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First-ever ranking of educational institutions in April: Smriti Irani

<http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2016/2/12/First-ever-ranking-of-educational-institutions-in-April--Smriti-Irani.aspx>

RESEARCH is the root of all quest. Hence, it has been included as one of the basic parameters in the National Institution Ranking Framework(NIRF).

Around 3,500 educational institutions across the country have submitted their data, and after analysis the first ever ranking of educational institutions in India will be declared in April, said Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Human Resource Development. Irani was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of international conference on the theme 'Research for Resurgence' organised by Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal (BSM) at Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) on Thursday evening.

Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister; and Aniruddha Deshpande, eminent educationist, were the guests of honour Pravin Datke, Mayor; Dr Mohanlal Chhipa, President of BSM; Vishram Jamdar, Chairman of the Board of Governors, VNIT; Ajay Sancheti, Rajya Sabha Member and Chairman of Reception Committee for the conference; Aravind Joshi, Organising Secretary of the conference; Dr S P Kane, Vice Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU); Dr Uma Vaidya, Vice-Chancellor of Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University (KKSU); Dr Mohan Khedkar, Vice-Chancellor, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (SGBAU); Narendra Choudhary, Director of VNIT; Dr N V Kalyankar, Vice-Chancellor of Gondwana University; and other dignitaries also shared the dais on the occasion.

Irani informed the gathering of delegates from across the country that NIRF was a mechanism put in place for the first time in the history of independent India. "Around 3,500 educational institutions have submitted their data, which is being analysed. We also encouraged the parents and students to let us know ranking of institutions as per their assessment. Now, the first ranking will be announced in April. I am happy to state that the ranking is based mainly on research output, industry-academia linkage, placement ratio, teaching and learning resources, and out reach and inclusivity," she said.

Similarly, the Government of India had initiated several measures to bridge the gap in research and innovation between the schools and the universities. In next two months, Irani announced, the Government of India will make available 1,000 learning material resources for under-graduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students for free on online platform and through mobile applications. These platforms will also have model, new syllabus for educational institutions, along with the regulatory guidelines. Further, to ensure that the learning material is available in Indian languages, 'BharatVani' platform is being developed.

On this platform, material for higher learning will be made available for free in 22 Indian languages in next two weeks, and in 100 Indian languages in next three years, she said, evoking loud applause from the audience.

Appreciating BSM for organising an international conference on an important theme, the Union HRD Minister stressed upon the need to build bridge between science and the innovators not recognised as scientists. Indian research, she added, is not confined to formal academic set-up. There are many innovators.

There is a need to bring such innovators into a framework, support them, and give them due recognition, she stressed. She expected the Central educational institutions to contribute more actively in research, and adopt at least five villages each in the irvicinity to bring about positive changes in the life of villagers there.

She appealed to VNIT-Nagpur to join Maharashtra Government in efforts to tide over drought by way of research in water conservation. Irani came down heavily on those skeptical of Indian contribution to Science and Mathematics. “Why do we demean Indian research?” she asked. She also asked as to who should be blamed for lack of knowledge about India’s rich contribution to Science, Technology, Mathematics.

Instead of ridiculing ancient knowledge and criticising attempts to bring it to the fore in this era, she said, all sections in the country should celebrate Indian excellence and rich contribution, and build up further on that strength. At the outset, Ajay Sancheti made introductory remarks. Aravind Joshi introduced the guests, and Gayatri Kanetkar presented a song on the theme of the conference. Banwarilal Purohit, former Member of Parliament; Nago Ganar, MLC; Govindlal Agrawal, Anoop Kumar, Divisional Commissioner; Brijesh Dixit, Managing Director of Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited; Rajiv Modi, Chairman and Managing Director of Cadilla Pharmaceuticals; Dr S R Wate, former Director of NEERI; Dr Tapas Nandy, and other dignitaries were present prominently in the programme.

