Newspaper Clips
July 5, 2016

Economic Times ND 05.07.2016 P-08

‘Top-Ranked’ IIT Madras is Fifth Choice for JEE Toppers This Year

Institute has 103 takers, the same number as the previous year, though MHRD places it at no. 1

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New Delhi: Flying in the face of a ministry of human resources development (MHRD) ranking of national engineering colleges that placed IIT Madras at the top, more than 60% of the top 1,000 rankers of JEE Advanced 2016 have chosen IIT Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur and Kharagpur. IIT Madras ranks at number 5 for the top rankers in the JEE Advanced with only 103 takers.

Last year too, 103 students opted for IIT Madras among the top 1,000 rankers. The MHRD under its National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) first carried out the ranking in four categories — engineering, management, pharmacy and university — this April. More than 50% of institutes had participated in this edition, the process for which started in December 2015. The objective of the ranking is to facilitate choice and enable higher education stakeholders to make informed decisions.

However, the National Ranking Framework ranking has had no impact on the choice of Institute among the top 1000 rankers. Around 262 of these opted for IIT Bombay this year (compared to 272 last year), 196 have chosen IIT Delhi (compared to 194 last year), 167 of these selected IIT Kharagpur (172 last year) and 108 chose IIT Kanpur (107 last year). With IIT Madras at the top, the other category A engineering institutes in the National Ranking are IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur.

“IIT Madras is a popular choice for top rankers and this has been the trend since last eight years,” said Ashok Misra, former director of IIT Bombay and currently the Chairman-India Intellectual Ventures. Misra, who has also been chairperson of IIT Council Committee for JEE examination, says, “ultimately it is all about the perception of students and their parents about institutions.”

A few students have also chosen new IITs including Gandhi Nagar, Roorkee and IIT Jodhpur. Last year, none of these institutes figured in the list of top 1,000 rankers.

Economic Times ND 05.07.2016 P-08

Accenture Ties Up with IITs for Research into AI

Research will focus on IT services, social good and target augmenting software engineers with powerful artificial intelligence insights

Man to Machine.
Focus areas of the programme: the focus areas of the programme include research in natural language processing, machine learning, social good, and the interaction with human language. The programme aims to create a virtual assistant that can understand and respond to natural language inputs.

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Mumbai: Accenture has entered into a joint research collaboration with IIT Bombay and IIT Patna focused on different application areas with Artificial Intelligence. The research, focused on IT services and social good, will look at augmenting software engineers with powerful Artificial Intelligence insights and recommend models for improved productivity.

The focus areas of the program include research in natural language processing, machine learning, social good, and the interaction with human language. The programme aims to create a virtual assistant that can understand and respond to natural language inputs. The research will also focus on social good. "If you can provide a local language interface to the grammar, it becomes much more efficient," said Rajnish Poddar, managing director, research and development at Accenture Labs. "We want to give our people the opportunity to scale up the research with smart researchers in academia," he said.

Bangalore: Accenture Labs is the dedicated technology research and development (R&D) organisation within Accenture, focused on developing innovative solutions.

The joint research program will take place at the IIT campuses in Bombay, Patna and IIT-Labs, Bangalore. PhD researchers will be hired across these three locations for the joint research program.

"This joint research program is one among the unique research programs with IITs focused on Artificial Intelligence," said Poddar.

"Each one of us will play to our strength as a team. Accenture Labs has cutting edge research on artificial intelligence. This collaboration with IIT will give the opportunity to scale up the research with smart researchers in academia," he said.
Deccan Herald ND 05.07.2016 P-07

IIT-Kharagpur to study Indian philosophy for solutions

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, is conducting a scientific investigation into core concepts of Hindu philosophy and spiritual practices to find answers to the problems of humanity.

The principles of “karuna” (compassion) and “dama” (generosity) in Hindu philosophy to ancient practice of “dhyana” (meditation) for “moksha” (liberation), are among the ideas which will be explored.

The premier technical institute has set in motion a scientific study on Indian ‘ragas’ and ‘ranggeet’ of both Hindustani and carnatic genres, to ascertain “hidden features” in their traditional rendition and their effect on the audience.

A group of senior faculties of the institute is also engaging in developing a scientific rationale of Indo-European language systems through an “in-depth investigation” into the contents that a Proto-Sanskrit was the mother of Indo-European language systems.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has assigned these research projects to the IIT-Kharagpur under an umbrella programme, “Sandha”, launched during the UPA regime in 2013 to discover “ancient Indian knowledge” and their application in modern science and technology for development.

