



56 aspirants get full scores in JEE(Main)

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NEW DELHI: A total of 56 candidates have achieved the perfect 100 score in the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) or JEE (Main), results of which were released by the National Testing Agency late on Wednesday.

The number of students scoring perfect 100 NTA score has significantly increased from last year's 43. This also meant that the cut-off for JEE (Advanced), the qualifying examination for entry into the premier Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) colleges, has risen sharply. In fact, the cut-off for JEE(Advanced) has recorded a five-year high.

Of those who scored the perfect 100 NTA score, 15 are from Telangana, seven each from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, and six from Delhi, NTA said.

The JEE (Main) is a computerised test conducted in two sessions: the first between January 24 and February 1 and the next from April 1 to April 15. In the first session, 23 students scored in the hundredth NTA score.

Overall, 1,067,959 aspirants took the test, of which 250,284 have qualified to write the JEE (Advanced) test. In a statement, NTA said that 39 candidates were debarred from taking JEE-Main for three years for using unfair means during the exam.

OVERALL, 1,067,959 STUDENTS TOOK THE TEST, OF WHICH 250,284 HAVE QUALIFIED TO WRITE THE JEE (ADVANCED)

Sanvi Jain of Karnataka and Shayna Sinha of Delhi are the two female aspirants to achieve 100 NTA score this year.

On Wednesday, the combined results of both the sessions was announced. For students, who had appeared in both, the better score will be taken into account.

The JEE (Main) is conducted for admissions to various engineering colleges such as the National Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Information Technology.

It also serves as a base eligibility bar for the JEE (Advanced), for which the registration process will begin on Sunday.

The qualifying score for JEE (Advanced) for the unreserved category increased to 93.23 this year from 90.7 last year. The cut-off for OBC- non creamy layer increased to 79.6 from 73.6 NTA score; for EWS, it has increased to 81.3 from 75.6; the jump is from 51.9 to 60 for SCs and from 37.23 to 46.69 for STs. **KT**



Think about thinking

It's time to address the fear of mathematics and literary classics

IN GOOD FAITH ∞ SWATI RATNA AND ALOK TIWARI

HUMANS ARE PROUD of the fact that only we, among all living beings, have the ability to engage in higher-level thinking — “cogito, ergo sum”, or, “I think, therefore I am”. Our ability to entertain complex thoughts does not merely characterise us. It defines us.

This cognitive capacity has stood us in good stead. We have postulated and proved mathematical theorems, we are exploring the cosmos, we have developed relativistic and quantum physics, we have written epics, we have refined the art of lying and deception, and of course, we read Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus. Mathematics, philosophy, religion, family, nation, sciences, literature, and the list of our thought-derived innovations goes on and on.

The impressive success of our cognitive faculties, that of a species with thousands of years of near-continuous, accretive history and eight billion plus living members, masks something troubling and humbling. Most humans are quite lousy thinkers, when tested against the benchmarks mentioned. Study after study has revealed that the ability of an average human to comprehend complex arguments leaves a lot to be desired. A distressingly large number of kids proclaim their fear of mathematics because it is “tough”. Many readers choose to read pulp fiction over the literary classics because they are deemed “incomprehensible”. It is understandable that a person does not like mathematics or literary classics, but to fear them for being tough or incomprehensible is also a

probable symptom of the lack of cognitive capacity to enjoy them. This widespread cognitive weakness is something to worry about, for it chains a plurality of humans to sub-par intellectual existence with attendant costs.

The costs of poor human cognition are immense. If we have to develop as knowledge-driven societies, we need to improve the human capacity to think coherently. With the increasing technological and organisational complexities of our times, those unable to think properly about the issues confronting them are at the risk of being left behind. Cognitive weakness has serious costs for the person concerned, with respect to that person's ability to gainfully participate in the modern socio-economic system. Further, poor human cognition has a huge negative externality, that is, a cost not fully internalised by the person having poor cognition. Society loses out in many ways. Public discourse deteriorates when complex issues, requiring cognitively demanding public deliberation, are not given the careful thought they require. Heuristics, cognitive biases, etc., in unexamined, sub-conscious thinking lead to the prevalence of social stereotypes and prejudices. Lower cognitive capacities create a ready marketplace for simplistic, inappropriate solutions to complex problems, to the detriment of everyone.

