

# **Newspaper Clips**

## **March 24-27, 2017**

### **March 27**

#### **IIT Delhi declares IIT JAM 2017 result**

<http://www.enaindia.in/news/newsdetails/grade/higher-education/iit-delhi-declares-iit-jam-2017-result>

The IIT Joint Admission Test (JAM) 2017 result was declared by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi on March 24. Candidates can check their result by visiting the official website of IIT JAM 2017 and clicking on the result link to log in. Next, enter the enrollment id and password provided to you at the time of registration. The result will be displayed on the screen.

Candidates can download their score card by logging into their accounts through the official website of the exam from April 7 to July 31, 2017. The score cards will comprise the All-India Rank of candidates.

Score cards for IIT JAM 2017 will not be delivered to students through offline mode. Separate merit lists will be declared for each category of students (General, OBC-NCL, SC, ST and PwD) on the basis of the scores achieved by the students in the exam.

The answer key of IIT JAM 2017 was released by IIT Delhi on February 17, 2017. Candidates can cross check the solutions by logging into their exam account and downloading the JAM response sheets.

IIT JAM was supervised by IIT Delhi and was held on February 12, 2017. The exam was conducted in two sessions for students of different streams.

JAM is conducted every year either by IISc Bangalore or any of the IITs. Admission to the two-year M.Sc. programme, Ph.D., Joint M.Sc. – Ph.D., M.Sc., M. Tech and other postgraduate courses offered by IITs and IISc Bangalore is done on the basis of IIT JAM.

#### **Scores Valid for 3 Years**

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

The Indian Institute of Technology ( IIT ) Roorkee, organising institute for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2017, declared the results on Sunday. The test was conducted on February 4, 5, 11 and 12, and the answer keys were released on February 27. Conducted by the Indian Institute of Science and IIT , GATE scores can be used for admissions to MTech / PhD programmes in IITs , IISc and other affiliated institutes. GATE is conducted in 23 disciplines of engineering and science subjects to identify candidates' understanding of a subject and their aptitude and eligibility for higher studies. GATE scores, valid for three years, are also used as a criterion during recruitment in government organisations such as the cabinet secretariat, and various national and state public sector undertakings in India. Many GATE qualified candidates are paid scholarships or assistantships too.

## March 26

### **IIT Roorkee not to hire its PhD students as faculty members**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/iit-roorkee-not-to-hire-its-phd-students-as-faculty-members/article9601576.ece>

Plans to hire foreign faculty members as the government has relaxed norms for hiring foreign faculty in IITs.

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee will not be hiring its own PhD students as faculty members on completion of their course despite their academic and research credentials.

“We are not open to hiring our own PhD students as faculty members and would prefer to hire best faculty from across the country and the globe. Hiring your own students is like marrying in your own family,” IIT Roorkee Director Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi told *PTI*.

“It is a very regressive practice as somebody who has studied here only will not get fresh ideas as their umbilical cord will never be broken. He or she will have seniors and teachers to support and guide so the person will never develop an individuality despite his academic and research credentials,” he added.

The premier institute, however, is welcoming its BTech students to pursue PhD on completion of their engineering degrees. It also plans to hire more foreign faculty members as the government has relaxed norms for hiring foreign faculty in IITs. “There are foreign faculty members in IITs right now as well, but they are just a handful because of stringent government norms. However, the norms are getting relaxed now to let us hire more foreign nationals,” Chaturvedi said.

Foreign faculty in IITs can work as contractual employees for five years. The contract is renewable and though they are not offered permanent positions, they get paid at par with faculty members in India.

After paving the way for direct admission of BTech students in PhD courses, the HRD Ministry has also come up with a Prime Minister’s Research fellowship under which Selected PhD fellows at receive Rs.75,000 per month but will have to return the entire amount if they leave the course midway. The scheme, however, is yet to get the Cabinet nod.

