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**Slide continues: Few Delhi boys in JEE 100****TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

New Delhi: The capital may have had a wonder boy cracking IIT-JEE at the age of 14 this year, but the overall performance of Delhi zone is nothing to boast about. According to the JEE chairperson, IIT Delhi, Arun Kumar, just 11 of the 71,353 students, who appeared in the Delhi zone, made it to the

list of top 100. The number of star performers, in fact, started dwindling last year when only 10 of the 60,582 candidates ranked between one and 100 as compared to 27 candidates in 2008 and 29 in 2007. The number of applicants, however, increased every year since then. A total of 2,264 candidates cracked JEE from Delhi zone this year.

"This year has been different in terms that there are less number of candidates from Delhi in the top 100. But we should not see it as a trend. After all, the question paper was jointly set by all the IITs and the difficulty level is same for all," said Kumar. The IIT Delhi zone includes parts of Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

K Gopal, director, Narayana IIT Academy where eight students from Delhi zone were amongst the top 100 rank-holders this year, said, "There may not be a real decline in the performance of IIT aspirants in the Delhi zone. In fact, the reason for less number of candidates in top 100 can be that the IITs did not release the extended merit list for admission to other institutes and the preparatory list for SC candidates this time." He added, "They have just selected 12,676 candidates to fill their seats. May be the distribution of ranks has been affected this year."

He also said Andhra Pradesh performed much better with 32 rankholders amongst the top 100 because the approach of students there is different. "Most aspirants there, focus solely on preparing for IIT-JEE. But here students are also concerned about doing well in the CBSE exams," Gopal added.

A few others also suggested that since the test was organized by IIT Chennai this year, it may have suited the aptitude of students in the south. "May be people of the same region think alike. The statistics may be completely different next year," said head of distance education, FIIT-JEE, R L Trikha.

# 'Answersheets of govt service exam covered under RTI'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 27

IN A landmark judgment, the full bench of the Punjab State Information Commission today ruled that a candidate appearing in a competitive examination for employment in government service has the right to access — after declaration of the result — evaluated answersheets, and that this right extends to accessing not only his own but also the scripts of other competing examinees.

The commission said an answersheet was neither a document of commercial confidence nor a trade secret. "It is also not an intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of the third party after the declaration of the result... Once the result is declared and performance of the competing examinees is put in public domain, secrecy has no service to perform; it is better buried... Merely because an examiner has etched marks on the body of the answersheet, it does not become a secret document. It is just a mindset and nothing more," the bench ruled.

The judgment will have far-reaching implications and help in bringing transparency in the much-maligned system of public recruitment, said CIC R I Singh on behalf of the bench, which comprised Surinder Singh, Lt Gen P K Grover (retd), P P S Gill, and D S Kahlon.

However, information pertaining to the identity of the paper-setter and invigilators or evaluators could be withheld as part of fiduciary relationship, the bench said.

The issue was raised before the commission by Surinder Kumar, an ex-servicemen from Kapurthala, who had appeared in the competitive examination for the post of Inspector, Excise and Taxation, Punjab.

Dissatisfied with the result, he had filed an RTI application, seeking copies of individual answersheets of the nine selected ex-servicemen. However, the PIO declined his request saying answerbooks were personal information of the candidate.

The University Institute of Applied Management Sciences (UIAMS), Panja University (PU), which had conducted the examination, submitted to the information panel that institutions established by the Constitution of India, like UPSC, or those set up by any law, like Staff Selection Commissions, or established mainly to conduct examinations and have their own regulations and rules are not covered under the RTI Act.

But the commission said, "Legally, the answersheets are the property of the Department of Excise and Taxation, which is a public authority, and PU is only an agent, paid for the services."

# JEE toppers to opt IITs instead of state colleges

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA, MAY 27

STUDENTS who came out with flying colours in the engineering section of the JEE are not interested to join colleges of West Bengal.

Soumendu Majee of Patha Bhavan Kolkata who topped the JEE in engineering has ranked 688 in the IIT entrance test and is all willing to take admission in IIT-Kharagpur.

"It's a great feeling to come first in the JEE but I have also made it to the IIT. Hence I would be taking up either electronics telecommunication engineering or mechanical at IIT-Kharagpur," said Majee.

Similarly, Rohan Roy of Raigunj Coronation High School, who has come second in the JEE engineering exam, wants to follow suit. "I

## ENGINEERING TOPPERS

1. Soumendu Majee, Patha Bhavan (Kolkata)
2. Rohan Roy, Coronation High School (Raigunj)
3. Susnato Mondal, Ramkrishna Mission Vidya Bhavan (West Midnapore)
4. Debajyoti Nandy, Uma kanta Academy, Agartala (Tripura)
5. Subhrajit Samanta, KTPP High School (East Midnapore)
6. Siddhartha Sarkar, PCS Government High School, Barasat
7. Shounak Dhar, St Xavier's Institution (Panihati)
8. Sayan Kar, Purulia Zilla School (Purulia)
9. Srinjoy Ganguly, Calcutta Boy's School (Kolkata)
10. Debayan Das, Hem Sheela Model School (Durgapur)

am more keen to in take electronics and telecommunication at IIT-Kharagpur than getting admission to any engineering college in West Bengal," Rohan said.