Another issue that merits attention is that earlier epochs were less driven by mental faculties than is the case today. The Industrial Revolution reduced the need for human mus-

cle power and we saw tremendous expansion of universalised elementary education around the world. Humans increasingly moved from using brawn to brain. Today, we have the age of Artificial Intelligence dawning upon us. If AI succeeds in fulfilling even a fraction of its promise today, most of the lower-level thinking would move to AI entities. Therefore, humans can find employment and maintain their sense of self-worth only if they can engage in higher-order thinking, and to do so, humans will have to develop the faculties for higher-order thinking. In other words, the time is now ripe for the universalisation of higher-level cognitive training.

How do we address the issue? We are already on the job. The modern education system, for all its criticism, has done a remarkable job towards upgrading our intellectual abilities. We are taught literature, mathematics, social and natural sciences, etc., at school and college to strengthen our capacity to think and comprehend properly. However, for most of us who do not move into cognitively demanding academics or professions, schooling is the last formal cognitive training that we get. As already discussed, it is proving quite insufficient for our times.

To ensure the universalisation of higher-order cognitive training, a beginning may be made by introducing “human cognition” as a compulsory subject from class VI onwards. The new subject can be crafted by taking relevant material from psychology, linguistics,

anthropology, etc. The aim of the subject of “human cognition” should be to make the students aware of the processes involved in their thinking. This proposed cognitive training is essentially meta-cognition, that is, thinking about thinking. Meta-cognition would allow young students to analyse their thought processes, thereby moving the act of thinking from the subconscious to the conscious realm. Hopefully, they would better understand their own thoughts and the basis of those thoughts. At the same time, such meta-cognition training would also equip them to understand the thoughts of others and the basis of such thoughts. Better understanding and comprehension would enhance the intellectual productivity and empathy of the persons trained in meta-cognition.

Bertrand Russell is credited with saying that — “most people would die sooner than think — in fact, they do so”. Russell made a very significant observation about the common human frailty of poor thinking. The first step in solving a problem is recognising it. It is high time that the problem of deficient human cognition is recognised as a public policy issue, which is adversely impacting economic productivity, social harmony and good governance. Then, we should identify the requisite public policy interventions, one of which has been discussed above, to remedy the same.

Ratna is director, Central Vigilance Commission and Tiwari is an IAS officer

EMPOWERING DEMOCRACY: IIT GUWAHATI UNVEILS INNOVATIVE 3D PRINTED DUMMY BALLOT UNIT

3D printed device is a biodegradable & eco-friendly material derived from corn starch

OUR CORRESPONDENT

In a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing voter awareness and engagement, the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, to develop an innovative 3D printed dummy ballot unit.

Crafted with the objective of acquainting citizens, particularly new voters, and senior citizens, with the intricacies of voting procedures, the 3D printed dummy ballot unit aims to dispel any apprehensions, anxiety or uncertainties associated with the voting process. By offering a hands-on experience, the dummy ballot unit endeavours to foster maximum voter

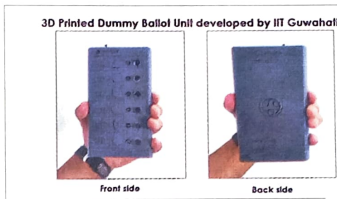


participation.

Expressing appreciation for IIT Guwahati's pioneering initiative, Keerthi Jalli, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, Guwahati, Assam, said, "We commend IIT Guwahati for their collaboration and swift design and manufacturing of this highly practical

tool. It is certain to aid individuals in gaining familiarity with the voting process, thereby bolstering their confidence, and encouraging greater participation in democratic practices."

Utilising cutting-edge 3D printing technology, the dummy ballot unit is fab-



ricated from PLA (polylactic acid), a biodegradable and eco-friendly material derived from corn starch. In a remarkable feat, researchers at IIT Guwahati designed and manufactured the device within just 48 hours, incorporating interactive features such as sound and light as output indicators to assist users during the voting process. This initiative marks the first-of-its-kind endeavour in India by the IIT Guwahati team to develop a 3D printed dummy ballot unit. The use of PLA ensures that

the dummy ballot unit is not only environmentally sustainable but also reusable, contributing to sustainable practices in voter education initiatives.

