IIT chiefs back Murthy on dipping quality

Mumbai: The gates that lead to an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) are narrow. One needs to elbow out at least 400 others to get beyond the entry point. It is this mad dash that stokes the coaching industry. This year of the 9,195 who qualified to join the IITs, two-thirds said they took professional help to prepare for the entrance test or the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE). What India’s IT idol Narayana Murthy said about the poor quality of students joining IITs is echoed by the institutes’ heads. In fact, some believe the number of students who get coached and join is much more.

IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthi says most students come with a hangover of long years of coaching. “This is an elimination test and there is a limit to what an instrument like an entrance exam can do. Taking school scores into consideration should allow us to get well-rounded students.”

IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Baru points out that the mad dash forces aspirants to start preparing early on. “By the time they join the IIT system they are mentally fatigued. Many are not even interested in engineering. They want to sell soap, not become mechanical/chemical engineers.” Baru’s observation is substantiated by placement numbers that show over 50% graduates join managerial positions in consultancy firms, fast-moving consumer goods companies and finance sector, all of which pay bigbucks.

There was a time when IITs prided themselves in managing to draw the best from across the country. Now, say many experts, the JEE has lost its mojo.

An analysis carried out after JEE 2011 shows that of the 4.68 lakh candidates who appeared, 86,719 (or 1.95%) had completed schooling in an Indian village. Another 1.35 lakh (28.9%) had done their schooling in towns and 2.46 lakh (52.55%) from cities. The success rate was lowest for those who did their schooling in villages (9.84%); 26.12% of candidates from towns and 45.03% from cities made it to the IITs.
DNA Ahmedabad 10.10.11 P-4

Speak up

Opting to make optimum use of their holiday, The IIT-Roorkee Association, Ahmedabad decided to carry out a Heritage Walk to explore the old city and take a closer look at the wonderful monuments the city has. DNA spoke to the participants to know about their experience.

“We started from Swaminarayan temple and visited many places. We then went to Juma Masjid before concluding the walk at Sarkhej Roza,” said coordinator Vijay Kumar.

IITians walk through city’s past

“This is my first visit to Sarkhej Roza, I kept planning to come here, but for some reason, it never worked out. The Heritage Walk is quite unique as it shows city’s living architecture.”

—Srivats Suresh, Civil Engineer, ISM, (Guj Telecom Circle)

“The essence of such walks is you get to participate in a group. One cannot go alone and explore these things on his own. I came to know a lot but there is an issue of cleanliness which needs to be addressed. The Heritage Walk is a way of knowing India.”

—Yashvati Wajikkar, Housewife

“I have visited Sarkhej Roza before but this time it was different as we had a guide and I heard some very fascinating tales. The planning of the old city is remarkable.”

—Arpita Srivastav, Tourist

“This has been an excellent experience and it was very informative. I did not know so much about the heritage sites. The planning of the old city area is an eye opener.”

—Suresh Seth, GPS Consultant

“I am a Gujarati and have been working here for a long time but have never been part of a Heritage Walk before. I really liked Rani no Hajiro and the Juma Masjid. Now I will bring my family here.”

—Kamal Shah, Engineer Western Railways

“Today we realised that our heritage is more luminous than our present and also our future. Our past was so developed and now we must preserve it.”

—Sudipto Mukherjee, Housewife

DNA Pune 10.10.11 P-6

Why is Narayana Murthy obsessed with the IITs?

The prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology have come under some uncharitable criticism in recent months, the latest one is from Infosys’s co-founder Narayana Murthy, who has been making comments in recent months about the quality of engineering graduates from the IITs. He has repeatedly pointed out that the IITs need to do more to address the needs of their students and to improve their performance. In a recent interview, Murthy said, “I am not happy with the way the IITs are performing.” He goes on to say that the IITs need to focus more on research and development, and less on teaching. He also said that the IITs need to do more to attract top students from other countries, and not just from India.

In response to Murthy’s criticism, the IITs have launched several initiatives to improve their performance. These include the creation of new courses and programs, the introduction of new technologies and techniques, and the appointment of new faculty members. The IITs have also made efforts to improve their campus facilities and to attract more students from other countries.

