Times of India ND 26-Feb-14   p-14

INDIA DIGEST

IIT-Delhi student's murderer gets life term

A court on Tuesday found Gaurav Verma, who was then a third-year architecture student at IIT-Roorkee, guilty of murdering a third-year female textile engineering student of IIT-Delhi in 2010. The court sentenced Verma to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 10,000. The victim, Pragati Tibberwal, who was from Patna, was found murdered in a room at Shimla's Rasik Hotel. Later, police arrested Verma from a train in Haryana while he was trying to flee to his hometown in Uttar Pradesh.

SUBJECT-WISE

Four Indian varsities make the cut

ROLL OF HONOUR

Four Indian universities have found a place in the world's top 50 in at least one of the 30 disciplines

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

IIT Delhi	42nd
IIT Bombay	49th

CIVIL ENGINEERING

IIT Madras	49th
IIT Bombay	50th

MATERIAL SCIENCE

Indian Institute of Science	46th

Vanita Srivastava

▪ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Despite not making it to the world's top 200, four Indian universities have found a place in the top 50 in at least one of 30 disciplines, the QS World University Rankings by Subject released on Tuesday show.

IIT-Delhi achieves the highest position in India, ranked 42nd in electrical and electronic engineering. IIT-Bombay is 49th in electrical and electronic engineering and 50th in civil and structural engineering. The IISc is ranked 46th in material science.

The universities featured on last year's list too, but the rankings have fallen.

The subjects with the highest number of Indian universities in the top 200 all fall within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) range — mechanical engineering (8 in top 200), electrical engineering (7), civil engineering (7), chemical engineering (7), computer science (6), mathematics (6) and materials science (6).

In other subjects, IIT-Bombay is the only Indian institute to appear in the top 200 for linguistics. The five life sciences disciplines contain just two Indian institutes, while in social sciences there are no ranked Indian institutes in six of the eight disciplines.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Courses from 3 IITs, IISc are in global top 50

Hemali Chhapia,TNN | Feb 26, 2014, 01.09 AM IST

IIT-Delhi achieved the country's highest position, ranking 42nd in electrical engineering.

MUMBAI: Four Indian universities, including the IITs at Delhi and Mumbai, are among the global top 50 in at least one of the 30 disciplines covered under the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

IIT-Delhi achieved the country's highest position, ranking 42nd in electrical engineering. IIT-Bombay was 49th in electrical engineering and 50th in civil engineering, IIT-Madras 49th in civil engineering and the Indian Institute of Science 46th in materials science.

No course from Indian universities figure in areas such as arts, humanities and social sciences. IIT-Bombay is the only one in the top 200 in any of the five arts and humanities disciplines, ranking in the 151-200 grouping for linguistics.

The five life sciences disciplines feature only two Indian institutions, while India draws a blank in six of the eight social sciences disciplines. The exceptions are statistics, in which five Indian institutions — IIT-D, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, Indian Statistical Institute and IIT-B — feature, and politics, in which Jawaharlal Nehru University appears in the 101-150 grouping.

All round, IIT-B emerges as the top institution with four of its courses making it to the rankings.

"The IITs continue to perform well in their specialist areas and the inclusion of three of them in the global top 50 in the engineering disciplines shows that they are starting to achieve genuine international renown," said QS head of research Ben Sowter.

On the other hand, the lack of world-renowned Indian programmes in arts, humanities and social sciences continues to be a concern, Sowter said. "The absence of Indian universities from the top 200 in subjects such as medicine, law, economics, accounting and finance underlines the difficulty India faces in reversing the tide of talented students leaving the country to study these disciplines abroad," he added.

"The latest QS rankings highlight the excellence of the specialist Indian institutions in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) area and also identifies the need to improve the global competitiveness of our universities, in particular the large and comprehensive institutions," said Mohandas Pai, chairman, ICAA — Indian Centre for Assessment & Accreditation.