A scientific investigation into the Hindu philosophy of “moksha” aims at “reviving” the “art of dying”, believed to have been developed by the Hindus spiritual masters in ancient India, to evolve an “End-of-Life Care strategy” to help those in deathbed “die peaceful”, according to the concept note of the project. India is going through a demographic and epidemiological transition. As a result, most aged in India are experiencing a highly protacted “medicalised death” in acute care hospitals, entangled in tubes and machines. At the other extreme, there are many who are dying of object neglect”, it noted. The proposed project is expected to provide guidelines in developing a model which would free hospitals of their care overload, optimise resources in end-of-life, build a continuum of care structure and create an interface with evidence medicine and indigenous healing traditions, it added.

Business Line ND 05.07.2016 P-04

Deeksha Nanda

15 August: Senior scientists and experts in the field of AI-based software systems are now making efforts to develop an AI-driven system to detect diseases.

The project, which is being implemented by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is expected to be completed within a year.

The system will be able to detect diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and heart diseases, and will be able to provide early warnings to patients.

The system will also be able to provide personalized treatment plans to patients based on their medical history.

The scientists are currently working on the development of the AI-driven system, and are expected to complete the project within the next 12 months.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 05.07.2016 P-09

थर्स दूर करणे 12 घंटे हेल्थलाइन सुविधा

आयुर्विज्ञानाची योजनेचे उद्देश आहे की ती विश्वासांसाठी देखील फायदेशीर असेल. इथून तक्याकाळात, ती त्यांच्यासाठी असेल, त्यांच्यासाठी असेल असारख्या विश्वासांसाठी देखील फायदेशीर असेल.

संपादक

या सार्वजनिक सेवेच्या रूपात विकासात आहे. ते संस्थेच्या रूपात तसं नवीन्य लोकांसाठी ही सेवा घेत असेल. ती नवीन व्यवसायी मोबाइल अनुप्रयोगाच्या वर्गीकरणात येईल.
PM may inaugurate IIT Dharwad this month-end

Dharwad: Preparations to house the transit campus of IIT Dharwad on the outskirts of the city are almost complete and efforts are on to get PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the premier institution.

Authorities are planning it on July 31. The technical team from IIT Bombay is coordinating with the PMO and the HRD ministry if Modi and minister Smriti Irani will be available to inaugurate IIT Dharwad.

IIT-Kharagpur brews new green tea tech

KOLKATA: Health freaks who love their cuppa can raise a toast to IIT-Kharagpur that has developed a new technology for green tea production. This innovation will enhance the flavour, slash production time and cut costs as well. The institute had been at it through the last year and has now started marketing the technology.

It started as a Tea Board project that was given to the agricultural engineering department of IIT-Kgp a year ago. The institute has been collaborating with the Tea Board since 2008 after its experimental tea garden became a reality. Despite the heat at the plains of Kharagpur, the scientists were able to use Darjeeling tea clones successfully so that the tea produced has 50% fine Darjeeling flavour and is akin to the finest liquor of Assam tea. The institute has been successfully producing CTC and Orthodox teas in its Gopali garden and the technology knowhow is also successfully transferred to the Tea Board.

The institute has now prepared a range of green tea by infusing flavours - from jasmine and rose to mango and orange. While flavoured green tea is not uncommon in the market, the natural infusion process from real fruits and flowers has already been patented by IIT-Kgp. "We realised that in the steaming technique that is used to process green tea after the leaves are plucked, the enzymes PPO and PO are destroyed. As a result, the tea assumes a pale colour and has little flavour. These enzymes are responsible for giving black tea its colour and flavour. We have tried out a lot of flavours and to top it all, our tea is completely organic," explained B C Ghosh, head of the institute's agricultural engineering department.

A brand new flavour has been prepared by the researchers of the institute and this variety of green tea is being called 'Smoky Tea'. "We have infused woody flavours by burning sandalwood, neem wood or mango wood," said Ghosh.

However, the breakthrough has been with two varieties - 'Quick Tea' and 'Snow Tea'. For the former, the time taken in between plucking and processing is just 25 minutes. A technological innovation using heat treatment through a specially
designed trough has made this possible. In the latter case, the processing or drying has been done at minus-30 degrees Celcius. "We already have gardens like Ambootia queuing up for the technology because we have been able to reduce the cost of production by at least a fourth," added Ghosh.