Susnato Mondal have come third in JEE but has fared better than the top two

in the IIT. "Since I have ranked 237 in IIT entrance test, I would prefer to join IIT-Kanpur for studying electronics engineering," he said.

In the medical stream, things are, however, different. The top rankers are

## MEDICAL TOPPERS

1. Pushpam Priyam Das, Cooch Behar Rambhola High School (Cooch Behar)
2. Raseedul Islam, Coronation High School, Raigunj
3. Sayantan Patra, CMS High School (Burdwan)
4. Swanadeep Tarafdar, Salt Lake School (Kolkata)
5. Beekshan Mitra, South Point High School (Kolkata)
6. Laboni Sarkar, Modern High School (Kolkata)
7. Anirban Sen, Kendriya Vidyalaya IIM-C Zoka (South 24-Pargnas)
8. Anwesa Pal, S M High School (West Midnapore)
9. Shariar Rahman, Krishnath Collegiate School (Behrampur)
10. Jyotirmoy Sen, Burdwan Municipal School (Burdwan)

keen to remain in the state and get into the prestigious Calcutta Medical College.

"This was my second attempt. Last year, I was ranked 7,326 but I opted out," said Pushpam Priyam Das who has topped this

time and is keen to study at Calcutta Medical College.

Despite making it to the merit list of Pune-based Armed Force Medical College, Raseedul Islam of Raigunj Coronation High School wants to study at Calcutta Medical College.

"I never thought of making it to the topper's list but my teachers and my parents induced confidence in me. I would be joining Calcutta Medical College," said Sayantan Patra who has ranked third in the medical section.

Laboni Sarkar, who has topped among the girls, is also keen to make it to Calcutta Medical College. "Calcutta Medical College is in my priority list but I am still waiting to attend the interviews for AIIMS and CMC Vellore," said Laboni of Modern High School.

# *Shoeshine boy shines in IIT exam*

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**KANPUR, MAY 27**

HE HELPS his father, a cobbler, mend shoes in his spare time while his mother stitches rags to support the family, but financial hardships have not stopped Abhishek Kumar Bhartiya from passing the IIT entrance exam with flying colours. Abhishek, who secured rank 154 in the SC category, now wants to propel his dreams by pursuing aerospace engineering at IIT-Kanpur.

His father earns Rs 60-70 daily and mother mends old clothes to earn money, but “this has never held them back from facilitating our education,” Abhishek said, dedicating his success to his parents.

Abhishek, contributes by polishing shoes at his father’s shop, has three younger brothers.

“We have just one small room where all six of us live and that too without electricity. So, he used to study under the lantern for five-six hours at night,” said his father Rajendra Prasad.

The family could not even consider providing coaching to Abhishek, “but by God’s grace, a teacher in a coaching institute helped him out,” said his father.

However even in such a time of happiness, poverty haunts the family. “I am worried about the fees. From where can I manage the amount? This question is troubling me but even if I have to sell myself. I am

# Students from Maoist den steal JEE show

**SHIV SAHAY SINGH**

KOLKATA, MAY 27

SINCE the last few years, students in West Midnapore district have been living under the shadow of Maoist violence. But on Thursday when the results of the Joint Entrance Examination was declared, there was something for the students of the district to cheer about.

The students of West Midnapore have recorded highest success rate in the JEE-2010 in the state. While the overall success rate of the state was 56 per cent, West Midnapore recorded 69.5 per cent, which means that nearly 70 of the 100 students in the district who sat for the competitive examination for admission to engineering and medical colleges of Bengal, got through it.

“Students of West Midnapore are very talented. Even the parents are keen about their studies. There is an atmosphere of learning in this area. If the students are left in peace to study they will do even better,” said state School Education Minister Partha De after the results were out.

Of the 29 blocks of the districts, nearly 12 are affected by the Left-wing extremism. Teachers have stopped attending in nearly 100 schools of the district due to the Maoist violence. Consequently, children enrolled in those schools have dropped out.

“Schools in Jhargram, Salboni and other blocks are not functioning because of the Maoist problem. If these schools can function normally in peaceful atmosphere, we would come out with more success stories,” said Aparash Bhatlacharya, district secretary of All Bengal Teacher’s Association.

In the Madhyamik examination too the students from this district fared well. While the state pass percentage stood at 81.78 per cent, West Midnapore district recorded a better pass

percentage of 83.69.

Both in the engineering and medical sections of the JEE results, students from West Midnapore have managed to get into the top ten bracket. Anwesa Pal from Aprana Palli village in Satbankura has been ranked 8th in the medical merit list of the entrance examination, while Sushnata Mondal from Kushpata village in Ghatal has been ranked third in the engineering section.

Sushnata also ranked 237 in the IIT Entrance Examination, the results of which were declared on Wednesday.

“Even at my school, which falls in the Maoist-affected area of the district, students have done well,” said Anwesa’s father Tapas Pal who is the Headmaster of Gwaltore High School. In the Madhyamik, students from the school scored as high as 711 marks out of 800.