The encouraging performance of the IITs in engineering and technology fits into a pattern of strong performances by Asian institutions in the STEM disciplines. Asia accounts for 10 of the top 30 institutes in chemical, civil and electrical engineering, and eight in mechanical engineering, showing that several institutions in the region can now be considered serious global players.

National University of Singapore makes the global top 10 in all five engineering and technology disciplines, while Hong Kong accounts for three of the top 20 institutions for computer science: the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (11th), the University of Hong Kong (14th), and Chinese University of Hong Kong (18th).

"The STEM disciplines have been the primary focus of global competition over the past decade as institutions in countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Korea have emerged as genuine competitors to the traditional research powerhouses in the US and UK," said Sowter.

Globally, Harvard remains the best all-round institution, ranking first in 11 of the 30 disciplines, two more than its local rival MIT.

Courses from 3 IITs, IISc figure in global top 50

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: Four Indian universities, including the IITs at Delhi and Mumbai, are among the global top 50 in at least one of the 30 disciplines covered under the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

IIT-Delhi achieved the country's highest position, ranking 42nd in electrical engineering. IIT-Bombay was 49th in electrical engineering and 50th in civil engineering, IIT-Madras 49th in civil engineering and the Indian Institute of Science 46th in materials science.

No course from Indian universities figure in areas such as arts, humanities and social sciences. IIT-Bombay is the only one in the top 200 in any of the five arts and humanities disciplines, ranking in the 151-200 grouping for linguistics.

The five life sciences disciplines feature only two Indian institutions, while India draws a blank in six of the eight social sciences disciplines. The exceptions are statistics, in which five Indian institutions — IIT-D, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, Indian Statistical Institute and IIT-B — feature, and politics, in which Jawaharlal Nehru University appears in the 101-150 grouping.

All round, IIT-B emerges as the top institution with four of its courses making it to the rankings.

"The IITs continue to perform well in their specialist areas and the inclusion of three of them in the global top 50 in the engineering disciplines shows that they are starting to achieve genuine international renown," said QS head of research Ben Sowter.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Making healthcare affordable

Harini Sriram
■ harini.sriram@hindustantimes.com

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), India as a whole accounts for 21% of the world's global burden of diseases, almost all of which is concentrated in rural areas. About 80% of rural areas in the country do not have access to healthcare. Which is why research scholars and faculty from the R&D centre of IIT Madras together with GE Healthcare are working towards making healthcare affordable for rural India.

This collaboration between Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), the multidisciplinary R&D innovation centre of IIT Madras and GE Healthcare is based on the concept of open innovation, wherein companies collaborate with external agencies, including academic institutions, to provide real-time solutions.

As part of the three-year partnership, announced recently, GE Healthcare is set to provide a grant of ₹75 lakh towards R&D and innovation to HTIC. Vikram Damodaran, director - healthcare innovation, GE Healthcare, points out that such

GE HEALTHCARE IS SET TO PROVIDE A GRANT OF ₹75 LAKH TOWARDS INNOVATION TO HTIC, AS PART OF THE THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

collaborations help bridge the industry-academia gap, and allow research scholars and faculty to work on projects that can make a difference. He says, "HTIC has had a history of successful collaborations with other MNCs and we are sure that with our combined resources, we will be able to arrive at concrete solutions."

Some of the areas that HTIC will be working on, along with engineers from GE Healthcare, include maternal healthcare, oncology, cardiovascular diseases and life sciences. HTIC was started in 2011 to develop medical technology for the rural market.

"The healthcare space is a complex ecosystem. The only way we can innovate and make it affordable, is to collaborate effectively with established players," says Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam, head, HTIC.

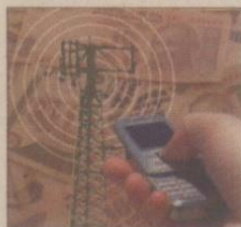# Radiation fears from mobile towers unfounded: Panel

IIT professor did not disclose his "conflict of interest", it says

NEW DELHI: Fears of electromagnetic radiation from cellphone towers adversely affecting human health are unfounded and without any scientific merit, claims an expert panel, brushing aside apprehensions raised by a professor of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay.

