JEE Main cleared by nearly 2L

New Delhi, April 27: Nearly two lakh candidates cleared the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main 2016 for admission to IITs and other top engineering colleges, the results of which were declared by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday.

A total of 1,98,228 candidates cleared the examination, which was held both online and offline in 132 cities earlier this month.

Nearly 12 lakh candidates had taken this exam of which 19,820 have qualified for the JEE (Advanced) Online while 1,78,408 candidates have qualified for the JEE (Advanced) offline test.

According to details provided by CBSE, the cut-off scores for JEE (Advanced) for general category students was 100 while that of OBC students was 70.

The cut-off for SC candidates was 52 and ST candidates 48, according to data released by CBSE.

Nearly 40,000 girls have qualified for the JEE (Advanced) test while the rest are boys. — PTI
Bengaluru students shine in JEE Mains

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/543124/bengaluru-students-shine-jee-mains.html

Bengaluru students have come out with flying colours to be among the toppers of the JEE (Joint Entrance Examinations) Mains. The results of the main exams were declared on Wednesday.

Milind Kumar Vaddiraju from BASE Bengaluru has scored 308 out of 360 marks and is among the toppers from Bengaluru. His preparations have been consistent - studying four to five hours every day, Vaddiraju told Deccan Herald.

A student of Sardar Patel PU College, Vaddiraju said, “I will focus on preparing for the advanced examination. I hope to
get a seat in IIT Mumbai in Engineering Physics and then go for higher studies abroad.”

Meanwhile, about 150 students from Deeksha Network have qualified for the JEE Advanced. Rahul B S scored 303, Chinmay M Dharmendra scored 291, Abhishek S B scored 255, Preetham Venkatesh scored 254. Rahul said, “My preparation was good and I was expecting to score 308. However, I am happy with my score. I want to get into the field of research in Quantum Physics. Just a week before the exam, we solved 15-20 mock papers, which were very helpful.”

Dharmendra, an aspirant for a seat in IISc, said, “I hope to get into research at IISc, in the field of Atomic Model.”

Based on their scores in JEE Mains, students will qualify to write JEE Advanced. Should they clear the advanced exam, they will get an opportunity to join either of the IITs.

The candidates who clear JEE-Mains, but do not clear JEE Advanced can seek admission in other engineering colleges such as Indian Institute of Information Technology, National Institute of Technology and other government and private engineering colleges. Selection to other engineering colleges will be done on the basis of a cumulative score of 40% of the normalised marks a student secures in the XII Board exams and 60% of marks obtained in JEE-Mains.

**IIT Ropar to help manufacturing units in skill development**


RUPNAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar would help medium and small sector manufacturing units in Punjab in technology and skill development. IIT Ropar director professor Sarit K Das talking to mediapersons in Rupnagar on Wednesday. Emphasising that the big manufacturing units do not need their assistance, IIT director Sarit K Das said: “Big manufacturing units do not need much assistance of the IITs as they have their own research and development (R&D) departments apart from foreign collaborations. They come to us once in a while. But the IITs could contribute a lot to technologically assist the medium and small sector manufacturing units by ensuring skill development,” he said. He also said the main focus of IIT, Ropar would be on developing technologies pertaining to agriculture, water resources, land usages, waste management and providing affordable medical technology. Besides this, the institute would also focus on developing defence technology for making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing. Meanwhile he also expressed his happiness over IIT Ropar being ranked 9th in the India Rankings 2016, released by the Union ministry of human resource development recently. He said within a span of 8 years, the institute had been able to create a niche for itself by recording the highest research impact (average citation per paper), amongst the eight new Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs). Also, the research programmes undertaken by the institute in collaboration with Post graduate institute of medical education and research (PGIMER), Chandigarh and Aston University in the fields of biomedical engineering and bioenergy have earned them various accolades. He also said that he aim to take IIT, Ropar among top five IITs of the country by 2020.

**Petroleum varsity admissions to be based on IIT-JEE, GATE exams**


Visakhapatnam: Admissions to the B.Tech and M.Tech courses offered by the Indian Institute of Petroleum would be based on the IIT-JEE and GATE scores respectively, said AU College of Engineering (AUCE) principal Ch Ramachandra Murthy on Wednesday. Around 120 students are expected to join the first B.Tech batch that would pass out in 2020, he added.
Speaking on the role that would be played by the AUCE, the principal said, "There is a misconception that the Delta Studies Centre will play the role of the facilitator and host between the industry and the institute to promote research activities from 2021." He said the curriculum has been approved and the permanent campus would come up at Sabbavaram.

**Asian Age ND 28/04/2016 P-05**

**NEERI, IIT-B make air purifier**

**SADAGURU PANDIT
Mumbai, April 27**

In an attempt to resolve the issue of pollution through technology, the National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), along with IIT-Bombay, has developed a unique device for the congested, polluted areas of Mumbai. Wind augmentation and air purifying unit (WAYU), a sophisticated air purification device with a periphery with 20 metres, could work as a boon for the traffic police and residents of congested polluted areas of the city.

