

NEWSMAKERS

Slum Dwellers Protest Forcible Eviction

Around 300 persons staged a protest on Thursday condemning the Chennai Corporation for forcibly evicting them from their slums.



'Punish Officers who Helped Dayanidhi'

BSNL workers staged a dharna in Chennai on Thursday demanding action against officers of Chennai Telephones, who helped ex-Minister Dayanidhi Maran to misuse telecom connections.



New Jersey Assembly Hails Jayalalitha

The New Jersey General Assembly, USA, recently adopted a resolution hailing Chief Minister J Jayalalitha. A copy of it was handed over to her on Thursday by Prakash M Swami, a journalist.



Veerappan's Widow Appears in Court

Muthulakshmi, widow of forest Brigand Veerappan, appeared in Gobi Court on Thursday on the first day of the trial in the Kannada actor Rajkumar kidnap case.

Gals Go Electronic, Guys Mechanical

Twice the number of girls opt for Electronics & Communication and Information Technology courses when compared to boys

Express News Service

Chennai: Do engineering subjects have a gender bias? Yes, would be the more probable answer if the trend in engineering admissions at Anna University, Chennai is anything to go by. Electronics and Communication Engineering, as usual, is emerging as the favourite subject among girls while the boys preferred Mechanical Engineering and related subjects, according to admission statistics.

Two weeks after the Tamil Nadu Engineering Counselling began, close to 5,500 girls opted for Electronics and Communication while only 2,500 boys chose the same subject. Computer Science Engineering and Information Technology were the other favourite subjects among girls. Close to 3,500 girls chose computer science compared to 1,500 boys and nearly 2,000 girls chose IT compared to 900 boys.

Meanwhile, boys were queuing up for Mechanical Engineering and related subjects, like Aeronautical and Automobile Engineering. Only 44 girls have chosen Mechanical Engineering out

of the 5,570 seats allotted. And, out of the 272 seats allotted in Automobile Engineering, only 2 girls have taken the stream.

"Girls usually consider Mechanical Engineering to be a 'boys' subject' as it has a lot to do with learning about machines," says RS Ayushi, who opted for the stream in a city-based college. "I found

GIRLS USUALLY CONSIDER MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TO BE A 'BOYS' SUBJECT' AS IT HAS A LOT TO DO WITH LEARNING ABOUT MACHINES

— R S Ayushi, Engg aspirant

machines and mechanics interesting since childhood, which is why I chose this subject. But I had trouble convincing my friends to take up the same," she says.

"Electronics & Communication or Computer Science will ensure a corporate job and a lifestyle that girls pre-

fer rather than working in harsh environments with machines or aircrafts or automobiles," says Jayesh Mukundan, an HR Consultant with a leading IT firm in the city. "Women find the IT work atmosphere more comfortable while the men prefer some adventure. This is the trend largely observed in most parts of India." But contrary to popular belief, Jayesh says that mechanical engineers these days do not deal with harsh environments as the field has more or less become similar to the IT sector. "Put simply, you work with software sitting inside an air conditioned office much like in IT."

Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering were the gender neutral subjects with both boys and girls opting for them in more or less same numbers. Unlike last year when it was first introduced, engineering courses in Tamil medium also seemed to have got a head start with more students choosing it in the first two weeks of counselling, which implies that students with high marks are opting for courses in Tamil.

RANKING OF COLLEGES BASED ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF FIRST YEAR UG STUDENTS ('10-'11)



Consider yourself lucky if you get into these colleges



Avoid the following institutions like the plague

Based on results of January 2011 examination

Institution	Appeared	All Pass	Rank
RMD Engineering College	538	496	1
RMK College of Engineering & Technology	328	301	2
Sri Sairam Institute of Technology	267	244	3
RMK Engineering College	718	649	4
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	861	591	5
Sri Sairam Engineering College	862	769	6
Velammal Institute of Technology	290	256	7
Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College	290	238	8

Institution	Appeared	All Pass	Rank
Chendu College of Engineering & Technology	138	6	160
Sri Kalaimagal College of Engg	164	7	161
Jaya Suriya Engineering College	214	9	162
Sri Rangapooopathy College of Engineering	198	8	163
VKK Vjayan Engineering College	130	5	164
TSM Jain College of Technology	152	5	165
Saraswathy College of Engineering and Technology	74	1	166
SRI College of Engg & Technology	125	1	167

Based on answer scripts of Jan '11 examination

Institution	Appeared	All Pass	Rank
RMD Engineering College	4304	4229	1
RMK College of Engineering & Technology	2624	2578	2
RMK Engineering College	5744	5634	3
Sri Sairam Institute of Technology	2136	2092	4
Velammal Institute of Technology	2320	2269	5
Sri Sairam Engineering College	6896	6735	6
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	5288	5130	7
Panimalar Institute of Technology	3392	3252	8