Rejecting the contention of electrical engineering professor Girish Kumar, the 13-member panel said Kumar repeatedly red-flagged these concern in the media because of his family's commercial interest in companies involved in manufacturing radiation-shielding products. Kumar's daughter Neha Kumar sells radiation-shielding products through her company NESA Radiation Solutions Pvt Ltd. The panel said the IIT professor did not disclose his "conflict of interest" while being part of the panel, though he initially agreed to do so.

"In October 2013 I disclosed my daughter's business in my newsletter, which was circulated to the committee members. What more I can do?" Kumar told *Deccan Herald*.

The members of the committee noted that on one hand Kumar was spreading misinformation and creating misconceptions and ill-founded apprehensions in the mind of people by sensationalising and blowing out of proportions the effects of EMF radiation, while on the other side he was promoting his family's business on related products, thus throwing professional ethics to the winds.

The committee, comprising five IIT professors, besides scientists from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow, and the Indian Council of Medical Research, along with government officials, was formed at the behest of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, which was hearing a litigation on health hazards of cellphone towers.

The court instructed Kumar to be a part of the Department of Telecom panel, so that other scientists get an opportunity to listen to his arguments and comments.

In its report, the panel has concluded that Kumar's assertion of people living within 50-300 m of mobile towers are more prone to the dangerous ill effects of electromagnetic radiation are not backed by "conclusive scientific evidence".

"The word 'evidence' in the draft report was replaced by 'conclusive evidence' in the final report by the committee, in which eight out of 13 persons are pro to the Department of Telecommunication. On every page, I have signed that I do not agree with the report and also on the last page, I have signed that committee was biased," said Kumar.

"He (Kumar) may not agree, but other committee members agree that Kumar's assertion could not be substantiated by available scientific literature," said committee member, Ajoy Chakraborty, who is professor in the department of electronics and electrical communication engineering at IIT Kharagpur.

DH News Service

Cambridge trumps Oxford

LONDON: The University of Cambridge has outperformed the University of Oxford in the latest authoritative ranking by subject of global universities published on Wednesday.

Cambridge ranks first in the UK in 14 of the 30 disciplines covered in the rankings, compared to 10 for Oxford, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject. The London School of Economics (LSE) ranks first for sociology, economics, and communication and media studies.

While Cambridge's all-round performance is superior, Oxford is rated number one in the world in three subjects, more than any institution other than Harvard or Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). **HTC**

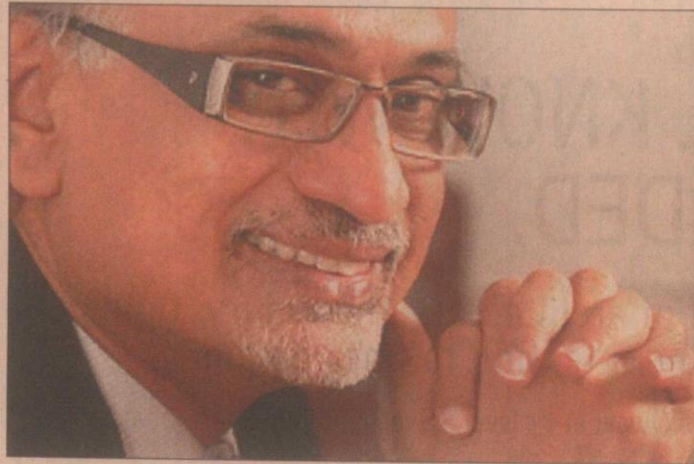# 'Nadella Brings Continuity to Microsoft's Love of Research'

ET EXCLUSIVE Q&A

There's no reason why your mobile phone should be something you hold up to your ear or why it can't be used to get a poor person in a remote part of the country suffering from tuberculosis to take his medication on time, said Microsoft Distinguished Scientist **P Anandan** who brought the software giant's research arm to India in 2005. Anandan, 58, is the managing director of Microsoft Research India where some 40 scientists out of a staff of about 65 are looking at solving problems that could have a tremendous impact on taking the benefits of technology to the poor. India-born Satya Nadella becoming CEO doesn't change the long-term mission of Microsoft Research, while it continues the tradition of having a top boss who has great love for research, Anandan tells **Harichandan Arakali** in an interview. Edited excerpts:

What do you see as the important areas related to mobile phones?
It's a mobile-first scenario now with respect to people's experience, not only on the web, but computing itself. More people discover the value or use of computing technologies starting with the mobile than with desktop or laptop. In India it's slightly different. It's not as if everyone has a smartphone. The vast majority are not smartphones, but the people's access to computing technology often is through the mobile. That's the best way to reach them.

In terms of research labs like us, we have broadly two different ways in which we are interested. While mobile is becoming increasingly important, mobile technology and mobile phones haven't reached their final form or point. They're still significantly evolving. All in all, the whole problem of getting increased and easy access to the cloud, broadly the web, from mobiles and other devices where the connectivity can be a challenge is one topic and the other topic is how to do it in a way the energy consumption is minimised.

Why did you say the mobile phone and related technologies haven't reached any final point?
We haven't really got the most out of what you can do with the mobile experience. We all assume that the mobile phone has to be like this (the way they are today) that we hold to our ear and have certain functions. There is no explicit reason why it has to have that form factor. Wearable technologies are emerging. There's going to be other types of form factors that may turn out to be better.

If you think about mobiles, you think about conversations, downloading data, watching videos, downloading some apps ... but increasingly there

> In the next 5-10 years, more like five rather than 10, there probably will be some massive evolution in the way mobiles are used. For example, speech-based interfaces are likely to become commonplace.
>
> **P ANANDAN**
> *Managing director,*
> *Microsoft Research India*

may be some apps and services that are very aware of where you are, what you're doing and those can give you more targeted services, even healthcare monitoring for example.

Especially in India, if you want to bring services, the power of technology to people in rural areas and to people who are poor it's more likely to happen through the use of mobiles. In the next 5-10 years, more like five rather than ten, there probably will be some massive evolution in the way

mobiles are used. For example, speech-based interfaces are likely to become commonplace. It's not done yet.

Has Satya Nadella becoming CEO changed anything for you?
No not really. In my role, you interact with the CEO in one way or the other every so often. It's not an unusual day, and Satya has been to India and I've met him. Various people at Microsoft Research have made presentations to him in his role as head of cloud and enterprise business, so I know him at that level.

Do you anticipate sharper focus in those areas?
Microsoft Research has always had a broad front. It's not going to narrow its front while the company has a strategy in an area, but it will increase its short-term emphasis in this because we want to get some problems solved.

What would you ask him the next time you meet Nadella?
There is a specific sort of project some people in MSR are looking at on secure computation on the cloud, so I'd be interested in knowing what his thoughts are on this. But that's a very very specific thing and if I met him day after tomorrow it might be a different question. One thing about Satya is that in the time that we have interacted with him, he has shown a lot of love for research. Microsoft Research has had very good collaboration with both OSD, when he was first in the online services division, and cloud and enterprises. So, I'm very happy. I would say that as far as Microsoft Research's value is concerned, I know that our CEO values us. The old CEO did, the new CEO does so no problem there.

Tech varsity head in a spot over appointments

Mallica Joshi

■ mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung has suggested that PB Sharma, vice chancellor of Delhi Technological University (DTU), should go on leave immediately over complaints related to the appointment of teachers.

The complaints are regarding appointments to the posts of professor and associate professor made in 2011.
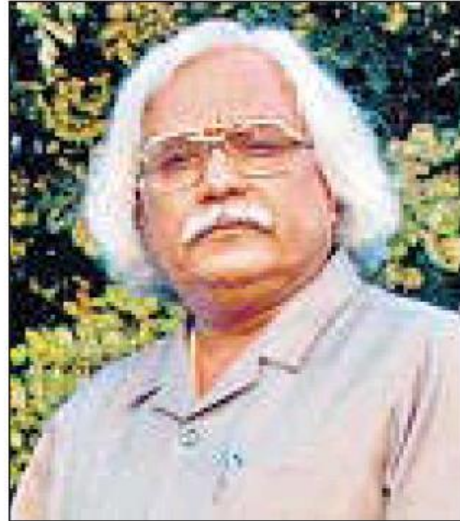
A number of teachers had complained against the appointment process in the varsity. DTU was formerly known as the Delhi College of Engineering.

