

Newspaper Clips

April 14-16, 2016

April 16

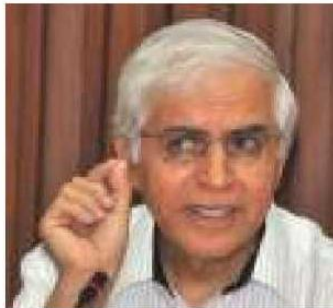
Hindu ND 16.04.2016 P-16

Institutes should take the rankings seriously, says NBA chairperson

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) recently released the first-ever government rankings of educational institutions, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). These rankings, released with the help the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), attracted criticism from various quarters, including academics, over the way the institutes were judged. NBA Chairman Surendra Prasad talks to **Kritika Sharma Sebastian** on the rankings and various concerns raised by the universities themselves

Some institutes with both technical and non-technical courses have complained about losing out in the rankings due to confusion over categories in the application. They say they were unclear about whether to apply for the rankings as “engineering”, “university”, “pharmacy” or “management” institutes.

All institutes were given the freedom to decide which category they wanted to apply under. Though the number of institutes that applied in more than one category is less, in such cases we focused on what discipline was more known for. If the institute was



Surendra Prasad.—FILE PHOTO

more known for its engineering courses, we took it under that category. If the institute did not specify any particular discipline, it was put under the university category.

The “perception” category, which holds 10 percent weightage, is a very subjective category. Do you not think this will give an added advantage to institutes located in Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai?

It is definitely a subjective category, but we felt it was very important to rank institutes in terms of perception — gathered from both peers and the public. One should definitely know what the industry, academia or alumni think about a certain institute. However, I agree the criteria should be designed in a way that they do not hamper other criteria and give a fair idea about the institute.

People have been questioning how the fairly new IITs like IIT-Ropar have scored a position in top 10, and that no other institution besides IIT has been ranked top 10 under the “engineering” category.

Not only the new IITs, but also the new IIMs have scored good ranks. This is because they scored well in the “teaching, learning and resources” parameter as the number of students in these new institutes is less and the number of faculty big. This naturally gives them an advantage.

Are there any plans to change, add or remove any ranking parameters?

The parameters came up after much deliberation with a team of experts. Now, if at all, any subtraction or removal has to be done, we can do it only after a discussion with the committee. I have some ideas in mind, but they will only materialise after due deliberation.

What lessons have you learnt from this first-time have massive exercise?

It was overwhelming to see such a large number of institutes participate in the exercise. However, we had to cross-check the data from several institutes multiple times.

Business Line ND 16.04.2016 P-06

IIT-Madras ties up with UK varsity to promote social entrepreneurship

UKISEEN to aid sharing of best practices, research for entrepreneurial ventures

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, April 15

IIT-Madras has partnered with the UK's University of Southampton to promote social entrepreneurship.

The two have launched a networking platform for knowledge sharing.

The platform, UK-India Conference on Social Entrepreneurship Education Network (UKISEEN), has been established by the Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE), IIT-Madras, and the Social Impact Lab of the University of Southampton.

This will help the institutions to share best practices, teaching curriculum and research material for entrepreneurship ventures.

The programme will encourage student and faculty exchange programmes as

well and is accessible to other colleges and universities.

Social entrepreneurship aims to provide business solutions for social, cultural and environmental problems that benefit the community rather than individuals.

Speaking to *BusinessLine* on the sidelines of the launch of UKISEEN, Pathik Pathak, Faculty Director of Social Enterprise, University of Southampton, said the UK, with its robust entrepreneurship ecosystem, and India's strong technical background will benefit both the countries in nurturing social entrepreneurship.

Though social entrepreneurship has been in vogue for a long time in India, it is only in the recent times it gained momentum.



"The interest has its roots in the shift in consumers' attitude. They value ethical supply chains and are willing to pay more for it."

PATHIK PATHAK
Faculty Director of Social Enterprise, University of Southampton

Said Pathak: "The interest has its roots in the shift in consumers' attitude. They value ethical supply chains and are willing to pay more for it. Also, the Indian government is now encouraging such ventures, which is

bringing more investors."

Richard Everitt, Director Education and Society, British Council, told *BusinessLine* that the council is helping with the policy infrastructure for such ventures to thrive in the country.

