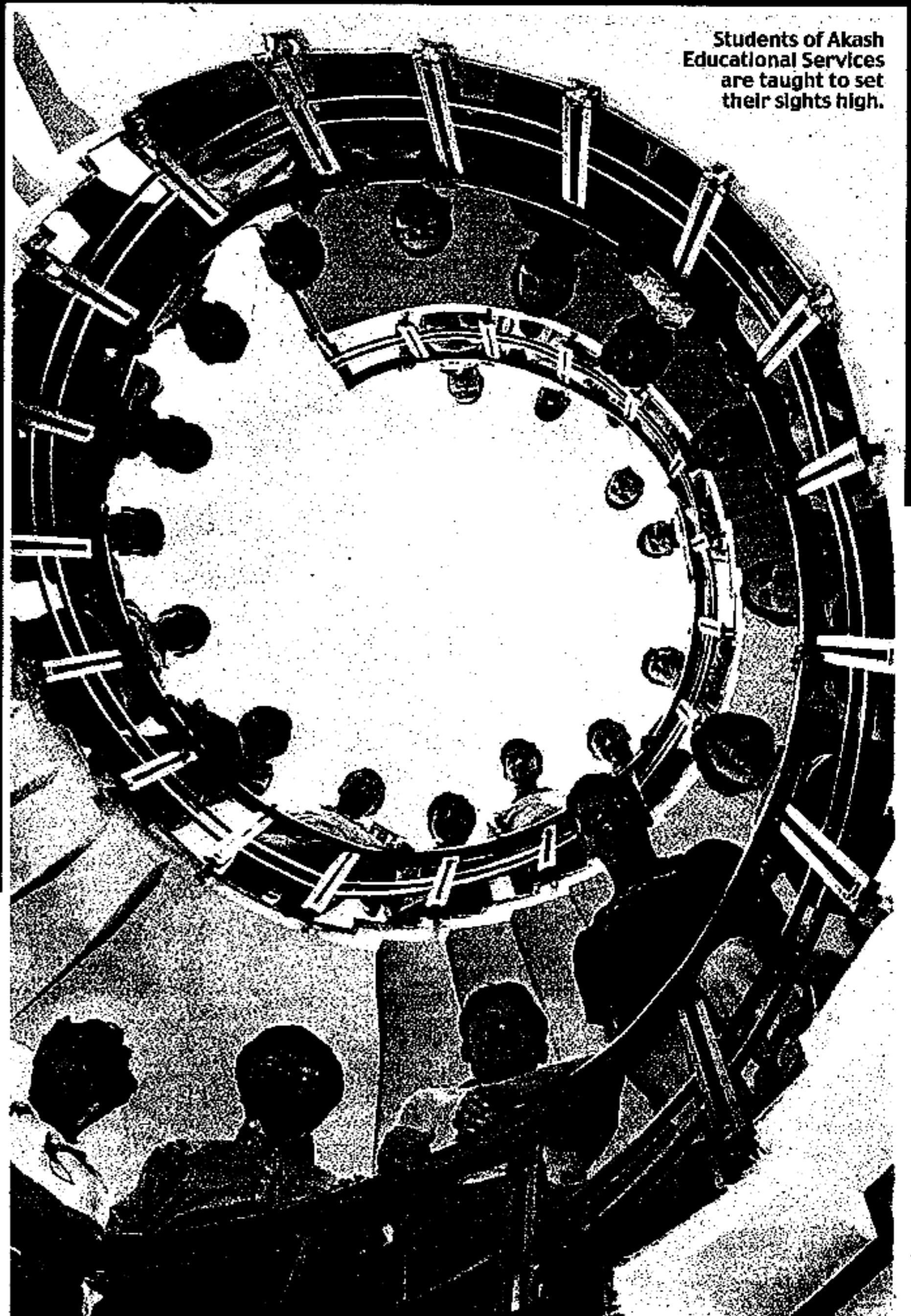


Aakash Educational Services teach the art of cracking big exams

Tame the IIT-JEE tiger with the right spirit and guidance

Students of Akash Educational Services are taught to set their sights high.



By Natasha Pathak

ASK ANY student who appeared for this year's IIT-JEE and you will learn that you need to start preparing for the exam next year from now itself. Not only is the competition tough, the pattern of the paper is also different and requires specific preparation.