Prof Ajeet Kumar, Assistant Professor at IIT Guwahati, stated, "With its interactive features and biodegradable material, this innovative tool will

serve as a valuable resource in educating citizens about the voting process. Our team at IIT Guwahati takes pride in having designed a solution that will empower people to participate in democracy with confidence."

This device aims to dispel any apprehensions, anxiety or uncertainties associated with the voting process

IIT Jodhpur & AIIMS Jodhpur unite for medical marvels

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IIT Jodhpur) and AIIMS Jodhpur (AIIMS J) have created a robust multi-disciplinary framework to spawn deep-tech innovation-based healthcare products. The two institutes have developed a pipeline of prototypes of novel medical technologies, developed out of joint academic programmes in MedTech, which is training future MedTech entrepreneurs.

"Indian patients receive medical technologies that were created for the developed world and are now adapted for local needs. This method of introducing novel medical technologies in India needs significant improvement as it cannot capture the diverse needs of Indian patients. This collaboration is a step in that direction to bring about solutions to cater to Indian needs. This first-of-its-kind joint degree programme offered by IIT Jodhpur and AIIMS Jodhpur lets students



identify needs from real-life problems and create deep-tech solutions," said Prof Santanu Chaudhary, Director, IIT Jodhpur.

IIT Jodhpur and AIIMS Jodhpur offer joint programmes in medical technologies to students from engineering, medicine, nursing, bioengineering and allied fields. Students from these diverse backgrounds are mentored through three phases of this academic programme: Identify, invent, and implement. In the last phase of implementation, the students earn BioDesign fellowships, Prayas grants, and startup seed support to build small enterprises.

EFMD Indian Symposium 2024 held at IIM Lucknow

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Indian Institute of Management Lucknow recently hosted the 2024 European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Indian Symposium. Themed 'Beyond Borders: Elevating the Visibility of Indian Business Schools through EFMD Global Accreditation', the symposium convened distinguished leaders and experts from the global management education community to engage in discussions and deliberations on various facets of management education and accreditation.

Prof Archana Shukla, director-in-charge, IIM Lucknow, highlighted the significance of hosting the 2024 EFMD Symposium amidst India's growing prominence in the global economy. Prof Shukla underscored the vital contribution of Indian Business Schools in propelling this growth trajectory. She expressed her anticipation for the discussions at the 2024 EFMD Indian Symposium



at IIM Lucknow, which will further enhance efforts in fostering a diverse and globally engaged community, creating a significant impact. The symposium achieved a noteworthy milestone with the establishment of the Indian Business Council.

Nishi Jain, Special Advisor at EFMD Global Network Asia, said, "The establishment of the Indian Business Council will prioritise youth involvement through various networks, conferences, and events, emphasising research excellence and social responsibility."

IIT Madras to hold global hyperloop competition in 2025



This mode of transport is collision-free, and moves at twice the speed of a plane

OUR CORRESPONDENT

IIT Madras organised a Global Hyperloop Conference recently. Titled 'Parivahan', the conference aimed to introduce the futuristic concept of Hyperloop to India, providing a global platform for innovative teams. It showcased Hyperloop concepts worldwide, fostering a transformative spirit among young minds in the field of transportation.

Parivahan -

The Global Hyperloop Conference (GHC) will mark India's first-ever international conference on innovative transportation. The conference brought together leading companies, visionary speakers, and Hyperloop teams, who shared their vision of Hyperloop as a sustainable future transportation system.

Often referred to as the 'fifth mode of transport', Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system for long-distance travel. It involves an electromagnetically levitating pod within a vacuum tube thus eliminating friction and air drag

and potentially allowing the pod to reach speeds up to Mach 1.0. This mode of transport will be marked by its immunity to weather, collision-free commute which can move at twice the speed of a plane, with low power consumption and energy storage for 24-hour operations. Overall, the Hyperloop will be a sustainable mode of transportation.