WAYU, a unique system for diffused air pollution control system, was born out of the simple need to resolve the issue of pollution in the metropolis and its ill-effects on the residents, as well as those who spend extended hours in its presence. Talking about getting to the root of the problem, Vinay Padalkar, an IIT-B alumnus who worked on the project along with NEERI, said that they found that vehicular intersections are the most polluted vicinities on roads and thus they focused to resolve the issue at intersections.

"A vehicle typically accelerates and decelerates when it comes across an intersection. This causes higher amount of pollutants to be released in the atmosphere. Buildings typically surrounding the intersection, creating an urban tunnel effect." As the vehicle-induced turbulence is negligible at the intersections, the pollutants get trapped, leading to higher exposure of pollutants to people," explained Mr. Padalkar.

**April 27**

**Navbharat Times ND 27.04.2016 P-15**
Topics chosen, just write them

Prescribing PhD themes in universities or pushing Sanskrit in IITs devalues education

In India, teachers are often used for work that has nothing to do with their core expertise. You’ll find them manning election booths or collating data for census and other enumeration exercises. But now even students will not be spared from ‘helping’ the State, and the frontrunner in this novel development is Gujarat. The BJP-run state government has given a list of 82 ‘preferred’ topics to universities for doctoral theses. The list includes central and state government programmes such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pet Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and the Gujarat government’s Kanya Kelavani, Gunotsav and MA Yojana. If PhD students don’t find these topics tempting enough, then there are several others to choose from: A Comparative study of Sardar Patel Awas Yojna and Indira Awas Yojana; Education of minorities — A critical study; Gujarat: Good governance for growth, scientific management and development — A critical study of existing pattern and future course — A policy suggestions (sic) and so on so forth. In other words, PhD candidates — who are supposed to come up with their own topics after researching them well — are now being nudged towards “pre-determined topics”. It is still not clear if this topic list will be linked to scholarships; a carrot-and-stick scheme to ensure that there are enough takers for these hopelessly boring topics.

Defending the government’s move, a vice-chancellor said that the information gathered by students would help the state plug the loopholes in the development programmes. Those who argue on such lines have forgotten that analyses of government-run programmes are primarily the work of specific agencies and students cannot be forced to do the evaluation work, unless they opt to do so on their own. The other argument in favour of the government’s move is that there is a trend among students to select subjects for thesis research that were not “relevant”. It is sad that a VC thinks that relevance is the only reason why students must get into PhD programmes. Higher learning is not about relevance but about breaking new grounds and challenging old assumptions.

On Monday, HRD minister Smriti Irani told Parliament that IITs had been asked to teach Sanskrit to facilitate the study of science and technology as reflected in its literature. India’s higher education system has many problems such as low-quality institutes, funds crunch, shortage of teachers, etc. But some politicians it seems are incapable of addressing them and are only too keen to keep certain constituencies happy. The recent announcements by Gujarat and the HRD ministry prove this all over again.
Law ministry blocks HRD proposal to amend IIT Act

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

The Law Ministry has disapproved of a proposal made by the HRD Ministry to move an amendment to IIT Act, empowering the Centre to establish new institutes without seeking Parliament's approval every time.

The HRD Ministry had recently circulated a note seeking the Cabinet's sanction for introducing a clause in the law by which the government could set up a new IIT by just adding its name under the proposed "Schedule 2", instead of amending the Act. As per current provisions, the Centre does not need the Parliament's nod to tweak the Schedule of an Act. It can be done with the Cabinet's approval.

The Law Ministry, in its comments to this Cabinet note, has objected to the idea on the ground that the power to establish an "institute of national importance" is the sole prerogative of Parliament and cannot be delegated to the Centre.

"It may not be desirable to provide power to central government to amend schedules to IIT Act to establish new IITs as the essential power to declare institutes as institutes of national importance (INIs) needs to be exercised by Parliament and not by subordinate legislation," said a source in the Law Ministry.

The INI status is conferred by an Act on an institution which "serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state".

The Centre provides complete financial support to run such institutions. Apart from IITs, IIITs and NITs are also declared as institutes of national importance.

The HRD Ministry has justified the Cabinet note, arguing that it would reduce the legislative burden of Parliament and the government. "Our argument (in response to Law Ministry's objection) is that we are not bypassing the House. Any change to the Schedule of an Act will have to eventually go to Parliament for final approval. So Parliament continues to be in the driving seat," said an HRD official.

The PMO is learnt to have now asked the HRD Ministry to send the Cabinet note back to the Law Ministry for its concurrence. If the approval comes through this time, the HRD Ministry will subsequently move similar proposals to set up IIITs, NITs and IITs, said sources.

This development assumes significance as the Centre has announced the setting up of seven new IITs (six in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu, Kerala and Karnataka and conversion of ESM-Dhanbad into an IIT) since it assumed power in 2014. Of these, IITs in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have started functioning and the remaining are expected to start functioning this year. The Centre hasn't gone to Parliament yet to get these institutes the status of national importance.
UGC writes to varsities to aid in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ganga Rejuvenation

DEHRADUN: UGC has written to university vice-chancellors recommending that varsities must come forward to aid in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ganga Rejuvenation. The ministry of environment, forest and climate change has prepared a report for Swachh Bharat Mission and Ganga rejuvenation aimed at improving standard of living, providing adequate infrastructure and reorienting habits that contribute to clean surroundings in a growing economy, but this is focused on people's involvement. UGC has given vice-chancellors of all varsities suggestions mentioned in this report to be undertaken by the universities and even the affiliated colleges.