However, despite these efforts, Murthy remains unconvinced that the IITs are doing enough to address the needs of their students. He says that the IITs need to do more to improve the quality of their teaching and research, and to attract more top students from other countries.

The IITs are widely regarded as the best engineering schools in India, and they are considered to be the pride of the country. However, recent criticism of the IITs has raised questions about their performance and their ability to meet the needs of the country.

The IITs have a long history of producing some of the best engineers and scientists in India, and they have been a source of pride for the country. However, recent criticism of the IITs has raised questions about their performance and their ability to meet the needs of the country.

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2 of 3 coached for IIT-JEE

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: The gates that lead to an IIT are narrow. One needs to elbow out at least 30 other IIT hopefuls to get beyond the entry point. It’s carnage. And it’s this that stokes the coaching industry. Few take the risk of not going through a gruellingly long training.

This year, of the 13,195 who qualified for the IITs, two-thirds said they took professional help to prepare for the entrance — the Joint Entrance Exam. In fact, some directors believe this figure is underestimated and students who get coached and join are much larger in number.

Analysis of JEE 2011 shows that of the 4.68 lakh candidates who appeared, 86,719 (18.5%) had completed schooling in an Indian village. Another 1.35 lakh (28.9%) schooled in towns and 2.46 lakh (52.55%) in cities. The success rate was the lowest for those who schooled in villages (9.84%); 25.12% of those from towns and 65.03% from cities made it to the IITs. Guwahati zone showed the largest percentage of candidates with schooling in villages while Delhi zone had the largest success percentage from cities.

Most of those who made it were from CBSE schools, followed by those from state boards. Of the 13,196 qualified candidates, 543 were from ICSE (4.11%), 7,396 from CBSE (56%), and 5,195 from state board (39.4%).
‘Don’t ITT pupils mug as well?’

Mallika Jothi

I n Delhi, the west has always been the most sought after destination for a sector of youth. Though the university section, the bar area, the cinema and the west come to mind, but not easy. But with the ITT guru, it gets easy. During an interview, Microsoft #iconset is in jilting an it’s highly a superior institute for the job–it is a superior institute.

That is the name of the Indian Institute of Technology (ITT). It has become an international brand. Now, with its new MHRD programme, ‘Learning and Development’, a programme organised by former ITT Delhi in New York came as a surprise.

If Murthy’s assertion that ITTians of today lack the talent is true, the blame for this should not go to the institute. It should sound like shifting the blame.

This answer to ITT’s question perhaps requires a much deeper analysis and may put to some serious doubts about the education system of the country, which encourages pursuing right from the elementary stage. Just by parent-panel discussion and mapping up next papers, one cannot crack the ITT. This is for sure. But this is not easy. It would have raised a question mark over the entire ITT scenario, which involves top brains of the country. It is not so. The ITT is still the brightest competition and requires much more than what the same school education system of the country is able to deliver.

For the latest students, they lack the ITT, and these two percent of the mass to make it—by many means, there are much more. But this is not the same school education system of the country is able to deliver.

About HALF OF THE 1,000 QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY (7,000 IN ALL) CANNOT TEACH AT ALL.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

ITTs are our premier engineering research institutes. But of late there has been some criticism. Is it justified?

Mallika Jothi

I n extra curricular, ITTs are our premier engineering research institutes. But of late there has been some criticism. Is it justified?

Extra curricular activities

The ITTians are always rise to a challenge.

Students of mechanical engineering at ITT Delhi

Vishal Chugh

T he features of the institute with their high profile and good curriculum, have a long history of success in engineering and thus are likely to be the most successful and respected in the country. The ITT students are often ranked among the best in the country.

The ITTians always rise to the challenge.

If your parents want you to do well, you cannot go wrong. The institute offers a variety of courses, from technical to management.

This is the one aspect of the overall benefits of ITT, the institute offers a variety of courses, from technical to management.

This is a unique feature of the course, and is the only one of its kind in the country. The institute offers a variety of courses, from technical to management.

