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IITs Hire Indians from Foreign Shores as Faculty to Build Brand

GLOBAL MAP Institute to scout campuses across the globe for new members

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New Delhi: Steadily climbing up charts on academic rankings, the new IITs are now looking at ways to build their academic brand in a big way and one of the target areas identified by them is bringing in world class faculty to their institutes.

So even the younger set of IITs are now heading to foreign shores to hire faculty. Case in point- IIT Ropar, one of those that has made it to the top 10 on the National Indian Rankings. IIT Ropar is set to go to three countries and six locations next month scouting campuses from London to LA to hire its new faculty.

IIT Gandhinagar has taken quite a lead on 'internationalising' its faculty with the bulk of its assistant professor level faculty across departments coming from universities abroad. The majority of its faculty 'joining soon' is also drawn from foreign varsities. IIT Hyderabad,

Gandhinagar, Ropar and Patna have stood at the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th positions, respectively, on the India Rankings 2016 released by the Human Resource Development

'INTERNATIONALISING'



The global footprint is also a regular parameter across international rankings

(HRD) ministry. Outreach and Inclusivity is one of the parameters on which every institute was ranked. The global footprint of an institute is also a regular parameter across international academic rankings.

IIT Ropar teams will go to Canada, USA and UK between May-June 2016 to hire new faculty for the institute



Talent Pool

IIT, Ropar, to go to three countries and six locations next month scouting campuses from London to LA

IIT Gandhinaga has assistant professor-level faculty from foreign universities



It is not as if we are not recruiting within India. We apply the same standards for those who may be coming from an Indian institute or from a foreign one. It is, however, a pleasure to work with younger faculty"
- An IIT Professor

and will target Indian students doing a post doctoral in reputed engineering schools, interview probable candidates and even issue an appointment letter then and there if a candidate meets the IIT quality standards.

To ensure that the best of candidates are selected, the team has on

board besides the IIT's Director and Dean, three external experts from IISc, IIT, Delhi, and IIT, Roorkee.

So, it is Universities of Waterloo, Ontario, Vancouver and McMaster in Canada, in USA it is Universities of Stanford, Berkeley UCLA, Illinois, Chicago, Purdue, MIT, Harvard and Georgia Tech.

ABB partners with IIT-Madras to build microgrids for rural electrification

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ABB-partners-with-IIT-Madras-to-build-microgrids-for-rural-electrification/articleshow/51701427.cms>

CHENNAI: Power and automation company ABB has partnered with IIT-Madras (IIT-M) to build microgrids as well as for joint research and development in the field of rural electrification, utilization of natural non-fossil resources, battery energy storage and their connection to loads and main grid.

A microgrid is an energy system consisting of distributed energy sources that can operate independently or in conjunction with the area's main electrical grid. With thousands of Indian villages still un-electrified, the decentralized microgrids are a viable solution to power these villages. It has the potential to eliminate dependence on expensive diesel fuel and the grid.

"This is a great opportunity to combine our expertise with bright young minds from this renowned institute to devise and deploy solutions tailored for India," said ABB CEO Ulrich Spiesshofer. "Microgrids technology is an important part of our next level strategy and well poised to make the Indian government's vision of power to all a reality by providing access to energy and ensuing economic empowerment to the people."

"IIT is committed to implementing an affordable solution for supplying electric power to Indian homes, whether they are off-grid, or homes with several hours of power cuts. At the same time, our solution helps reducing the home's monthly power bills even when there are no power-cuts, a must for most middle and lower-income homes. Simultaneously, IIT-M is committed to a vision of India moving completely to electric vehicles by 2030. Towards this it is ready to commit the best-in class technology. The R&D cooperation with ABB will help them get to these goals faster," said professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras.

The agreement also includes internship opportunities to post-graduate students of IIT-M for the next three years.

By the end of last year, ABB plans to set up India's first microgrid in the heart of Delhi to power its flagship event, Automation and Power World.

3 Indian American researchers named Fellows of Materials Research Society

<http://www.americanbazaaronline.com/2016/04/04/3-indian-american-researchers-named-fellows-of-materials-research-society409202/>

Three Indian American researchers, Pulickel Ajayan, Arumugam Manthiram and Amit Misra, are among 14 individuals named as fellows of the USbased Materials Research Society, an interdisciplinary organization of materials researchers worldwide.

Ajayan works at Rice University, Manthiram at the University of Texas and Misra of the University of Michigan. The Fellows are outstanding members whose sustained and distinguished contributions to the advancement of materials research are internationally recognized, and they exemplify the highest ideals of accomplishment and service embodied in the society mission, according to a press release. The Materials Research Society (MRS) is an organization of materials researchers worldwide that promotes communication for the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research and technology to improve the quality of life. Ajayan, a professor at Rice University, was named a Fellow for sustained and creative work in the development and applications of nanostructured and nanoengineered materials, in particular, carbon nanotubes, grapheme and other twodimensional materials, according to an MRS statement. A graduate of IIT Varanasi and Northwestern University, he is the founding chair of Rice University's materials science and nanoengineering department and also holds joint appointments with the department of chemistry and department of chemical and biomolecular engineering.

