

**SHORT****TAKES**

67 candidates share top rank in NEET-UG

New Delhi: Sixty-seven candidates have bagged the top rank in medical entrance exam Neet-UG, a majority of them from Rajasthan, the National Testing Agency announced on Tuesday.

The top rankers in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Neet) also include 14 girls, the agency said. It said the 56.4 per cent of the candidates have qualified the exam, which was conducted on May 5 at centres across the country and also abroad.

“Sixty-seven candidates scored the same 99.997129 percentile score, therefore, they shared the all India rank one. The merit list will be prepared using a tie-breaking formula with those getting higher marks or percentile score in Biology will be given preference followed by Chemistry and Physics,” a senior NTA official said. “Subsequently, candidates with less proportion of the number of attempted incorrect answers and correct answers in all the subjects in the test, or Biology, followed by Chemistry and Physics, will be given preference,” the official added. Of these 67 candidates, maximum 11 are from Rajasthan, followed by eight from Tamil Nadu and seven from Maharashtra. A record 24.06 lakh candidates had registered for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test this year. The passing percentage is almost the same as last year at 56.2 per cent. Among those who qualified, 5,47,036 are male, 7,69,222 are female and 10 are transgender, NTA said. — PTI

Jahanara and Anwar Saikia Centre for Peace Studies Inaugurated



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 3: The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has recently established the Jahanara and Anwar Saikia Centre for Peace Studies, dedicated to peace research and studies in the northeastern region of India and its diverse communities. The inauguration took place on Saturday, led by Prof. Gauri Dutt Sharma, Vice Chancellor of

USTM, and Prof. Yasmin Saikia, the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at Arizona State University, USA. The Centre is named in honor of Prof. Yasmin Saikia's parents. Prof. Saikia has generously contributed Rs 1 crore to USTM for the development of the Peace Centre, with USTM providing the land for its construction. The Centre aims to become a hub of ex-

cellence in peace research and studies among ASEAN countries. USTM Chancellor M. Hoque expressed profound gratitude to Prof. Saikia and her family for their voluntary sponsorship of the Centre. Prof. Yasmin Saikia will serve as the Founding Director, with Dr. Trishna M. Thakuria as the Coordinator. During the inauguration, Prof. G.D. Sharma conveyed his confidence in the Centre's potential to enhance USTM's global competitiveness. He thanked Prof. Yasmin Saikia for her noble initiative and significant support in establishing this institution. Prof. Yasmin Saikia shared insights from her experiences at leading US universities, suggesting best practices to make the Centre a hub of excellence in education, research, and innovation, aiming for a positive social impact. She emphasized that USTM will focus intensively on peace research and studies through this fully-fledged Centre, the foundation for which was laid last

year on the University campus. It is well recognized that peace studies are highly relevant and urgently needed in today's climate of increasing unrest and intolerance, both locally and globally. Establishing a center dedicated to peace studies can play a crucial role in uniting stakeholders through collaborative efforts, working together to promote and achieve peace. Prof. Yasmin Saikia, holding the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict and a professorship in history at the

School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, focuses her work on the histories of memory and identity, women, war, and peace, and the histories of premodern and contemporary South Asia. She examines Muslim experiences in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, exploring the discourse of nonviolence and the practice of violence against women and vulnerable groups. Her approach to peace studies integrates cultural, historical, and individual and group agency perspectives, aiming to advance the study of peace through a humanities-oriented lens.

Campus hires: companies up against growing attrition rate

Opportunities Desk

Deloitte India's latest campus-workforce trends 2024 indicates a shift towards hiring based on skills and a greater focus on gender-diverse talent recruitment and a need to ink in retention strategies that would ensure campus hires are in a long innings with the company. The survey encompasses data from over 190 organisations and 500 campuses.

Focus on specific skills

Organisations are pivoting to specific skills/ competency clusters within the educational stream while selecting their talent. For example, AI/ ML in engineering, social selling in management and computational biology in pharma are the most in-demand skill segments. Complementing this trend, expectations from campus students are pivoting to management consulting roles for MBA specialisation and data scientist for technology talent.

Retention reboot needed

Attrition remains a significant challenge, especially among MBA graduates. Overall, one-year and two-year attrition rates for top-tier campuses are 21 percent, 26 percent and 28 percent, in a pan-India assessment. These rates drop, only slightly, where tier-2 and tier-3 campuses are concerned. This trend underscores the need for innovative retention strategies. To combat this challenge, leading organisations are implementing flexible work arrangements, performance-based incentives and targeted career development programmes.