The students have access to the latest software and hardware, which is used to simulate real-world situations. This is the one aspect of the overall benefits of ITT, the institute offers a variety of courses, from technical to management.

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Better teachers needed

Sir — This refers to the report, “Poor quality of students entering IITs: Murthy” (October 3). Four months back Union Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh slammed IIT teachers for their sub-standard profiles and now Infosys Chairman NR Narayana Murthy has again made the same criticism. But, why only blame the coaching institutions or the selection test? There are several other factors for the declining standards of the students. We must ask ourselves why have these coaching centres cropped up? It is because the present school education system which does not prepare students for the IIT entrance exams. Hence, coaching institutes are needed to help students prepare well and beat the competition.

Also, once students are admitted to an IIT, it is the Institute’s responsibility to train them as per global standards. But, that is not happening since teaching standards at the institutes have fallen quite a bit in recent years. This also explains why in 2011 no single IIT could find a place in the top 200 universities of the world. Instead of blaming coaching centres and a flawed selection process, the IITs would do well to improve the recruitment standards for its teachers. Otherwise, when one system fails, another parallel system will naturally emerge as has been the case with the entire coaching industry.

Anil Singh
New Delhi
IIM-K annual fest to focus on ‘People Planet Profit’

Our Bureau
Kozhikode, Oct. 10
The Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K) will hold its annual management festival, Backwaters – 2011, from November 18-20. The annual festival features the flagship event of business plan and new venture contest, namely, ‘White Knight’, and this year the focus will be on ‘People Planet Profit’, the triple bottom line for business.

The significance of the triple bottom line will be brought to the forefront through its application in all flagship as well as domain events carried out across the finance, marketing, operations, strategy, systems and HR verticals, according to the media cell of IIM-K.

Besides, monitoring and controlling the carbon footprint will be another dominant theme and the festival will have a series of activities to highlight the ways to reduce the damage caused by the phenomenon to the environment, a press release said.

DNA Jaipur 10.10.11 P-3

Higher education needs more fund, says Pranab

The Union minister was in Rajasthan to attend convocation ceremony

DNA Correspondent

To promote higher education in the country, major reforms are needed in the education sector. Through public-private partnership, more investments can be created to build infrastructure for education, said Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee while delivering a convocation address at Banasthali University in Niwai, Tonk on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, he said that mobilisation of funds is a major challenge in promoting higher education and with the involvement of private sector the requirements of funds can be sufficed. He also said that quality higher education, more stress will be given to this sector in the 12th Plan.

Speaking about the progress of gross enrolment ratio (GER), the government aims to increase it to 15 per cent from its current level of 12.4 per cent by the end of 11th Plan and 21 per cent by end of 12th Plan.

Giving details on reforms in the education sector, he said that “Universities are being asked to reorient themselves to meet the changing requirement of skills and knowledge in the job market,” and added that states which do not have central universities will get one apart from developing IIS and IIMs. On the growing need of employability of the young graduates, he said that a skill development mission has been initiated that will create such skills amongst the youth, enabling them to get employment in the industry and informed that by 2022 about 150 million skilled persons will be available for the industries.

‘Licence raj hampers growth of education’

DNA Correspondent

While speaking at the 28th convocation ceremony of Banasthali University, vice-chancellor of the university Aditya Shastri spoke about the need to liberate higher education from the clutches of licence raj and appealed to Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to bring the higher education out of the present mess.

He said that license and permit raj is at its peak in education sector and this is hampering the growth of education. He was very critical of the claims of government over its efforts to increase the gross enrolment ratio (GER) and said, “Big policy announcements are made about increasing the GER but on ground, the new UGC regulations require the universities to seek prior approval from UGC for every new course which they plan to start.”

He also criticised the regulation which puts a limit on the deemed university to start distance education and said that why can’t the deemed universities impart knowledge through distance education mode.

While welcoming the introduction of foreign universities in the country, the V-C said that the move will increase the competition, thereby, improving the quality of the education in the country.
Sibal for education meet in US

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT: India and the USA will discuss further strengthening of collaboration in higher education and exchanges during the first higher education summit to be held between the two countries in Washington on Thursday.