## March 25

### **IIT Roorkee to crowd source 50 Lakh to clean Ganga**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-iit-roorkee-to-crowdsource-rs-50-lakh-to-clean-ganga-2367434>



In an attempt to clean river Ganga, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee will be crowdsourcing a fund of Rs 50 lakh within a span of one year.

Mission 'Save Ganga' is one of the key projects taken up by the institute, which is situated close to the banks of Ganga. The students plan to utilise the funds collected on activities that will lead to the cleanup of the river.

Students of the institute feel that not much has been done by the government to clean the river. No positive outcome of the government's Clean Ganga Project is noticeable even around Haridwar, which is close to the institute, the student's claim. Therefore, they want to do their bit to cleanup the river.

By the end of this year, they plan to start the construction of bio-toilets along the bank of the river to prevent open defecation. This move will also help keep the river bank clean. The students also plan to conduct awareness drives around the area to sensitise people on the importance of keeping the river clean.

The project is under the 'Namami Gange' flagship programme of the central government under which the Union Cabinet had approved the action plan proposed to spend Rs 20,000 crore on cleaning the river by 2019-20. The other IITs also have been helping the government in achieving their target. The institutions including IIT Delhi, Mumbai, Kharagpur, and Kanpur have submitted their plans on how they plan to implement the project, to the government.

"We are collecting funds through crowdsourcing during our annual college fest Cognizance. Apart from this, our faculty has also agreed to collect Rs 10 lakh for the purpose. Our deadline for collecting the money is December 2017," said Sarin Khan, one of the student coordinators.

They are also conducting a robotics competition through which they will obtain a drone that might be used to map the pollution level at various places in the river.

"The drone will help us find out the most polluted areas of the river so that we can focus on them," Khan said.

The administration of IIT has also been supporting the endeavour of the students. "Our students have been extremely involved with the Save Ganga project and we are fully supportive of them," said AK Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee.

## Foreign students at IIT- Madras grow 60% in five years

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/foreign-students-at-iit-madras-grow-60-in-five-years/articleshow/57821238.cms>



CHENNAI: The number of exchange students at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras has risen from 90 in 2011 to 145 in 2016, a jump of 61% and an indication that the institute is improving its international relations and gaining global impetus. Given that the presence of international students and faculty is significant during the global ranking surveys, IIT-M is working on recruiting full-time faculty members and increasing its research collaborations with foreign universities.

Be it the QS Rankings, the Times Rankings or the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) ranking, IIT-M has been climbing on the list over the years. At present, the institute has exchange students and visiting faculty that account for the international crowd on the campus. "The exchange student programme works in two ways. One, where the student visits a foreign university to pursue one semester (four months), and in exchange a student from that foreign university visits IIT-M," said dean of international and alumni affairs R Nagarajan. "The second possibility is for a student to visit IIT-M for research collaboration," he added.

A majority of the international students come from Europe (Germany, France, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Denmark). "We also have students from Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia). Countries like Australia, Zimbabwe, Sweden and Finland have been active in sending their students of late," Nagarajan said.

"Under the full time programmes, we have received two students (both Korean) who are doing their B Tech. From 2011 to 2016, students from Ethiopia, Romania and Mauritius have taken up M Tech, MS and PhD at IITM," he said.

The institute is also improving on the number of international faculty on the campus. "The number of full time professors teaching on the campus is 10. The institute is also hosting nine visiting international faculty members who have come from Germany, Taiwan, the UK and USA. Recently, the MHRD had announced that IITs would be encouraged to recruit more foreign faculty members. IITM is in the process of implementing it," said Nagarajan.

However, there are challenges IITs will face while recruiting international faculty. One is a cultural barrier for faculty and the second concern would test the IITs' financial power to match the pay in foreign countries.

"We would invite potential faculty members for a visit to get an understanding of the campus atmosphere before bringing them on board. And, about the salary, with the implementation of the recommendations of the seventh pay commission, we will be able to match the salary offered by most countries," said Nagarajan.