Dr Ujwala Chakradeo, Convener of the conference, conducted the proceedings of the programme while Vishram Jamdar propose davote of thanks. The programme concluded with ‘Vande Mataram’. BSM has organised the conference, which will conclude on February 13 ,in collaboration with RTMNU, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI),VNIT, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV), KKSU, SGBAU, and Gondwana University

आईआईटी दिल्ली करेगी प्लांट चलाने में सहयोग



<http://inextlive.jagran.com/iit-delhi-help-solid-waste-plant-run-107459>

रजऊ परसपुर स्थित नगर निगम के बंद पड़े सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट प्लांट को दोबारा शुरू करने में आईआईटी दिल्ली भी सहयोग करेगी। फ्राइडे को आईटीआईटी दिल्ली से आए दो अधिकारियों ने निगम में मेयर डॉ। आईएस तोमर व नगर आयुक्त शीलधर सिंह यादव संग बैठक की। बैठक के बाद दोनों अधिकारी निगम के अधिकारियों संग प्लांट का दौरा करने पहुंचे। दौरा करने के बाद आईआईटी के अधिकारियों ने निगम से प्लांट की डीपीआर व डिजायन के दस्तावेज मांगे। जिससे इन दस्तावेज की स्टडीज कर प्लांट के अंदर लिचेड प्लांट बनाए जाने और इसकी फिजिबिलिटी सहित फायदों के बारे में जानकारी हों सके.

सरायतल्फी में पहला एसटीपी

शहर में एसटीपी बनाए जाने की नगर निगम की कवायद को जल्द अमलीजामा पहनाया जाएगा। शहर के सरायतल्फी में पहला सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाए जाने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोजेक्ट को अपनाकर जलनिगम ने कम जमीन में एसटीपी बनाए जाने की डीपीआर तैयार कर ली है। जलनिगम को नए मॉडल पर एसटीपी बनाने के लिए 16000 वर्ग मीटर जमीन चाहिए थी, जबकि निगम के पास 17500 वर्ग मीटर जमीन मुहैया है। सरायतल्फी में 70 एमएलडी से बड़ा एसटीपी बनाया जाना

शहर में जगमगाएगी एलईडी

शहर के अंधेरे को एलईडी लाइट्स की रौशनी से जगमगाने की नगर निगम की मुहिम पहला कदम तय करने जा रही। नगर निगम ने गांधी उद्यान से चौकी चौराहा तक को सबसे पहले एलईडी लाइट्स से जगमगाने की तैयारी की है। एलईडी लाइट्स की एजेंसी से निगम ने 10,400 रुपए पर यूनिट के हिसाब से 36 एलईडी लाइट्स खरीद हैं। जो सड़क के 18 पोल्स पर दोनों ओर लगाई जाएंगी। एलईडी की शुरुआत एजेंसी ने निगम के मेन गेट पर पहली लाइट लगाकर शुरू की।

Guess what? IIT-Madras is allowing professors to take sabbaticals to focus on their startups

<http://www.businessinsider.in/Guess-what-IIT-Madras-is-allowing-professors-to-take-sabbaticals-to-focus-on-their-startups/articleshow/50973593.cms>

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At IIT-Madras, sabbatical from academics no more just means taking a one-year time off to go to another university or a research organisation.

When Professor Balaji Srinivasan, faculty at IIT-Madras as well as co-founder and director of Chennai-based startup Unilumen Photonics, attended a tradeshow in 2014, he found new markets opening up.

The new found demand for the technology he was developing was so high that Srinivasan felt the need to accelerate work and push things forward.

Initially he tried to take some hours off every day from teaching and focus on his startup, only to find it was not making much progress.

"My day would be really torn between different things such as coming to class, teaching students, attending meetings, doing research and meeting my students, and in between I would have to find time to go to the company to take care of some emergencies there," he recollects.

Finally to sort out things he went for a sabbatical at the end of which he was successfully able to make a couple of products work.

IIT Madras, the premier engineering institute which has a thriving startup ecosystem has enabled its faculty members, through policy level changes, to take up sabbatical also to focus on their individual startups.

"Typically, an academical sabbatical means a faculty would either go to another university or a research organisation or even an industry in some cases and they will spend time there up to a year or so," noted Prof Krishnan Balasubramanian, Dean of IC&SR department, IIT-M.

"What we are offering is also an opportunity to do more. If you are involved in a startup from the beginning and want to

focus more on it, then sabbatical is a way to do it."

According to him the need to avail a sabbatical could be sector-specific as well as company-specific.

"If you are in a startup sector which needs very high rate of growth or if you are in a company that needs your time very significantly then your participation has to be wholesome and you may want to take time-off and spend time there," he said.