This joint summit will be attended by higher education leaders and government officials from the US and India, as well as private sector leaders.

The Union human resource development (HRD) minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, will leave tonight for the summit which will also be attended by the US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton.

The summit will feature a roundtable discussion on US-India higher education cooperation. Prominent higher education and thought leaders will speak at a plenary session and in breakout sessions on topics crucial to expanding and strengthening higher education collaboration between the two countries, an HRD ministry statement said. sns
Funding cuts ‘threaten Oxford’s global prestige’

Richard Garner

Oxford University’s reputation as a world leader in higher education is being threatened by funding cuts and restrictions on international students, its Vice Chancellor Andrew Hamilton has warned.

Too many talented graduates were being lured away by better financial support abroad for research jobs, Andrew Hamilton said in his annual speech to the university. In addition, visa restrictions were threatening “the academic health of the university”.

All leading UK universities faced a similar threat. “If disadvantage is not addressed, the UK higher education sector will increasingly lose out to its international competitors in the recruitment of the best students and academics,” Professor Hamilton said. The funding gap was “the single biggest reason why those to whom we make offers turn us down”.

US universities were able to offer a five-year financial package to overseas graduates. At Oxford, just over half of graduates received full scholarships for post-graduate study.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England in July axed its research students’ awards scheme, which had provided £1.5m to support overseas graduates at Oxford.

Visa restrictions putting new limits on the number of international academics that could be recruited also posed serious risks to the standing of universities — both in terms of scholarship and economics, he said.

“When other governments are ramping up investment in higher education, particularly for research, treading water will not be enough,” Professor Hamilton said.

— The Independent

This tablet won’t cure India’s problems

This refers to the news article “India launches world’s cheapest tablet computer” (October 6). Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal did not hesitate to take credit for “enabling the college-going students of India” by merely securing 1,00,000 pieces of the Tablet computer, Aakash. When on the one hand, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s Government plans to withdraw subsidies from essential items like petrol, LPG and fertilisers, it is amazing that Mr Sibal is willing to provide subsidised Tablets. This only tantamounts to rubbing salt on the Indian middle-class’s open wounds. Let’s not even talk about the poor who can barely manage one square meal a day thanks to runaway inflation.

Also, I would like to ask Mr Sibal if his dirt cheap Tablet would help the country’s marginalised students get jobs. Will it help poor students get admission into elite colleges? I doubt it. For that to happen the Government would have to do a lot more than produce some cheap gizmo. It would require some foresight, real planning and a lot of good governance skills.

Additionally, I am also concerned about the impact of this device on students for it might just serve more as a means of distraction than anything else. Let us not forget how mobile phones have become on a menace on every school and college campus.

Instead, I believe Mr Sibal would have done well to provide interest-free loans to meritorious students, for example, so that they could enroll themselves in good colleges and, if necessary, buy an Aakash tablet from the market.

It is high time the UPA regime focus on the pressing issues of the day which apart from education include inflation and corruption. Tempting the youth with such gadgets only seems like an attempt to win over youth loyalty.

Rakesh Verma
Qatar
DNA Pune 10.10.11 P-4

Tempests of learning need lessons in education?

Despite president Barack Obama warning American students of stiff competition from pupils in India, not a single Indian university figures in the latest ranking of the world’s top 200. Academicians Speak Up on what is wrong with the education system in the country

We need to improve to be on par with top varsities

The rankings given to the universities by Times, London, have certain parameters. These rankings are very authentic and reckoned really important. They depend on a list of factors where Indian institutes lag. The rankings are based on teaching and learning patterns, internationalisation of institutes, research as well as number of foreign students and teachers in an institute.

Research is not just filling a report, it should be suitably cited by other researchers in their books, journals or reports. Unless we improve in all these aspects, we cannot make it to the list of top institutes. Besides, we are against prioritisation of universities, but if we look at it closely, private universities are in a better position to match the standards of top varities.

Surinder Kaur, president and head of SOF DEC.