That said, salaries offered in the US, the UK and Australian universities would be competitive for IITs.

## **March 24**

### **Scrap courses with few takers, IITs and other institutions told**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/scrap-courses-with-few-takers-iits-and-other-institutions-told/articleshow/57801033.cms>

NEW DELHI: Close down centres and courses which have got few takers. That is the message conveyed to all centrally-funded technical institutions including the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology by the ministry of human resource development.

The ministry has asked these institution to close down branches and courses which have seen a decline in applicants in the past three years. The ministry has also asked the institutions to introduce new courses and disciplines after analyzing market opportunity, employability and requirement of higher education.

This information was shared by minister of state for HRD, Mahendra Nath Pandey in response to a written question in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

"All Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs), which are participating in joint counsellings have been asked to review the position of vacant seats in the last three years and to revise the number of seats in each discipline after considering employment opportunities, national requirements, available infrastructure and scope for future," the minister said.

"New courses and disciplines may be introduced only after analysing market opportunity, employability and requirement of higher education/ research/ entrepreneurship. CFTIs may also consider closure of some disciplines or keep them in abeyance for a few years after following the due process," he said.

### **IIT-Kanpur Raised Seed funding for a Lucknow based Startup**

<https://indianceo.in/news/iit-kanpur-seed-funding-lucknow-startup/>



Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur financed seed funding of Rs.50 Lakhs for a Lucknow-based startup, Decentrik Technologies.

The startup is led by Vineet Vats. They provide simple and inexpensive solutions to provide drinking water for needy people on the move. Decentrik Technologies Private Limited is a Social Start-up, conceived by a group of passionate youths concerned about Social and Environmental challenges and devising innovative and sustainable solutions through the use of technology.

The funding was supported by Innovative Ventures and Technologies for Development (INVENT) platform, a joint collaboration of the Centre's Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom. Dean of research and development, S Ganesh and Abhijeet Sathe of IIT-Kanpur handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh to Vineet Vats.

The startup has come up with a unique ATM for water named 'WAAH' which provides portable units of drinking water for just RS.2 for 250 ML. One of the prototypes has been tested in Delhi and will be making new changes that will make to improve the working process. At present, 27 of water ATM are operational in Lucknow. Soon new water ATM's will be available in Kanpur and Allahabad`.

Professor S. Ganesh Dean, Research and Development, IITKanpur said, "Innovative Ventures and Technologies for Development (INVENT) is a joint collaboration of the Technology Development Board, Government of India and the

Department for International Development (DFID), Government of the United Kingdom. Through INVENT, IIT-Kanpur aims to incubate 40 technological start-ups working towards a positive social impact. Rs 50 lakh is the maximum amount that can be given to any start-up as seed funding."

As per Times of India report, the glasses used in Waah are made from food-grade recyclable paper. Approximately 1,500-3,500 kg of plastic waste generated from the store-bought disposable water bottles.

SIDBI Innovation and Incubation Centre (SIIC) at IIT-K, is operational since 2001, it is considered as one the largest in-campus business startup incubator and has elevated more than 65 Startups.

### **IIT-BHU students excel in sport vehicle building contest**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/iit-bhu-students-excel-in-sport-vehicle-building-contest/articleshow/57802287.cms>

VARANASI: The all-terrain vehicle (ATV) designed by students of mechanical engineering department of Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU), that participated in the recent national level sporting vehicle building event, BAJA SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) India-2017, gave an outstanding performance and made it to the top 10 in cost report presentation.

Last year, a team 'Spitzeneiter' comprising about two dozen students of mechanical engineering department had designed and manufactured a lightweight ATV that participated in Baja SAE India competition held in Indore in February 2016. Despite the best of efforts, the team failed to leave its mark.

This time, a different set of mechanical engineering students (Team Inferno), under the supervision of HoD AK Agrawal and assistant professor, Rashmi R Sahoo, came up with a modified version of the ATV which stood out from the rest at the BAJA SAE competition held in Indore from February 14-21.