Workplace diversity

For representational purpose only



The report underscores significant progress in workplace gender equality and diversity hiring. Female campus hiring increased in FY24 compared with that in FY23. However, the availability of gender-diverse talent remains a challenge, especially in the engineering stream. Rise in various initiatives also supports the hiring of differently-abled individuals and those with diverse gender identities. Targets for hiring differently-abled employees increased from 5 percent in FY23 to 9 percent in FY24, while LGBTQIA+ hiring targets surged from 8 percent to 20 percent.

Location preferences

The survey reveals distinct location

preferences for different disciplines. For engineering graduates, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai emerge as the top destinations, likely due to their thriving tech ecosystems, prestigious universities and robust job markets. In contrast, for students pursuing management degrees, the top three preferred locations are Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai. Bangalore's reputation as an IT and start-up hub likely makes it attractive for management students seeking opportunities in diverse industries.

Salary trends

For the first time in 5 years, 2024 projected salaries for management students (viz. MBA) are experienc-

ing a drop of 5 percent to 10 percent across tiers.

Notably, the expectation of salary by campus students is also experiencing a similar decline. Variable pay increased by 250 basis points over the past year, indicating a shift towards higher performance orientation by employers.

Internship intake

Internship intake by organisations reduced by 10 percent on an average, indicating declining uptake. Similarly, pre-placement offers (PPOs) have experienced an annual drop of 26 percent.

Complementing it, campus hiring budgets saw a 33 percent drop in the past year.

Rajasthan village girls struggle for sports opportunities

Girls in rural India face challenges accessing sports and education due to limited spaces, family restrictions and gender disparity

In our village, there is no field for girls to play on. The entire village has only one school with a usable field, but it's dominated by boys, forcing us to practice in a corner, said 16-year-old Sonu from Ghadsisar village in Churu district in Rajasthan, who practices kho-kho daily with her teammates in a corner of the village's only high school ground.

17-year-old Aarti, who practices kho-kho with Sonu, said, "Our team has only traveled once to Sardarshahar tehsil and once to Foga village to participate in the game. After that, we haven't gone anywhere. We don't get the chance because our performance isn't good enough. How can we per-



MEERA NAYAK

form well without proper practice opportunities? Having a field for practice is essential, but we don't have one." Girls do not receive support from their families to go outside the village to practice.

Ghadsisar village, located about 254 km from Jaipur in Churu district, has a population of around 3,900. Within this small population, there is a significant

disparity in literacy rates between men (62.73%) and women (38.8%). This reflects the discrimination that girls face in terms of education. Within this smaller group, girls who are challenging the social norms, are further discriminated against due to a lack of a dedicated sports field for girls. Consequently, their practice sessions are disrupted, negatively affecting their performance.

"This village has about 800 houses. The girls who study at the village school still get practice opportunities during school days, but where should the girls who no longer study here go for practice?" said Kanta, another young girl from the village. "The boys can play



anywhere or in fields in other villages, but our families don't allow us to go far from home for practice. Therefore, our village needs a dedicated field for girls to play," she added. With years of negotiations, they did manage a corner space in the field but even that becomes unavailable during vacations. "The boys

often climb over the school wall to play on the field, but we girls can't do that," informed Kanta. Regarding this issue, the village sarpanch, Manoj Kumar, acknowledged that there is no separate field for girls in the village, which causes difficulties for them in practice. He mentioned that the gram panchayat had

submitted a proposal to the tehsil headquarters, but the tehsil authorities indicated that while there is vacant land in Ghadsisar, it belongs to the johad paytan (water reservoir) and the mining department. Allocating this land for a sports field is beyond the tehsil's jurisdiction.

Understanding the situation, the panchayat selected a different site and submitted a new proposal to the tehsil. However, due to the code of conduct imposed for the Lok Sabha elections, no action has been taken. The panchayat will make another attempt after the election process is completed to ensure a sports field is available for the girls.