"We are in discussion with policy-makers at the national and state level for removing policy impediments using our experience," he said.

Nascent trend

The UK has close to 70,000 registered social entrepreneurship ventures, generates revenue close to £24 billion and employs close to one million small and medium entrepreneurs, he added.

Joseph Thomas, Project Consultant, CSIE, said having the UK as a partner for social entrepreneurship will benefit Indian universities, especially now when the idea of social entrepreneurship is still rather nascent.

Nai Duniya ND 16.04.2016 P-04

दुर्ग साइंस कॉलेज में खुलेगा आईआईटी मुंबई का सेंटर

भिलाई (ब्यूरो)। स्वरोजगार को बढ़ावा देने वाले कोर्स की पढ़ाई करने वाले विद्यार्थियों के लिए अच्छी खबर है। दुर्ग के साइंस कॉलेज (शासकीय विश्वनाथ यादव तामस्कर महाविद्यालय) में आईआईटी (इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी) मुंबई अपना सेंटर खोलने जा रही है। इसके तहत अगले माह मई में कॉलेज व आईआईटी मुंबई के बीच अनुबंध होगा। फिर जुलाई माह में सेंटर स्थापित होने के साथ ही कक्षाएं भी शुरू हो जाएंगी। सेंटर शुरू होने के बाद साइंस कॉलेज जिले का ऐसा पहला कॉलेज बन जाएगा, जहां किसी भी आईआईटी की शाखा संचालित होगी। आईआईटी मुंबई के इस सेंटर में स्वरोजगार को बढ़ावा देने वाले कोर्स संचालित होंगे।

Tech institute starts state's first NPTEL

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/Tech-institute-starts-states-first-NPTEL/articleshow/51847745.cms>

Aurangabad: City-based MGM's Institute of Biosciences and Technology (IBT) has become the first institution in Maharashtra to start a National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) online certification course among the other 21 colleges in India.

NPTEL is an initiative by the seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for creating course content in engineering, science and humanities discipline funded by ministry of human resource development (MHRD).

MGM IBT director Sanjay Harke said, "Considering the need to disseminate teaching and learning content of high quality through all available media, NPTEL would be the foremost step in this direction and will use technology for dissemination of knowledge and study material to students."

"Students can supplement their learning by going through the content. Working professionals can also benefit by refreshing their knowledge using this source," he added.

"NPTEL provides e-learning through online web and video courses in engineering, science and humanities streams. The online courses are free for all and anybody from 13 years and above can join the course, which is taught by professors, scientists and experts from IIT and IISc," explained Harke.

"There will be online assignments, projects and assessment for enrolled students. On completion of certification exam with nominal examination fees certificate is given by IIT Madras," said assistant professor at NPTEL local chapter MGM IBT, Kiran Pawar.

The course is beneficial to students and teachers to increase academic quality.

"The pioneering initiative and efforts by the institute in education will go a long way to boost the digital India initiative in Maharashtra , said Manvendra Kachole, director of MGM research.

NITI Aayog report favours entry of foreign universities in India

<http://www.catchnews.com/social-sector/niti-aayog-report-favours-entry-of-foreign-universities-in-india-1460780343.html>

Foreign universities may soon set up campuses in India if the PMO and HRD Ministry approve a report by the NITI Aayog that is in favour of the proposal.

The proposal was originally made by the previous UPA government and had been opposed by the BJP.

According to the report, foreign education providers could come in via three routes: a new law to regulate their operation in India; deemed universities under an amendment of the UGC Act; and, tweaking UGC and AICTE regulations to permit joint ventures, says *The Indian Express*.

The report says that foreign universities will help increase the base of higher education in India, increase competition and improve standards of higher education.

"India stands to gain from setting up of foreign universities in terms of availability of resources both human and financial, state-of-the-art teaching methodology, research and innovation...," says the report. "Capital expenditure in the cost of setting up an institution is high and land and buildings are also a major issue. Entry of foreign universities and leveraging FDI will offset some of these costs."

The issue of foreign universities in India is on the discussion agenda of the new education policy that will be revealed this year.

To counter objections that foreign universities in India might be too expensive for most of the population, the report said "financial assistance in the form of loans and scholarships should be made available to deserving students irrespective of their ability to pay based on merit-cum-means".