The ATV, that was unveiled in presence of IIT-BHU director Rajeev Sangal, has been designed in a way that it can sustain extreme road conditions like rocky or uneven terrain, high inclinations, traversing boggy roads that may offer extremely loose ground with minimum traction and stability.

Talking to TOI on Thursday, project supervisor and faculty advisor, Rashmi R Sahoo said, "The ATV designed this year underwent major design transformations to help improve its performance. We selected a continuously variable transmission (CVT) system and a 305 cc Briggs and Stratton engine was employed for propelling the car. Custom-made knuckles were used and ergonomics of the vehicle saw changes like improvement in seat assembly, pedal position and movement thus ensuring comfort and safety of driver. Besides, on the technical front, weight reduction, custom-made wheel hub on all four tyres, transmission subsection, spool transmission instead of open differential were major changes.

Team lead and third year mechanical student, Kunal Kundu said that the overall size of the vehicle was reduced along with track width which resulted in better maneuverability.

"We cleared the virtual round of computations and stood first among all participating IITs. We were among top 10 of 150 participating teams in cost report presentation and design report also saw substantial improvement as compared to last year while sales report fetched us appreciation from judges' panel. Our team cleared engine test on first day and technical inspection on second. Our ATV performed well on tracks," Kundu said. The BAJA SAE India is an inter-collegiate design competition, run by the Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE), wherein teams from universities across the world design and build small off-road vehicles with engines of the same specification.

Participating teams comprise under-graduate and post-graduate engineering students and as a team they are tasked with designing, building, testing, racing and promoting a single-seater four-wheeler offroad vehicle.

It follows the BAJA SAE International rules and procedure. The objective is to come up with such designs that can withstand the harshest elements of a rough terrain with ease.

## **Changes in the engineering syllabi suggested by AICTE to meet the needs of the industries**

<https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/changes-in-the-engineering-syllabi-suggested-by-aicte-to-meet-the-needs-of-the-industries>

In an attempt to meet and fulfill the needs of industries, a committee of subject experts has been set up by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), which will help in revising and formulating the new syllabus for engineering in India. The committee is in charge of revising the existing syllabi and suggesting the needful changes. Seeing the falling employment of the engineering graduates, AICTE decided to take the step.

### **Meeting industry needs**

Working in the same direction, AICTE has issued regulations under which a single entrance exam for getting admissions in the engineering colleges was approved. The single entrance exam is named as NEEM (National Entrance Exam). HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar also asked engineering colleges to revise their engineering curriculum keeping the needs and standards of industry in mind.

## A dedicated committee to revise the syllabus

The committee consists of sub-groups of experts of different subjects and each subgroup is headed by a professor from IIT.

Prior to all this, AICTE had a model curriculum which used to serve as a base for the universities for preparing their own syllabus. For the first time in nine years, a committee of experts is all set to revise the existing syllabus and any suggestions in this regard will be submitted after summer vacation, just in time for the new academic session.

Pradipta Banerji, former IIT-Roorkee director, welcomed the AICTE's decision to revise the syllabus and said "The crucial part is - it will be done in consultation with the industry. Most engineers remain unemployed because their skills are not in sync with industry requirements."

***"The fields of engineering and technology undergo changes every day, and we need to keep up with their requirements. Students need to have skills required by the industry. Some of the institutes are still teaching decades-old syllabi and using obsolete teaching tools," said a senior official from the human resource development (HRD) ministry.***

"There has to be a constant dialogue between educational institutes and the industry. Each institution, while applying for approval, will have to mandatorily certify the completion of this process. If they fail to do so, action will be taken against them," he added.

## UGC made Aadhaar card mandatory for students to get their degrees

<https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/ugc-made-aadhaar-card-mandatory-for-students-to-get-their-degrees>

In another attempt by the government to make the admission process more transparent and free of fraud applicants, University Grants Commission (UGC) has made inclusion of Aadhaar number in degrees and certificates mandatory for the students. In addition to this UGC has also directed the universities to include the picture of the student.