Facebook pulls out Free Basics from India

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Facebook-pulls-out-Free-Basics-from-India/articleshow/50954349.cms>

Withdrawal of the project, one of the key initiatives of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, comes after the com... Read More

NEW DELHI: Social media giant Facebook finally pulled the plug on its controversial zero-rated platform 'Free Basics' in India, days after telecom regulator Trai rejected differential pricing on data and a few hours after Reliance Communications (RCom) - its mobile partner in the country - decided to make the service paid.

"Free Basics is no longer available to people in India," a statement issued by the company's spokesperson said. Ironically, the statement comes exactly a year after Free Basics service was started in the country in its previous avatar 'internet.org' by RCom and Facebook.

Withdrawal of the project, one of the key initiatives of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, comes after the company had unleashed a high-pitched campaign in support of the service, though unsuccessfully.

The social media company was accused of being against the concept of net neutrality by activists across many countries and Trai called differential tariffs discriminatory. "The final straw was the stand taken by RCom to make the service pay. There was no other option left, especially as the company had to follow the law of the land," a source told TOI.

TOI was the first to report about the regulator's stand on differential tariffs, in its edition dated January 30, and also about RCom's decision to put a charge on Free Basics in Thursday's edition. The source said that top honchos at Facebook, mainly at the company's headquarters in the US, did not find any merit in carrying the service as a paid platform, as its stated objective is to connect the non-connected without any charges.

An estimated 10 lakh people are believed to have opted for the Free Basics platform on the RCom network. Facebook had also thrown open the Free Basics platform as a paid version across various telecom networks in the country, which has also been stopped now.

The Free Basics platform had been initiated by Facebook as a philanthropic activity as it wanted to provide free basic internet connectivity to the unconnected across Asian, African and Latin American regions. The company has partnered more than a dozen mobile operators across 19 countries to provide the free platform. The platform provides connection to a select websites for free, and these include content on things like news, employment, health, education and local information.

While Trai had asked RCom to keep the service in "abeyance" around December last year till the time it took a decision on differential pricing, the platform had also faced criticism from a committee of the telecom ministry.

PM Modi to inaugurate Make in India week today

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

MUMBAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Make in India week in Mumbai on Saturday, a programme claimed to be the biggest multi-sectoral event in Asia, and one of the biggest in the world.



Make in India is set

to provide a boost to manufacturing

Government officials, previewing the event a day before the inauguration, said five partner countries — Sweden, Germany, Poland, Australia and Korea — will participate. More than 1,000 global and over 8,000 Indian firms are scheduled to display their manufacturing abilities, which will provide a boost to the sector, which has been over the years overtaken by services.

“It is an opportunity for all firms to showcase their manufacturing prowess, and will see participation of all international companies that have export hubs in India,” a senior government official said.

Over 3,000 bilateral meetings are expected to be held while a number of business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) transactions are likely to be concluded, the official added.

Industrial delegates from 78 countries are slated to attend the event, including government delegations from 64 countries.

Keeping in mind the focus on start-ups, a start-up contest is scheduled to be held with a `2-crore prize to be won on the spot. All Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and premier engineering institutes, and over 13 international institutes are also participating in the event.

The government has instituted awards in various categories, including ‘Best manufacturer’, ‘Best Innovator’, and ‘Best Young Creator.’

The Indian Navy is also organising an exhibition on maritime design and manufacturing.

IITBBS increases 80 seats for BTech students

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/IITBBS-increases-80-seats-for-BTech-students/articleshow/50970405.cms>

Bhubaneswar: IIT Bhubaneswar (IITBBS) will increase its BTech intake by 80 seats from the coming academic year starting July, director R V Rajakumar said here on Friday. This will increase the total number of UG engineering seats in the institute to 260. Rajakumar said IITBBS will offer a new BTech programme in electronics and communication engineering, which will have 40 seats, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of the institute's eighth foundation day.

Similarly, the institute will start offering dual degree (B.Tech+M.Tech) programmes in civil and mechanical engineering to 20 students each from 2016-17.

