

Newspaper Clips October 21-23, 2017

October 23

Offline JEE Main on April 8

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/offline-jee-main-on-april-8-180320>

New Delhi: The offline version of the JEE Main will be held on April 8 next year, the Central Board of Secondary Education has announced.

It has not declared the dates for the computer-based version that only a few among the 12 lakh candidates take.

The JEE Advanced, to be conducted by IIT Kanpur, will be held on May 20. It will be an entirely computer-based test.

The CBSE has asked its affiliated schools not to pass off students of unaffiliated schools as their own for the board exams.

Diwali was quieter this year, noise levels less in many areas

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/diwali-was-quieter-this-year-noise-levels-less-in-many-areas-4902190/>

MPCB says it's due to SC ban on sale of firecrackers in NCR



Noise levels came down across 18 locations in the city.

This year, Diwali was a lot quieter across some areas of the city than last two years. An analysis by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) that monitored noise levels across 18 locations in the city found areas at Satara Road, Koregaon Park and even Swargate toning down the volume.

While a long-term action plan is required to bring down both noise and air pollution levels, the Supreme Court ban on the sale of firecrackers in NCR and Delhi region also had an impact in other

cities. Nitin Shinde, Sub-Regional Officer, Pune, told The Indian Express that the news about the ban nearly a fortnight ahead of Diwali in Delhi also had an impact in other cities.

Monitoring of noise levels was done by MPCB on October 19 (Laxmi Puja), October 20 (Padwa) and October 21 (Bhau beej). "While almost all locations have flouted permissible limits for noise in commercial (65dB) and residential (55dB) areas, we found that several locations showed a trend where the noise levels had come down as against previous years," Shinde said. For instance, at the busy Satara Road, the pollution control body registered an average of 70.0 decibels (dB) on October 19 while the average decibel level on October 20 was as low as 58.0 dB. Last year the same area had registered an average of 74.3 dB.

"In fact, the hourly monitoring from 6 am till 10 pm at some locations showed a recording of levels between 50 and 75 dB," Shinde said. This trend has been observed across other areas at Koregaon Park and Swargate for instance, MPCB officials said. Last year, the average noise level during Diwali day (October 19) at Koregaon Park was 75.7 dB and this year it has shot down to 71.4 dB. At Swargate, the average noise level last year was 82.8 dB which has come down to 78.4 dB. On October 20, the average noise levels climbed down to 63.3 dB at Koregaon Park while it was 64.1 dB at Swargate.

The loudest noise was at Laxmi Road, Kothrud and Sarasbaug. The average levels on the day of the Laxmi Puja was 86.9 dB at Laxmi Road, 89.5 dB at Kothrud and 89.8 dB at Sarasbaug, MPCB officials said. The permissible limits for noise in commercial and residential areas are 65 dB and 55 dB, respectively. Air quality to improve from October 22.

The permissible level of air pollutant – particulate matter (PM) 2.5 – is 60 per cubic metre. On Diwali day (October 19), the particulate matter (PM) 2.5 was recorded to be 82.75µg/m³ which falls under the "moderate" category of the Air Quality Index (AQI). On October 20 (Padwa), it was recorded as 138.59 µg/m³ which falls under "very poor" category of AQI.

Scientists at the System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology explained that on Diwali Day, there was around 2°C drop in the minimum temperature as compared to previous days. This drop in the minimum temperature, along with calm winds, resulted in the accumulation of pollutants emitted from firecrackers. However, air quality is likely to improve from October 22, Dr Gufran Beig, project manager of SAFAR and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) scientist, said.

Mukesh Khare, professor of Environmental Engineering at IIT, Delhi, said, "Short-term and ad hoc decisions cannot solve the problem of air pollution. The policy and planning authorities of the country must make pollution control and management framework mandatory before the budget is allocated to any developmental work – it should be done at the state level. Though in India, we have this policy in all the states at the local body level, its compliance is not effective and efficient."

IIT Roorkee developing a smart grid; know all in brief

<http://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/iit-roorkee-developing-a-smart-grid-know-all-in-brief/902447/>

This \$75 million, five-year project called the US-India collaboration for smart distribution system with storage (UI-ASSIST) is part of the Indo-US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, is part of an Indo-US consortium working on a mega project of a smart energy distribution system. This \$75 million, five-year project called the US-India collaboration for smart distribution system with storage (UI-ASSIST) is part of the Indo-US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC) and will work towards addressing pertinent issues related to the adoption and deployment of smart grids including storage in the distribution network. One of the most important aspects of this project is to bridge the gap between smart grid, storage and renewable energy research in order to facilitate its subsequent adoption. Under this project, IIT Roorkee has been awarded a grant of Rs 417.52 lakh.