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"From reducing travel time between cities to enhancing connectivity and unlocking economic opportunities, Hyperloop has the power to reshape our world in profound ways," said

Jaya Varma Sinha, CEO, Ministry of Railways. She also announced the 'Global Hyperloop Competition' will be organised by IIT Madras in January 2025.


The vision of this Global Hyperloop Conference is to have remote cities seamlessly connected, providing the world with transportation that is both efficient and sustainable, characterized by high-speed connectivity while significantly reducing the negative impact on the environment.

Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system for long-distance travel

Students take part in engineering entrance exam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM Joint Examinations for Engineering (SRMJEEE) 2024-Phase I for admission to B.Tech and Integrated M.Tech programmes of SRM Institute of Science and Technology - SRMIST (Kattankulathur, Ramapuram, Vadapalani, Ghaziabad, and Tiruchirapalli campuses), SRM University — Sonapat and SRM University — Andhra Pradesh was held from 20th April to 23rd April 2024.

The examination was conducted in Remote Proctored Online Mode (RPOM), where students took part in the examination from their comfort of their homes through their laptop or desktop. Students from all over India and rest of the world took part in SRMJEEE. The examinations was conducted in 3 slots per day on April 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd. The slot booking for the same was held on April 16th, 17th and the mock test was conducted on 18th April to help students familiarise with RPOM. 

AIMA sees 20 per cent growth in registrations for MAT entrance exam

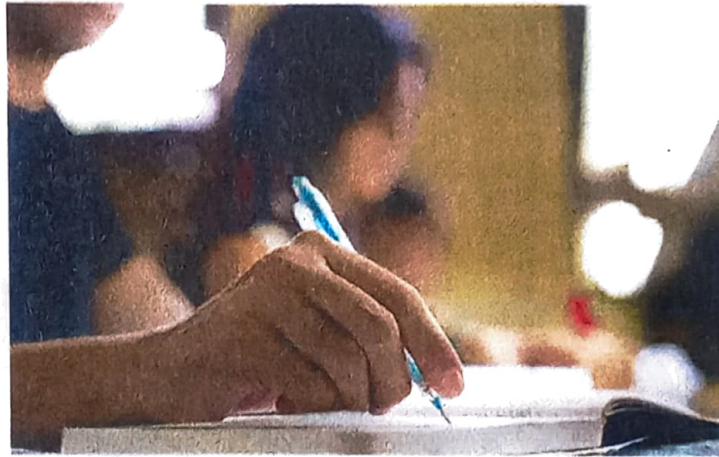
PTI ■ MUMBAI

All India Management Association, a federation of Local Management Associations (LMAs), has witnessed a 20 per cent growth in registration for MAT (management aptitude test) in 2023 compared to the pre-Covid year.

MAT has actively expanded its test centers across the country, making the examination more accessible to aspiring candidates and increasing the number of locations where the test is conducted, eliminating geographical barriers, which allowed students from diverse regions to participate.

“This strategic expansion has undoubtedly contributed to the significant rise in the applicant count. MAT has seen a significant 20 per cent growth in candidate registrations post-Covid.

“There has been a rise in the number of women candidates registering for MAT. With 45 per cent of



women candidates in 2023, there is a growth of approximately 3 per cent compared to 2019,” AIMA Director Daljeet Singh told PTI.

There has also been a 3 per cent growth in registration by women candidates for MAT last year compared to 2019. The rise in popularity of MAT has led to an increasing number of registrations in tier II and III cities.

“Providing candidates from tier II and III cities an opportunity to pursue their management dream from B-Schools of choice has also played a part in increase in MAT popularity and registrations.

“There is more participation of candidates from smaller cities including Agra, Asansol, Aurangabad, Balasore, Bhilai, Darbhanga,

Durg, Durgapur, Ernakulam, Erode, Salem among others,” he said.

The growth was notable in southern states like Tamil Nadu (52 per cent), Karnataka (22 per cent), and Kerala (20 per cent), as well as in states like West Bengal (15 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (8 per cent), and Bihar (4 per cent).