IIT-M curbing our activities: Periyar group

CHENNAI, DHNS: After getting into controversy last year for criticising the Central government policies, the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC) on Friday raised an issue against the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) management for curbing the activity of its team even to conduct meetings on the campus.

The APSC statement came in the wake of IIT-M administration, which allegedly denied permission for some students to attend a seminar on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Saying that discrimination against the APSC continues at the campus, the student's group said "this is not the single incident. We are suffocating like anything for conducting any such events from the date of commencing of APSC. The restrictions increased even a lot after the re recognition of the APSC".

Condemning the move by the IIT-M management for not allowing some students, the APSC said that shortly before the seminar could begin, the security personnel who were at the entrance of the auditorium, refused to allow people who didn't have an IIT identity card as per order of dean of student.

"Due to this many aspirants of Ambedkar who came in to hear Prof Ram Punyani's speech were not able to attend the meeting and they were sent back with disappointment", it said adding "It is very hard to digest that even during the anniversary of Ambedkar, such discrimination continues and is sitting in the minds of the highly educated people of the institution".

The APSC also added that right from the day the students of the organisation decided to have a seminar on Ambedkar's birth day, the management started creating hurdles. "We

crossed them one after the other", it added.

Citing a recent seminar on "Innovations driving the fourth industrial revolution" by CEO of Switzerland-based Robtic company, conducted on the campus, the APSC said people from various corporate houses came and none of them were denied entry.

"From compelling us not to conduct any cultural programme and restricting us from issuing pamphlets regarding, the institution did everything in its capacity to stop us", the organisation said and added that while issuing the pamphlets also, APSC circle members were even threatened by a mob of students.

The APSC was derecognised by the IIT-M on the charges of criticising the Central government policies and the prime minister Narendra Modi, besides hurting Hindu sentiments last year.

April 15

IIT fee hike not applicable to existing students

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-fee-hike-to-be-applicable-from-academic-year-2016-17/>

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has clarified on April 13 that the IITs fee hike announced recently will be applicable from 2016-17 onwards.

The Ministry said that "the revised fee would be applicable for students taking admission starting from the academic year 2016-17 onwards. The students currently studying would continue to pay at the existing rates."

The government had recently decided to increase the annual fees for undergraduate courses from existing Rs 90,000 to Rs 2 lakh, a rise of 122 per cent, from the upcoming academic session.

Earlier, there had been protests by students of IIT-Kharagpur, after which the HRD ministry issued the clarification saying that students who are already enrolled in undergraduate courses have been spared from the 122 per cent fee hike.

In a letter written to directors of all IITs also, HRD ministry clarified that the revised fee would be applicable from the academic year 2016-17 onwards.

The order came a day after IIT-Kharagpur students protested by shouting slogans at the campus against the fee hike.

IIT-Kgp director Partha Pratim Chakraborty wrote an open letter to students saying that the protests have left him “very unhappy”.

“Unfortunately for me, in this instance, many undergraduate students did not have the basic courtesy to first engage with us before creating a disturbance and made some very unusual remarks on those receiving the waivers,” he said, hoping that better sense would prevail in the future.

“In the social media, other than expressing their problems, many students made disparaging comments on those receiving waivers which were completely unwarranted,” Chakraborty said.

Times Of India ND 15/04/2016 P-10

Well begun, but not even half done

More To Pollution Than Car Emissions: Govt Yet To Rein In Polluting Trucks, Waste Burning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Will controlling vehicular pollution improve air quality in Delhi? The state government thinks so and is contemplating making roads available to cars only on alternate days every fortnight. But there is more to pollution than car emissions as IIT Kanpur's report last year had detailed, and the government also needs to tackle the various sources of pollution mentioned in it.

IIT Kanpur's "Comprehensive study on air pollution and greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Delhi" had said, for instance, that if concrete batching was accompanied by steps such as spraying water and using wind breakers, PM 2.5 emissions from the activity could be reduced from 3,594 kg daily to 1,797 kg. Similarly, ensuring that municipal solid waste was not burnt could lessen PM 2.5 emissions from more than 1,700 kg per day to nil.