This consortium, IIT Roorkee said, will bring in experts from academia and industry to collectively pave way to an advanced distribution system that allows increased use of distributed energy resources like microgrids and energy storage. The group will conduct research and deploy new smart grid and energy storage technologies, help modernise grids, make them smarter, and increase their resilience and reliability. "The consortium will be divided into the Indian Core team and the US Core team.

The Indian team comprises of IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Bhubaneswar and TERI, Delhi. The US team comprises of Washington State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Texas A&M University.

The prototype hybrid AC/DC microgrid test bed will be developed at IIT Roorkee. The Indian Rural Distribution pilot project will be tested in two villages near Kanpur and implemented and monitored by IIT Kanpur; the India Semi-Urban distribution pilot project will also be deployed at IIT Kanpur campus.

Reforming higher education: Let's not do a half-baked job this time

<http://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/reforming-higher-education-lets-not-do-a-half-baked-job-this-time/902450/>

The finest we have is IISc Bangalore at 152 and IIT Delhi next at 185, in QS Rankings. With financial support and almost full autonomy, this is the best we have attained in 60 years!

HEERA has been put on hold. It's time to rethink comprehensive reforms.

The ministry of human resource development had earlier announced to scrap the two bodies of UGC (University Grants Commission) and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), and replace these with a new body called the Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency (HEERA) to regulate both technical and non-technical institutions. However, in a recent announcement, this has been put on hold. The reform issues behind this, nonetheless, are of significance for higher education in the country. For the past few years, or rather a decade, concerns have been raised in many quarters

about the deteriorating quality of higher education, and the associated command and control-based regulatory mechanisms in place in India. A 2010 circular of AICTE announcing that admissions, curriculum, fee, etc, will be decided or approved by an authorised government agency only is a case in point. This circular was challenged in the Supreme Court and institutions have been functioning since then based on the reprieve granted by the Supreme Court.

Multiple regulatory control by numerous statutory bodies with their labyrinthine mechanisms have challenged all institutions, preventing innovative and creative environment taking root in higher education institutions. To illustrate, the regulators prescribing area in an institution to be used for toilets shows the level and extent of regulation. Such 'deep regulation' reflects a flaw in the entire system.

The reports of various committees and commissions have, in the past, highlighted the deficiencies of regulatory bodies and pointed out the lack of autonomy and freedom given to higher education institutions, and made recommendations for their growth and qualitative improvements. However, so far, nothing substantive has come out of these reports.

All existing Acts or guidelines of UGC and AICTE need to be thoroughly reviewed in the context of educational requirements of the current global times. Indian universities have had a dismal ranking in the world. The best we currently have is IISc Bangalore at 152 in QS World University Rankings and IIT Delhi next at 185. With huge financial support and almost full autonomy to these government institutions, this is the best we have attained in about 60 years of their existence. With pincer-like grip of regulators stifling autonomy, it can be anybody's guess as to what Indian private institutions can achieve when it comes to global standards. In fact, institutions like Harvard, Stanford, Kellogg, Oxford, MIT, etc, earned their status of 'world class' not through government guidelines or regulations, but on their own remarkable quality enrichment through the autonomy they enjoyed.

It is high time for Indian higher education to find its proper mooring at the global level and to minimise the outflow of lakhs of Indian students in search of good institutions abroad.

If these issues are not handled appropriately, then the new regulatory environment, HEERA or whatever, reflecting any lackadaisical reform may become a case of problem being handled getting changed from one hand to only the other hand.

It is time for all those who are involved in drafting the blueprint of a reform to revitalise the very thinking of encouraging conducive environment for promoting quality education, emphasising autonomy and accountability, and fostering creativity and innovation, thereby nudging institutions to move towards 'world class'.

COW URINE FOR ORGANIC FARMING!

[HTTP://WWW.DAILYPIONEER.COM/TODAYS-NEWSPAPER/COW-URINE-FOR-ORGANIC-FARMING.HTML](http://www.dailypioneer.com/todays-newspaper/cow-urine-for-organic-farming.html)



The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has asked the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to study if 'cow urine' (Bison Benasus L) can be used to promote organic farming and submit its report in the next two months.

The decision to ask the ICAR to conduct this study was taken after a high-level meeting at the Niti Aayog where Union Minister Giriraj Singh called for a study on how cow urine, bio-waste and cow dung can be used in organic farming.

Officials of ICAR told The Pioneer that the ICAR has been asked to look into the possibility of converting cow urine into amino acid for use as natural fertiliser to increase farm productivity. Amino acids are used as an essential nutrient for soil and plant health.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also many times in the past have asked Niti Aayog to hold discussion with Union Minister Singh as he has done a lot of work in the field of organic farming in Bihar.