Top B-Schools participation in MAT and acceptance of its score for MBA (Master of Business Administration) and PGDM (Post Graduate Diploma in Management) admissions has further contributed significantly for surge in candidate registrations and MAT popularity, he added. 910

VIT AP

University honoured



Amaravati: VIT-AP University proudly announces its receipt of the esteemed CSR Outstanding University in Education Excellence Award for the year 2024. This accolade, bestowed by Competition Success Review (CSR), a revered publication with a legacy of more than 60 years in India, recognizes VIT-AP University's relentless commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.

VIT-AP University's selection for the CSR Outstanding University in Education Excellence Award underscores its dedication to fostering a culture of learning, innovation, and societal impact. **PNS**

Dire state of schools

Haryana must rationalise staff, fill posts

OVER the past year, a series of reports in *The Tribune* has shed light on the dire state of government schools in Haryana. As per the latest findings, 19 government schools in the state are without students, while a staggering 3,148 schools have less than 50 each. Also, 811 schools are being run by a lone teacher. These deficiencies raise serious questions about access to education for children across the state.

The infrastructure in some schools tells a similarly grim story. Essential facilities such as science labs, technological resources and skill education labs remain woefully inadequate. The lack of smart classrooms exacerbates the problem. A high number of vacancies in institutions such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, the State Council of Education Research and Training and the District Institutes of Education and Training underscores the systemic challenges. These gaps undermine efforts to improve teaching standards. Other problems, such as children studying in an unsafe, condemned building and over 500 government schools showing poor board results in 2022, also highlight the urgent need for intervention. The safety and wellbeing of students cannot be compromised; the subpar academic outcomes, as revealed by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), demand immediate remedial action.

Rationalising manpower, prioritising infrastructure development, filling vacant posts and ensuring a healthy learning environment are essential to turn the tide. Failure to do so will deprive the children of their right to quality education and hinder the socio-economic development of the state. 75/6

नालंदा का ज्ञान तिब्बत से वापस आया

अरुण सिंह

'हमारे गले में धूल भर गई। कमरे का फर्श एक इंच मोटी धूल की परत से ढका हुआ था। धूल की परतें हटाने पर मेरी नजर वहां रखी तालपत्र की पांडुलिपियों पर पड़ी। धर्मकीर्ति का 25 खंडों का प्रमाणवार्तिक भाष्य।' राहुल सांकृत्यायन तिब्बत के एक प्राचीन मठ में गए थे। ऐसे दुर्लभ ग्रंथों और पांडुलिपियों की तलाश में, जिन्हें भारत में सदियों पहले नष्ट कर दिया गया था।

ये ग्रंथ और पांडुलिपियां नालंदा विहार विश्वविद्यालय के विशाल पुस्तकालय की थीं। पांचवीं सदी से ही तिब्बती बौद्ध भिक्षु अध्ययन के लिए नालंदा आने लगे थे। यहां से लौटते वक्त वे तालपत्र की पांडुलिपियां और दुर्लभ ग्रंथ ले जाते रहे।

कठिन यात्रा | 13वीं सदी में जब नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय को जलाकर नष्ट कर दिया गया तो वहां संग्रहित सभी ग्रंथ और पांडुलिपियां भी नष्ट हो गए। बौद्ध-धर्म के प्रति लगाव, दुर्लभ ग्रंथों और बेशकीमती पांडुलिपियों को वापस लाने का जज्बा राहुल को तिब्बत ले गया। तब तिब्बत जाना बहुत कठिन था। करीब दो महीने की पैदल और खच्चर से यात्रा के बाद ही वहां पहुंचा जा सकता था। विदेशियों का तिब्बत में प्रवेश वर्जित था। रास्ते में चोर-डाकुओं का भी भय बना रहता। इन्हीं हालात में 26 साल के राहुल