Social worker Heera Sharma

emphasized the importance of sports for all children, stating, "Whether it's a boy or a girl, playing sports is crucial for physical and mental development. It not only keeps the body healthy but also enhances mental well-being. Denying girls the opportunity to play would be unjust. Playing sports boosts girls' confidence, allowing them to run freely on the field and contributing significantly to their physical development." She added, "Sports are excellent for fitness and can also provide a career path, with athletes bringing honor to the country. This is why the government is promoting sports and athletes through initiatives like 'Khelo India.' Many girls from rural areas

have emerged to represent India at district, state, Olympic and Commonwealth games, winning medals for the country." This year, at the sixth Khelo India Youth Games held in Tamil Nadu, athletes from Rajasthan delivered outstanding performances across various events, earning the state a place in the top 5. Both girls and boys excelled. Yet despite these successes, many rural areas in the country continue to deprive girls of the chance to participate in sports, even though access to sports fields is essential for all adolescents, regardless of gender.

(The writer is a grassroots writer from Lunkaransar, Rajasthan; views are personal. Charkha Features)

Delhi's GGSIPU bags 'Rising Star' award in QS World Rankings

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

Delhi's Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) has been awarded with the 'Rising Star' award by the QS World Rankings for showing the highest improvement among Indian institutions during the last 12 months, an official communiqué said on Tuesday.

This comes after the IP university debuted in the QS Ranking as a part of its previous edition. Senior Vice-president of the QS, Ben Sowter, presented the honor to the University at the QS EduData Summit 2024 in Washington DC, where the

"QS World University Rankings 2025," were released on Tuesday.

The University had made its maiden entry last year at 1401+ position, and has recorded the highest jump among Indian institutions by getting in the 1001-1200 category.

IP University is the only University of the Govt of NCT of Delhi that has been included in this rating system.

Lieutenant Governor Delhi Vinay Kumar Saxena, who is also the Chancellor of the University, congratulated Vice Chancellor Prof Mahesh Verma, faculty, staff, and students of the University for this achieve-

ment.

Verma maintained that there are only 46 Indian Universities included in the rankings this year, and sharing the details of the University's achievements in this edition of the rankings, he highlighted that the varsity has been included among the top 500 global institutions on the ground of citations per faculty.

He added that while in the 2024 edition, the university had surpassed 6.5 per cent of the global institutions ranked by the QS, this year the number has gone up to 33.4 per cent.

He added that the university is improving significantly in the academic and

employer reputation, where in it is listed at the 601+ level in QS rankings 2025.

Laying out his vision for the near future, Verma said that the efforts would be made to expand the global footprints by engaging more and more international faculty and students.

He further said IP is one of the few universities in the country that are ranked A++ by the NAAC in addition to securing a high rank in the prestigious rankings.

The QS World University Rankings is a portfolio of comparative college and university rankings by a higher education analytics firm called Quacquarelli Symonds. *Sred*

Delhi High Court orders re-admission of DU law student barred for attendance shortage

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 4 JUNE

The Delhi High Court has ordered the re-admission of a Delhi University (DU) law student, previously barred from continuing his course due to attendance shortages stemming from a medical condition.

The student, who suffers from psoriasis, had fallen short of the university's mandatory attendance requirements and was instructed to reapply for admission by retaking the entrance exam.

Challenging this decision, he filed a writ petition, which was initially dismissed by a single-judge bench.

However, a division bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal overturned this decision, saying that the university failed to differen-



tiate between students who miss classes for genuine reasons and those who do so without valid explanations.

"The University has adopted an approach best described as one size fits all," the court remarked, criticising its uniform policy towards all students irrespective of their reasons for attendance shortfalls.

It also noted the Bar Council of India's (BCI) stance, which supported the re-admission of students who miss classes due to legiti-

mate medical reasons.

The BCI's affidavit said that once a student is admitted to pursue legal education, their admission should not be cancelled if they fail to meet attendance requirements for genuine reasons.

In its defence, the university argued that psoriasis, a non-contagious disease, should not have prevented the student from attending classes.

However, the court recognised the seriousness of the condition, noting its poten-

tial to cause significant discomfort and affect vital organs.

"Psoriasis is a skin disease which often takes grotesque forms, causing deep embarrassment and discomfort. Itching is a peculiar feature of the disease, leading to extreme discomfort," it stated, referencing the student's medical documentation and photographs submitted as evidence.

