Students aim to set 'scientific' record

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) will host 2,000 school students next month, who will attempt to set a Guinness World Record by performing a chemistry experiment simultaneously at the upcoming India International Science Festival.

The mega science festival is a joint effort by ministry of science and technology and ministry of earth sciences in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati, a swadeshi science movement working towards interlinking traditional and modern sciences on the one hand and natural and spiritual sciences on the other.

“The festival aims at encouraging scientific temper among young minds. Fifty students each from 40 private and government schools from the capital will perform the same chemistry experiment as an attempt to make a Guinness World Record,” said KS Rao, dean, infrastructure.

The science festival will be held from December 4 to 8 and is likely to be attended by close to 4,000 young scientists, who will get the opportunity to discuss ideas and interact with industry.

“There would be eight parallel sessions on various topics in which students will get to interact with experts. There is going to be a ‘Young Scientist Conference’ in which papers will be presented on various topics, including indigenous knowledge. There will also be an Industry-Academia conference to give students a chance to learn more about start-ups,” said Rao.

Vijnana Bharati is headed by Vijay Bhatkar who is also the chairman of IIT Delhi’s board of governors. The festival will have themes, including, ‘Indigenous Science and Technology’, and ‘Innovative Agricultural Practices and Livestock Management’.

The festival will have a science film festival to showcase movies and documentaries on scientific themes. “The sessions will comprise interaction with eminent scientists, expo award function, science film festival and showcasing of innovative models and a young scientists meet,” said officiating director of IIT Delhi, Kshitij Gupta.
IIT study likely to offer new insights into air pollution

The report on “source apportionment of particulate matter” looks into origins of finer and coarse particles in the air. The report focuses on secondary particles that are formed after the reaction of primary gases in the atmosphere, which can change the way Delhi tackles pollution and its origin. According to officials, certain areas had not been looked into, which the report seeks to change.

“The final report will be out next month. But from the draft report, we can say that we will have new insights into the causes of air pollution that will help shape the way we deal with air quality,” said Ashwani Kumar, Secretary (Environment and Forest Department).

As per the draft, vehicular emission and secondary particles amount for about 60 percent of pollutants in the winter. Though finer particles are known to be the most dangerous for health, depending on their components they could be even worse. If the PM 2.5 is mostly made of benzene, which is emitted by burning of coal, it could be carcinogenic. The report also has suggestions on how to tackle each category of pollutant.

Environmentalists are hoping the study helps the city improve the declining air quality. “There is a need for a comprehensive look at all sources of pollution, not only in Delhi but in the NCR as air doesn’t have borders. For instance, a thermal power plant in Haryana could affect Delhi’s air,” said Sunil Dahiya, campaigner on air pollution for Greenpeace India.
No salary details this placement season: IITs

KALPANA PATHAK & VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 26 November

The day Pune-based Abhishek Pant told the local media about his ₹2-crore dream job in Google,” the placement office at his alma mater Indian Institute of Management (IIT), Kharagpur, was busy answering calls from other parents, media and fellow placement officials. But, all that IIT Kharagpur had to say that day was “it didn’t come from us.”

It is to avoid such situations that the All IITs Placement Committee (AIPC) recently took an informal decision not to reveal details of compensation packages offered by recruiters during final placements.

Why not? The ₹2-crore figure, the institute said, is incorrect. “The figure has come from the boy’s family and not from the institute’s placement office. It is also inaccurate, and the real figure is lower than the one being quoted. This is precisely the reason why in the recent AIPC meeting, IITs have decided not to reveal details of compensation packages in the offers made by recruiters,” said an institute source at IIT, Kharagpur.

IITs say such high offers are exceptional, and revealing such figures tends to put unnecessary pressure on other students. “Students and parents alike start developing unnecessary expectations from offers during placements. At times, this also impacts students’ performance during placement interviews. Hence, IITs have decided it is safer to reveal the average salary packages offered in a particular year at the end of the placement process,” said a source at IIT Guwahati. IIT Bombay too refused to divulge salary details.

IITs divide salaries into two parts — the guaranteed or fixed component and the variable component. They say they consider only the fixed component in their placement records.

IIT placement cell officials said variable components in salaries — stock options, joining or sign — on bonus, relocation benefits, medical reimbursement, leave travel allowance, transport allowance and other benefits — raise annual salaries to more than ₹1 crore. Including variable components, international pay packages soared at IITs.
कैट में कर सकेंगे कैलकुलेटर का प्रयोग

राज्य यूडी, दो दिल्ली: देश के प्रमुख भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (साहियाजिम) में दाखिले के लिए, कई बदलावों के साथ 29 नवंबर की कौन्सिल एडमिशन टेस्ट (केट) 2015 का आयोजन होगा।
कैट 2.18 लाख परीक्षार्थियों इसमें हिस्सा लेंगे।
इसके लिए देश के 136 शहरों में 650 टेस्ट साइट्स बनाई गई हैं।
इस बार इस परीक्षा में बैठे बैंकिंग विविध विभागों की 10 मिनट का समय अंकन गिता और वे अन्य प्रशिक्षक जैसे कैलकुलेटर का अभ्यास कर सकेंगे।

