Newspaper Clips
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IISc ranked India's best university; IIM-B tops B-School list

http://www.livemint.com/Politics/v22sgUZQjk7F1LqExZuwsJ/IISc-ranked-Indias-best-university-IIMB-tops-BSchool-lis.html

The Institute of Chemical Technology ranked number two; Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Hyderabad ranked third and fourth respectively

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bangalore was judged the best Indian university in a national ranking released on Monday.

With an overall score of 91.81, IISc topped the first National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), a survey of India's educational institutions commissioned by the Union human resource development ministry.

IISc was previously the top-ranking Indian institution named in the Times Higher Education list of 2015. The Mumbai-based Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), was ranked number two by NIRF, with a score of 87.58.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and the University of Hyderabad, nerve centres of recent controversies around nationalism, were ranked third and fourth respectively, while the Tezpur University in Assam was ranked 5th.

The University of Delhi or DU was ranked 6th by the NIRF, while the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was ranked 7th. The Thiurvananthapuram-based Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (8th), the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS)-Pilani (9th) and Aligarh Muslim University (10th), rounded off the list of top 10 universities in the country.

The top 10 universities in India:
1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Score: 91.81)
2. Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai (87.58)
3. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (86.45)
4. University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad (85.45)
5. Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam (84.31)
6. University of Delhi, Delhi (83.19)
7. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (81.22)
8. Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram (78.82)

9. Birla Institute of Technology and Science –Pilani (76.85)
10. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (76.62)

IIM-B top management institute in India
The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) continued to dominate business education in the country, according to the NIRF rankings. IIM-Bangalore is the country's top management institute, with an overall score of 93.04, followed by IIM Ahmedabad, with an overall score of 89.1.

Five other IIMs figured in the top NIRF 10—Calcutta (3rd), Lucknow (4th), Udaipur (5th), Kozhikode (6th) and Indore (10th). Among the non-IIM business schools, the Delhi-based International Management Institute ranked 7th, while the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal (8th) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur (9th), make up the rest of the top 10.

The top 10 management institutes in India
1. Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore - (Score: 93.04)
2. Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad - (89.1)
3. Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta - (87.45)
4. Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow - (86.12)
5. Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur - (84.22)
6. Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode - (81.97)
7. International Management Institute, New Delhi - (81.77)
8. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal - (81.01)
9. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur - (79.43)
10. Indian Institute of Management, Indore - (78.62)

Clean sweep for IITs
The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) left no room for other schools in the list of the top 10 engineering institutes in India, according to the survey of educational institutions commissioned by the government. In fact, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirapalli broke the IIT sweep only at rank 12.

Predictably, India's first five IITs, established during 1950s and early 1960s took the first five positions, led by IIT Madras and IIT Bombay with a score of 89.41 and 87.66, respectively. IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur follow in the third, fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

The newer IITs at Roorkee, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, Ropar-Rupnagar and Patna took the sixth to tenth positions. IIT Guwahati, at eleventh position, missed a place in the top 10 by a whisker, scoring 74.63, as IIT Patna scored a slightly better 74.68 to take 10th place. The remaining five IITs are interspersed between ranks 14 and 26.

NITs found mention 12 times among the top 50 engineering institutes, according to the report. The Vellore Institute of Technology (rank 13) and PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, were the only two private institutes to share rank with the IITs and NITs.

The report calls eight IITs that were set up in 2008-09 the rising stars in the engineering education space.

The top 10 engineering institutes in India
1. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (Score: 89.41)
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (87.66)
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (83.91)
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (82.02)
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (81.07)
6. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (78.68)
7. Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (77.22)
8. Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (75.20)
9. Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar-Rupnagar (74.88)
10. Indian Institute of Technology, Patna (74.68)

The NIRF, launched in September last year, "outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country." The parameters for the ranking include teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practices, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity and perception. Besides universities, the ranking covers six categories of institutions including engineering, management, pharmacy, architecture and colleges.

A first-of-its-kind ranking by the HRD ministry features some of India's top engineering and management institutes and universities on the list

BEST IN INDIA

By **Education Mail Bureau**

INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is the best engineering institute in the country, followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur, according to a first-of-its-kind 'India Rankings 2016' of top Indian institutions conducted by the Human Resources Development (HRD) ministry.

In the management category, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore beats IIM Ahmedabad, the perennial favourite, as the number one management institute in the country.