Large scale introduction of electric or hybrid vehicles, retrofitting of cars with diesel particulate filters, implementation of BS VI emission norms by January 2019, 10 PPM sulphur diesel by 2018, and a strict inspection and maintenance programme could together halve the current 11,623 kg of PM 2.5 emission. All these assess-

HITS AND MISSES

THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ODD-EVEN SCHEME IS ROUND THE CORNER. HOW HAS THE DELHI GOVERNMENT FARED IN TERMS OF COMBATTING AIR POLLUTION SO FAR? TOI LOOKS AT WHAT WAS PROMISED AND WHERE THE CITY ACTUALLY STANDS



Avoid dust rising from unpaved footpaths and central verges
Plantations to start before monsoon

Close Rajghat and Badarpur plants
Rajghat shut, Badarpur passed DPCC pollution test
Appeal to NGT to close Dadri plant

Vacuum-cleaning of PWD roads, starting April 1
Tenders for machines floated

Allow entry of trucks into Delhi from 11pm onwards

Explore the possibility of checking pollution level of each truck entering Delhi

Develop an app for complaints against waste burning and polluting vehicles

All MCD parking lots made on PWD roads to be removed
Nothing done yet

Seek land at nominal rates from DDA for bus parking
Some progress made

Environment department to move application before NGT to enable it to impose stringent fine on polluting vehicles

Application filed; thereafter, NGT exempted itself from hearing any cases related to air pollution in Delhi. Asked petitioners to approach the SC

DPCC to issue challans to major constructions causing pollution
Being done

Environment department to explore the possibility of purchasing or hiring big



machines that not only collect air samples but also give test results

Global tenders floated to procure handheld monitoring devices

All trucks to move to BS-IV

Bus lanes created as per SC order to be marked and subsequently cleared of all encroachments

Bus lanes marked

All potholes on PWD roads to be repaired by Dec 2015

Not yet



ments are based on modeling exercises.

"It may be noted that air polluting sources are plenty

and efforts are required for every source. In addition, there is a need to explore various options for controlling

air pollutants for increased emission in future," the report advised.

The state government has

begun taking some steps regarding the various sources identified by the IIT report, but the intensity is not enou-

raging, say experts. While those caught burning trash are being fined Rs 5,000, construction sites are also being monitored to ensure they follow anti-pollution guidelines. In fact, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has collected Rs 1.5 crore as fines from uncompliant construction companies.

However, as Anumita Roychowdhury, head of the clean air campaign at Centre for Science and Environment, pointed out, "There is no way to assess the scale of the problem and how much of it has been controlled so far. We have to find a way to keep track." She also said that there had to be a time-defined roadmap for managing fly ash at the Badarpur power plant, which the government had announced would close down but is functioning after meeting air quality standards set by DPCC.

In its submission to the Supreme Court last December, the Delhi government had promised that the city would also remove all municipal corporation parking lots from PWD roads, but that has not begun yet. Other interventions such as upgrading fuel norms to BS V and BS VI are the prerogative of the Centre, but they will play a major role in achieving improved air quality, according to IIT Kanpur's assessment.

On to a real learning curve

Making academic faculty accountable for teaching quality is one element of education

The ministry of human resource development **ourtake** (MHRD) is reportedly keen on instituting an evaluation system for college and university faculty linking their promotion to the quality of teaching. Apart from current academic performance indicators (API) such as published work in books and journals, participation in seminars and conferences, and professional development activities, the ministry wants to make faculty members accountable to the 'ultimate stakeholders', the students, who will get to assess teachers' performance. The idea is to include teaching performance as an element of API and the ministry is assessing the weight it ought to be accorded.

Few would dispute the need to address the problem of quality in higher education. A large swathe of the sector is the source of despair for students and policymakers. The challenge is to unravel the effects of mismanagement over the decades. There are too many in faculty positions who are incapable of publishing peer-reviewed work and who owe their positions to networks or rank venality. Protected by tenure and social networks, teachers are known to neglect teaching or make little effort to keep in step with innovation. From that vantage, getting students to evaluate teachers is on the face of it a reasonable intervention — one that has proved to be fairly effective in Western universities and elsewhere. Students, particularly in badly-run remote government colleges, hardly have a say in academic affairs. Handing them a tool to exert pressure on faculty sounds sensible in theory. But this is also fraught with risk. In these intensely political times in campuses, teachers conveying contrarian ideas can be subject to intimidation. In the case of bad teachers, this tool can be an incentive to pander to students.

