

Metallurgical engineering gaining ground

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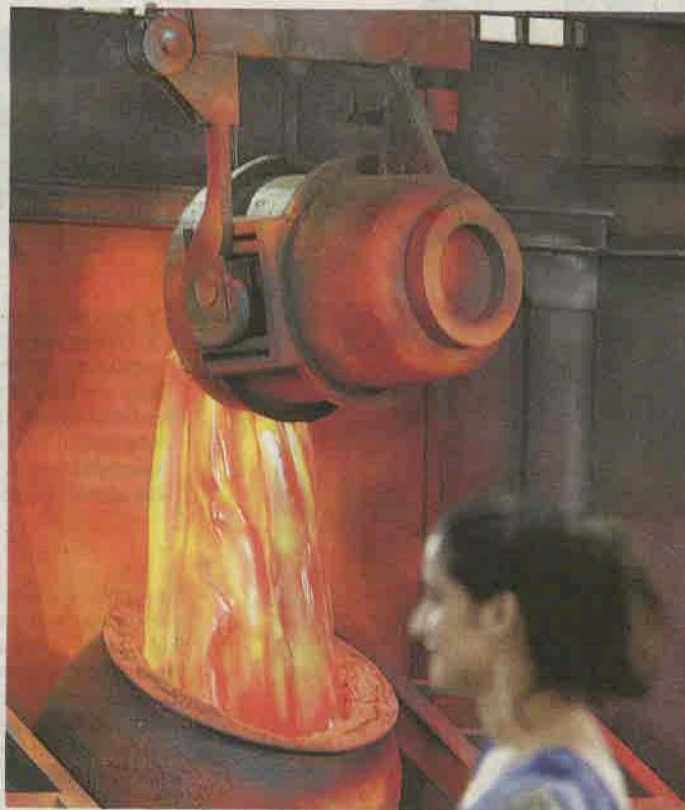
Core engineering concept is increasingly gaining prominence in the midst of millions of computer science and electronics graduates. Apart from Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering courses that are getting their due recognition in the recent times Metallurgical and Materials Engineering is also drawing the attention.

With the use of metal and materials increasing phenomenally the need for metal and material engineers is also growing. Unfortunately, not many students prefer the course due to lack of understanding on the role of these engineers and also the absence of information on the employment opportunities.

"The programme Metallurgical and Materials Engineering essentially covers the aspects of extraction, processing, fabrication and treatment of Metals and Alloys. It also emphasizes on the synthesis, development, and design aspects of advanced metallic materials, ceramics, composite materials, polymers, electronic materials, semi conductor materials," Prof. V. Malakonda Reddy of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT).

In fact, MGIT is one of the only seven institutes offering the B.Tech course in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering among the 730-odd engineering colleges in the State.

Prof. Reddy says these engi-



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neers play a crucial role in established and ever-growing industries like steel or the strategic needs in Defence, Aerospace, Nuclear and Petrochemical, Automotive and Iron and Steel.

The course takes the students

through the fundamentals of extraction metallurgy, mineral processing, physical and mechanical metallurgy, production of ferrous and nonferrous metals, ceramics, composites, polymers, and electronic materials as well as

the basics of mechanics, electrical and computer science and engineering in general.

"With this understanding a job is almost guaranteed to these engineers where these industries are thriving," Prof. Reddy says. Three to four years of relevant experience and sound knowledge can fetch good salary and a Post Graduate degree vastly improves the opportunities.

All IITs except IIT Guwahati and IIT Delhi offer M.Tech and Ph.D programmes in the stream. Competition is also less in the GATE exam thus providing higher scope for success.

B. Chennakesava Rao, Principal, CBIT reveals that MME graduates are eligible for IT jobs also. Their undergraduate curriculum includes three distinct one-semester Courses in C++, JAVA and Metallurgical Computations. Prof. Rao says MGIT has been one of the few Institutes in the country selected for a Ministry of Steel Chair Professorship for five years.

Prof. K. Bhanu Sankara Rao has been appointed as the Ministry of Steel Chair Professor. Under the heads of salary to the Chair Professor and scholarships to the deserving students, the total approximate grant approved by the Ministry is nearly Rs. 2 crores, Prof. Rao explains. In addition, scholarships (Rs. 10,000 per month) have also been sanctioned for the best Undergraduate students of third and final year of the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering discipline.