A certain report suggests that UGC, in light of the Finance bill passed in Lok Sabha, has made the changes. Government has also made aadhaar number mandatory for filling the taxes.

### More information on the report

- An official said "This notice from UGC comes in addition to the security features included in the degrees presented to students."
- UGC secretary, JS Sandhu, also directed the universities to include student's photograph and aadhaar number on certificates and degrees issued by the university to the student.

### Benefits of adding Aadhaar number

- Adding aadhaar number will bring uniformity and transparency in the system of higher education across the country.
- Mark sheets and certificates with security features will prevent the duplication.

### What universities need to do?

***"You are also requested to inscribe the name of the institution in which a student is enrolled as well as the mode of delivery (regular, part-time or distance)," Sandhu said.***



He further added "The standards applied for accreditation will be qualitative and can be adapted and applied to any of the types of educational institutions affiliated. The awarding of accreditation will signify that the school has met standards at an acceptable level and is willing to both maintain those standards and to improve in areas pointed out to them."

### **43 massive open online courses now available on SWAYAM**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/43-massive-open-online-courses-now-available-on-swayam/articleshow/57799484.cms>

KOLHAPUR: The University Grants Commission (UGC), in its recent circular, said a total of 43 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) are available on the information technology platform SWAYAM — Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

In a letter sent to the all vice-chancellors, UGC secretary Jaspal Sandhu said under the SWAYAM programme of ministry of human resource development (MHRD), the UGC has developed 72 MOOC courses, of which 43 are available on <https://swayam.gov.in/>.

He asked the officials to publicise the programme by providing a link of e-PG pathshala on the homepage of the university website so that maximum number of students can avail the benefit of these resources.

Apart from these courses on SWAYAM, around 10,000 plus modules have been developed in 57 subjects that are available on the e-PG pathshala website (<http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>) as Open Educational Resource and may be used as a supplementary reading material by the PG students.

According to Sandhu, the MHRD under its National Mission on education through ICT had awarded production of E-content courseware in 77 subjects at post-graduation level to the UGC and it is now available on the ePG pathshala website.

It should be noted that finance minister Arun Jaitley earlier this year on February 1 in his budget speech, spoke about the SWAYAM platform and launching of 350 registered courses free of cost through virtual classroom.

According to the information available on the SWAYAM website, the courses hosted on SWAYAM will be in 4 quadrants video lecture, specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed, self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes, and an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts.

"Steps have been taken to enrich the learning experience by using audio-video and multimedia, and state of the art pedagogy/technology," read the information.

### **National recognition for young IIT-G teacher**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/national-recognition-for-young-iit-g-teacher/articleshow/57783271.cms>

GUWAHATI: IIT-G's Manish Kumar Goyal, who teaches civil engineering, received the ISTE-SGSITS national award for best research work by a young teacher recently.

Goyal, who is the author of two books for undergraduate students, has significantly contributed towards hydrological and hydrodynamic modelling of the Teesta river basin. "I am very happy and honoured by the recognition my work has received," Goyal said.

The Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) is a national non-profit society for technical education. It focuses on overall development of the country's technical education system and recognizes research excellence in engineering and technology.

### **Tata Chemicals collaborates with IIT-Gandhinagar for research**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/tata-chemicals-collaborates-with-iitgandhinagar-for-research/article9598289.ece>

Tata Chemicals Ltd (TCL) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar (IITGn) for collaboration on research projects in the field waste management and sustainability.

The MoU aims to enable the institute and the corporate player to collaborate for adding adding value to product wastes, management of corrosion and overall sustainability.

It is agreed that the two entities will work together on mutually agreeable projects and also explore possibilities in the field of herbal medicine.

The agreement will also enable IITGN and TCL to share their physical and organizational infrastructures such as Embedded System Laboratories and other facilities and its technical and professional expertise for research and development with each other on chargeable basis whenever applicable.