The rankings are based on a methodology outlined by the National Institutional Ranking Framework approved by the HRD ministry and are divided into four categories — Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, and University and Colleges.

Though embroiled in controversies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and University of Hyderabad are among the top 10 universities in the country — at the third and fourth position respectively. The best university in the country is Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

The findings were released by HRD minister Smriti Irani on Monday. Under the Pharmacy category, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, has been ranked the best institute in the country.

All data provided by the participating institutions were validated by the National Bureau of Accreditation, an autonomous body set up by the All India Council of Technical Education, for the periodic evaluation of technical institutions and programmes.

Though Architecture was also added as one of the categories when the rankings framework was announced in November last year, the list was not announced because none of the top institutions participated in the rankings.

This is the first time a ranking exercise for institutions has been undertaken at a government level.

Smriti Irani who released the findings on Monday said the rankings will be released every year from now on around the first week of April. The HRD minister also added that the category will be broadened next year to include colleges as well.

All data provided by the institutions were validated by the National Bureau of Accreditation

A view of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, ranked as the best university in the country.
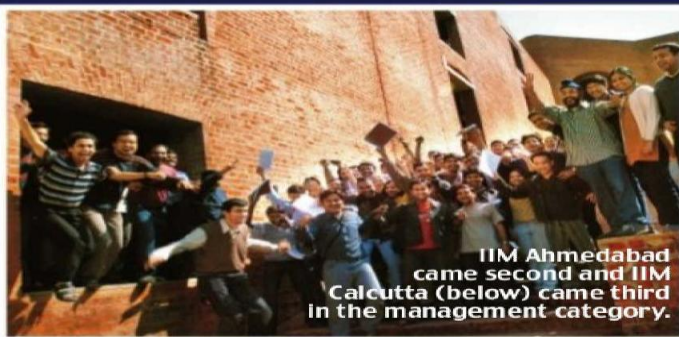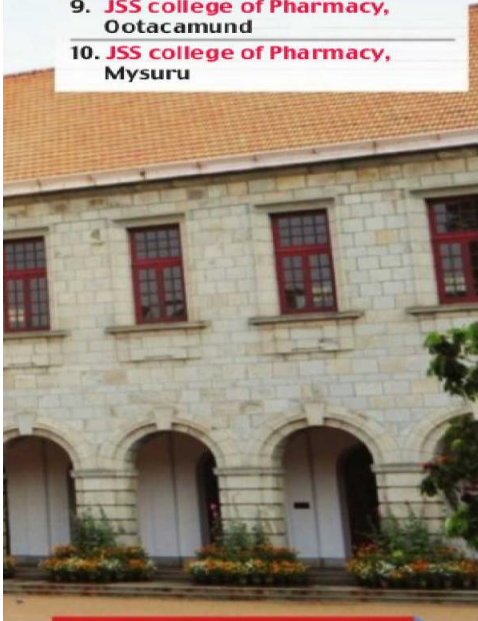
TOP 10 ENGINEERING INSTITUTES

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
4. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
6. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
7. Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
8. Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar
9. Indian Institute of Technology Ropar-Rupnagar
10. Indian Institute of Technology Patna

JNU (in pic), along with Hyderabad University, is among the top 10 univs.

Mail Today ND 05/04/2016   P-23

TOP 10 PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTES

1. **Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences,** Manipal
2. **University institute of pharmaceutical sciences,** Chandigarh
3. **Jamia Hamdard,** New Delhi
4. **Poona College of Pharmacy, Erandwane,** Pune
5. **Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University,** Ahmedabad
6. **Bombay College of Pharmacy,** Mumbai
7. **Birla Institute of technology,** Ranchi
8. **Amrita School of Pharmacy,** Kochi
9. **JSS college of Pharmacy,** Ootacamund
10. **JSS college of Pharmacy,** Mysuru

IIM Ahmedabad came second and IIM Calcutta (below) came third in the management category.