Manthiram was named a fellow for pioneering contributions to the fundamental understanding and development of materials for energy conversion and storage, novel chemical syntheses, student education and training and leadership. Manthiram has earned a bachelor's and master's in chemistry in Madurai University and a doctorate in chemistry from IITMadras. He is currently the director of the Texas Materials Institute and Materials Science and Engineering Program at UT Austin. He has previously spent time at the University of Oxford, Madurai Kamaraj University and the Indian Institute of Science.

Misra was honored for seminal and sustained contributions to nanomechanics and deformation mechanisms of nanocomposites and leadership to MRS and the materials community. Misra is a graduate of IIT Varanasi, earning a bachelor's degree, and the University of Michigan, where he earned a master's and doctorate degree. Prior to his tenure with the University of Michigan, where he serves as the professor and chair of materials science and engineering, he was a lab Fellow at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The trio will be honored at the society's spring meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

For second crack at IIT JEE, student knocks on High Court door

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/For-second-crack-at-IIT-JEE-student-knocks-on-High-Court-door/articleshow/51706956.cms>

Chandigarh: If you clear the tough IIT JEE test, get admission to an IIT and then choose to give up your seat in the prestigious institute, you can't take the entrance test again. This norm has come under the scanner of the Punjab and Haryana high court after a resident of Chandigarh, who wants a second crack at the test, has challenged it.

Justice R K Jain on Monday issued notice to the ministry of Union human resources development ministry and IIT JEE Advanced organizing committee on a plea by Archit Gupta. He was allotted a seat in IIT Tirupati in 2015 but left it as the institute had a makeshift campus and he felt that it did not have sufficient facilities. According to the IIT JEE brochure, he was barred from appearing for the test in 2016.

Contending that such a bar was discriminatory and had no nexus with the object sought to be achieved, Amar Vivek, counsel for the petitioner pointed out that even in the higher exams like the one conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, candidates have a right to improve their performance from the previous year. Those who clear the IIT JEE Advanced, however, are not given a second chance if they give up a seat, which was unreasonable, the petitioner has said.

"Such a bar also resulted in hundreds of vacancies in the prestigious IITs in the year 2015, which shows that the brochure conditions were aimed at scuttling merit, instead of enhancing it," the petition states. Moreover, if a candidate had chosen the 'float' option, he should get seats available in other IITs as and when they fall vacant. The counsel added that if a student from India's northern parts is admitted to an IIT down south, he should be given a chance to take a vacant seat in an IIT in the north.

It was also argued that information received under RTI showed hundreds of such seats left vacant in the previous year, which was disturbing as the IIT seats are in great demand. The case would now come up for hearing on April 8.

State institutes not in MHRD top 100 list

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/State-institutes-not-in-MHRD-top-100-list/articleshow/51695055.cms>

Bhubaneswar: No state government-run institute figured in the list of top 100 in any category in the India Rankings 2016, a national-level grading of educational institutions published by the

ministry of human resource development (MHRD) on Monday.

The MHRD National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has published the ranks of institutions across four categories - engineering, management, pharmacy and universities.

NIT Rourkela is the only institute located in the state to figure among top 25 institutions in any category. The central government institute was ranked 19th among engineering institutions.

Higher education minister Pradeep Panigrahy said the list should serve as a wake-up call. "The government will review why none of its institutes figured in the list," he said.

Sources said most state government universities and colleges were caught unawares and failed to even apply to NIRF for rankings by the stipulated date.

Utkal University vice-chancellor Ashok Das said the university missed the deadline to apply and had requested the MHRD to allow it to upload its data. However, the same was not allowed.

In the university category, privately-run SOA University (ranked 26th) is the only university from the state in the list of top 50 universities.

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University comes at the 53rd position. The multidisciplinary SOA University, with a student base of around 10,000, had come into existence on July 17, 2007 when the HRD ministry conferred on it the status of a deemed-to-be university.

A spokesperson for SOA University said the university is focused on research and quality academics and churning out professionals ready for the challenges and needs of different industries. It had identified 18 thrust areas for promoting research and set up 10 research and field centers besides 29 research laboratories. The university runs 58 postgraduate programmes.

NIT Rourkela director Sunil Sarangi said being the only institute from the state among top 25 is a proud moment. However, being a national-level institute, it will strive hard to improve its tally nationally. Apart from NIT Rourkela, other institutes in the engineering category from the state which find a place among top 100 institutions are IIT Bhubaneswar (19), KIIT (32), National Institute of Science and Technology-Berhampur (69), CV Raman College of Engineering-Bhubaneswar (74) and Centurion Institute of Technology-Jatni (81).