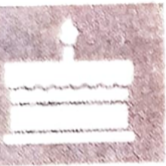
It further criticised the university for trivialising the student's condition by questioning his choice of a homoeopathic doctor and showing disbelief in his illness claim. The judges took judicial notice of the effectiveness of homoeopathic treatments for certain skin diseases, noting the university's failure to investigate the student's claims properly.

Additionally, it rejected the university's argument

that it lacked the power to grant re-admission to a student detained in the first term.

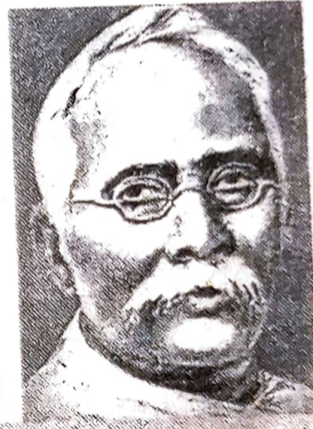
Citing relevant provisions of the University Ordinance, the court clarified that the university could re-admit students who had genuine reasons for their absence, including illness. The relevant provision, Article 5(b) to Ordinance IV, states: "A student of the University who was not allowed to appear in the examinations due to shortage of attendance will be re-admitted to the class he studied last in his College/ Department, within the prescribed period of registration." Based on these findings, the court allowed the student's appeal, quashed the single-judge decision, and directed Delhi University to re-admit the student for the upcoming academic year (2024-2027 batch).

भारतीय शिक्षा प्रणाली को दुरुस्त करने में सतीश चंद्र ने दिया था योगदान



शिक्षाविद सतीश चंद्र मुखर्जी का जन्म 1865 में आज ही बंगाल के हुगली जिले में हुआ था। शिक्षा पूरी कर अध्यापन करने लगे। 1902 में भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय आयोग की रिपोर्ट के विरोध में डान सोसायटी का

गठन किया। इसका उद्देश्य छात्रों में राष्ट्रवाद को विकसित करने के साथ-साथ तकनीकी शिक्षा भी प्रदान करना था। सोसायटी ने स्वदेशी आंदोलन में भी हिस्सा लिया था। 1906 में राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा परिषद (एनसीई) की स्थापना में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। 18 अप्रैल, 1948 को उनका निधन हो गया।



अब कृषि लागत प्रबंधन में इग्नू में होगा डिप्लोमा

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (इग्नू) ने जुलाई 2024 सत्र से दो नए डिप्लोमा कोर्स शुरू किए हैं। इसमें कृषि लागत प्रबंधन में डिप्लोमा और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में स्नातकोत्तर डिप्लोमा कोर्स पढ़ाए जाएंगे। इग्नू ने कृषि लागत प्रबंधन के लिए भारतीय लागत लेखाकार संस्थान (आइसीएमएआइ) के साथ साझेदारी की है। इस कोर्स का उद्देश्य छात्रों को प्रभावी कृषि लागत प्रबंधन कृषि उत्पादकता में वृद्धि के लिए आवश्यक कौशल से लैस करना है।

इस कोर्स में कृषि प्रबंधन से लेकर उद्यमिता और संगठनात्मक नेतृत्व तक की भूमिकाओं को व्यापक तरीके से पढ़ाया जाएगा। पाठ्यक्रम विशेष रूप से शहरी और ग्रामीण दोनों युवाओं को लक्षित करने के लिए तैयार किया गया है। पाठ्यक्रम में

कृषि लेखांकन, लागत निर्धारण, कृषि-आपूर्ति शृंखला प्रबंधन, भूमि उपयोग और जल प्रबंधन जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय शामिल हैं। इस पाठ्यक्रम के लिए वो ही उम्मीदवार आवेदन कर सकते हैं जिन्होंने 12वीं की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की है। पाठ्यक्रम की अवधि एक से तीन वर्ष तक है। इसके साथ ही इग्नू ने मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में पीजी डिप्लोमा कोर्स शुरू किया है। मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में पीजी डिप्लोमा कोर्स स्कूल आफ सोशल साइंस के तहत पढ़ाया जाएगा। इससे उम्मीदवार मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में एक मजबूत आधार प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इग्नू के पात्रता मानदंड के अनुसार इस कोर्स में आवेदन करने के लिए उम्मीदवार के पास मनोविज्ञान, नर्सिंग, सामाजिक कार्य, एलोपैथी, यूनानी, सिद्ध, होम्योपैथी या प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा में मास्टर डिग्री होनी चाहिए।