Causal attitude towards work needs to be changed

There is a need to make a lot of changes like upping teachers, finding good researchers for education, adding a fundamental and latest research that are not really known to our students under the current syllabus. But the most important thing is to bring a change in our attitudes. The people in international institutions are not scared to work hard. They work 80-4000 hours a year, but in India it is vice versa. We are a very casual attitude towards study, which should be in students or teachers.

We also need to have academic, community and leadership development. There is no time in a day’s capacity in bringing about these changes. It is not only about research or money; it is actually about attitude and hard work. It is about the measures that we have, how we use them, developing them and improving them.

Pratibha Javadekar, director, Indian Education Consultant Services

We need empowered people to create better institutions

I think we need to focus on success. In government organisations we get killed by mediocrity very soon. They al' only for perks, they get the people with right degrees, but most often from fake institutes. And once these people are in one place, they have a tendency to be bright and sharp people. We should meet them from below and look for the best and gathered them in one place. Good people gravitate to good people. We need empowered people to grow bright minds and create better institutions. We have to get rid of lengthy procedures and the habit of working slowly.

Once authoritative people move to higher positions, they are least bothered about setting things right in matters that are not working properly. Unless these changes are made, we cannot achieve the level of success required to be listed among top universities or colleges.

Avinash Gupta, visiting scientist, IITs

Students should have more choices, as it helps bring out the best in them

Our education standards per se are not bad, but we need to change the way we govern ourselves. We need to make changes along system so that students have more to choose from. If they have choices, they will choose different fields and that will help in bringing out the best in them.

Though choices are opening up now, students need more options. Apart from that they need counselling to select the right one.

Parents also need to be connective, so that they understand the choices made by their children. Universities should review their syllabus and try to update rather than upgrade them, because even psychology has undergone a huge change.

We need to have a lot more fundamental research, so that is where we are lacking.

Nitesh Patil, founder-president, Foundation for Central and Management Education

We lag in producing industry-ready students

It is true that faculty and students together form the base of a quality institute, but there are other factors that need to be considered as well.

One of the major problems faced by Indian institutes is that our institutes are poorly funded. Secondly, there is no connection between educational institutes, the government, and the industry in India. If we compare ourselves with America in this regard, we are definitely lagging.

The companies are so engrossed with work that there is no time to grow the institutes. We do not produce industry-ready students, and that is where we are lagging. We are successful losers than leaders. India needs to have more people like Steve Jobs, instead of followers. All this will help us raise our standards.

Agnite Ganguly, MD, SOF DEC.
Two Americans share Economics Nobel

Narayan Lakshman

WASHINGTON: American economists Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, were awarded the Nobel Prize on Monday for their path-breaking work on developing tools that policymakers are probably using frenetically today in their bid to extricate the economy from the persistent global economic downturn.

Recognising the two economists' "empirical research on cause and effect in the macroeconomy," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said that it decided to award the so-called Economics Nobel to Professors Sargent and Sims for their seminal research during the 1970s and 1980s that resulted in "essential tools in macroeconomic analysis."

Though Professor Sargent, from New York University, and Professor Sims, from Princeton University, carried out their research independently, their contributions were complementary in several ways, the Academy said, in presenting them with the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for 2011.

Professor Sargent demonstrated how structural macroeconometrics could be used to analyse permanent changes in economic policy - including the complex modelling of reactive changes in the behaviour and expectations of households and firms. He examined, for example, the post-World War II era of high-inflation policies and the eventual introduction of systematic changes in economic policy that allowed a reversion to a lower inflation rate.

Professor Sims on the other hand used the advanced econometric technique of vector autoregression to study the impact of temporary changes in economic policy on the economy. A common application of this scenario, and one that is likely used across the developed and developing world today, is the study of effects of an interest rate hike by a central bank.

A classic case that Professor Sim's data tools could be applied to include the scenario where inflation decreases over several years as a result of lower money supply, but economic growth declines in the short run due to lower aggregate investment demand and does not revert to its normal development until after a couple of years.