**Forecast of cloudburst possible in near future, says IIT prof**


ROORKEE: Against the backdrop of widespread damages caused by cloudbursts in Uttarakhand, an expert at IIT-Roorkee on Monday said that the country may soon be able to make a precise forecast of the natural phenomenon with the improvement in satellite technology.

Over 20 people have lost their lives in the last four days due to heavy rain and cloudbursts in parts of the hill state.

Prof Kamal Jain, an expert of remote sensing in civil engineering department of IIT-R, said that as of now it was not possible to make a precise forecast about the cloudburst in any area. But it may be possible in the near future.

"We have seen tremendous improvement in satellite imaging technology in the last two years. Earlier, we were able to take images of an area of 35x35 square km from satellites. But now, we are able to take images of an area of 8 x 8 sq km.

"The cloudburst incident generally occurs in an area of 1 x 1 sq km of a land of particular region. Therefore, we need a technology that could make satellite imaging of such smaller area," the professor said.

However, he maintained that this level of satellite technology would be achieved in coming years but in a gradual manner.

"Satellite imaging technology would be able to take sharper, focused and high resolution pictures of a small area in the coming years. The possibility of precise forecasting of cloudburst might happen then," Jain said.
Govt, CPSU entry-level wages higher than private sector: IIM-A report

Ahmedabad: Government and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) pay more salary for entry-level jobs than private companies, but the salary in private companies increases with experience, shows a study conducted by IIM Ahmedabad for the 7th Pay Commission.

The study was commissioned by the 7th Central Pay Commission and IIM-A was asked to undertake it, so that the commission could revise pay in such a way that government jobs attract talent.

The study provides comparison of salaries in the government sector, CPSUs and private sector for the 3rd, 5th, 15th, 25th and 20th years of experience. It was submitted to 7th Pay Commission in October last year. It shows that across a majority of jobs, government or CPSUs pay more than private companies at entry-level.

For many jobs, the salary difference narrows and become more comparable and even exceeds for private jobs as employees gain experience. The study looks at the salary patterns of nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, dietitians, lab technicians, school teachers, principals of schools and colleges, scientists, technical staff, engineers, clerks, software developers, accountants, office workers, drivers, gardeners, among others.

"In many of the roles, government is paying higher salaries compared to the private sector, particularly in initial years, for jobs at the lower levels of skill requirement and hierarchy. Salary in government is relatively lower compared to private sector, particularly in later years, for some highly skilled jobs," the study says.

Salary of entry-level nurses, for example, is more in government hospitals compared to private hospitals and becomes comparable only in the mid-career level. In the case of doctors with MBBS, CPSUs pay more than government or private sector for entry-level doctors, with the differences continuing even after they have gained experience.

For specialised doctors, however, CPSUs pay more at entry level, but the salary of doctors in private hospitals increases significantly after three years and continues to do so, depending on their specialisation.

Government pays more to entry-level scientists till mid-career level compared to private sector, because private sector values "untrained scientists" less but pays more as here compensation is driven by the ability to provide results and this characteristic rises with number of years of experience," the study says. Physiotherapists and dietitians, the study says, get much higher salary in government and CPSUs than private company.

Government and CPSUs pay more salary at not just entry level but even at later compared to private companies.

IIM-A suggests policy to maintain 25-30°C temperature

Heat affects productivity

A study conducted by two professors of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has suggested a policy initiative to maintain an ambient temperature between 25 to 30 degrees Celsius at workplaces so that general productivity can be increased.

The recommendation is based on the finding of the study by IIM-A's Prof Dheeraj Sharma and Prof Rajesh Chandwani that there is a direct correlation of thermal comfort at workplace and its effect on productivity of the workforce.

The finding of the IIM-A study may sound ridiculous to millions of workers who have sweated it out for decades, but the duo's research on "Heat Stress" and its effect on Psychological Aspects of Workers in India" has linked the problem with climate change.

However, they are not recommending air-conditioning of all workplaces as it is not viable due to high costs of insulations and energy consumption aspects.

Instead, the two IIM-A professors have suggested installation of cooling systems which would maintain an optimal ambient temperature of 25 to 30 degrees Celsius.

Since the IIM-A professors have not recommended central air-conditioning of workplaces, it would be unfair for the media to suspect that the study was sponsored by the air-conditioning industry.

Though press meets at the IIM-A are always