The 20 students enrolled for dual degree in civil will be split into two specialities after B.Tech. While 10 of them will be trained in structural engineering in M.Tech, the rest 10 will be taught transportation engineering at the masters' degree level, the IITBBS director said. The 20 students, who would take admission in mechanical dual degree will be split into machine design and thermal engineering, 10 students each, in M.Tech, he added.

Rajakumar said the proposed expansion would increase the seats by more than 40%. The institute has been currently offering B.Tech in civil, mechanical, electrical and computer science with each having 40 seats, and B.Tech (metallurgy) with 20 seats. The total student strength in the institute, including PhD and MSc, is around 1,000.

With completion of upcoming new infrastructure, the IIT would continue increasing its seats for the next few years, he added. The institute has recorded 60% jump in the number of job offers to its B.Tech passouts in the current academic year compared to last year, the IIT director said. The rise has been noticed in the core areas, he said.

Financial Express ND 13/02/2016 P-7

E-commerce hiring dips at IIM-B

Prabhu Mallikarjunan
Bengaluru, Feb 12

E-commerce companies have not shown the same degree of enthusiasm this year to hire students from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B). While last year e-commerce firms hired 68 students from IIM-B, this time they offered only 54 of them.

Snapdeal, which made 17 offers last year, marking the highest in the e-commerce segment, did not hire any this time. Amazon made 16 offers followed by Flipkart with 11 offers.

Speaking to *FE* about the

trend, Raja Lahiri partner at consultancy Grant Thornton India said, "The frenzy that was there for the last couple of years in this sector is definitely getting moderated and it is visible. Companies would try to cut down cost in every possible aspect, as cost becomes an important driver when they look at profitability at this stage."

Other prominent E-commerce recruiters included Uber, Ola Cabs, Paytm, Urban Ladder, AskmeBazaar, Hopscotch, and CarTrade.

An IIM official, who did not want to be identified, told *FE* that students were asked to be cautious while taking offers from consumer internet

companies. The last quarter of 2015 had seen layoffs at companies like FoodPanda, Tinyowl, Housing.com and others.

"Earlier we were very excited about the new opportunities coming up, but after recent examples of how start-ups tackled employees

while winding up has left us thinking. Not that we are averse to working with e-commerce companies, but we are treading cautiously," he said.

Political slugfest over JNU students' union prez arrest

BLAME GAME BJP terms incident insult to India, Cong, Left say govt stifling students' voice

HT Correspondent

✉ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The arrest of JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar on charges of sedition on Friday resulted in a political slugfest, with HRD minister Smriti Irani calling it an insult to mother India and the Congress and other opposition parties accusing the ruling party of "curbing" students' voice.

"I only want to say that today is the day of worship of Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati blesses every family that whatever they speak is for progress and strengthening the nation. Nation will never tolerate insult to mother India," she told reporters at JNU.

Welcoming the arrest, the BJP questioned the silence of Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on the issue. "On one hand our soldiers are sacrificing their lives on the border and on the other, anti-India slogans are being raised in institutes like JNU and terrorists are being hailed as martyrs. This is very unfortunate," said party national secretary Shrikant Sharma.

"BJP welcomes the arrest and hope that action will be taken against other accused too. There is a limit to everything," he added.

Hitting back, the Congress said that the BJP should stop branding



■ Teachers and students during a protest march at JNU in New Delhi on Friday.

ARUN SHARMA/HT

JNU as anti-national and raised questions over the NDA's "capacity to tolerate a different point of view".

"The BJP has been curbing students' voice and it was evident from the protests at FTII, IIT Madras and Hyderabad Central University. Is police action in JNU a desperate attempt to perpetuate it? Take action against those guilty but isn't BJP using Delhi Police for its anti-JNU tirade? Proud of JNU, stop branding it anti-nation-

al," said Congress communication department chief Randeep Surjewala on Twitter.

Another party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said merely saying something does not fall in the category of sedition, unless it is backed by some action.

Addressing the media from the AICC podium, Singhvi also alleged that not only workers but BJP MLAs, MPs and ministers have made "similar shocking divisive anti-national statements."

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in Kolkata, "The question is do you know who raised the slogans? Take action according to law against them. When you don't know, then how are you arresting all the student leaders? ...male police are going and raiding girls' hostels. Only during Emergency we saw this happen. That is the sort of Emergency state they are reducing our country to again. This time it is the BJP."