Institution	Appeared	All Pass	Rank
Sri Kalaimagal College of Engg	1312	694	160
Thiruvalluvar College of Engineering and Technology	4360	2280	161
Sri Rangapooopathy College of Engineering	1584	817	162
GGR College of Engineering	1200	615	163
Saraswathy College of Engg and Technology	592	300	164
Sree Krishna College of Engg	1512	737	165
Oxford College of Engineering	872	416	166
SRI College of Engg & Technology	1000	226	167

* TOP TABLES BASED ON NO. OF STUDENTS, BOTTOM ON SCRIPTS

Procedural Delays in Issuing Loans Irk Students

by Gokul Chandrasekar

Chennai: P Rajagopal, a first-generation student, who has been asked to pay the annual fee of ₹29,000 within ten days if he is to be admitted in Anna University of Technology, Tiruchirappalli - Panruti Campus, said: "We (my mother and I) begged the college authorities to give me admission with half the amount, promising them that we will pay the rest in installments or once our loan is sanctioned. But they did not accede to it. They say that my seat will go to some other student if I fail to pay the full amount in the next ten days. Banks are refusing to give us loans until a bonafide certificate, issued by the college, is submitted. The college again says that a bonafide certificate will be issued only after the full fee is paid. All our hopes have crashed."

Rajagopal is not an isolated case to fall victim to procedural lacunae. At present, due to procedural de-

Present Tense as University

'Good Deemed Varsities Do Exist'

பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளுக்கு 'ரேங்க்' பட்டியல் வெளியீடு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 22- அண்ணா தொழில்நுட்ப பல் கலை, தன் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் வரும் 167 பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளின், 'ரேங்க்' பட்டியலை நேற்று வெளியிட்டது.

கடந்த ஜனவரியில் வெளியான தேர்வு முடிவு தேர்ச்சி சதவீதம் அடிப்படையில் ஒரு பட்டியலையும், பாட வாரியான தேர்வு முடிவு அடிப்படையில் ஒரு பட்டியலையும் வெளியிட்டுள்ளது.

மாநில அளவிலான, 'ரேங்க்' பட்

டியல் எதுவும் வெளியிடப்படவில்லை. இது குறித்து, அண்ணா பல்கலை வட்டாரங்கள் கூறும் போது, அந்தந்த அண்ணா தொழில்நுட்ப பல்கலைக்கழகங்களிடம் தான், மாணவர்கள் தேர்ச்சி விவரம் உள்ளிட்ட தகவல்கள் உள்ளன.

எனவே, அந்தந்த அண்ணா தொழில்நுட்ப பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள், தங்கள் கட்டுப்பாட்டிற்குள் வரும் கல்லூரிகளின், 'ரேங்க்' பட்டியலை வெளியிட வேண்டும்' என சென்னை அண்ணா தொழில்

நுட்ப பல்கலைக்கு உட்பட்ட பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளின், 'ரேங்க்'

www.annaath.ac.in என்ற இணைய தளத்தில் பார்க்கலாம்.

தமிழகத்தில் சுயநிதி தனியார் பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளின், 'ரேங்க்' பட்டியலை வெளியிடக்கோரி, சென்னை ஐகோர்ட்டில் வழக்கு தொடரப்பட்டிருந்தது. இவ் வழக்கில், தனியார் கல்லூரிகளின், 'ரேங்க்' பட்டியலை வெளியிட, சென்னை ஐகோர்ட் உத்தரவிட்டது.

ஒற்றை தந்த யானை

கூட்டாளியானது

இன்னொரு 'மக்னா'

- நமது நிருபர் -

'என்ன நடக்குமோ, எப்போது நடக்குமோ...' என்று, தொடர்கதையாகும் நிகழ்வுகளால், கூடலூர் மக்கள், தவியாய் தவிக்கின்றனர்.

நீலகிரி மாவட்டம், மேல்கூடலூர் பகுதியில், 'டேரா' போட்டுள்ள ஒற்றை தந்த யானையை, அதன் இருப்பிடத்துக்குள் விரட்ட, கடந்த 18ம் தேதி முதலமைலில் இருந்து, மூன்று, 'கும்கி' யானைகள் வரவழைக்கப்பட்டன.

கூடலூர் வன அலுவலர்கள் இரு நாட்களுக்கு முன், 'கும்கி'களின் உதவியுடன் அதை விரட்டியடித்தனர். அங்கிருந்து விரட்டப்பட்ட யானை, மீண்டும் வந்து விட்டது.