इस बार होगा बैंकिंग ओलाइन कैट की परीक्षा में शामिल होने वाले 2.18 लाख परीक्षार्थियों में लगभग 1,549,408 लड़के व 69,196 लड़कियाँ शामिल हैं।

राखी उपलब्धियाँ: 2016 के दूसरे भाग में कैट को नौकरी की तैयारी करने के लिए 60-90 मिनट के बाद शुरू होंगे।

विषयसूची: अपनी-अपनी तरह से परीक्षार्थियों की परीक्षा में बहती प्रविष्टि की लागत है। केट की तैयारी करने वाले विशेष विषय संबंधित गौरव पूरी करें।
29 नवंबर को होगी स्थानीय परीक्षा का समाप्त शिक्षा का समाप्त ओक्टोबर 28 को होगी केट टेस्ट के लिए परीक्षार्थियों की तैयारी का समाप्त होगा।
136 शहरों में तैयार की गई हैं 650 टेस्ट साइट्स।

बताया जाता है कि इस बार परीक्षा के लिए 170 मिनट के बाद 180 मिनट लिये जाएँ। इस तरह से परीक्षार्थियों को नीचे ही धारा की हल करने के लिए 60-90 मिनट में लिये जाएँ।
एक धारा की समस्याओं को हल करने ही दूसरा खाड़ी स्कूल पर स्थली आ जाएगा।
परीक्षा में नीचे आन्तरिक-अन्तर्गत धाराएँ हैं।

आंतिम समय में कूच से बचें
विठ्ठल अपनी-अपनी तरह से परीक्षार्थियों की परीक्षा में बहती प्रविष्टि की लागत है। केट की तैयारी करने वाले विशेष विषय संबंधित गौरव पूरी करें।
विशेष विषय की पाठ्यपुस्तक को सीखने के लिए केट की तैयारी करने वाले विशेष विषय संबंधित गौरव पूरी करें।
50 मिनट के बाद केट की तैयारी करने वाले विशेष विषय संबंधित गौरव पूरी करें।
60-90 मिनट में लिये जाएँ।
IIT Kgp most employable in country: QS Survey


KOLKATA: IIT Kharagpur was rated the most employable institute in the country by an international survey for higher educational institutions on Thursday.

It is also the only other institute apart from IIT Bombay to make it to the top 100 of the global employability rankings.

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), which released its first ever Graduate Employability Rankings on Thursday, placed IIT Kharagpur at 77 and IIT Bombay at 93.

The other Indian institutes to figure on the list are IIT Madras (rank 119), IIT Delhi (160) and University of Delhi (175).

The top five ranks were grabbed by Stanford University, MIT, Harvard University, University of Cambridge and Yale University.

With a score of 51.0, IIT Kharagpur rubs shoulders with the likes of University of Liverpool (score 53), University of Lancaster (52.9) and Pennsylvania State University (52).

IIT Kharagpur scored impressively in parameters like 'graduate employability rate' and 'employers' presence'. The fact that it managed the highest number of pre-placement offers for the 2015-16 session among all IITs drew the attention of QS. The survey also took into account the fact that it has the highest number of graduates among the IITs and on an average 1500 of its students get jobs every year with impressive compensation packages.

"The students of IIT Kgp are all talented. It is our interdisciplinary approach and the compulsory industrial internships that they go for which makes our students ready for their new jobs,” director P P Chakraborty told TOI on Thursday.

In its maiden project, the QS Graduate Employability Rankings survey analyzed over 44,000 responses from 1,239 universities. Experts took a year to conduct thorough investigations before reaching their conclusions. The methodology included parameters like employer reputation, partnerships with employers, alumni outcomes, employers' presence on campus and graduate employment rate. The report was released on Thursday at the Young Universities Forum in Melbourne.

IIT-Kanpur experts develop a warning system to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings


KANPUR: If everything goes well, accidents at the unmanned level crossings will not happen and precious human lives be saved as IIT Kanpur has developed a warning system which will produce loud sound to alert the people to remain off the tracks. The technology has been named as Radio Frequency and Wireless Based Warning System. After
r successful trials of this warning system between Unnao and Sonik railway stations (crossing number 29C) and Lucknow-Sultanpur section (crossing number 189C), the IIT-Kanpur will be handing over it to the RDSO on December 16. Also the device had been installed in the Loco engine. The GPS and RFID (Radio Frequency Indentification tag) enabled warning system can be made operational from either of the two and this is its biggest attraction.

Interestingly, the advanced warning system is capable to handle a total of 16 trains if spread out on 16 parallel tracks. Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) had asked the IIT-Kanpur to develop such a warning system which could cater to two trains on two parallel tracks in one go.

