

Army coaching helps 9 Kashmiri students crack IIT entrance exam

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New Delhi: Nine youngsters from the Indian Army's own Super-40 batch in Kashmir — run along the lines of Bihar's Super-30 — have cleared JEE Advanced, the country's most competitive engineering entrance exam, and are now eligible for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The Army, engaged in counter-terror operations in Kashmir and facing young stone-pelters, has been coaching its own Super-40 batch for the last three years to help local children clear the Joint Entrance Exam.



General Bipin Rawat congratulates some of the students on Tuesday

Earlier, 26 local boys and two girls from this year's batch of the Super-40 had cracked the JEE Mains. Five could not appear in the entrance examination for per-

sonal reasons. With 28 out of 35 clearing the JEE Mains, the Super-40 batch's success rate was 80%.

► **5 girls joined batch, P 14**

For the 1st time, 5 girls from Valley joined Super-40 batch this year

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This was also the first time that five girls from the Valley had joined the Army's Super-40 batch. Two of them cleared the JEE Mains and are now eligible for admission to engineering courses in Jamia Millia University and Jamia Hamdard University in Delhi.

The Army is holding coaching classes for the Super-40 batch in Srinagar with its training partner, the Centre for Social Responsibility and Learning (CSRL), and Petronet LNG. The project aims to support and help talented and underprivileged students of Kashmir achieve academic success. On Tuesday, Army chief General Bipin Rawat met the Super-40 batch and congratulated them.

Meenakshi Shai, chief manager of the Army's Super-40 batch project (CSRL), said, "This Super-40 batch has been in existence for the last three years. In the first year, not one student in the batch could crack JEE. Last year, 30 students from the batch took the JEE Mains. Out of them, 25 students

cleared the JEE Mains and seven cleared the JEE Advanced." She added, "This year, the number of students who cleared the JEE Advanced has increased to nine. We hope the number will keep increasing by the year."