In 2016, Sikkim became India's first fully organic State where cow dung and urine are being used for farming purposes. Organic cultivation does not involve the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers and thus helps maintain a harmonious balance among the various complex ecosystems. Also, it has improved the quality of the soil which further improves the standards of the crops produced there. Within 1.24 million tonnes of organic production in the country around 80,000 million is supplied by Sikkim alone.

Organic nutrients can be obtained from the fermentation of cow urine thereby enhancing soil fertility. In addition, it can be turned into liquid fertiliser as a pesticide for crops. Liquid manure from cow urine is very easy and does not take long and is good for plants compared with artificial fertiliser. The materials used to make liquid fertiliser are also easily available and relatively low cost, said officials of ICAR.

India already has some 6,50,000 organic producers-more than any other country. Expanding the industry could boost employment by 30 per cent through recycling resources, and certifying, marketing and packaging products, a parliamentary committee said in a report in August, without giving a timeframe. In India, nine other States-Karnataka, Mizoram, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat-have an organic farming policy or law. Of these, Kerala has announced its intention to become 100 per cent organic.

It is noteworthy that the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, has received 50 proposals from different academic and research institutes to study the benefits of cow urine and milk under the SVAROP programme. SVAROP is acronym for Scientific Validation And Research On 'Panchgavya' (concoction of cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee).

Earlier, the Centre has constituted a panel headed by Union Environment and Forest Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan in April this year to study the role of cow urine and dung in curing diseases and scientific validation of uniqueness of indigenous cows, is likely to have its first meeting next month when it will assign various projects to ministries and institutions.

Pollution toll 2.5m in India

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/pollution-toll-2-5m-in-india-179843>

New Delhi: Pollution from air, water and soil claimed 2.5 million lives in India in 2015, more than a quarter of the global toll of nine million, an international panel said in a report released on Thursday.

The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, a consortium of researchers and policy makers, placed Calcutta's Tiljala-Picnic Gardens area on a select list of global pollution spots.

It said that India had lost over 1.8 million lives from air pollution, reiterating concerns that the country faces the "worst average air pollution" in the world.

Relying on earlier studies of pollution and its health impacts, the report has estimated that water pollution, including that from unsafe sanitation, caused over 646,000 deaths in India, a third of the water pollution-linked deaths worldwide.

It has also estimated about 95,000 deaths in India - among 500,000 worldwide - from exposure to lead which can cause high blood pressure, kidney failure and heart disease.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of the importance of pollution and mobilise the political will needed to tackle it by providing the most in-depth estimates of pollution and health," Philip Landrigan, professor of environmental health at the Mount Sinai School of Health in New York, who led the consortium's effort, said in a news release.

The analysis, published in the medical journal *Lancet*, has estimated that 92 per cent of the pollution-linked deaths occurred in the low-income, middle-income, or rapidly industrialising countries such as India and China.

However, consortium members say, pollution is not an inevitable consequence of economic development as should be evident from the relatively lower levels of pollution-linked deaths in the industrialised countries.

The rate of deaths attributable to pollution was 196 per 100,000 people in India, compared to 131 in China and 47 in the US.

The commission has also released an interactive global map illustrating some pollution sites around the world. Among the multiple Indian sites listed are Tiljala-Picnic Gardens, where smelters have contaminated air, soil and water with lead; a bus stand in Ara, Bihar, where battery recycling units are dumping waste at a public site; and a pond near Vellore polluted with chromium effluents.

The map also features the Alang ship-breaking yard in Gujarat, believed to release numerous heavy metals, asbestos and petroleum hydrocarbons into the environment.

"We're hoping this document guides policy-making and future research," said Mukesh Khare, professor of civil engineering at IIT Delhi and a member of the commission.

"Some of our regulations relating to pollution are quite stringent. But we need compliance, enforcement and effective governance."

Air pollution deaths result mainly from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, while water pollution deaths result from gastrointestinal disorders.

UNSEEN KILLER

Pollution deaths in India in 2015 (in lakh)

Cause	Deaths
Air pollution	18
Water pollution	6.46
Occupational (carcinogens, gases, particulates)	1.68
Soil lead exposure	0.95

Some of the figures overlap

October 22

Deewanis at IIT-D dance with Kailasa

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/delhi/deewanis-at-iit-d-dance-with-kailasa/articleshow/61162443.cms>



On the second day of Rendezvous, the annual cultural festival of IIT-D, Kailash Kher and his band Kailasa performed as part of the pro nights at the institute. Beginning his performance with 'Jana Jogi De Naal', the singer reminded the students, "This is not a ghazal show where you all can sit and relax. This is a concert and this event is happening in Delhi which is my hometown, so I want you guys to enjoy and show me that we are performing in Delhi."