The two economists' tools are in vogue in mainstream macroeconometric analysis today and would probably resonate strongly with the tools used by the United States Federal Reserve. The Fed is facing an acute shortage of instruments to rev up the economy's growth rate in the face of an already near-zero interest rate and a stubbornly high rate of unemployment.
Hindustan Times
Title: A JAZZY OCTOBER
Author: 
Location: 
Article Date: 10/11/2011

THE DUTCH EFFECT

Dutch band, Yuri Honing Wired Paradise, is all set to perform in India this October. Their line-up for the India tour – which includes performances in Delhi and Jodhpur – is from their latest CD, White Tiger. Songs in the CD are inspired by the novel, White Tiger, from Aravind Adiga. Yuri Honing, an electro-acoustic alternative jazz player, is one of the most famous Dutch musicians.

- What: Jazz concert by Yuri Honing Wired Paradise in India
- Where: N.Delhi QBA14/48, Malcha Marg Market
- Time: 6:30 p.m onwards
- When: October 16, 17

A JAZZY OCTOBER

SOUNDS OF SWEDEN

For the fifth edition of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2011, Jump4Joy, a Swedish Jazz band, is going to perform in the Capital. Jump4Joy is an experimental band, and members Ulf & Bo have performed in Paris, Germany, New Orleans, Moscow, London and Havana. Their Delhi performance will be open for public and seating is on a first come first serve basis.

- What: Jump for Joy – Melodies of Swedish Jazz
- Where: IIT, Delhi
- When: October 23
- Timings: 2pm to 4pm
आईआईटी पर सवाल

हाल में कई विविध असली दावे आईआईटी और उसके शिक्षण मार्गदर्शन के लिए लगाये गए हैं। यह आईआईटी-आईई और उसके जैसे पुढ़ों के पर प्रश्न दिखाई दे रहे हैं। आईआईटी के नवीनतम कार्यक्रमों ने कर्मचारियों के साथ बेहतरीन रिश्तों को बनाना हेतु कई पर्याप्त संभावना दिखायी दी है।

जिनके नाम आईआईटी और उसके साथ आईआईटी ने उड़ते हैं। इस प्रकार के प्रश्न उड़ते हैं कि आईआईटी का क्या है और उसके साथ आईआईटी के क्या है। अपने शिक्षण और बाहरी दृष्टि से देखते हैं कि आईआईटी का क्या है और उसके साथ आईआईटी के क्या है।

आईआईटी के प्रश्नों और उसके साथ आईआईटी के क्या है।

लेकिन आईआईटी के साथ आईआईटी के क्या है। इसमें आईआईटी के क्या है। इसमें आईआईटी के क्या है। इसमें आईआईटी के क्या है।

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हिंदुस्तान पत्र 10.11.10 P-8

आईआईटी जेईई का फार्म 800 रुपये महंगा

नोएडा। आईआईटी जेईई-2012 (ज्वाइट एंट्रेंज एजम) की आवेदन प्रवक्ता 31 अक्टूबर से शुरू हो जायेगी। 8 अगस्त 2012 को होने वाली जेईई परीक्षा का कार्यक्रम जारी कर दिया गया है। खास बात ये है कि इस बार का एप्लीकेशन फॉर्म 800 रुपये महंगा होकर 1800 रुपये में मिलेगा।

महिला आवेदकों के लिए फार्म की कीमत 300 रुपये कम करते हुए सिर्फ 200 रुपये निर्धारित कर दी गई है।
बढ़ी सीटों पर होगा आईआईटी में दाखिला

इलाहाबाद (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी प्रवेश समिति की ओर से 31 अक्टूबर से आन्तरिक लाइन आवेदन की घोषणा के साथ इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा की शुरूआत हो जाएगी। आईआईटी में इस बार गत वर्ष की अपेक्षा 1500 अतिरिक्त सीटों पर प्रवेश होगा। आईआईटी के देश भर में खुले 15 संस्थाओं में प्रवेश संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जीई) के माध्यम से होगा। प्रवेश समिति की ओर से पिछले वर्ष 8500 सीटों पर प्रवेश हुआ था। इस बार प्रवेश समिति ने लगभग 10 हजार सीटों पर प्रवेश की घोषणा की है। नए खुले दूर-दराज के कॉलेजों में बढ़ी सीटों के कारण इस बार छात्रों के प्रवेश की संभावना बढ़ जाएगी।