TOP 10 MANAGEMENT INSTITUTES

1. **Indian Institute of Management,** Bangaluru
2. **Indian Institute of Management,** Ahmedabad
3. **Indian Institute of Management,** Calcutta
4. **Indian Institute of Management,** Lucknow
5. **Indian Institute of Management,** Udaipur
6. **Indian Institute of Management,** Kozhikode
7. **International Management Institute,** New Delhi
8. **Indian Institute of Forest Management,** Bhopal
9. **Indian Institute of Technology,** Kanpur
10. **Indian Institute of Management,** Indore

TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES

1. **Indian Institute of Science** Bangalore
2. **Institute of Chemical Technology** Mumbai
3. **Jawaharlal Nehru University** New Delhi
4. **University of Hyderabad,** Hyderabad
5. **Tezpur University** Tezpur, Assam
6. **University of Delhi,** Delhi
7. **Banaras Hindu University** Varanasi
8. **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology,** Thiruvanathapuram
9. **Birla Institute of Technology and Science,** Pilani
10. **AMU,** Aligarh

IIT Delhi came fourth in the engineering category.

Women researchers may get maternity leave and extra time

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

FEMALE STUDENTS WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN MATERNITY LEAVE FOR 240 DAYS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THEIR TOTAL TIME OF STUDY

Women researchers might get maternity leave benefits and more time to complete their doctorate as the government is keen to boost their participation in research and academia. Human resource development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani has proposed to the University Grants Commission (UGC) that women researchers be given three years, as opposed to the two at present, to complete MPhil and eight years, instead of six, to complete PhD. The same could be applicable to differently abled researchers, too. Irani said on Monday that female students would also be given maternity leave for 240 days that would be excluded from their total time of study. Speaking at an event to release the ranking of Indian institutes, Irani said many women were getting enrolled in higher education programmes but very few were seen in college and university faculty. The HRD ministry has asked the UGC to consider relaxing norms so as to enable women to compete in MPhil and PhD "in a proactive fashion". In addition, women and differently abled researchers would be allowed easier migration from one institute to another if they fulfilled the required criteria. "We are going to ensure that we give them allowance for migration from one university to another, given that the facilities within the area they are working on are available in the university they are migrating to," Irani said, expressing concern that very few women were taking up research, especially in science.

IISC IS DEVELOPING URBAN FLOOD FORECAST TO HELP CIVIC BODIES

http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/IISc-is-developing-urban-flood-forecast-to-help-civic-bodies/articleshow/51688765.cms

3D terrain maps are being created to see how water flows during flooding in urban areas

The city might be reeling under sweltering heat right now, but once the typical April showers kick in, so will the floods, especially in the city's low-lying areas. Now, scientists from the city-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are developing high-resolution 3D terrain maps by using geographic information systems (GIS) to visualise precisely how water flows during flooding in an urban area.

Initially, the model is being developed primarily for Bengaluru and will be a part of an end-to-end management tool for urban floods, which will provide precise estimates of the level of water expected in respective localities along with the nearest place where people can take shelter in during flooding.

The model will provide information right from the forecast to an action plan required in such an event. "The forecast should go into the urban flood model and the research model should be flexible enough to be used by someone who is not an expert in that area," said PP Mujumdar, chairperson of the interdisciplinary centre for water research at IISc.

The scientists say besides better forecasting, mitigation of floods needs an integrated approach involving better land-use management and city planning. While drainage systems could be improved, this, according to the researchers, may not always be possible in areas where large-scale development has taken place. The use of technology can help prepare for such events, and Mujumdar and his collaborators from India and abroad are working on such a project, called the 'integrated urban flood management in India'.

Which is why government organisations like the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) are also involved in this collaborative project, which is funded by the Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA), a national programme initiated by the department of electronics and information technology (DeitY) under the aegis of the Union ministry of communications and information technology.

Using satellite imagery and a network of sensors, the project aims to help city authorities manage urban drainage systems better by integrating them with real-time forecasts. And the terrain maps are part of this initiative.

According to the researchers, flooding is not just about heavy rainfall. Human activities also play a role in determining the extent of flooding and its impact, especially in urban areas. In the latest issue of Connect - published by IISc's archives and publications cell - the researchers say rapid and unplanned urbanisation, encroachment of natural waterbodies, higher density of land use, improper waste management and inadequate drainage system implies that rainwater cannot immediately be drained out, leading to flooding.

They further said the 2015 Chennai floods would not have been so severe if there had been an efficient drainage system in place and the reservoirs had been operated properly.

The team is also building manpower as they feel that it is equally important to educate as many as possible on the use of the model being developed by them.

In Connect, the researchers say that once it becomes clear that a flood is likely to occur, warnings need to be communicated widely and translated in a manner easily understood by both, the local officials who can take necessary action, and people living in flood-prone areas.