நேற்று முன்தினம், காமராஜ் நகர் ஆதிவாசி குடியி

'டாப் 10' பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகள்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 22- சென்னை அண்ணா பல்கலைக்குட்பட்ட பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளின், தரவரிசைப் பட்டியல் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. முதல் 10 கல்லூரிகள் விவரம்:

கல்லூரி	தேர்வெழுதிய மாணவர்கள்	தேறியவர்	தேர்ச்சி சதவீதம்	தரவரிசை
கல்லூரி	538	496	92.19	1
ஆர்.எம்.டி., பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	328	301	91.77	2
ஆர்.எம்.கே., பொறியியல் தொழில்நுட்ப கல்லூரி	267	244	91.39	3
சாய்ராம் தொழில்நுட்ப கல்லூரி	718	649	90.39	4
ஆர்.எம்.கே., பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	661	591	89.41	5
சிவசுப்பிரமணிய நாடார் பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	862	769	89.21	6
சாய்ராம் பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	290	256	88.28	7
வேலம்மாள் தொழில்நுட்ப கல்லூரி	290	238	82.07	8
மீனாட்சி சந்திரராஜன் பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	879	712	81.00	9
வேலம்மாள் பொறியியல் கல்லூரி	379	307	81.00	10
பிரின்ஸ் வெங்கடேஸ்வரா பத்மாவதி பொறியியல் கல்லூரி				



MAN FROM T NAGAR SELLS COINS AND STAMPS TO COLLECTORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY | 4

PRIVATE PLAYERS PROMISE STATE 21,000MW SURPLUS POWER | 5



Pecking order for colleges

Anna Univ's Ranking Of 167 Engg Colleges Around Chennai Is Likely To Annoy A Few & Throw Up Some Questions

M Ramya | TNN

Anna University of Technology, Chennai has issued a list ranking more than 160 private engineering colleges affiliated to it based on three parameters: pass percentage of first year students in 2010-11, total number of answer papers versus those in which pass marks were granted, and year of establishment versus pass percentage.

The grading, intended to guide students seeking admission to private engineering colleges in the state, has thrown up some surprises and also raised questions about the methodology.

SSN College of Engineering, which is considered the most sought after self-financing college, has been ranked fifth on two of the three parameters and does not find a place among the top five colleges on the third criterion. Meeenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College and St. Joseph's College of Engineering, which are also considered better-run than most others, do not find a place among the top five.

While most academics and experts agree that students like N Ramprasanth, whose petition in the Madras high court prompted the university to issue the ranking, need guidance to pick the right college they are not convinced that such a ranking should be based on academic excellence alone.

"I haven't been able to analyse the rank list fully so I cannot comment. But I feel a 360-degree development should be considered. There have been other more comprehensive surveys that have taken quality of teaching faculty and research orientation into consideration. These have listed us ahead of other colleges," said Kala Vijaykumar, president of SSN Institutions.

"Ranking colleges on academic scores will only extend the coaching class syndrome in schools to engineering colleges. Engineering education which needs to be more application-oriented will become exam-oriented and this does not augur well," said SASTRA University planning and development dean S Vaidyanathan.

Academics felt that rankings based on academic scores alone had several loopholes that could be used

GRADING SYSTEM

Though a step forward, experts are of the view that the ranking system should be improved upon taking into consideration many other parameters too

WHAT ANNA UNIV OF TECH (CHENNAI) HAS ANNOUNCED:

They have ranked 167 engg colleges in and around Chennai on the basis of 2010-11 pass percentage in first year BE

▶ **Advantage:** Informs students about recent academic track record and broadly indicates quality of faculty

▶ **Disadvantage:** Various criteria such as placement records, infrastructure, research output, etc are not taken into account while ranking colleges

OTHER EXISTING RATINGS SYSTEM:

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) under the University Grants Commission ranks arts and science colleges on a 'cumulative grade point average' based on governance, infrastructure, faculty, research output, student enrolment, teaching, evaluation, innovation and co/extra curricular activities. NAAC publishes the peer team inspection report on its website

▶ **Advantage:** Serves as ready reckoner for candidates looking for good colleges

▶ **Disadvantage:** Doesn't give a break-up of scores to show strengths and weaknesses in various aspects

National Board of Accreditation (NBA) under All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) gives accreditation to engg courses for three years or five years. NBA is considering putting up this information on its website

▶ **Advantage:** Tells students if the engg college has facilities and standards as stipulated by AICTE

▶ **Disadvantage:** Offers very little information beyond the period for which the course is accredited

WHAT MADRAS HIGH COURT ORDERED:

It asked four branches of Anna University of Technology (AUT) to assign a rank to each of the approximately 450-odd engg colleges in the state to help students determine which are the relatively better ones. They are to be ranked based on academic performance.