Talking to TOI, BM Shukla, principal software engineer at IIT-K said, "The warning system with embedded GPS and RFID (radio frequency indentification tag) had been installed in the train and at the unmanned railway crossing during the trial period. The system is such that when the train will be 1500 meters away from the crossing, the warning system will get activated and hooters will blow up giving an indication to the driver that the crossing is fast approaching. The same thing will happen when the train is just 800 meters away from the track. The flash hooters will stop buzzing when train crosses 50 metre mark from the crossing."

Shukla further said that even if the GPS stops functioning due to some or the other reason, the RFID will ensure making the warning system work and under no circumstances the system will fail, making it fullproof.

Highlighting the unique feature of the warning system, Shukla said that in case of multiple tracks (suppose two trains are crossing each other), the warning system will continue to function and later train will activate the signal to close the warning system (meaning that the hooters will buzz for both the trains and will close when the later train will clear the 50 metre mark).

He also mentioned that the trials have remained successful before the officials of RDSO and the technology will be handed over to the railway board on December 16.

He concluded by saying that it was now the railway board to decide how to go ahead with the new technology developed for them. If they will want the extended trials of the warning system would be demonstrated before them.

50% IIT entrants this year didn’t have coaching

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/50-IIT-entrants-this-year-didnt-have-coaching/articleshow/49947211.cms

CHENNAI: As the debate over persuading students to discard the 'culture' of coaching centres to boost scientific thinking, IIT statistics reveal that about 50% of those who secured admission to the 18 institutes this year did so without attending any coaching centre.

The Committee of Eminent Persons (CEP), constituted by the IIT council, recently submitted a report to the HRD ministry, suggesting a revamp in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) pattern which includes an aptitude test that cannot be cracked through the 'coaching culture'. While coaching institutes have decried the recommendation, some academicians said the numbers of those entering the institutes without coaching proved coaching centres are not necessarily the gateways to the premier institutes.

According to statistics from IIT Bombay, which conducted JEE 2015, of the 9,974 students who entered the various IITs this year 4,892 said during registration that they relied on self-study while 4,757 depended on coaching centres.
Prof S Sundar of IIT Madras, who handled JEE admissions in Chennai, said that even if these numbers could not be taken at face value, coaching was not a necessity. "There are many brilliant minds in class and if students follow a systematic approach in their studies, I genuinely feel they need not depend on coaching," he said. However, he said, the foundation provided in school was crucial.

Prof Anandakrishnan of IIT Kanpur said many students took up coaching in blind faith and because it had become a trend. "Students at coaching centres are brainwashed by certain methods and fall short in many areas. In my experience at IIT, many who come from coaching centres have done worse than those who don't. No coaching centre can make students learn tackling an aptitude test," he said.

Coaching institutes say discouraging coaching will affect deserving students. Aakash Chaudhry, director of Aakash Educational Services, said cracking IIT-JEE required more than preparing for school board exams. "Those who can afford quality education from good schools will be able to make it, resulting in missed opportunities for the masses. The objective is that both the brilliant and average students pass the entrance examinations with highest score."

Prof P V Balaji, of IIT Bombay, who handled JEE (Advanced) 2015, said coaching centres flourished because of the "obvious demand and its success rate."

The committee's suggestion of bringing in an aptitude test and a single entrance pattern would add pressure on students to crack JEE in one go, he said. "The existing dual-entrance pattern was brought in after much consultation with academicians who found it difficult to filter a large volume of students," he said.

Coming soon film on man behind India’s ‘IIT factory’
Anand Kumar

Anurag Basu is among those who have approached me for making a biopic: Anand Kumar.


Several leading Bollywood filmmakers have evinced a keen interest in making a film on the man who founded arguably India’s best known coaching institute for the IIT examination.

“Noted filmmaker Anurag Basu and actress Priyanka Chopra are among those who have approached me for making a biopic,” ‘Super 30’ founder and mathematician Anand Kumar told PTI.

“Film writer Sanjiv Datta, who has written script for hits like ‘Barfi!’ ‘Page 3’ and ‘Gangster’, has also offered to script the movie,” Kumar said.

Also read: Tough for real life couples to romance on-screen: Anurag Basu

While Basu met Kumar at Patna, Priyanka spoke to him over phone and showed an interest in making a film based on his life.

“I will take a call in a month on whom to give the copyright for making my biopic,” Kumar said.

The Patna-based ‘Super 30’ has groomed more than 300 students who have qualified for the coveted IITs, ever since Kumar launched the initiative in 2002.
Diplomatic officials from France and Germany recently paid a visit to the Super 30 academy, acclaimed for helping students of deprived sections to crack the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance examination.

Kumar met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in August to discuss ways for imparting quality education to students from poor and underprivileged sections in the state.

Under the Super-30 programme, 30 students from extremely poor families are trained free of cost to crack JEE to secure admission to IITs. The initiative had made its way to the list of ‘Best of Asia – 2010’, prepared by Time magazine of the US.

The Newsweek magazine had also taken note of the initiative and included his school in the list of four most innovative schools in the world.