जान जोखिम में डालते हुए 19 जुलाई 1929 को तिब्बत पहुंचे। **नेपाल से तिब्बत** | राहुल ने तिब्बत की पहली यात्रा के लिए नेपाल का रास्ता चुना। वह बौद्ध भिक्षु के वेश में काठमांडू पहुंचे। वहां से एक मंगोल भिक्षु लोब-जंग-शेरब के साथ तिब्बत में दाखिल हुए। सौभाग्य से रास्ते में उन्हें यात्रियों का एक काफिला मिल गया। वह पहले वग ऐंड्रे पुंड गुंवा गए। वहीं रहकर उन्होंने चौदह हजार तिब्बती शब्द जमा किए और उनके संस्कृत में अर्थ भी लिखे।

लामाओं से दीक्षा | यहां रहते हुए राहुल की भेंट एक तिब्बती बौद्ध भिक्षु आमदो गेंदुन चोफेल से हुई। चोफेल के साथ घूमते हुए वह तिब्बत के दूरदराज के इलाकों के उन हजार वर्ष पुराने मठों तक पहुंचे, जहां के पुस्तकालयों में संस्कृत के हजार वर्ष पुराने दुर्लभ ग्रंथ थे, जो भारत में लुप्त हो गए थे। चोफेल के

Subrata Dhar



साथ राहुल ने कई मठों का दौरा किया और कई लामाओं से भी मुलाकात की। कहते हैं, राहुल ने इन लामाओं से दीक्षा भी ली। **ग्रंथों की वापसी** | राहुल तीन साल तक तिब्बत में रहकर ग्रंथ संग्रह और बौद्ध धर्म पर शोध करना चाहते थे, लेकिन पैसों की कमी के कारण 15 महीने ही रुक सके। इस दौरान उन्होंने कुछ तिब्बती ग्रंथ, पांडुलिपियां और थंका चित्र खरीदे। इन्हें 22 खच्चरों पर लादकर कलिम्पोंग लाया गया। अपनी पहली यात्रा में वह 1619 ग्रंथ लेकर लौटे।

दूसरी यात्रा | राहुल ने तब संस्कृत ग्रंथों और पांडुलिपियों को भी तिब्बत में ढूँढने की कोशिश की थी, लेकिन असफल रहे। वह इनकी तलाश में फिर से तिब्बत जाना चाहते थे। इस यात्रा के लिए दोस्त और जाने-माने इतिहासकार काशी प्रसाद जायसवाल से उन्हें आर्थिक मदद मिली। बिहार रिसर्च सोसायटी भी मदद के लिए आगे आई। राहुल ने दूसरी यात्रा 1934 में की। इस बार उन्हें 363 संस्कृत ग्रंथ की मूल पांडुलिपियां देखने को मिलीं, लेकिन भारत लाने की अनुमति राहुल हासिल न कर पाए। उन्हें उसका फोटोग्राफ या हाथ से नकल करने की अनुमति मिली। आर्थिक संकट के कारण उन सभी पांडुलिपियों की तस्वीरें वह नहीं ले सके।

दुर्लभ खोज | 25 मई, 1936 को राहुल ने तिब्बत की तीसरी यात्रा की।

इस बार उनके हाथ प्रमाणवार्तिक भाष्य लगा। इस खबर से दुनिया भर में हंगामा मच गया। इसके रचनाकार थे महान बौद्ध दार्शनिक धर्मकीर्ति! यह ग्रंथ मूल संस्कृत में था। संस्कृत ग्रंथ नष्ट हो गया था लेकिन यह तिब्बती भाषा में मौजूद था।

विरासत की वापसी | राहुल 1938 में फिर तिब्बत पहुंचे। वहां रहकर उन्होंने खुद कई अन्य दुर्लभ ग्रंथों की प्रतिलिपि तैयार की। इन यात्राओं में कुल 4500 ग्रंथ, पांडुलिपियां, अनुवाद और प्रतिलिपियां वह अपने साथ लाए। पटना वापस लौट कर राहुल ने अपने मित्र काशी प्रसाद जायसवाल की मदद से सभी पांडुलिपियों को व्यवस्थित किया और उनका वर्गीकरण किया। इन सभी ग्रंथों, पांडुलिपियों, ग्रंथों की तस्वीरों और थंका चित्रों को उन्होंने पटना स्थित बिहार रिसर्च सोसायटी में जमा कर दिया।