According to documents in the possession of Hindustan Times, the L-G has acknowledged that complaints had been received from various quarters of the university. He also acknowledged the need to enquire into the matter.

"The vice-chancellor may be asked to proceed on leave immediately," the document said.

The L-G said that the matter should be probed by a committee to be headed by former Delhi chief secretary R Narayanswami. The enquiry is expected to conclude within three months.

The document was signed

■ **L-G Jung has suggested that varsity V-C PB Sharma (above) should go on leave.** HT PHOTO

by the L-G last Wednesday and by the chief secretary on Thursday.

Vice-chancellor Sharma said the university had not received any such order. He, however, went on medical leave from Monday.

The allegations against him include relaxation in qualification and experience in the appointments, erroneous composition of the selection committee and vendetta against teachers at the university.

"In some cases, professors who had just been selected and were on probation were made the heads of departments against rules," a complainant said on the condition of anonymity.

Odisha Hosts Prestigious All India Vice Chancellor's Conference After a Gap of 67 Years

http://orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=48200

Bhubaneswar: The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) All India Vice Chancellor's Conference was inaugurated at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar by Dr. S. C. Jamir, His Excellency the Governor of Odisha in the august presence of Prof. H. Devraj, Vice Chairman, UGC, Prof. Rajendra B. Lal, President, AIU, Dr. H. M. Desai, Vice President, Prof. D. S. Chauhan, Secretary General, Dr. A. Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS and Prof. N. L. Mitra, Chancellor, KIIT University on February 25, 2014. More than 500 Vice Chancellors from various universities of the country as well as senior functionaries of apex bodies like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Ministry of Human Resource Development are attending the 88th Annual General Meeting of the AIU.

Inaugurating the three-day conference, Dr. Jamir said, the meet can provide a platform for academicians to deliberate on important issues of higher education of the country. Standard of higher education has direct relationship with the development of a nation and the quality of life of its citizen, he stated, adding that it is an area in which higher education system of the country lags behind. He lamented that none of the Indian universities figures in the top 200 universities of the world. Only about 11% of our colleges are in 'A' grade, whereas 71% are placed in 'B' grade as per the latest assessment by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the Governor informed. He appreciated the theme of the conference - 'Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)' - and said that it will provide wide scope for exchange of views and ideas on this flagship programme of the government which is designed to transform the higher education.

Prof. Devraj praised the beautiful campus of KIIT University. He congratulated the Founder of KIIT & KISS for his effort towards establishment of such impressive university in Odisha. UGC has always laid importance on quality education, he stressed, while inviting educationists and academicians to think of ways to make higher education more qualitative. This is also the main goal of RUSA, he added.

Prof. Mitra said universities are link between future and past. There should be integration between external and internal education. He suggested proper training for vice chancellors, when they shifted from academy to administration. Prof. P. P. Mathur, VC, KIIT University also spoke on the occasion.

Odisha is hosting this prestigious meet after a long gap of 67 years. Last it was held in erstwhile Ravenshaw College in 1947. Expressing his happiness, Dr. Samanta said, after organizing prestigious Indian Science Congress, Eurasian Silk Road Consortium and many more national and international conferences and seminars successfully, KIIT is proud to host the All India Vice Chancellors' Meet. Such events bring pride to Odisha nationally and internationally, he stated. The meet will contribute towards a positive image of the State in the field of quality education among academicians and education administrators from different parts of the country and abroad, opined intellectuals.

- See more at: http://orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=48200#sthash.mhE1BfP2.dpuf