RANKING BY ANNA UNIVERSITY BASED ON RESULTS OF 2010-2011 EXAM:

- ▶ RMD Engineering College
- ▶ RMK College of Engineering & Technology
- ▶ Sri Sairam Institute of Technology
- ▶ RMK Engineering College
- ▶ Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering

RANKING BASED ON NO. OF ANSWER SCRIPTS EVALUATED (2010-2011 EXAM)

- ▶ RMD Engineering College
- ▶ RMK College of Engineering & Technology
- ▶ RMK Engineering College
- ▶ Sri Sairam Institute of Technology
- ▶ Velammal Institute of Technology

RANKING BASED ON YEAR ESTABLISHED

- ▶ RMD Engineering College
- ▶ RMK College of Engineering & Technology
- ▶ Sri Sairam Institute of Technology
- ▶ RMK Engineering College
- ▶ Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering

ENGG BRANCHES	SEATS ALLOTTED
Electronics & Communication	7,302
Mechanical	5,080
Computer science	4,474
Information tech	2,608
Electronics and instrumentation	833

10 years ago we didn't have satellite communication or mobile phones. Students don't realise that we have reached saturation in communications. Now the power sector is big. Students should look at futuristic options

Jayaprakash Gandhi | EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

Anna Univ ranks engg colleges on exam score

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Anna University of Technology (AUT), Chennai, on Thursday ranked self-financing engineering colleges affiliated to it based on the academic performance of first-year students in 2010-11. RMD Engineering College has been ranked number one.

Madras high court had directed Anna University of Technology to rank affiliated colleges by July 26. The order was given on a petition by N Ramprasanth, a first generation learner, who said such a list would help engineering aspirants to choose a good college through the single window counselling system.

AUT has branches in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli. Only AUT-Chennai has put out the list so far.

"We have given lists that rank colleges based on pass percentage taking into account number of students who appeared for the exam as well as pass percentage based on the number of answer scripts evaluated," said director of corporate relations at AUT-Chennai S Selvakumar.

▶ The pecking order, P 2

Illustration: Varsha Kalita

by colleges for personal gain since they have control over internal assessment scores which make up 20% of the total marks. There are instances of "poor quality" autonomous institutions giving their students higher grades in internal assessments to gain an advantage in placements and draw new students.

Others said a ranking based purely on academic excellence could be a case of misplaced credit. "Assuming that the ranking on academic scores is a good barometer for quality, does it mean an institution with minimum of qualified faculty but with a high pass percentage achieved through the individual hard work of students, is better than an institution with 100% qualified faculty but a lower pass percentage?" said professor Vaidyasubramaniam.

Experts said several other criteria should also be considered. "The quality of the faculty and the teaching-learning process are of utmost importance. Currently there is no assessment of teaching standards. Anyone completing BE is al-

lowed to become a teacher. Research and innovation could be another parameter," said educational consultant D Nedunchezhiyan. Many suggested that parameters used by NAAC for grading arts and science colleges and the National Board of Accreditation to okay engineering courses could also be taken into consideration.

Currently, an engineering college is only required to inform if a course offered by it is accredited by the NBA and for how many years. "If ranking is essential it only makes sense for the AICTE to do it rather than AUT. Colleges could pay an additional amount to have such an independent body rate them," said Jayaprakash Gandhi.



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Varsha Kalita

Varsity ranks RMD at no. 1, RMK is second

N. ARUN KUMAR

DC | CHENNAI

July 21: Anna University of Technology (AUT), Chennai, has released the ranking of 167 self-financing engineering colleges affiliated to the varsity.

As per the ranking RMD Engineering College, Kavaraipettai, with a 92.19 per cent pass percentage, has been ranked first among self-financing colleges under AUT-Chennai followed by RMK College of Engineering and Technology with a pass percentage of 91.77.

Based on a petition filed by a student N. Rampranth of Manachanallur, the Madras High Court on Tuesday directed the authorities to publish the academic rankings of all affiliated self-financing engineering colleges under Anna University of Technology (AUT), Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Madurai.

Accordingly AUT, Chennai released the rank list based on examination

results of first year students conducted by the university in January this year.

Sri Sairam Institute of Technology, Chennai, with a pass percentage of 91.39, has bagged the third place, RMK engineering college started in the year 1995 has secured the fourth slot with 90.39 per cent students clearing the university examination.

Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar college of engineering bagged the fifth slot with a pass percentage of 89.41.

Former Anna University vice-chancellor and Tamil Nadu state planning commission member E. Balagurusamy said ranking private engineering colleges based on examination results will only help students judge the best colleges in the state.

“A college will secure a top rank only if it has good teachers who can ensure that their students secure high marks. The rankings also reflect the infrastructure provided by the colleges,” he said.