th against 70th in 2014-15). The report says in terms of trust in politicians, India ranks 31st, while on favouritism in the decisions of government officials and burden of government regulations, it ranks 32nd and

27th, respectively.

A big improvement was seen in the country's macroeconomic stability through the past year, with its ranking jumping 10 places to 91st in 2015-16. Part of this could reflect the recent moderation in inflation, the fall in the current account deficit and steps taken by the government to control its fiscal deficit.

On infrastructure, the ranking moved up six notches — now, it ranks 29th on the quality of railroad infrastructure and 11th on the available airline seats per km. But on other key parameters, it fares poorly, ranking 61st on the quality of roads and 98th on electricity supply.

The WEF report is rife with anomalies. Health and primary education is seen as an area of improvement, with India's ranking jumping 14 places. This is surprising, as on one of the indicators — quality of primary education — it ranks 52nd, which is at odds with various surveys such as the Annual Status of Education Report that show how poorly the country fares in this regard.

Another surprise is India ranks 25th on hiring-and-firing practices in the labour market, a sharp contrast to public discourse in India that sees restrictive labour laws as thwarting growth in the manufacturing sector.

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India up

The report lists corruption, policy instability, inflation, access to financing, government instability and inadequate supply of infrastructure as the top concerns in terms of doing business in India.

IIT pre-placement: Salaries cross Rs 1 crore

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/jobs/IIT-pre-placement-Salaries-cross-Rs-1-crore/articleshow/49150217.cms>

NEW DELHI | MUMBAI: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are seeing a jump of up to 50% in pre-placement offers (PPOs) from the year before. That's good news for students at the premier engineering schools — more of them will now have jobs in hand even before final placements kick off in December.

By September last year, IIT Madras had received about 35 PPOs compared with almost 50 this year. IIT Bombay has so far received 123 PPOs, exceeding the 110 it got all of last year. IIT Kanpur has received 90, which is 24 more than the tally by last September. IIT Kharagpur has seen a spurt of almost 55% in PPOs to 142 until now from 92 last year.

Several investment banking and financial services companies are making a comeback to IIT campuses after a gap of two years or so. These include JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley and Barclays at Madras and Kharagpur. Other are making their debut, like Credit Suisse and Capital One at IIT Bombay. E-commerce companies and startups remain the largest recruiters.

"The highest compensation is being given by Facebook so far," said overall placement coordinator Divya Pratap Singh of IIT Kanpur. Singh didn't give details but, based on conversations with those who have got offers and coordinators, it's estimated that the top compensation level is about Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore per year.

PPOs are a key source of talent for Amazon India. "At Amazon we believe that interns are our future leaders," said Raj Raghavan, director of human resources. "More than 50% of our campus hiring comes through pre-placement offers and would continue to be one of the key areas of identifying and hiring talent."

Over the last two years, the conversion of IIT interns to PPOs has seen an increase at Amazon. More than 60% of its IIT hiring now takes place through the PPO route. This year's top recruiters at the IITs through PPOs include Samsung India, Adobe, Microsoft, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Flipkart and Strand Life Sciences.

Samsung India's IIT interns rose around 60% from last year. Most have got PPOs and are set to join. "We believe that internships give both the interns and the organization an opportunity to interact with each other over an extended period of time," said a Samsung India spokesperson. "This makes it easier for students to decide once they have an offer, as well as assimilate into the organization faster once they join."

Companies visiting campuses to offer PPOs for the first time include Texas Instruments and JSW Group, American Express and Axiom at IIT-BHU (Banaras Hindu University); Bentley Systems India, Fuzzy Logix, Innoplexus Consulting Services, Quetzal Online, Glow Homes Technologies and Zimply at IIT Roorkee; and JP Morgan at IIT Bombay, besides the Credit Suisse and Capital One cited earlier. Apart from these, there are the companies begun by old students.

"Many startups run by alumni are coming to our campuses and students are more than eager to join them," said Sashank Vandrangi of the IIT Madras student placement committee.

for reserved category, getting into IIT is so easy and the rest is historyAniskhan Aniskhan

Axiom, an alternative fund that invests in domains, is offering data analyst roles.

"This time, we decided to visit the IITs to pick up more talent," said founder Prakhar Bindal. "We visited IIT Kharagpur and IIT-BHU and made 17 offers, of which we will be giving PPOs to nine." After startups, overseas offers are next in

popularity. "We are hoping for an increase in international offers this year especially from Japan, Singapore, Middle East and Southeast Asia," said Rahul Katyal, placement manager at IIT Bombay. "Overall, the (PPO) scenario looks more promising than last year."

Companies make pre-placement offers to interns based on their performance. The internships end in August, following which PPOs start being made, continuing until December 1, when the final placement season begins.