But if you chalk out a schedule in your +2 years, acing the IIT-JEE can be smooth sailing. Aakash Chaudhry, director of Aakash Educational Services, one of the best coaching institutes for engineering entrance exams, gives some pointers.

"The first thing that students should be clear about is whether they want to take the IIT-JEE at all. In a large number of cases, students take the exam due to peer pressure. Unless you are absolutely sure you want to take up engineering as a career, don't struggle for the exam," he says.

But if you are really serio-

TAKE THE JEE ONLY IF YOU WANT TO BE AN ENGINEER AND NOT UNDER PRESSURE

us, then don't treat class XI as a post-board exam holiday. "As much as 55 per cent of the JEE syllabus is based on class XI course material, so students need to be diligent in class. Because the pressure becomes high in Class XII with the added load of the boards again," says Chaudhry. It is also not necessary to join a coaching class. If you think you can study on your own, then do just that.

You need to be mentally prepared for the fact that studying for the IIT-JEE could prove to be most rigorous study schedule of your entire

PIONEERS IN MEDICAL & ENGINEERING COACHING

IT'S NOT the star faculty that's the real strength at Aakash, it's their star system. Carefully picked and chosen at campus recruitments and from technical institutions, Aakash transforms its faculty from simple educators to subject experts. Teachers are recruited from universities like IIT-Delhi, IIT-Roorkee, IIT-BHU and Delhi University. They are also hired from the market. Candidates are selected through a rigorous process, where they take a written test and then appear for a demonstration lecture and finally chosen after an interview with the MD.

Says Aakash Chaudhry, Director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd, "Our teachers are highly qualified, are given on the job training and provided with specially prepared lecture material so as to give the best to our students."

With a legacy of 23 years of high quality coaching, Aakash has the distinction of producing the maximum number of successful students in terms of rank and numbers selected. Their integrated learning approach is a mix of NCERT syllabus and coaching to help students crack the entrance as well as their boards.

"The students can also avail of the facility of doubt clearing. We have special doubt rooms which are open throughout the year," says Chaudhry.

A major advantage with the institute is that it has branches across India - from metros to Tier-III cities. Faculty members at each of these centres are allocated from the head office to ensure parity at all centres.

Besides engineering and medical entrances, the institute also offers coaching for classes VIII, IX and X. "We have



Aakash Chaudhry

a combined integrated programme in which students of classes VIII to X can enroll to prepare for competitive exams," informs Chaudhry.

The tests you can enroll to get coaching for are National Talent Search Examination, Science and Math Olympiads, the Junior Science Talent Search Scheme and the national fellowship Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana exam.

Let Aakash be the path to realise your dreams.

academic life. "Work on a study schedule and then stick to it. Only two per cent of all candidates taking the exam are selected for the IITs so you need to really work hard," he adds.

But balancing the IIT-JEE and school studies can be quite a challenge. Chaudhry

insists that as the syllabus is vast, students need to analyse test papers thoroughly and figure out what questions are asked regularly and in alternate years. Remember, you'll be quizzed on the depths of concepts so be thorough with them.

Once you've studied the sy-

llabus carefully, start practicing tests regularly. "This will help you figure out how to apply your knowledge to the questions. Enroll in a systematic test programme with your tutor or coaching centre and keep taking the tests so that when you finally appear for the exam, the ques-

tions don't appear strange to you," says Chaudhry.

It is also important to keep practicing a variety of questions as sometimes even a slight change in phrasing can throw you off guard when under pressure. "Attempt at least 200 to 400 different genres of questions to be able to get a systematic grip on the expected questions," he says.

The paper consists of two parts and is designed not just to test how much you have learnt, but also assesses how well you can handle stress. "If you falter in the first paper, you can't allow that to shake your confidence. This is a test of knowledge and nerves," he adds.

IT IS important to practice with time as you cannot afford to spend more than 5-7 minutes on one question. Taking mock exams helps in getting familiar with the questions adjusting yourself to stressful situations.

One factor that must not be ignored while following a rigorous academic schedule is your health. Chaudhry says that good physical and mental health can help you overcome hurdles.

"It is always 99 per cent perspiration and 1 per cent inspiration," says Chaudhry.