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IIT DELHI STUDY ON ODD-EVEN PHASE I

Average speeds fell in morning peak hours, early start seen as key factor

PRITHA CHATTERJEE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

AVERAGE SPEEDS across four categories of roads — arterial, commercial, inter-city and ring roads — decreased "by a small amount" during peak traffic hours of 8-11 am during the first phase of Delhi's odd-even scheme in comparison to four days before it began, according to initial findings of an IIT Delhi study.

The study found that average speeds decreased by 5 per cent in arterial road segments, 4 per cent in ring road segments, 3 per cent in commercial roads and by 1 per cent in inter-city roads during the first phase of the scheme between January 1 and 15.

"We believe a lot of people started their journey earlier in the day, around 7-7.30 am, to beat the start of the odd-even rule at 8 am, and the traffic spilled over to the 8-11 am period. A lot of the congestion shifted to the evening and later evening. During the afternoon, we saw the maximum hikes in speed of vehicles," said Dr Dinesh Mohan, emeritus professor with the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP) at IIT Delhi.

The average speeds, however, increased during the peak traffic hours in the evening between 5 and 8 pm by 9, 6, 9 and 3 per cent, respectively, in the same road categories. Between 11 am and 5 pm, speeds increased by 6, 7, 6 and 5 per cent, respectively, across the road categories.

Dr Geetam Tiwari, TRIPP chair professor at IIT Delhi said, "Mornings and evenings are work trips, so possibly people could not afford to put off those trips. During the afternoons, trips are usually discretionary and it could be that people chose to put them off. The bulk of the traffic in afternoons is from school buses and since schools were closed during the scheme it could be that it helped matters." Schools were closed even during the period before the odd-even scheme included in the study.

According to IIT Delhi scientists, the increase in speeds — a maximum of 9 per cent and an average of around 5 per cent — is "marginal". Dr Mohan said, "The maximum hikes in speed and reduction in congestion was seen in south Delhi, possibly because people with a higher socio-economic status were able to afford other means. Anyway, only a very small increase in speed was observed."

The study gathered data on traffic speed from Google Maps Distance Matrix API along 14 stretches of arterial roads, including Aurobindo Marg and August Kranti Marg, six inter-city roads linking Delhi to Ghaziabad and Gurgaon, eight stretches of commercial roads along office or market complexes in Connaught Place and Ashoka Road, and eight areas in outer ring road and the ring road in Nehru Place, near AIIMS and IIT gate, among others.

Scientists also studied proportion of odd and even numbered cars on the roads, occupancy of cars, and the volume of cars, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and buses. Data on all parameters were compared with the data gathered over four days before the scheme, and six days after the scheme.

Scientists carried out surveys, video recording vehicles on roads at Jia Sarai on outer ring road, South Extension on ring road, Sai Mandir at Khel Gaon Marg, and Income Tax Office on Vikas Marg.

Manual observation to study the compliance of the odd-even rule, where 200 cars were studied at every location, revealed about 24 per cent even numbered cars were on roads during odd days and 23 per cent odd numbered cars were in operation during even days.

"This shows that on any given day about 30 per cent vehicles without the appropriate number plates were on the road. This could be due to exemptions... and partially due to non-compliance. But the assumption that odd-even would immediately take 50 per cent of the cars off the road has not been fulfilled," said Dr Mohan.

Rise in volume of other vehicles

"While the car flow came down in all the locations, this reduction was accompanied by a near simultaneous spike in two-wheelers, three-wheelers and buses. The sharpest increase was seen in two-wheelers," said Dr Tiwari. The three-wheeler flow was found to have increased by 25, 12 and 12 per cent, respectively at Sai Mandir, ITO and Jia Sarai, and decreased by 2 per cent at South Extension. The bus flow per hour increased by 16, 11 and 5 per cent at Sai Mandir, ITO and South Extension, respectively. At Jia Sarai, bus flow decreased by 5 per cent.

According to IIT scientists, this does not necessarily mean good news. "The increase in two-wheelers, besides adding to emissions, also results in an additional risk of accidents. Three-wheelers and buses, despite running on CNG do contribute to emissions and therefore it is tough to say without more concrete data whether the odd-even scheme results in any significant impact on emissions," explained Dr Mohan.

Scientists said there was no "significant" increase in Metro ridership that could be attributed to the scheme.