Forget Ranking, New Universities Are Short of Everything

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra_pradesh/Forget-Ranking-New-Universities-Are-Short-of-Everything/2016/04/06/article3365819.ece

VISAKHAPATNAM: It's no wonder that the university rankings released by the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development has not even a mention of some state universities set up in Andhra Pradesh in the last decade. Except Yogi Vemana University in Kadapa, the other five fledgling state universities -- Rayalaseema University in Kurnool, Krishna University (KU) in Krishna district, Vikrama Simhapuri University in Nellore, B R Ambedkar University (BRAU) in Srikakulam and Adikavi Nannaya University in Rajamahendravaram -- are still struggling to achieve the University Grants Commission's (UGC's) 12-B certification eight years since they were set up.

As there is no regular faculty as per its guidelines, UGC does not even recognise four of them: BRAU, Nannaya University, KU and Vikrama Simhapuri University. These universities were founded between 2006 and 2008 with the purpose of taking higher education closer to students in the rural parts of the then undivided state of Andhra Pradesh. In the first flush of enthusiasm, the then government of Y S Rajasekhara Reddy government announced funding and staffing as per UGC guidelines. Nearly a decade down the road, they are plagued with a perennial shortage of funds and come low on the state government's priority list.

During the past eight years, in all of these universities except Yogi Vemana University, the state government has not taken up recruitment to fill up posts of assistant professor, associate professor and professor, and also did not release the capital investment funds to set up basic infrastructure.

Even non-teaching staff have not been adequately recruited. For instance, there are 61 sanctioned faculty posts in BRAU and Nannaya University. BRAU makes do with 12 and Nannaya 26.

"Everyone is pointing out that no state university from AP has figured in the top 100 universities of India. But we are yet to get even 12-B certification," said the vice-chancellor of one of these universities, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "Without UGC certification, no research work can be taken up. BRAU is running the show with contract lecturers. The UGC does not allow contract lecturers to guide research scholars. But what can we do? When there is no faculty, infrastructure, non-teaching staff, how can we carry out academic activities on par with other universities?"

Another vice-chancellor said several options are under consideration: centralised recruitment with a common recruitment test or delegation of powers to university admins to recruit faculty. The fact is that the state at large is as strapped for funds as the varsities themselves. "As

the state is under financial duress, the Education Dept will clear recruitment in accordance with the availability of funds,” said an official.

Teething Troubles

- Six universities established in 2008
- Still no faculty, infra
- 2,000 faculty posts vacant
- No UGC 12-B recognition for five universities
- Funds budgeted, but not released

Dean of SASTRA points out errors in varsity rankings

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/dean-of-sastra-points-out-errors-in-varsity-rankings/article8439415.ece>

The Dean of Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA), Tamil Nadu, has written a letter to the Chairman of the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) pointing out some errors in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by the HRD Ministry on Monday.

“Before the deadline for NIRF data submission, the university had written to the Secretary, MHRD, on January 8, 2016, pointing out certain deficiencies. The NIRF office had advised SASTRA... to apply under more than one category - University as well as Engineering ,” Dr. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean Planning and Development, SASTRA University wrote in the letter.

“After submitting the data and just before the launch of the report, we received an e-mail from Dr. A.K. Nassa (Member Secretary – NBA), dated April 2, 2016 stating that institutions that submitted data in more than one category if ranked would create confusion and hence SASTRA will be considered only under the category of Engineering,” it further read.

“...we are at a loss to understand the unilateral and arbitrary way in which this decision has been taken,” it added.

A Good Initiative in Higher Education

India Ranking 2016, the first, state-sponsored, comparative assessment of universities and higher education institutes for engineering, management and pharmacy, marks the beginning of an important exercise. It will help institutions identify their shortcomings, and should help channel resources for improvements. The intent of the ministry of human resource development and ranking committee is to create a competitive environment in the higher education sector to improve the quality and output of institutions.

The core purpose of higher education institutions and universities is to extend the frontiers of knowledge. This can be cutting-edge research in science, technology, engineering and



medicine, or research in social science, design of institutions or instruments that tackle social and economic questions and impact on public policy. A university must also be judged by the quality of the human resource it produces, and the impact it has on systems and policy. While the broad categories acknowledge the key

function of higher education — 60-70% of weightage is given to teaching and learning resources, and research and professional practices — the parameters that comprise these categories require refinement to ensure that the ranking system becomes a tool that spurs higher education institutions to actualise their core purpose. This will mean reorienting the country's higher education institutions: from degree-doling units to knowledge creators, and this will require policy support.

The Indian Ranking should spur higher education institutions to higher levels of excellence. Universities that create new knowledge are integral to the real promise of Made in India and Stand Up India. Industry should use the rankings to fund research in university departments.

