

Pass percentage in many of the Anna University-affiliated colleges has dropped in the last semester examination, with 18 institutions recording less than 10 per cent.

# FAIL TO PASS MUSTER

R. Sujatha

## CAUSE FOR CONCERN

➔ **47%** students have failed in the examinations.

➔ Only **3,44,932** of **6,47,963** students have cleared the examination.

➔ Pass percentage less than **20** in **58** colleges

➔ Pass percentage is over 50 in **221** of **523** colleges

➔ It is over **60** per cent in **10** women's colleges

**N**early half of the engineering students of Anna University's affiliated colleges who appeared in the November-December 2014 semester exams have failed.

As many as 205 colleges registered a pass percentage of less than 40, against 118 colleges in April-May 2014 semester exam.

In 58 colleges, the pass percentage is less than 20 per cent and in 18 colleges, it is in single digit.

The performance of the colleges is available on the university website.

The results, however, are not a measure of ranking colleges, as the list includes new colleges and those that are moving over to autonomy, say Anna University officials. For instance, St. John's College of Engineering and Technology for Women is ranked last at 523. Only two students appeared and both failed. Invariably, most of these colleges with single digit pass percentage are in backward districts where engineering education was a late entrant.

However, there are quite a few surprises too. The PSG Institute of Technology, which bagged the first rank, was launched only last year. "It had the



**A FEW EXCEPTIONS** : Many colleges in Chennai are in top ten bracket — PHOTO : SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

## OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, CAUTION THAT PASS PERCENTAGE CANNOT BE USED TO RANK THE COLLEGES

advantage of admitting meritorious students and the number of students taking the test was only around 300," says a university official. Only five students in the institute have failed. "Even this failure is a surprise to us," says a faculty of the institute.

A lesser known institution

located in the hinterland, Ramco Institute of Technology in Rajapalayam, has improved its ranking from eighth place to fifth place.

### Top ten

Sri Sairam Engineering College, SSN Engineering College, Prince Shri Venkateshwara Padmavathy Engineering College and Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College, all located in Chennai and its outskirts, are in the top ten.

Meanwhile, more engineering colleges seek to get autonomous status. The first four ranked colleges in the April-May 2014 have gained the status.

## High scores in school won't help

Special Correspondent

**W**hile the State has registered a high pass percentage in SSLC and Plus Two, retired teachers and professors do not agree it is a measure of stellar performance by students. "High scoring students in school do not perform well in college as their foundation in Class IX and XI is weak," says retired professor P. Sivakumar, a member of Makkal Kalvi Movement.

According to the members of the movement, poor knowledge of concepts prevents students from attempting competitive exams like the IIT's Joint Entrance Exam.

**SCHOOLS HAVE BECOME FACTORIES THAT PRODUCE 100% RESULTS, BUT STUDENTS DO NOT LEARN CONCEPTS**

"Schools have become factories that produce 100 per cent results, but students do not learn the concepts. For instance, in the IAS exam a question asked is 'What rolls faster — a boiled egg or a raw egg. A student who knows the concept of viscosity, which is taught in Class XI, would answer correctly. When schools skip Class XI subjects to prepare students for Class XII, they miss out on some subjects completely," he says.

According to him, government schools do not make this mistake, but the desire to score high marks is seeping in to them too.

A solution would be to make students write a public exam in Class XI too, as was being done in some neighbouring States.

"Also, the objective type two-mark questions should be made analytical, that calls for thinking," says Dr. Sivakumar.