The average speeds, however, increased during the peak traffic hours in the evening. *Ravi Kanojia*

OCCUPANCY

100 vehicles were studied at each of the four locations

INCREASE	
ITO	12%
Jia Sarai	11%
Sai Mandir	6%
DECREASE	
South Extension	1%

VEHICLE VOLUME

Car flow per hour

DECREASE	
Sai Mandir	9%
ITO	12%
South Extension	9%
Jia Sarai	17%

Two-wheeler flow

INCREASE	
Sai Mandir	23%
ITO	28%
South Extension	1%
DECREASE	
Jia Sarai	1%

"While the car flow came down in all the locations, this reduction was accompanied by a near simultaneous spike in two-wheelers, three-wheelers and buses."

Dr GEETAM TIWARI,
TRIPP CHAIR PROFESSOR
AT IIT DELHI

Infosys Foundation to provide grant to IIIT-Delhi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys Foundation on Monday announced that it will provide a corpus grant worth Rs 24 crore over the next three years to the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi to establish the Infosys Centre for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its Okhla campus.

The centre will start a specialised MTech course. The research there will draw on real-time data to develop a deeper understanding of AI for societal benefits, and its application in education and related areas. IIIT-Delhi will publish research papers, develop tools, and conduct faculty and research development programs in AI and robotics.

The centre will initially be headed by Srikanth Saripalli, an expert in robotics and UAVs. The centre will facilitate work on both fundamental and applied aspects of AI and focus on many technical areas.

Navodaya Times ND 05/04/2016   P-6

आईआईटी-एम्स ने मिलकर बनाया विशेष बनियान

नई दिल्ली, 4 अप्रैल (अंकुर शुक्ला): एम्स के शोधकर्ताओं और आईआईटी दिल्ली के इंजिनियरिंग विभाग के इंजिनियरों के संयुक्त प्रयास से ऑटिस्टिक बच्चों के लिए विशेष बनियान इजाद करने की दिशा में जुटे हैं। दावा किया गया है कि यह बनियान ऑटिस्टिक बच्चों के लिए बेहद उपयोगी साबित होगा। जिन्हें पहनने के बाद हाईपरएक्टिव दौरे (फिट) की समस्या का सामना कर रहे बच्चे खुद को शांत महसूस करेंगे। चिकित्सकों के मुताबिक विदेशों में ऐसे उत्पाद मौजूद हैं, जो बच्चों

- ऑटिस्टिक बच्चों के साबित होगा उपयोगी
- विदेशों में ही उपलब्ध थे ऐसे उत्पाद

में मौजूद हाईपरसेंसेटिविटी को नियंत्रित करने में प्रभावी है। विदेशी उत्पाद स्पर्श (टच) और हवा के दबाव (एयर प्रेशर) की तकनीक पर आधारित है। जिसे पहनने के बाद बच्चों को गले लगने जैसा अहसास होता है। जबकि स्वदेशी वर्जन में एयर प्रेशर की जगह वजन को महत्व

किफायती और उपयोगी होगा बनियान

बनियान को लेकर दावा किया गया है कि इसे पहनने वाले ऑटिस्टिक बच्चे अपने कार्यों पर भी ध्यान नियंत्रित कर सकेंगे। साथ ही यह बनियान उनके आवेग को भी शांत करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा। बनियान फैब्रिक्स से बना हुआ है और इसकी कीमत लगभग एक हजार रुपए होगी। जबकि विदेशों में बनाई जाने वाली ऐसे एक बनियान की कीमत लगभग 6000 से 19000 रुपए तक है। खास बात यह है कि यह बनियान (वेस्ट) स्वदेशी होगा, वहीं इसकी कीमत बाहर से आने वाले पोशाकों के मुकाबले कम होगी।

ऐसे होते हैं ऑटिस्टिक बच्चे

इस समस्या से सामने करने वाले बच्चे अपने आसपास के माहौल को लेकर अतिसंवेदनशील होते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में बच्चों की नसों पर अतिरिक्त दबाव पड़ता है। इस हालत को अटेंशन डिफिक्ट डिसऑर्डर कहते हैं।

66 में से एक है समस्या से पीड़ित

जानकारी के मुताबिक देश में किए गए पहले सर्वे में तकरीबन 10 लाख बच्चे इस समस्या की चपेट में पाए गए। सर्वे इंटरनेशल क्लिनिक एपिडेमियोलॉजी नेटवर्क ट्रस्ट (आईएनसीएलइनएन) द्वारा किया गया था। जिसके नतीजे से यह खुलासा हुआ कि 66 बच्चों में से एक इस समस्या का सामना कर रहा है।