IISC INKS AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/IISc-inks-agreement-with-Texas-Instruments/articleshow/51705062.cms>

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has signed an agreement with Texas Instruments (TI) to develop talent in analog and mixed-signal design in the country. The agreement, announced on Tuesday, provides students with an opportunity to be a part of the technology giant on successfully completing an internship.

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, TI is the world's leading figure in the design and manufacture of analog and mixed-signal chips. IISc has been a key contributor to the field of analog and mixed-signal design by offering courses as part of their postgraduate curriculum under the electrical communication engineering and electronic systems engineering departments.

Under the agreement, IISc and TI will fuel talent development in this field that is critical in defining nearly every electronic device. "Design and manufacturing of semiconductor chips and ICs is a \$350 billion industry. 35-40% of that market share is dominated by analog and mixed-signal chips. India is lagging in this field. This agreement will create an excellent ecosystem to foster and further the research in this field," said Gaurab Banerjee, assistant professor at the ECE department.

DPCO dose too strong, hits medicine access: IIM study


Jyotsna Bhatnagar
Ahmedabad, April 5

THE Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 that expanded the span of regulation to 60% of the \$22-billion Indian pharmaceutical market appears to have come a cropper. A recent study confirmed what many analysts feared: That regulation of the kind prevalent now could dent access to medicines, an outcome opposite to what the government wants.

According to the joint study by the Indian Institutes of Management in Ahmedabad and Udaipur, in the year that immediately followed the complete roll-

out of the DPCO 2013, the sales volumes of the price-regulated oral solid formulations grew slower than they would have in the absence of the new policy. Of all the 105 such formulations subjected to the "event study", statistically significant cumulative abnormal change (CAC) in sales volumes were noticed in case of 89; of these, 37 witnessed an increase in the number of pills sold due to the DPCO and the balance 52 a decrease, confirming the regulation's overall negative impact on sales volumes of oral solids. On average, the number of pills sold of these drugs dipped from the constructed non-DPCO scenario by 3.39 crore units.

Of **105** oral solids under DPCO 2013, only **37** saw DPCO-induced increase in volume of sales, while price regulation had negative effect on sales of **52**



Average change in sales volume of these molecules:

-3.39 crore units



(between July 2013 & June 2014)

An event study estimates the impact of an event (the DPCO 2013, in this case) on stock returns. The CACs are results of the IIM study —

the difference between the actual changes in sales volume and what is predicted for the event-free scenario.

The latest story comes on

top of another independent study (by Jane Wan in 2013) that predicted that the DPCO 2013 would erode the value of the Indian drug market by 2.2% or \$290 million annually. An IMS Health study had concluded that while the CAGR for products on the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) — whose ceiling prices are fixed under the DPCO — declined 7% post DPCO, that of non-NLEM medicines grew 7% in rural areas. The IMS Health report also concluded that the DPCO was ineffective in reaching rural areas.

Arvind Sahay of IIM-A, who did the latest study with Saravana Jaikumar of IIM Udaipur, told *FE* that the DPCO appeared to cause a de-

crease in marketing efforts by drug companies for the molecules under price control, leading to a fall in sales volumes, especially in the more vulnerable areas. "Take, for example, the case of the humble anti-pyretic paracetamol, which is among the molecules most adversely impacted by DPCO. Sales of this molecule have decreased by a staggering 1 billion pills in just one year," Sahay said.

The study by IIM faculties also reveals certain other things: The more expensive a molecule, the higher the increase in sales volume due to DPCO; molecules prescribed for chronic illness benefit from DPCO.

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DPCO dose too strong, hits medicine access: IIM study

As price regulation is "too blunt a tool and leads to undesirable outcomes", Sahay said, "a more effective way may be cutting the margins in the distribution chain which, on an average, areas high as a 30-40% or even higher". Already, online players like Netmeds and Pharmeasy are working towards this, he said, making these drugs cheaper by 20-25% by obviating the distribution chain.

In May 2013, a new DPCO was brought in replacing the 1995 version that had imposed cost-based controls on 74 bulk drugs and their formulations, increasing the span of controls more than threefold. Under the existing DPCO, price ceilings (to the retailer whose margin is fixed at 16%) for 348 NLEM drugs (680 when defined in terms of strength) are set using what is called a 'market-based' mechanism. For most drugs, the price ceiling is the simple average of the prices of all brands in the market with market share of at least 1%. While price increases of NLEM drugs are restricted to be in line with or below the wholesale price index, the non-NLEM products are allowed a maximum price increase of 10% in any one-year period. "Increase in sales volumes of non-NLEM could be attributed to increased marketing efforts by drug companies. And there were instances of reduced marketing efforts for the regulated drugs to cut costs," Sahay said.

The IIM study did not cover injectables and oral solutions.