TAUBA TAUBA TAUBA UFF: Some girls joined Kailash Kher in a jig on stage at the IIT-D fest as he sang 'Joban Chhalke'

'IIT Delhi is my favourite campus'

The singer also ensured that he interacted well with the students. Before performing the song 'Tauba Tauba', he said, "IIT Delhi is my favourite campus. Iss campus mein jitni greenery hain na utni toh shayad poori Delhi mein bhi nahi hogi. I did not go to college, so one day, I tried to enter IIT on my scooter, but aapke guard ne andar hi nahi aane dia."

As he continued with his performance, he requested the students, teachers and others audience members to sing along. As he began singing 'Teri Deewani', he said, "Thank you for inviting Kailasa to your institute. I love you all, woh bhi angrezi mein."



'Teri Deewani and Kaun Hai Woh from Baahubali stole our hearts'

Nikita Jain, a second year student from Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, who had come to attend the concert, told us, "He is definitely one of my all-time favourites, and he actually stole the show with his songs like 'Teri Deewani' and 'Kaun Hai Woh'. It was one of the best concerts I have attended so far." Priyanshi, a final year student of Electrical Engineering from IIT-D added, "The band played some of the most popular songs like 'Saiyaan' and 'Tu Jaane Na', so we enjoyed a lot."



Jose Neil Gomes



Paresh Kamath

October 21

CWUR Rankings 2017: Delhi University in global list, beats IIT Delhi, IISc; check out rest

<http://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/cwur-rankings-2017-delhi-university-in-global-list-beats-iit-delhi-iisc-check-out-rest/900527/>

Three Indian universities have managed to get into the top 500 in Centre for World Universities Rankings this year.

CWUR Rankings 2017: The race to get the top spot on rankings continues among the educational institutes as well. As per the latest Centre for World Universities Rankings (CWUR), four Indian universities have clinched places in the recent rankings, and three of them manage to get into the top 500.

According to The Tribune, the top spot in India has been attained by the University of Delhi. The premier institute also has a world rank of 397 with 43.61 marks. It is followed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, with a score of 43.6 and attains an overall world rank of 399. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru is the third best university in the country. It has a world rank of 470 with 43.27 marks. But, coming a close fourth in national rankings is Panjab University (PU). It is at fourth place with 43.06 marks and also manages the 550th spot in world rankings.

“Universities, Institutions and IISc have their unique strengths and get different scores as per different criterion and parameters. But, it is a matter of satisfaction that PU is regularly being ranked among the top universities of the country irrespective of the parameters”, Prof M Rajiv Lochan, director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell was quoted by The Tribune. He added that the rankings are based on various parameters such as quality education, alumni employment, quality of faculty etc.

Universities of India in world rankings

University World ranking

University of Delhi	397
IIT, Delhi	399
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	470
Panjab University, Chandigarh	550
IIT, Madras	607
IIT, Kharagpur	616
IIT, Roorkee	617
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai	631
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	673
IIT, Bombay	683
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru	722
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi	790
IIT, Kanpur	831

Jadavpur University, Kolkata 907
University of Calcutta 922

Here are the CWUR 2017 world rankings:

CWUR World rankings (top 10 universities)

University World ranking

Harvard University USA 1
Stanford University USA 2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA 3
University of Cambridge UK 4
University of Oxford UK 5
Columbia University USA 6
University of California, Berkeley USA 7
University of Chicago USA 8
Princeton University USA 9
Yale University USA 10

IIT Kgp partners with corporate houses, NGOs to shape CSR steps

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/iit-kgp-partners-with-corporate-houses-ngos-to-shape-csr-steps-267297>

In a mission to help people reap the benefits of several of its research outcomes, IIT Kharagpur is gearing up to partner with corporate houses and NGOs to shape their CSR initiatives with its end products and in the process help millions lead better lives. The institute recently organised a seminar on "Corporate Social Responsibility" in Kolkata jointly with Indo-German Chamber of Commerce Kolkata and SREI Foundation in order to help the industry and NGOs get a glimpse of the available end products by IIT-Kharagpur. Read This - Samba treat for city fans as Brazil win hearts, match Talking about the initiative, Prof. Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, Dean of Alumni Affairs and International Relations (AA&IR), IIT Kharagpur said: "For years we have been doing a lot of research works. Apart from publishing the work and obtaining patent for the same, we want them to create an impact in society. "And helping the corporate and NGO's reach their CSR goals with our technology will be our way of giving back to society. Read This - Major tragedy averted after local trains collide at Panskura station "We are also looking at collaborating with industries from Germany and France working in India for their CSR initiatives here." Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) too has expressed interest to collaborate with IIT Kharagpur. "When we came to know about the technological interventions at IIT Kharagpur which can be used in a CSR context, we felt that this would be an interesting area for our members to explore for potential collaborations ,"said Sharon Mogose, executive, IGCC Kolkata. Shraichi group has already expressed interest to go for a tie-up with IIT Kharagpur for its WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) project.