The fact is innovations work best amid systems that have a degree of pre-existing functionality. An institution which is modestly committed to improvements responds to incentives. By contrast an individual in badly-governed institutions where working conditions are poor will find newer layers of evaluations coercive. Academic faculty need to be accountable for the quality of their service delivery but much thought needs to be given to the institutional environment and the quality of leadership in our public universities.

April 14**Hindustan Times ND 14/04/2016 P-4**

Fewer vehicles on roads during first run, jury still out over impact on air quality

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The jury might still be out about the impact of the first phase of odd-even in bringing down pollution but the Delhi government's road rationing definitely managed to reduce traffic on some of Delhi's busiest stretches.

The odd-even policy was implemented by the Delhi government for the first time between January 1 and January 15 this year to clean the air of the city, which has been tagged as the most polluted by the WHO.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) claimed that pollution in the city came down by 50 per cent during the first phase.

The DPCC's results were collected by mobile vans in 200 locations that collected 20 minute data of the air quality. However, the readings taken by the agency during the odd-even scheme were at random spots and were compared with the city's average in December.

Hindustan Times had compared the data provided by DPCC



■ The road rationing scheme had managed to reduce traffic on some of Delhi's busiest stretches in the first phase. RAVI CHOUDHARY / HT

on December and January and found that there was a very marginal drop in pollution levels during the first week of the odd-even restrictions.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) said there was a marginal drop in pollution levels during the odd-even scheme.

According to TERI experts, the main drop in pollution was because of high wind speed and low humidity in the second week. It said the number of cars on the

road reduced by 21% during the first fortnight of 2016.

A webportal IndiaSpend, however, claimed that air-pollution levels in the city went up by 15% during the 15-day period when the odd-even plan was in place.

Another impact assessment done using satellite-based aerosol optical depth (AOD) technique to analyse air pollution levels found that the air quality in the city improved during the odd-even scheme. Naresh Kumar, a

THE DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE CLAIMED THAT POLLUTION CAME DOWN BY 50 PER CENT DURING THE FIRST PHASE.

researcher at Miami University, did the analysis. The pollution levels in outer limits of the city and neighbouring towns, however, went up.

The more visible impact of the road rationing scheme was thinning of traffic and smoother traffic flow.

According to a study conducted by Central Road Research Institute (CRR), there was a significant dip in traffic volume. The overall traffic volume saw a dip of 19.4% on odd days and 16.6% on even days on the Delhi-Mathura Road during the course of the study.

Another study by IIT Delhi stated that vehicle speeds had increased 11am onwards. Car-flow rates per hour on different roads decreased by 7-9%.

जेईई मेन के नतीजे 27 अप्रैल को होंगे जारी

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) द्वारा इंजीनियरिंग में दाखिले के लिए आयोजित ज्वाइंट एंट्रेस एग्जाम (जेईई) मेन-2016 के नतीजे 27 अप्रैल को जारी होंगे। इसमें सफल दो लाख आवेदकों को भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआईटी) में दाखिले के लिए जेईई एडवांस की परीक्षा में हिस्सा लेने के लिए पंजीकरण का अवसर दिया जाएगा।

तीन अप्रैल को ऑफलाइन और नौ-दस अप्रैल को ऑनलाइन परीक्षा का आयोजन करने के बाद परिणाम तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया जारी है। इस परीक्षा में 12 लाख उम्मीदवारों ने पंजीकरण कराया। जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा के लिए 29 अप्रैल से पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी और 4 मई तक चलेगी।

जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा 22 मई को दो पालियों सुबह नौ बजे से बारह बजे और दोपहर दो बजे से शाम पांच बजे तक होगी। इसमें आवेदन के लिए सामान्य वर्ग के उम्मीदवारों को दो हजार रुपये का भुगतान, जबकि एससी-एसटी व दिव्यांग छात्रों को 1000 रुपये का भुगतान करना होगा। लड़कियों को भी एक हजार रुपये का भुगतान करना होगा।