दिया गया है।

परीक्षण सफल रहा तो व्यावसायिक उत्पादन संभव

एम्स के चाइल्ड न्यूरोलॉजी की प्रोफेसर व प्रमुख डा. सेफाली गुलाटी के मुताबिक शोधकर्ता मौजूदा पोशाक का परीक्षण अब छह से नौ वर्ष के उन 30 ऑटिस्टिक बच्चों पर करने में जुटे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर परिणाम सकारात्मक पाया गया, तो इस हल्की पोषाक की तकनीक को

व्यावसायिक उत्पादन के लिहाज से साझा किया जाएगा।

वर्ष 2002 से 2005 के बीच एम्स में ऐसे दो या तीन मामले की आते थे, लेकिन वर्ष 2014-15 में इसके इलाज के लिए आने वाले मरीजों की संख्या बढ़कर प्रतिमाह 8-10 हो चुकी है। वहीं 2015-16 तक यह आंकड़ा बढ़कर 22 हो चुका है।

-डा. सेफाली गुलाटी, एम्स चाइल्ड न्यूरोलॉजी, प्रोफेसर व प्रमुख

Times Of India ND 05/04/2016   P-8

No minority tag for AMU: Govt to SC

Centre To Withdraw UPA Appeal Against HC Verdict Upholding It As Central Univ

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The NDA government has dropped the appeal filed by the UPA administration against the Allahabad high court order which declared the Muslim quota in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) illegal, holding that it is not a minority institution, unambiguously spelling out its stand on the contentious issue.

The HC had given the decision in 2006 based on a 1967 ruling of the SC in the S Azeez Basha case, which held that AMU was not a minority institution as it was established by an Act of Parliament. This was challenged by both the Centre and AMU.

Attorney general Mukul Rohatgi appeared in quick succession before two benches — one headed by Chief Justice T S Thakur and another by Justice J S Khehar — and said the government had decided to adhere to the SC's 1967 ruling and withdraw the appeal.

This invited a quick reaction from senior advocate and Congress member Kapil Sibal, who said the previous re-

AMU VC Zameeruddin Shah met PM Modi last month to seek the Centre's support in getting minority status for the university

gime felt AMU was a minority institution and hence challenged the HC verdict. "Probably, there is a change of perception with the change of government," he said.

The decision is expected to set off a sharp exchange between the government and the opposition as Congress has supported the claim that AMU is a minority institution, and the recent Budget session of Parliament saw disruptions on the issue in Rajya Sabha.

Appearing before the bench of CJI Thakur and Justice U U Lalit, advocate Prashant Bhushan argued that AMU vice-chancellor Zameeruddin Shah was illegally apppinted in complete breach of UGC regulations which applied to AMU as it was a central university.

Bhushan said UGC regulations provided that a vice-chancellor had to be an eminent academician or a teacher with 10 years of experience as professor. Being an ex-Army officer, Shah did not fit into either category, and hence his appointment was illegal, Bhushan said. The bench made the Centre a party to the plea and asked for its response in four weeks. During the hearing, Rohatgi said the Centre would withdraw its appeal against the Allahabad HC verdict as it felt AMU was not a minority institution.

Rohatgi said, "The previous stand was wrong. The law laid down in Azeez Basha case by a five-judge bench of the SC on October 20, 1967 still holds good. It had ruled that AMU is not a minority institution. As per the Centre, this judgment still holds the field. Now, it is for

the university whether it adopts a contrary view." The bench of justices Khehar, Madan B Lokur and C Nagappan asked the Centre to file the application seeking withdrawal of the 2006 appeal within eight weeks and posted the matter for further hearing in July.

The AMU Act was enacted in 1920 dissolving and incorporating Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College. Parliament passed the AMU (Amendment) Act in 1951 and did away with compulsory instruction in Muslim theology. The amendment opened membership of the Court of AMU to non-Muslims. In another amendment in 1981, Parliament allowed AMU to "promote, especially the educational and cultural advancement of Muslims in India". In 2004, AMU reserved 50% seats in PG medical course for Muslims. This was challenged in the Allahabad HC, which, in 2005 and 2006, held that the SC decision in the Azeez Basha case continued to hold good. The Centre and AMU filed appeals against the HC verdict in 2006 citing the 1981 amendment.