The suggestions given by UGC include- Universities must develop an institutional framework by involving NSS, NCC or Nehru Yuvak Kendra, eco-clubs to ensure sustained public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ganga Rejuvenation. The varsities have also been asked to make necessary amendments in the curricula at educational institutions to provide credit to the student's practical projects on recycling and reusing the biodegradable and dry waste.

"The UGC has also issued directions to recommend all educational institutions to recognise Swachta Diwas on first
working day of every week and it is a great move. All the affiliated colleges to our Central varsity will be asked to do so. It is imperative universities and colleges contribute to the good work being done” said Devendra Negi, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to HNBU vice-chancellor, J L Kaul.

Varsities have also been asked to start skill development/diploma courses in technical department with water, sanitation and solid waste as career options for the students and accordingly the vice-chancellors have been requested to ensure that these activities are undertaken in university and colleges affiliated with it.

The circular cites that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a nationwide campaign for a swacch bharat mission which is associated with raising the prestige and image of the country and also the self-respect and dignity of Indians and universities must contribute in their own ways.

15 IIT-Kharagpur students selected for Google coding programme

KOLKATA: As many as 15 students from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur have been selected for the Google Summer of Code open-source coding programme, the institute said on Monday.

The Google Summer of Code (GSoC) is an international annual programme, in which Google awards stipends (of $5,500 as of 2015) to all students who successfully complete a requested free and open-source software coding project during summer.

During 2005-2012, IIT-Kharagpur had produced 51 GSoCers, the highest in India.

"This time, a record 15 students got selected from IIT-Kharagpur which includes one student from the first year, six students from the second year, two students from the third year, five students from the fourth year and one student from the fifth year,” said a statement from the institute.

IIT Scholar Wins International Award on Plant Nutrition

A food engineering research scholar from IIT Kharagpur has won the prestigious International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award.

The award was recently given by the US-based International Plant Nutrition Institute to K Ashok Kumar, research scholar at the department of agricultural and food engineering, IIT Kharagpur, officials said.

The award carries a cash prize of USD 2,000 and a recognition certificate.

Mr Kumar has been pursuing his PhD at the department on nutrition management of rice-chickpea production system in laterite soil.

"The research will help application of organic fertiliser such as vermicompost in right amount and timing, to rice crop so
that the yield of rice-chickpea cropping system is increased by 10 per cent as compared to use of conventional synthetic fertilisers," Mr Kumar said.

Further, the organic fertiliser application would improve the nutritional and cooking quality of rice grain and chemical and biological properties of the acid lateritic soil, he said.

**IIT Madras establishes “Institute Chair” in the name of Venkataratnam Balaraman**


Mumbai: IIT Madras has established an "Institute Chair" in the institute's Department of Mechanical Engineering in the name of Venkataratnam Balaraman, also the Chairman of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS)

Balaraman has had a distinguished career as MD of Pond's India and thereafter as Director of Hindustan Unilever. The most notable of his achievements is the large number of proteges who worked under him, absorbed his value systems, and went on to occupy positions of high leadership in India and abroad. The Chair is endowed by one such protege, an '81 alumnus of IIT Madras, in recognition of the contributions made by both IITM and by Balaraman to society.

Prof R Nagarajan, Dean of International & Alumni Relations at IIT Madras, said in a release:"This is another sign of the continuing support that IIT Madras enjoys from our alumni. They contribute time, talent and treasure, and we value them all equally. By recognizing a management guru, IIT Madras is also indicating that it is always ready to honour achievers beyond pure academicians" according to an official release.

Prof. N. Ramesh Babu, a faculty member from the department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, will be the occupant of this chair. He has been involved in research & development work in the manufacturing domain with a specific focus on the development of advanced and precision machine tools. His interaction with industries, both national and international, made it possible to carry out translational research from laboratory level to floor level. This chair professorship will encourage him to pursue his translational research more vigorously.

The Board of Governors of IIT Madras have created "Institute Chair Professorships", to be occupied by IIT Madras professors who have distinguished themselves and have been recognized by their peers for their research and/or technology development, and who have excelled in teaching and service to the Institute/nation/profession. The Chair has a term of 5 years, and is renewable, provided performance level has been maintained. Institute Chairs are expected to play a lead role in enabling IIT Madras to meet its strategic objectives, as documented in "Strategic Plan 2020".

**17yrold commits suicide in IITB campus**


Mumbai: A 17yearold girl committed suicide by jumping from the terrace of her 14floor building in IIT campus in Powai on Tuesday night. According to Powai police, the incident happened around 8pm. No suicide note was found. The Powai police said they are investigating the reason behind her extreme step. The girl was not an IIT student. She was living with her parents in the IIT quarters. Her father is a IIT professor. The police will be questioning her friends to ascertain the reason behind the suicide.